

# Hometown TIMES

*"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"*

## Stormwater YOUtility

When it rains or when snow and ice melt, the water has to go somewhere. Water that is not absorbed into the ground becomes runoff and is handled by the stormwater management system owned and maintained by the Village.



The stormwater management system is separate and distinct from the tap water and wastewater systems and does not include groundwater. The Village has owned and maintained this system for many decades. It's designed to reduce the frequency and severity of stormwater related

flooding by limiting the amount of stormwater runoff that enters the system and by storing and conveying runoff in structures and in areas designed specifically for this purpose.

In November or December, the Village Council will determine how residents will pay for the costs of owning



*Washington Park before and after extreme rain.*

and operating the stormwater management system. They will decide if these costs will continue to be paid for with monthly fees or if one of the options below should be implemented:

- Pay for the stormwater management system through property taxes
- Pay for the stormwater management system through a combination of property taxes AND monthly fees.

Three advisory referendum questions will appear on the November 8, 2016, General Election ballot. The Council would like voters to answer all three questions.

Prior to voting on the referendum questions, it may be beneficial to become familiar with the stormwater management system. The Village has prepared a series of short videos that provide interesting facts and important information about the system. Detailed information can also be found in the Stormwater Utility Report.

You'll find the videos and report under Stormwater YOUtility at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). The videos are featured regularly on DGTV as well as on the Village's Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor social media pages. Copies of the report are also available at the Downers Grove Library.

Please watch the videos and/or read the report. More information on the referendum questions is coming in October.

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## Hello, Downers Grove!



I hope that everyone had a terrific summer. It is hard to believe fall is here. But whatever the season, there are always many exceptional events and activities to enjoy in our Village. As Mayor, I have the distinct privilege of attending many of our local events and interacting with countless people whose community mindfulness never ceases to amaze me. This was also my experience during the recent selection process to fill vacancies on your Village Council. There was a high level of interest in these positions from a variety of well-qualified residents who were willing to step-up and serve the community in this role. Our Village is most fortunate to have such an engaged and dedicated citizenry. It is one of the many factors that makes our Village a uniquely wonderful place to live, learn, work and play.

Without further adieu then, I'd like to welcome our two new commissioners, Marge Earl and Nicole Walus, to the Village Council. Commissioner Earl was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the departure of former Commissioner David Olsen, who was recently sworn-in as the new State Representative for Illinois' 81st Legislative House District. Commissioner Walus will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Commissioner Gina Vattimo. Pursuant to State law, both will serve as commissioners until the vacancies are filled by the election to be held in April 2017.

Prior to her appointment to the Village Council, Commissioner Earl served the Village in a variety of roles. She was a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals from 2007 to 2016, serving as the Chair since 2015. She was also a member of both the 2010 and 2016 Comprehensive Planning Ad Hoc Committees and the 2007 Ad Hoc Housing Committee. Commissioner Earl has worked as a registered nurse, as well as a variety of positions with local small manufacturing, retail and financial businesses. She and her family have lived in the Hummer Park neighborhood since 1992.

Commissioner Nicole Walus comes from a family with a strong commitment to public service. Her mother always stressed the importance of helping others and giving back and her father served as a police officer and sergeant for over 30 years. She has been an active member of Downers Grove Rotary since 2014. Professionally, she is in her tenth year of teaching high school students and her sixth year as a special education teacher.

Commissioner Walus and her family have been residents of Downers Grove since 2010 and live near Downers South High School.

Again, a hearty congratulations to our newest Commissioners! We are thankful for their escalated commitment to public service and, given their deep and diverse experience, I'm confident they'll both serve with distinction. My Village Council colleagues and I also very much appreciate the many exceptionally qualified residents who applied to give back to the community in this capacity, making the choice difficult, but one we were able to make effectively and expediently. With the 2017 budget process and other important policy decisions on the horizon, it was important to have your Village Council back at full strength. I look forward to seeing everyone at the many great events taking place throughout our community this fall!

Best regards,



Mayor Martin T. Tully



*Pictured L to R: Commissioners Greg Hosé, William Waldack, Nicole Walus, Mayor Martin Tully, Commissioners Bill White, Marge Earl and Bob Barnett.*

## September is National Preparedness Month

Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere, even in communities like Downers Grove. In times of crisis it is important to be self-sufficient as emergency personnel may not be able to reach you quickly. Crews may be delayed by downed trees or power lines, or they may be overwhelmed by the demand from the emergency.

“Preparedness is a shared responsibility and it takes a whole community,” said Mary Pratt, Village of Downers Grove Emergency Management Coordinator. “All households are strongly advised to prepare for an event that includes the loss of electricity, water service, and access to a supermarket and local services for a few days.”

Follow these three simple steps to begin your preparations:



### Get a Kit

Keep enough emergency supplies on hand for your family for at least three days; water (one gallon, per person, per day), non-perishable food, first aid supplies, prescriptions, flashlight, and a battery powered radio. Remember to include food and supplies for your pets, too.

### Make a Plan

Be sure everyone in the family understands where to go and what to do in case of an emergency. Establish responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.

- **Designate two meeting locations** in case it is impossible to return home or if you have to evacuate; one near your home and one outside of the neighborhood. Make sure your family knows the address and phone number of both locations.
- **Designate an out-of-area contact person.** This person should be far enough away that it is unlikely he or she would be affected by the same emergency. Family members should call this person to report their locations if they cannot reach each other. Provide your contact person with important names and numbers so he or she can assist in keeping others posted on your situation. Create a communications card for each member of your household to keep with them at all times.

### Be Informed

- Discuss with your family the types of disasters that can happen where you live.
- Visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) or [ready.illinois.gov](http://ready.illinois.gov) to find preparedness information.
- It's also a good time to update information the Village has on file for the Community Wide Notification System. The system is used to communicate important messages in the public interest, of both emergency and non-emergency natures. Residents and businesses are encouraged to register for the first time or register additional devices by which to be contacted. To add or change information, visit [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) and click on *Community Wide Notification*. If you do not have access to the internet you may call Doug Kozlowski at 630.434.5550. For more emergency preparedness information and planning tools, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

## ADA Comment Period

Any interested parties are invited to participate in the development of the Village's *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan*. Public comments concerning the plan will be accepted for a period of 60 days, beginning on September 15, 2016, and ending on November 13, 2016.

The plan may be reviewed on the Village website at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). Copies can also be found at the following locations:

- Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue
- Public Works Facility, 5101 Walnut Avenue
- Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street

Comments may be submitted to the ADA Coordinator, Megan Miles, at [mmiles@downers.us](mailto:mmiles@downers.us) or by calling 630.493.8878.

## Congratulations 2016 Cornerstone Award Winners

The Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (DGEDC) recently held its annual luncheon with more than 200 business and community leaders in attendance. The DGEDC created the Cornerstone Award to recognize projects for their economic impact on the community. Awards were presented by Mayor Martin Tully to the following recipients:

**Newell Brands** is a global consumer goods company that makes some of the world's most recognizable products. Newell's writing instruments division Research & Development Center is now located at 3500 Lacey Road, in the Esplanade at Locust Point campus. Downers Grove is now home to such products as Papermate, Parker, and Sharpie.

**Marriott Downers Grove** - Last year, the 254-room hotel completed an extensive renovation and redesign of all guest rooms and hotel corridors. As a result, the hotel now ranks in the Top 10 in Overall Satisfaction as measured

by Marriott's Guestvoice system, which ranks all Marriott Hotels in the continent. The hotel also installed new energy-saving systems and equipment.

**Art Van Furniture** is now the largest furniture retailer in the Chicago market. Downers Grove is home to the company's 112,000 sq. ft. flagship store, the largest in the chain. Special events such as their Grand Opening with Jennifer Hudson and Winter Wonderland Lighting draw positive attention to our community.



*Pictured L to R: Mayor Martin Tully; Marriott General Manager John Lampa; James Bergman, Director of Research and Development, Newell Brands; and Gary Van Elslander, President & CEO of Art Van Furniture.*

## Leaves and More Leaves



Autumn is just around the corner. As the leaves begin to fall from the trees, the potential for stormwater backups due to blocked grates, culverts, and drainage pipes increases.

Significant numbers of leaves in creeks tend to accumulate at bends and collect in culverts, acting as a dam. This can increase high water levels in the area, along with the potential for flooding of adjacent houses.

Leaves collecting in a detention basin can block outlet pipes, causing standing water for long periods of time. Leaves covering storm grates on the streets cause excess standing water on the roadways. Leaves left in ditches can block driveway culverts, causing them to overflow or not drain effectively.

In addition, as leaves break down they release phosphorus, which, at high levels, is not healthy for the ecosystem of the creek.

Here are a few reminders to help minimize these problems:

- **Do not** place raked leaves in the streets or ditches.
- **Do not** place leaves in or adjacent to a creek.
- **Do not** allow leaves to accumulate within detention basins.
- If you are able, please clear leaves off inlet grates along your front curb as part of your raking routine.



If you observe any of the above conditions and suspect a blocked pipe or culvert, please call Public Works at 630.434.5460.

## Historic Home Property Tax Assessment Freeze

Rehabilitating your older home is rewarding in many ways. With the Property Tax Assessment Freeze, homeowners may be eligible for a financial incentive that can make the work even more attractive.

The program can freeze the assessed value of historic owner-occupied, principal residences for a period of eight years, followed by a four-year period during which the property's assessed value steps up to an amount based upon its current market value. This results in 12 years of reduced property taxes. Program benefits include:

- Rewarding owner-occupants for reinvesting in their homes;
- Increasing the value of the rehabilitated property;
- Strengthening neighborhoods and housing within a community;
- Encouraging landmark protection through the promotion, recognition, and designation of historic structures.

For more information, visit the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency website at [www.illinois.gov/ihpa](http://www.illinois.gov/ihpa).

## Community Health Fair

**Saturday, October 8, 2016**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Downers Grove Park District**  
**Recreation Center, 4500 Belmont Road**



Join the students of Midwestern University for an opportunity to receive flu shots, health screenings and learn effective ways to make positive health behavioral changes, all at no charge. The seasonal flu shot supply will be limited and will not be available for children under 18 years of age. Attendees are encouraged to bring canned food donations to support the Downers Grove Township FISH Pantry.

The children's health section includes a Teddy Bear Clinic, fire truck tour, poison prevention information, pediatric health and education, interactive dosing and measurements for children's medications, and more.



At the Teddy Bear Clinic, children can take their favorite stuffed animal (or doll) through various scenarios of medical treatments and learn more about the different healthcare team roles. The goal of the Teddy Bear Clinic is to help children dispel fears about doctor visits and help them become comfortable if they ever need to seek medical attention.

The Health Fair is made possible through the support of students and faculty at Midwestern University, the Downers Grove Park District and the Downers Grove Fire Department.

More information can be found at [www.midwestern.edu/DGhealthfair](http://www.midwestern.edu/DGhealthfair).

## Preserving Downers Grove History

The first American Foursquare home to be designated a local landmark in Downers Grove is 5320 Benton Avenue, due to its distinguishing characteristics of the architectural style. The home was most likely constructed in 1924 by Herman



and Martha Hesse, although lived in by John J. Ehr's family for the next 40 years.

American Foursquare was a post-Victorian style, and gained widespread popularity as an architectural reaction against the ornateness and complexity found in Victorian buildings.

Aptly named after its cubic shape and division of living space into quarters, sometimes called a *Classical Box* or *Prairie Box*, Foursquares were designed to maximize the total square footage on small lots.

The Foursquare was a popular mail-order era style.

The Ehr home includes numerous distinguishing characteristics of the Prairie-Style American Foursquare. The home is two-and-a-half stories, includes a central attic dormer, a hipped roof with deep eaves, grouped windows with original divided-light panes, stucco exterior, and horizontal banding. Also typical of a Foursquare, the home has a front porch although it does not span the entire length of the front façade.

If you are interested in landmarking your home, please contact the Community Development Department at 630.434.5515.



**Don't Wait**  
**CHECK**  
the date!

**REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**  
**OCTOBER 9-15, 2016**

[firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)

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## Fire Prevention Week: October 9-15, 2016

Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire which began on October 8 and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871. “Don’t Wait, Check the Date” is this year’s theme for Fire Prevention Week.

The Downers Grove Fire Department will mark the week with the following events:

### NIGHT AT THE FIREHOUSE

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**  
**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
**Station 5, 6701 Main Street**

Take a station tour, see demonstrations of automobile extrication and rescue techniques, and get acquainted with the various uniforms and protective apparel worn by firefighters. Witness how quickly a fire can spread and the effectiveness of residential sprinklers in the side-by-side room demonstration. Kids can take a slide down the fire pole!



Freddie the robot fire truck will be on hand to visit with families, the fire safety trailer will help children practice escaping from fires, and children can practice making 9-1-1 calls with emergency dispatchers.

Learn what you need to do to keep your family prepared and safe in the event of disasters.

Parents may visit with the firefighters and learn how to keep their families safe from fire and other common childhood injuries.

### 22nd ANNUAL SILENT PARADE

**Friday, October 14, 2016**  
**Approximately 7:15 p.m.**

The Downers Grove Fire Department will conclude Fire Prevention Week by hosting the Silent Parade.

The parade pays tribute to all those who have lost their lives to fire and features fire department vehicles from many surrounding villages. All vehicles will display lights only; no sirens will be sounded.



The parade will begin in Hinsdale at 7:00 p.m. and pass through Downers Grove at Main and Maple at approximately 7:15 p.m. People may assemble along Maple Avenue to view the parade and pay tribute by holding a flashlight as the cortege passes.

The night will conclude with a brief memorial observance and tribute to firefighters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle, 1101 Kimberly Way, just south of Route 53 and Maple Avenue.

## Lock It or Lose It

The Downers Grove Police Department has seen an increase in the number of car burglaries and car thefts in and around our community.

Many of the burglaries occurred when vehicles were left unlocked in the owner's driveway.

### Remember:

**Lock your car – even in your driveway.** Always lock your vehicle, even when it is parked in your driveway. An unlocked vehicle is an easy target for a thief, especially after dark. The quick entry and exit of a vehicle parked in the driveway with your valuables inside can easily go unnoticed, even if you are home.

**Don't leave valuables in plain sight.** Don't allow criminals to view valuables or packages inside your car when it is parked in your driveway or in public parking lots. Place valuables in the trunk or take them with you. Items stolen from cars have included cell phones, laptops, purses, and wallets. While thieves prefer the easy target of an unlocked vehicle, they will not hesitate to break a window to gain access to valuables inside. The Police Department urges you to lock your vehicle at all times and put valuables in the trunk.

**Lock your home at night – even when you are at home.** In several car theft cases, the offender gained entry to the home through an unlocked door and searched for the keys to the car parked in the driveway. Always lock your doors any time you leave your home and especially at night.



## School's Open: Drive Carefully

At this time of year, keeping kids safe when they walk to school, ride the bus or are driven by a parent becomes a priority for the Downers Grove Police Department. The Police Department works closely with the First Student Bus Company to ensure that motorists in our community know the laws pertaining to school buses. The bus drivers report any stop-arm violations to the Police Department for appropriate action. Patrol officers and traffic officers are out in force in neighborhoods and in school areas making sure motorists obey the traffic laws.

Motorists should be aware that the following laws are in place for the safety of the children walking to and from school each day.

- **On any two-lane roadway and within school parking lots, all traffic must stop when the school bus has its "STOP" arm extended.** On a four-lane roadway, only vehicles traveling the same direction as the bus are required to stop. The penalty for the first offense of passing a stopped school bus is a \$150.00 fine and a 90-day suspension of driving privileges.
- **The speed limit in areas posted as "School Zones" is 20 mph on school days from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when children are present in the area.** The minimum fine for this traffic offense is \$150.00.
- Motorists are required by law to obey the instructions of adult school crossing guards, so use caution and be prepared to stop. Be alert for student patrols that may be assisting children crossing the street.
- **Always BUCKLE-UP everyone on every trip, every time.**

Please join the safety partnership between First Student Bus Company and the Downers Grove Police Department. Use caution when driving around all schools or whenever you see children in the area. Do your part to make the 2016/2017 school year a safe one for our children.



# REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

## Leaf Reminders

Leaves are not permitted to be swept into the street or burned. They are considered yard waste, subject to the following guidelines:

### Yard waste must be placed in one of the following:

- 33-gallon biodegradable paper bag,
- 33-gallon unlined can, or
- Republic yard waste cart.

For more information visit [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) and search “yard waste.”

## Fall Back

Don't forget to turn the clock back one hour before turning in on Saturday, November 5. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 6, 2016.

## Change the Clock, Change Your Battery!

The Downers Grove Fire Department recommends you change the battery in all smoke/carbon monoxide alarms in your home when you change the time. A working smoke alarm more than doubles your chances of surviving a home fire. Also, don't forget to test them every month!

## Downtown Events

Girls Night Out, Halloween window painting, trick-or-treating, and the Gingerbread Festival are all on the calendar in the next few months. Visit the Downtown Management website to keep up on the details. [www.downtowndg.org](http://www.downtowndg.org)

## Thanksgiving Garbage Collection

Please remember that if your collection day falls on or after the Thanksgiving holiday, collection will be one day later.

## Budget Meetings for FY2017

- Proposed Budget Published and Distributed to Council 9/23/2016
- Saturday Budget Hearing (Fire Station 2) 10/08/2016
- First Reading on Council Agenda 10/11/2016
- Coffee with the Council – Budget (Fire Station 2) 10/15/2016
- Budget Public Hearing 11/01/2016

For more information and additional meeting times, visit [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) and click on “Village Budget.”

## Youth Firesetter Intervention Program

Have you observed a child who exhibits an unusual fascination with fire? Is there a child or adolescent in your family who has started a small fire? These youngsters and their families will benefit from education and counseling through the Downers Grove Fire Department's *Youth Firesetter Intervention Program*. This national program assists families with firesetting behaviors before they escalate.

If you would like more information about the program, contact the department at 630.434.5986. All information and communications are confidential.



[www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us)  
801 Burlington Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

COUNCIL MEETINGS 1st, 2nd & 3rd Tues.-7:00 p.m.

Mayor  
Village Council Commissioners

Martin T. Tully  
Robert T. Barnett  
Greg Hosé  
William “Bill” White  
William Waldack  
Margaret “Marge” Earl  
Nicole Walus  
David Fieldman

Village Manager

[mayorcouncil@downers.us](mailto:mayorcouncil@downers.us)

Village Hall 630.434.5500  
Fire, Medical or Police Emergency 9-1-1  
Community Response Center 630.434-CALL (2255)

Village Hall Hours  
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Published by the Village of Downers Grove

## COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES MUST FILE NOMINATING PETITIONS

Downers Grove residents wishing to run for the office of Commissioner in the February 28, 2017, Primary Election and the April 4, 2017, Consolidated Election must file their Statements of Candidacy and nominating petitions between November 21 and 28, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the office of the Village Clerk at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue.

The following positions on the Village Council are to be elected in the April 4, 2017, Consolidated Election:

- **Three full-term (4 year) Commissioner positions;** and
- **One Commissioner position for an unexpired term to fill a vacancy** (set to expire on April 30, 2019)

If more than 12 persons file for the full-term Commissioner positions and more than four persons file for the unexpired term Commissioner position, the DuPage County Election Commission will conduct a Primary Election on February 28, 2017.

Statements of Candidacy and nominating petitions are available in the Village Clerk's Office.

Signature requirements for nominating petitions must be equal to at least **1%** of the total vote cast for mayor at the last preceding mayoral election, or **88** signatures.

For further information on election law, candidates should consult their own attorneys. For information on election procedures, candidates should contact the DuPage County Election Commission at 630.407.5600.