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Hometown
TIMES

“Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress”

What is 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. Effective immediately, the Village is now using the 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

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Hello, Downers Grove!



Mayor
Martin T. Tully



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Especially given the unprecedented weather we have been enjoying lately, what's not to like about Downers Grove? On that note, I must ask if you have taken the opportunity to "Like" the Village recently. Not long ago, posing this question in the past tense would have surely resulted in a stern rebuke from English mavens

everywhere. Today, however, most everyone is aware that to "Like" or "Follow" an organization or individual refers to the *Facebook* and *Twitter* social media networks. Of course let's not forget that *YouTube* is now the preferred choice of many news and entertainment consumers.

The Village uses *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *YouTube* as a cost-effective means to communicate with residents and businesses in the community. These networks are important components of our communications and customer service strategies to ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to the public. Programs, services, meeting agendas, and emergency information are all being communicated on these social media platforms. If you can't attend Village Council meetings or if you should miss the live broadcast on DGTV, not to worry, because complete meeting coverage is posted the next day on our very own *YouTube* channel.

The best source for detailed content regarding Village business is the Village website at www.downers.us. When announcements are posted by the Village on its social media networks, they will often include links to the website for more information such as forms, documents, and online services.

Openness and transparency are a priority for the Village and our website is continually evolving and leading the charge in keeping with this commitment. For example, in the Transparency Review section you'll find boatloads of essential information including Mayor and Council contact information, labor contracts, and the employee compensation plan. The Investor Data section is new and offers detailed reports on Village finances, tax rates, Tax Increment Financing Districts, and sustainability efforts. My personal favorite, the 2012 Community Investment Program, is located under Construction Updates. This section is loaded with detailed information related to over 30 infrastructure projects that will be undertaken in 2012. I highly recommend this section if you're interested in following the street, sidewalk, or stormwater projects occurring in your neighborhood.

An important goal within the 2012 Long Range Financial Plan is to increase operating efficiencies through continuous improvement and the increased use of technology. To achieve this end, the Village is migrating to Google Apps for Government. This is a cloud-based solution that will upgrade the existing email, calendar, and basic office software programs used by staff. This migration will improve email search capabilities, allowing staff to respond more efficiently to Freedom of Information Act requests.

So, if you haven't yet "Liked" us on *Facebook*, please take a moment to do so. The new Village *Facebook* page has received over 211 "Likes" already and we look forward to many more. You can also join the over 2,000 followers we have on *Twitter* or add to the 17,865 views we've gotten on *YouTube*. Also, please remember to add additional devices to your Community Wide Notification System account. This enables you to receive important emergency related announcements from the Village on more than just your primary telephone line. It's fast, easy and can be done through the portal available under the Stay Connected section at where else – www.downers.us.

Downers Grove is your technology community. We've been preserving the balance between tradition and progress for over 175 years.

Enjoy the spring!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mart T. Tully". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 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
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.ready.gov
- American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

New Pace Agreement Sustains Commuter Shuttle



The Village is proud to announce that under a new agreement, the Grove Commuter Shuttle bus system is now fully funded by Pace and fare box revenues. This means that no Village funds are needed, making the system financially sustainable, per recommendations within the Long Range Financial Plan.

Since FY2000, the Village has received grant funds from Pace to support the operation of the Grove Commuter Shuttle bus system. Beginning in 2010, staff had a series of meetings with Pace officials

in an effort to restructure the agreement and substantially increase Pace's contributions to this transit operation. In 2011, Pace's Board of Directors agreed to amend the 2012 operating agreement to include payment of all operating and maintenance expenses.

The Grove Commuter Shuttle provides weekday morning and evening feeder service to the Main Street and Belmont Road train stations. With gas prices on the rise, it's the perfect time to try the bus. For information and schedules, visit www.downers.us and click on **Parking/Transportation** or type "**Grove Commuter Shuttle**" in the search box.

2012 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has selected Marsha Giesler of the Downers Grove Fire Department as the 2012 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year. The award recognizes fire and life safety educators who have demonstrated excellence and innovation in the use of NFPA educational programs.



"I am very proud of Marsha and her many accomplishments," said Downers Grove Fire Chief Jim Jackson. "Downers Grove is very fortunate to have a person with so much passion and energy devoted to fire and life safety education."

As the Public Education/Information Coordinator for the Downers Grove Fire Department, Giesler teaches Learn Not to Burn, a fire safety and injury prevention program for grade school children. Through a series of monthly classroom visits, students are exposed to a variety of safety topics in an age appropriate manner. The lessons learned are shared with parents to be discussed together at home.

In addition to teaching children, Giesler also plans and presents safety programs for adults, civic groups and residents of high-rise properties. As the department's media liaison, she is often on fire scenes fielding questions from the press.

A nationally recognized professional in the field of fire safety, Giesler used her expertise to write a first-of-its-kind text book, **Fire and Life Safety Educator**, which was published in 2010. It is a training guide for fire personnel and civilians in the discipline of fire safety and injury prevention education.

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2012 FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Though there are many things she loves about her job, Giesler's favorite part is playing Edith the Safety Clown. Dressed in her colorful uniform and rubber boots, Edith (whose name means Exit Drills in the Home), spreads her safety messages at special events such as Downers Groves Passport to Safety Day and the annual Night at the Firehouse. While Edith may be silly, the safety lessons Giesler imparts to audiences are important.

Learn more about fire safety and injury prevention from Giesler and several other safety professionals at the 9th Annual Passport to Safety Day. The event will be held at the Downers Grove Park District Recreation Center on May 19, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (See page 7)

Council to Decide on Stormwater Utility

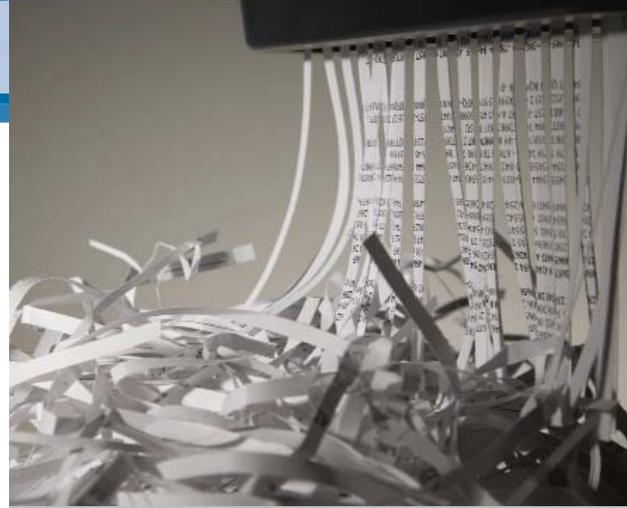
The Village of Downers Grove is considering a change in the way we pay for the cost of owning and maintaining the stormwater management system from the current method, which primarily uses property tax revenues. A new approach under consideration would use a monthly stormwater fee based on the property's impact to the stormwater system. Known as a stormwater utility, this is similar to the way other utilities are operated including natural gas and electricity.

The Village has been investigating the formation of a stormwater utility since 2003, when an exploratory committee was formed. In 2011, Municipal and Financial Services Group (M&FSG), a firm with expertise in the financial needs of municipalities, was hired to complete a stormwater utility study. The study reviewed all aspects of a stormwater utility and made specific recommendations for the Village to consider. The Council was presented with MFSG's final report on March 23, 2012, and is expected to vote on the recommendations on April 10, 2012.

Shifting to a stormwater utility system is designed to:

- Create a system in which properties pay for their portion of the stormwater system's expenses, since all properties benefit from the system.
- Increase awareness about the Village's stormwater management system.
- Encourage property owners to reduce the amount of stormwater run-off from their property by implementing management measures such as rain barrels and detention basins.
- Provide a predictable and sustainable funding source to properly maintain the stormwater system.

Detailed information about the proposed Stormwater Utility can be found on the Village website at www.downers.us. Under **Trending Topics**, click on **Stormwater Utility**.



Free Paper-Shredding Event

The Village of Downers Grove, in partnership with Accurate Document Destruction, will host a paper-shredding event on **Saturday, April 28, 2012**, from **8:00 a.m. until noon** at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Ave. The event will be held in the employee parking lot on the east side of Village Hall (fenced-in lot off of Curtiss St.).

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 your name, address or phone number, 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.



Buckle-Up Buttercup!

Did you know that in Illinois, **all** occupants of a motor vehicle must be buckled-up? Children under the age of eight should also be in an appropriate child safety seat or booster. Please, wear your seat belt and make sure everyone in the car buckles up on every trip, every time.

In addition to seat belts, the Downers Grove Police Department reminds you of the following:

Slow Down- Faster speeds reduce the amount of time you have to react to avoid a collision. Increased speed also increases the violence of a crash and the likelihood of serious injury or death.

Don't drink and drive! Impaired drivers are a factor in 40% of fatal traffic crashes. Penalties for impaired driving in Illinois are severe. Don't take a chance – choose a designated driver to make sure that you and everyone that you share the road with get home safely.

Enjoy the spring season, stop to smell the flowers, and make the choices that will keep you safe when you are on the road.



Police Department Achieves Accreditation

The Downers Grove Police Department was awarded accredited status at the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Conference.

The Department was commended during the formal Commission hearing for 100% compliance with the standards of excellence for law enforcement accreditation. The professionalism of department personnel, the high quality of service provided to the community, and the well organized and thorough condition of the policy files reviewed during an on-site audit resulted in a very successful process. The accredited status will remain in effect for a three-year period.

Chief Robert Porter and Public Education Manager Marion Heintz were in attendance at the March 24 event to accept the prestigious award on behalf of the Village.

CALEA was established in 1979 through the combined efforts of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the National Sheriff's Association (NSF), and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). The Commission's overall purpose was to improve the delivery of law enforcement services by developing nationally accepted standards of excellence.

Congratulations to the men and women of the Downers Grove Police Department for their outstanding performance.

Hot Tips from the Fire Department

Help emergency responders help you by practicing the following:

Go to the Right for Sirens and Lights!

Motorists are required by law to yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles displaying their lights and sounding their sirens. Drivers in the right lane should pull as close as possible to the curb or right side of the road. Drivers in the left lane should pull as close as possible to cars in the right lane to safely allow passage of the emergency vehicle.

Make Sure Your Address is Visible!

House numbers that are legible and prominently marked are essential and help firefighters easily find your home, which can save precious minutes. All buildings should have the address displayed in a position that is visible from the street fronting the property. The address should be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters of at least 4" in height and a minimum width of 0.5 inches. Addresses written in script should be avoided, as they are difficult to read.

Trees, branches, and decorations should not obscure the view of your address from the street.

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HOT TIPS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Know the Medical History of Your Family Members.

When paramedics respond to an ambulance call, it is often like trying to play detective to figure out what the patient's ailment is and how to treat it. A very important piece of the puzzle is to find out about the patient's medical history, including any medications that are taken.

Family members should be aware of this information and it should be written down somewhere that is easily accessible. A File of Life kit contains a standardized medical information card in a magnetic pouch to be placed on the front of a refrigerator. Emergency responders are trained to look for this information, which may enable them to deliver medical attention more quickly. The kits are available at Downers Grove Township, 4340 Prince Street; Fire Station 2, 5420 Main Street; and the Downers Grove Police Department, 825 Burlington Avenue. A \$1 donation is requested.

Passport to Safety Day

Saturday, May 19, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Downers Grove Park District Recreation Center
4500 Belmont Rd.

The 9th Annual Passport to Safety Day combines the resources of several public safety agencies in a one-stop event to teach fire safety, personal safety, emergency preparedness, and injury prevention—all in a fun atmosphere for the entire family. The event will be held rain or shine.

The first 250 children to attend will receive a Passport to Safety. Firefighters, police officers and other safety officials will sign and stamp passports as children tour the world of safety.

Activities and demonstrations include:

- Officer Patti of the DG Police Department
- Freddie, the DG Fire Department's little engine
- **Special Appearance by the Radio Disney Road Crew!** (10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)
- Practice making 9-1-1 calls
- Learn about electrical safety
- Spin the "Wheel of Safety"

Fire department vehicles will be on display. Bring your camera for a photo of the kids behind the wheel.

For more information about the Passport to Safety Day, call the Downers Grove Fire Department at 434-5986 or 434-5990.



Public Works Open House

Friday, May 18, 2012

2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Public Works Facility
5101 Walnut Ave.

All ages are invited to attend this annual event where we take you behind the scenes of Public Works. Visitors can tour the facility and ask questions of the staff about their jobs and public works operations. Kids will love the displays of big equipment and can take the Green Guide Challenge for a chance to ride in the July 4 Parade. Plus, enter the drawing to win a rain barrel.

Please bring a non-perishable food item and help us "Load the Loader" for the FISH Food Pantry.

REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

MONTHLY SIREN TESTING

As a reminder, outdoor emergency sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION REFERENDUM

Voters approved a referendum on the March 20, 2012, General Primary Election ballot which authorizes the Village to seek a competitive bid that lowers the price of electricity for residents and many businesses. The official certification of election results is expected on April 10, 2012. Once this information is received, the Village will publicize the next steps.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Village is looking for volunteers to work on special projects as needed, such as electronics recycling events, general office assistance, building improvements and emergency response. If you are interested in becoming a municipal volunteer, please fill out an online application, which identifies your skills and availabilities at www.downers.us. Applicants will be kept on file and called upon, as needed, or may apply for specific posted volunteer opportunities.

FLOOD PLAIN INFORMATION

Do you have a question on whether your property is located in a flood plain? Do you need flood insurance rate map information? Residents, builders, lenders, realtors, and insurance agents may contact the Village regarding special flood hazard areas, poor drainage areas, or any general information about the National Flood Insurance Program. Mortgage lenders are responsible for making the official determination for flood insurance requirements. See www.fema.gov to download a pamphlet to help you understand your flood insurance policy or call (630) 434-5515 or email stormwater@downers.us for more information.

PLANNING A SPRING HOME PROJECT?

A call to Community Development Department should be the first step any time a property owner is considering making interior or exterior improvements. Depending on the type of work to be done and scope of the project, one or more building permits may be required. Call (630) 434-5515 for further information.

WATER CONSERVATION BEGINS MAY 15

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 calendar days; if the address ends in an odd number, the resident can water on odd calendar 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.

New Businesses

POSH KIDS, ETC.

Children's High End Consignment &
New Clothing Store
5116B Main Street
630-541-8527

REMEDY CHIROPRACTIC has moved

5151 Mochel Drive, Ste. 200
630-324-6019

SMOKEY TOMATO CAFE & CATERING

1028 Curtiss Street

THAI POT

2249 Maple Avenue
630-737-0671
www.thaipotdownersgrove.com

WELLS STREET POPCORN

5124 Main Street
www.wellstreetpopcorn.com

IS YOUR BUSINESS THE NEW KID IN TOWN?

If so, Hometown Times wants to hear from you. For more details, contact Printing and Publications at (630) 434-5556. New businesses are published as a service, not as an endorsement by the Village.



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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