

# REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

## Garbage Stickers to Increase

Per the Village's contract with Republic Services, the price of garbage/yard waste stickers will increase on April 1, 2013 to \$3.52. There will be no change in the appearance or color of the stickers. Stickers purchased before April 1 will be accepted on garbage/yard waste. Cart rental prices will also increase.

## Siren Testing

A reminder that sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

## Yard Waste Collection

Republic Services will resume yard waste collection on April 1, 2013. Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, twigs, small branches, and other garden refuse.

## Flood Plain & LPDA Information

Did you know the Village has staff available to answer any questions concerning flood plain and LPDA (Localized Poor Drainage Area) regulations and flood protection measures? We can even do a site visit and assist with questions specific to your property. Contact Karen Daulton Lange at 630-434-5489 to make an appointment or email [kdlange@downers.us](mailto:kdlange@downers.us).

## Water Conservation Begins May 15

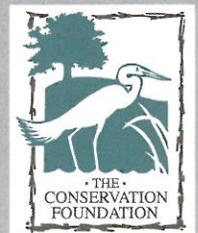
Each year from May 15 to September 15, residents are permitted to use outdoor water based on an even/odd system. The last digit of an address determines the day. If an address ends in an even number, the resident can water on even numbered calendar days, if the address ends in an odd number, the resident can water on odd numbered days. Outdoor water usage is permitted between 4 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. on your watering day.

## Rain Barrel Sale Coming Soon

In cooperation with The Conservation Foundation, the Village will be sponsoring a rain barrel sale this spring. Check the Village website for dates and further information!

## DuPage County River Sweep: May 18, 2013

The River Sweep is a County-wide stream cleanup which encourages volunteers to help "sweep our rivers clean" by picking up debris in and along the local waterways and restoring nearby land back to its natural state. The Sweep encompasses the east and west branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek, as well as many tributaries. Register as a volunteer at: [www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org)



[www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us)

801 Burlington Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mayor Martin T. Tully  
Commissioners

Marilyn Schnell, William Waldack,  
Sean Patrick Durkin, Geoff Neustadt,  
Robert T. Barnett, Becky Rheintgen

Council Meetings 1st, 2nd & 3rd Tues.-7:00 pm  
Fire, Medical or Police Emergency 9-1-1  
Village Hall 1.630.434.5500  
Communications Department 1.630.434.5550  
Community Response Center 1.630.434-CALL (2255)  
TDD 1.630.434.5511

Village Hall Hours

Tues. 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Mon. and Wed. through Fri. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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Example of a Ready Kit

# Hometown TIMES

"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"

## What's YOUR Plan for Severe Weather?

Spring's arrival marks a welcome change of seasons, but also rapidly changing meteorological conditions ideal for the threat of severe weather. Residents must prepare for and be alert to these conditions and know what to do when they occur.



### OUTDOOR EMERGENCY SIRENS

If you grew up in the midwest, you are probably familiar with the "waah" sound of outdoor emergency sirens. When activated or tested for severe weather, they emit a loud, steady tone for 3-5 minutes.

The purpose of the sirens is to alert those who are outdoors of the threat of danger, either due to weather conditions or a national emergency. If you are indoors, you may not hear the siren.

### SIRENS ARE JUST ONE TOOL TO WARN THE PUBLIC.

Take personal responsibility and exercise good common sense.

- Be alert to changing conditions when severe weather threatens.
- Monitor weather reports via NOAA weather radio, broadcast radio or television stations. (**NOAA radios can be purchased at retail stores or online.**)
- Keep an eye on the sky.
- Know when and where to seek shelter.
- Keep an emergency kit in your shelter area.

### When will the sirens sound?

- Sirens are **TESTED** year-round on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- The Village uses County-wide guidelines for the activation of outdoor sirens that have been developed to achieve consistency in the event that multiple jurisdictions activate warning sirens.

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[www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us)

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor  
Martin T. Tully

Hello Downers Grove!

Economic conditions generally have improved and the state of our Village is sound. But with the Great Recession not too distant in our rearview mirror and the uncertainties of future state legislative actions, we must be mindful as never before to maintain and enhance our local economy. Thus, a constant focus of attention in Downers Grove is the facilitation of a strong and diverse local economy. In fact, Standard and Poor's cited Downers Grove's diverse local economy as a central reason for the Village's **AA+ Bond Rating**.

The Village is committed to strengthening and enhancing the local economy through support of the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) efforts to attract new jobs and employers to Downers Grove, as well as retain established businesses.

For example, in 2009 the Village and EDC implemented a strategy to retain existing automobile dealerships and attract new ones. The car dealerships along Ogden Avenue are important not only because of the sales tax they generate, which helps keep other taxes and fees low, but they also attract people to the community resulting in more activity. The new Aston Martin dealer is a big win for our community. This dealership is expected to increase Village sales tax revenue by \$185,000 on an annual basis, in addition to creating an attractive high end dealership and increasing awareness of our community through Aston Martin's own national advertising campaign.



Another enhancement of the Ogden Avenue commercial corridor is the Ogden Avenue Site Improvement Strategy (OASIS), which is a successful matching grants program for businesses within the boundaries of the Ogden Avenue TIF District. This program was initiated by the Village, EDC and the Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce in 2010. Since its inception, \$410,000 in total grant funding has been awarded to 20 projects. Most importantly, these grant projects have spurred \$1.32 million in private investment.

Further north in Downers Grove, we are also fortunate to have the recent expansion of Midwestern University. Working with the university, the Village facilitated the construction of a 128,400 sq. ft. auditorium with classrooms, a 193,200 sq. ft. dental clinic, and a 345,000 sq. ft. parking deck. Once these facilities are completed, they will increase the number of students and guests contributing to our economy. A great additional benefit is that the auditorium will be available for local not-for-profit performances, a feature that is sure to enhance the overall quality of life in our community. The dental services available at the clinic will be offered to the community at below market rates.



Last, we are very pleased that Downers Grove has become one of the midwest's premier locations for corporate headquarters with two new arrivals expected this year to add to this distinction. In April, work is scheduled to begin on the North American Headquarters of Grundfos USA at the Esplanade at Locust Point. Grundfos USA is the world's largest manufacturer of water pumps and will be relocating from Kansas. Similarly, Advocate Health Care, the largest private sector employer in the Chicago area, is also bringing their headquarters here. They are moving from Oak Brook to the Highland Landmark office campus.

While the Village and EDC work hard to maintain an environment in which businesses can thrive, we also recognize those who do so in an environmentally conscientious manner. All businesses are welcome to participate in Downers Grove's Green Business Recognition Program. The program encourages businesses to adopt environmentally sustainable practices, such as waste reduction, conservation of water and energy conservation. **See the story on page 4 for more information about this program.**



In sum, the challenges of our modern economy and the fierce competition municipalities face for attraction and retention of solid businesses demand that robust economic development continues to be a high priority, if we wish to keep Downers Grove such an exceptional place to live, learn, work and play.

Best regards,

Mayor Martin Tully



# Stormwater Education Workshop for Businesses and Non-Profits

April 3, 2013, 9:00 a.m. • Lincoln Center Auditorium, 935 Maple Avenue

In cooperation with The Conservation Foundation, the Village will host this free event to educate businesses and non-profits about water conservation strategies, stormwater management, and the different types of credits Downers Grove property owners can employ to reduce their Stormwater Utility Fee.

- Village Staff will discuss the Stormwater Utility Credit Program.
- ERA Consultants will present ways for businesses to qualify for stormwater credits.
- The Conservation Foundation will speak about strategies for stormwater management and water conservation

Vendors that provide services related to the Stormwater Utility Credit Program will have displays and be available to answer questions.

For more information, contact Management Fellow Nick Santoro at 630-493-8875 or visit the Village website at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us).

## Flooding Dangers

If a flood should occur, know what to do to stay safe! Keep the following in mind:

- **Do not walk through flowing water.** Currents can be deceiving. Did you know that just six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet?
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else in a flood. A mere two feet of water can float a car.
- **Don't go near power lines.** Electrocutation is the second greatest danger in a flood. Report downed power lines to ComEd at 800-334-7661.
- **Turn Off.** Ask ComEd to turn off your electricity before re-entering your home after a flood. Appliances such as TVs can hold an electrical charge even after they have been unplugged.
- **Watch Out** for small animals that have been displaced from their homes looking for residence in yours. Be aware of debris covering the ground outside or floors inside a building that can create a slippery surface.
- **Be Alert** for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to navigate in the dark. Don't light a match or use candles unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.



## Political Signs

Election season is upon us again and time to remind everyone of the rules regarding the posting of political signs. Section 28.1501.04(9) of the Municipal Code permits the following for temporary political signs:

- Up to a total of 12 square feet of political signage may be placed on private property.
- Candidates are allowed to place signs only with the property owner's permission.
- Signs may **not** be placed in public rights-of-way. Generally, the right-of-way is the area between the sidewalk and the street. In areas where there is no sidewalk, the right-of-way generally ends 20 feet behind the street.
- There are no longer any time limits for placement or removal of political signs.
- Permits are not required for temporary political signs.

Signs that are placed in the public right-of-way are subject to removal.

## Generators Leave the Light on for You



Spring storms are just around the corner and with that comes the occasional power outage. Are you considering a permanent automatic backup generator for your home?

Residential sized units have gained popularity in recent years for their ability to restore critical power during outages. When sized and installed properly, these units provide the power needed so the lights stay on, food in the refrigerator doesn't spoil, and the sump pump keeps running. However, there are important considerations to take into account when planning the purchase and installation of a generator.

Did you know that a permit from the Village is required? The permit process includes plan reviews and an inspection of the generator after installation. The inspection ensures that the unit has sufficient gas supply and is located the correct distance from

the property line, as well as a safe distance from the home or other structures.

The Community Development Department can help make this substantial investment a valuable and safe one for your family and your neighbors. Call 630.434.5515 or stop by Village Hall and see us in person.

## In Business, Green is Good!

The Village is proud to announce the creation of the Downers Grove Green Business Program, designed to encourage businesses to adopt environmentally sustainable practices, such as waste reduction, conservation of water/energy and prevention of pollution.

### **What are the criteria?**

In order to be considered for the Green Business distinction, a business must have recycling service and demonstrate significant green practices within four of the following categories:

- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Water Conservation and Stormwater Pollution Prevention
- Energy Conservation
- Transportation
- Public Education/Awareness
- Innovation



### **How can my business apply?**

Interested businesses can apply online at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed quarterly by the Environmental Concerns Commission.

### **What happens if my business is recognized?**

Businesses that qualify for the Green Business distinction will be acknowledged with a proclamation from the Mayor at a Village Council meeting, through the Village's social media channels, and on the Village website. Qualifying businesses will receive a decal for the entry of their business and permission to use the program's logo on their business website.

Questions about the program? Contact Nick Santoro at [nsantoro@downers.us](mailto:nsantoro@downers.us) or (630) 493-8875.

## Planning a Spring Home Project?

Spring is just around the corner, a time when many homeowners consider sprucing up the appearance of their property. Whether it is outdoor improvements such as a fence or deck or indoor upgrades to the kitchen and bath, every project should start with a call or visit to the Community Development Department to check if a permit is needed.

Permits represent the Village's means to insure that all construction adheres to an established standard that meets not only building codes, but also fire and life safety codes. No matter how great or small the job, a call to Community Development at (630) 434-5515 is the smart start to any home improvement project.

## Free Paper-Shredding Event



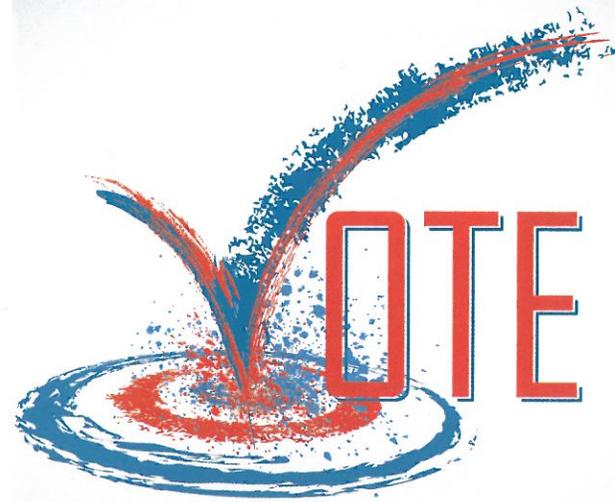
The Village of Downers Grove, in partnership with Accurate Document Destruction, will host a paper-shredding event on **Saturday, April 13, 2013**, from **8:00 a.m. until noon** at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue. The event will be held in the employee parking lot on the east side of Village Hall (fenced-in lot off of Curtiss Street).

This free service is being offered to Downers Grove residents in an effort to prevent identity theft. Participants must show proof of Downers Grove residency.

Each person will be allowed to bring **one brown paper bag or one banker's box** filled with personal paperwork. A bonded and insured representative of Accurate Document Destruction will use a crosscut shredder to render documents beyond reconstruction. Shredded materials will be taken to a recycling facility.

Identity theft is a serious crime. Thieves often look through unsuspecting victims' trash in search of discarded documents containing names, addresses or phone numbers, as well other personal information such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers. People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years trying to clear their names and restore their credit record.

One of the most important things you can do is to shred any personal documents you wish to discard. Please mark your calendar and take advantage of this free service.



## Early Voting

The Village of Downers Grove will be an early voting site for the April 9, 2013, Consolidated Election. Early voting will take place Monday, March 25, 2013, through Saturday, April 6, 2013, in the Committee Room at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue. The hours for early voting will be:

- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please contact the DuPage County Election Commission at (630) 407-5600 for further information about early voting, including additional locations and hours.





## Thieves Shop Around for Purses

In recent months, the Downers Grove Police Department has received several reports of stolen purses and wallets. These incidents have occurred at retail establishments and restaurants. The offender simply waits for an opportunity when no one is looking and either takes the entire purse or lifts the wallet from it. It is likely that the thief will immediately use your credit card before you realize it has been stolen.

Please remember to guard your personal property at all times.

- When shopping, do not leave your purse in the shopping cart.
- When dining in a restaurant, do not leave your purse hanging on the back of the chair or out of your sight. It only takes a few seconds for someone to walk past and grab it.
- To minimize the risk of loss or theft, carry only one credit card with you, if possible.

If you find you have been a victim of theft, report the incident immediately to the police and your credit card company. Taking these simple precautions and being aware of your surroundings can save you unnecessary hassle, time, and money.

## Hoarding Can Create Fire Hazards

Hoarding has received a lot of attention in recent years thanks to television shows such as *Hoarding: Buried Alive*. A hoarder's home may be so filled with possessions that residents can no longer use the rooms as intended and everyday living is compromised.



The excessive accumulation of materials in the home also poses significant safety issues such as limited or totally blocked exits and escape paths, trip and fall hazards, and increased fire load, which is a measure of combustible material per square foot of floor space. The higher the load, the more dangerous the fire. All of these factors put residents, their neighbors, and firefighters at risk should they be called to respond to the residence.

No community is immune to the illness of hoarding, which is more common in older adults. While the outside of a home looks "normal," the situation behind closed doors may be very different.

If you live in an apartment or townhome and are concerned about conditions in an adjacent unit, notify management of your concerns. A fire in one unit becomes a threat to all others in the same building.

If you live in or know of a residence where hoarding is suspected, there are a few things you can do to minimize the physical dangers created by the situation:

- **Make sure there is a working smoke alarm in every room of the home.** If possible, the alarms should be interconnected, meaning if one goes off, they all do, allowing extra seconds to evacuate the building.
- **Create and maintain a clear path that is at least three feet wide to all exits** of the home.
- **Keep items and stacks away from windows.** If a primary exit is blocked, this allows an alternate means to escape. Firefighters may also need to access windows from the outside of the structure.

Remember, hoarding is a disease and must be treated as such. When discussing issues with a family member, they must be shown respect and support.

The Downers Grove Fire Department provides home safety surveys for no charge. Contact the department at (630) 434-5986 if you would like to set up a visit for your home.

## SEVERE WEATHER (*continued from cover*)

Sirens will be **ACTIVATED** under one or more of the following conditions:

1. There is a confirmed sighting of a tornado headed for Downers Grove.
2. The National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning for Downers Grove.
3. There are confirmed reports in the community of significant storm damage.

### **Please DO NOT call 9-1-1 when you hear a siren to get information.**

Communication lines must remain free to respond to emergency reports and dispatch police, fire and emergency services where needed.

- The siren means **Take Shelter Now**. Do not ignore it.
- The emergency is **NOT** over when the sirens stop.
- There is **NO** "All Clear" siren.
- Multiple sirens mean multiple emergencies.

## TORNADOES

Tornadoes may strike quickly, with little or no warning. They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel. Look for the following danger signs:

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train.

### **What to do?**

If you are under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately!

#### **If you are in a structure:**

- Go to the basement, storm cellar or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.

#### **If you are in a high-rise building:**

- Go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- Do not open windows.

#### **If you are in a vehicle, trailer or mobile home:**

- Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes offer little protection from tornadoes.

#### **If you are in the outdoors with no shelter:**

- Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.

## FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLANNING

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will communicate in different situations.

- Establish two family meeting places, one immediately near home and the other outside the area, such as at a relative's house. Be sure each family member is aware of these locations and carries contact numbers with them.
- In a major disaster, it may be easier to notify family of your safety via a text message or long-distance call, as local communications may be hampered. Identify a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for family members to contact.

### **Where to find more information about emergency preparedness**

- DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management [www.protectdupage.com](http://www.protectdupage.com)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- American Red Cross [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)