



# Hometown TIMES

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

## Parade Leads July 4 Events in a New Direction!

It won't be your imagination if you think the procession is going the wrong way down Main Street on July 4.

This year, the Downers Grove parade route will originate at Main and Grant Streets on the north side of town and proceed **SOUTH** on Main toward downtown, ending at Warren Avenue.

The parade will begin at the same time, 12:45 p.m.

### Concert in Fishel Park

The fun doesn't stop when the parade ends...

Immediately following the parade (approximately 2:30 p.m.), head to Fishel Park for a free concert in the new Veterans Memorial Pavilion, hosted by the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club. Enjoy the sounds of local favorite, HindSight, playing a mix of rock and roll from the 60s through today.



### July 4 Fireworks

Join your friends at the fireworks display, brought to you by the Village of Downers Grove and Village of Woodridge. The show starts at approximately 9:30 p.m. at 75th Street and Lemont Road.

**75TH STREET CONSTRUCTION REMINDER:** Those attending the fireworks are urged to carpool, due to continuing construction on 75th Street. Please exercise patience and allow for extra travel time. Be prepared for traffic delays in and around the immediate area.

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

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor  
Martin T. Tully

Hello Downers Grove!

With Summer now here and the storms that it brings, I'd like to update everyone as to where we stand in working with ComEd as part of our continued advocacy on behalf of the citizens of Downers Grove to enhance and improve the reliability of electrical service within the Village. Not to be confused with electrical aggregation, this has to do with the distribution of electricity over ComEd wires, the failings of which came to our attention in a very harsh way during the severe storms of last summer. Hopefully, that will not happen again this year, and while there are no guarantees that power outages won't recur, the Village has insisted upon and overseen improvements by ComEd designed to reduce the frequency and duration of power outages in our Community.

You may recall that on September 15, 2011, the Village presented the ComEd Reliability Report at a Town Hall Meeting at the Belmont Recreation Center. The key findings and recommendations of the report were based on the analysis by Village staff of the outage data filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission dating back to 2007. A variety of senior ComEd representatives were on hand for the presentation of the report, as well as to receive resident's comments regarding service reliability and communication issues.

## Key findings within the 2011 report included the following:

- The Village had experienced 1,482 power outages since 2007. Equipment related issues were the number one cause of these outages.
- The 10 circuits that saw the most number of power outages experienced an average of 10.75 to 19.25 outages per year from 2007 to 2010.
- Equipment related issues were the leading cause of outages in 5 of these circuits. Weather/tree related issues were the leading cause in 5 of these circuits.

## The following actions were recommended to cure reliability issues:

- Make improvements to the distribution system to reduce outages caused by faulty equipment.
- Increase tree trimming to reduce outages caused by tree contact during severe storms.
- Make improvements to the 10 circuits that have experienced the greatest number of outages and continue to make improvements to the remaining circuits once the top 10 are corrected.

In light of this data, ComEd committed to an action plan that included increased tree trimming and equipment upgrades throughout the community. Since that time the Village has met regularly with ComEd representatives to ensure compliance, and as a result, 11 circuits have seen enhanced tree trimming intended to reduce the likelihood of tree and storm related outages, and equipment upgrades have been made in 5 circuits. ComEd also added an additional equipment upgrade consisting of the replacement of 4,400 feet of underground cable. The 4 overhead cable projects currently underway in the Village are scheduled to be completed by the end of June. When these projects are finished, this will mark the completion of the equipment upgrades that were promised by ComEd to address reliability. A complete list of these improvements is available at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us).

The Village also insisted that improvements to communication and customer service be implemented, a message echoed by other municipalities. In response, ComEd has created an outage alert system through which customers can use their cell phones to receive outage restoration information and to report outages to ComEd. You can sign up for this service under the Customer Service Tab at ComEd.com.

Village efforts to ensure and enhance ComEd reliability remain on-going and another Town Hall Meeting is planned for September 2012. Please stay tuned for more details regarding the date and location which will be publicized on the Village website and other venues including Facebook, Twitter, and the Village Corner. We're continuing to do what we can with ComEd to help keep the power up when the rain comes down in Downers Grove.

Meanwhile, best wishes for a safe and terrific summer!

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

## Upgrades to Downtown Parking Options

In January 2012, the Village Council accepted the Downtown Parking Study which provides a comprehensive review of current and future parking needs in downtown Downers Grove. Recommendations within the study relate to a broad range of findings including the mix of parking, parking operations, fees and permits, the need for additional parking, and enforcement.

**The following improvements have recently been made to increase the availability of shopper parking downtown:**

- 12 new shopper parking spaces have been added to Lot A located north of the tracks on Forest Avenue across from the Moose Lodge.
- 15-Minute Parking spaces have been added throughout the downtown to encourage turnover and allow better access to businesses such as dry cleaners, bakeries, carry-out services and gift shops.
- 2 new shopper spacer have been added on Main Street north of Maple Avenue.



These new options have been marked with updated signs and the on-street parking features colored pavement striping. The complete Downtown Parking Study is available at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). The implementation of other study recommendations will occur in phases based on the impacts to stakeholders and benefits to the system.

## Lower Energy Rates Coming Soon

The Village of Downers Grove and the Village of Westmont have awarded a contract to First Energy to provide electric supply services through the villages' Municipal Electrical Aggregation Program. The new contract will save the average household approximately \$350 on their annual electricity bill. The two-year fixed rate of 4.75 cents per kilowatt hour for eligible residents and businesses represents a 42% savings over ComEd's comparable non-summer rate.

**NOTE: The price reduction refers to the electricity supply portion of the bill only, not the cost of delivery.**

In addition to substantial electricity supply cost savings, the new rate includes Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on a one-to-one match to supplement the electricity purchased. Purchasing RECs at the same quantity as electricity consumption guarantees that the energy used is added to the power grid from a renewable energy facility, thus supporting further development of green energy sources.

The new rate will take effect later this summer for all eligible customers, generally defined as the following:

- Most residential customers.  
**Exception: Residents under contract with a third party supplier other than ComEd and residents on ComEd's Real Time Pricing program.**
- Businesses that use less than 15,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year.

All eligible customers will automatically be enrolled in the program unless they elect to opt out. First Energy will send a letter to customers soon, explaining the program and the opt out procedure.

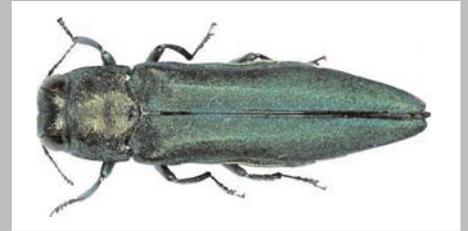
The Villages used the energy consulting firm Belden Energy Solutions for program assistance and guidance.

As a reminder, consumers are urged to be cautious of offers from other electrical suppliers seeking to contract directly with the customer. Compare the rate of service and all terms and conditions before signing any contract or agreement.

More information regarding electrical aggregation and the new supply contract are available at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). Additional information about electric choice is available at the Illinois Commerce Commission website: [www.PluginIllinois.org](http://www.PluginIllinois.org)

## Insatiable Hunger Games

What's green, hails from Asia, and has an appetite for destruction? No, it's not Godzilla...it's the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Though just half an inch long, these invaders can kill an ash tree in a few years, once a tree has been infected.



The Village's first case of EAB was reported last May, detected in a private ash tree in the 1900 block of Warren Avenue. Since then, forestry staff have kept a watchful eye on the nearly 4,000 ash trees planted in Village parkways. Declining ash trees are being dissected and inspected for the presence of EAB larvae, internal S-shaped larvae galleries, and characteristic D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark. Staff is also following up on all calls regarding ash trees on both public and private property.

The EAB larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees, thereby cutting off their ability to transport nutrients and ultimately causing the tree's decline. Adult EAB beetles emerge from infested trees beginning in mid-May, peaking in late June, and continue to emerge until late July.

An important strategy in containing the spread of EAB is the removal of suspect trees that are in poor health or potentially infested. If two or more signs of infection are present or the ash tree is at least 50% dead, the tree will be removed.

This summer, the Village will treat select parkway ash trees to help prevent the spread of EAB to healthy trees. An injection of pesticide will be applied at the base of the tree or directly into the trunk to kill any borers inside. Residents in the affected areas have been notified.

For answers to questions about EAB and ash trees, or possible sightings of the EAB beetle, please contact the Village Forester at 630-434-5475.

Additional information about the Emerald Ash Borer can be found on the Village website at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). Under "Trending Topics," click on Emerald Ash Borer.

## Leave the Fireworks to the Pros

Did you know that fireworks are **illegal** in Downers Grove and in Illinois? The Downers Grove Municipal Code mirrors that of the Illinois State Fireworks Code, which means that firecrackers, bottle rockets, cherry bombs, and the like are prohibited. Though one can easily purchase fireworks legally in adjacent states, it is illegal to bring them home across the border. Any person convicted of an offense shall be subject to a fine of between \$75.00 and \$750.00.

Legal firework novelties such as sparklers, fountains, snakes, party poppers, and ground spinners, marketed as "safe," still possess dangers. About one quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries occur from July 2 to July 5. The risk of fireworks injury is more than twice as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population. Children as young as 2 years old are commonly handed sparklers which reach temperatures of 1,200 to 1,800 degrees, hot enough to cause third-degree burns, yet adults underestimate the dangers.

For a July 4 that's both exciting and safe, leave the fireworks to the experts and take the family to a professional outdoor display. (See cover story.)



Village of  
Downers Grove

Public Works  
Department

14th Annual

# Water Quality Report

June 2012



## What Do You Know About Your Drinking Water?

This Water Quality Report (WQR) was prepared to inform Downers Grove Water System customers about the quality of the water that is provided on a daily basis. The WQR is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in accordance with the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

High quality, safe drinking water is an essential resource and as indicated in this WQR the quality of the water provided by the Village meets or exceeds all state and federal standards.

The WQR summarizes the quality of the water provided last year and includes information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to U.S. EPA standards. If you have any questions about this report, or concerns about the Downers Grove Water system, please contact David A. Bird, Water Manager, at 630-434-5462.

## Where Does Your Drinking Water Come From?

The Village of Downers Grove, along with 28 other municipalities, purchases water from the DuPage Water Commission. This water is treated surface water from Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan, by volume, is the second largest Great Lake and is the fifth largest lake in the world. Lake Michigan is 307 miles long and 30-120 miles wide, with a maximum depth of 923 feet. It serves as a source of drinking water as well as recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and boating.

All 63 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline within Illinois are considered by the EPA to be in good condition. Because of concern that sources of drinking water can pick up contaminants as water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, the Illinois EPA Office of Groundwater will be doing a source water assessment. When completed, all sources of pollutants into Lake Michigan will be identified and there will be information regarding the source water's susceptibility to contaminants based on the findings of the assessment. The Village does not have indications of the presence of contaminants at this time and as a result, conventional treatment methods of disinfection, coagulation sedimentation, and sand filtration are adequate for producing a water that is free of harmful contaminants. Further information on the source water assessment is available on the USGS web site at <http://usgs.gov> or by calling the Groundwater Section of the Illinois EPA at 217-785-4787. As the assessment becomes available, we will summarize the results and incorporate the information into this report.

## Village Ensures Long Term Sustainability of Water System

Providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water is a fundamental Village service and the continued financial viability of the water system is a top priority. In April 2010, the Village hired a consultant with expertise in financial planning for water utilities to complete a water rate study. The study identified the annual estimated expenditures needed to operate the system and compared them with the annual revenues projected to be collected with the current water rates. They determined if the Village maintained water pricing at the current level, there would be a \$2.75 million deficit by 2011 which would increase to almost \$5 million by 2015. As a result, the consultant recommended that water fund revenues increase by 14% per year over a three year period, beginning in 2010. This measure was determined to be necessary to ensure that adequate funding is available for the current and future operation of the Village's water system. The complete Final Water Study Report can be found on the Village's website.

At their meeting on November 9, 2010, the Village Council approved a measure to restructure water fees and the manner in which water bills are calculated. Downers Grove water customers saw these changes reflected in bills received after January 1, 2011.

There are three main reasons for the change:

- The price of water that the Village buys from the DuPage Water Commission has significantly increased and is expected to continue at a rate of 10% per year.
- Large portions of the system have reached the end of their useful life. This includes water main pipes that deliver water to homes and businesses, as well as water towers, fire hydrants, water valves, and meters. A significant investment is needed to avoid disruptions in water service due to failed equipment.
- Water consumption has declined by about 1% annually over the past five years and is projected to continue along this trend in the future.

The Village's water system consists of 7 water towers with a storage capacity of 8 million gallons. The Village also has 3 stand-by wells that are tested and maintained regularly in case of an emergency. In addition to the water towers, the Village also maintains 233 miles of water mains, 3,144 fire hydrants, 2,940 valves, and almost 16,000 water meters. Last year the Village pumped an average of 5.3 million gallons of water per day.

## Definitions

- (1) MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG allows for a margin of safety.
- (2) MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL is set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- (3) AL = Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- (4) Unregulated Contaminant: A maximum contaminant level (MCL) for this has not been established by either state or federal regulations, nor has mandatory health effects language. The purpose of monitoring this contaminant is to assist USEPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water, and whether future regulation is warranted.
- (5) TT = Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- (6) NTU = Nephelometric turbidity unit: Used to measure cloudiness in drinking water.
- (7) Fluoride is added to the water supply to help promote strong teeth. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends an optimal fluoride range of 0.9mg/l to 1.2 mg/l.
- (8) Sodium = There is not a state or federal MCL for sodium. Monitoring is required to provide information to consumers and health officials who are concerned about sodium intake due to dietary precautions. If you are on a sodium-restricted diet, you should consult your physician about this level of sodium in the water.
- (9) Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of the filtration system and disinfectants.

# 2011 Water Quality Monitoring Results

Our 2011 water quality monitoring results are listed in the following tables. The tables list the few compounds that were found, along with their measured levels and possible sources. If you would like a list of the compounds that were monitored but not found, please call 630-434-5462.

**Tips for reading these tables.** The first column lists each compound found, the units of measure and where these compounds may come from or how they are formed. The second column lists the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's allowable limits. (Please refer to the definition of MCLG and MCL beside the table.) The third column lists the levels found in the Lake Michigan supply, including an average and a range. The average level found represents an average of sample result data collected during the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) calendar year. In some cases, it may represent a single sample if only one sample was collected. The range of detections represents a range of individual sample results, from lowest to highest, that were collected during the CCR calendar year. The fourth column indicates the date of a sample. If a date appears in this column, the Illinois EPA requires monitoring for this contaminant less than once per year because the concentrations do not frequently change. If no date appears in this column, monitoring for this contaminant was conducted during the Consumer Confidence Report calendar year.

## Water Quality Table for Monitoring by the Village of Downers Grove

Detected Compounds Typical Source	Units	EPA's Allowable Limits		Levels in Lake Michigan Water		Date of Sample
		MCLG <sup>1</sup>	MCL <sup>2</sup>	Average	Range of Detection	
<b>INORGANIC AND ORGANIC PARAMETERS</b>						
Copper Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	ND	0 exceeding AL <sup>3</sup>	
Lead Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits	ppm	1.3	AL=15	ND	0 exceeding AL <sup>15</sup>	
<b>MICROBIAL PARAMETERS</b>						
Total Coliform Bacteria	% pos/mo	5%	5%	ND		
Naturally present in the environment.						
<b>DISINFECTION / DISINFECTANT BY-PRODUCTS</b>						
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	NA	80	36.0	20.79 - 54.5	
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	ppb	NA	60	13.0	8.33 - 14.96	
Chlorine By-product of drinking water chlorination. in organic synthesis.		NA	MRDL=4	0.6	0.535 - 0.617	12-31-10

In addition, the Village also tested our 3 standby water wells as required by I.E.P.A. If you would like a list of the compounds monitored but not found please call the Water Division at 630-434-5462.

(10) MRDL=Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

ND= Not detected at the method detection limit.

NA = Not Applicable

For water samples:

1 part per million  
(ppm) = 1 mg/L

1 part per billion  
(ppb) = 1 ug/L

1 ppm = 1000 ppb

% pos/mo = percent positive samples per month.

# pos/mo = number of positive samples per month.

## Water Quality Table for Monitoring by the City of Chicago

Detected Compounds Typical Source	Units	EPA's Allowable Limits		Levels Found	Range
		MCLG	MCL		
<b>CLARITY</b>					
Turbidity Soil runoff.	%<0.3 NTU	NA	TT/95%	99.50%	99.50-100%
Turbidity <sup>9</sup> Soil runoff.	NTU <sup>6</sup>	NA	TT=1 NTU max	0.86	NA
<b>INORGANIC PARAMETERS</b>					
Barium Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.	ppm	2	2	0.0208	0.0201 - 0.0208
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	ppm	10	10	0.44	0.39 - 0.44
Nitrate & Nitrite Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.	ppm	10	10	0.44	0.39 - 0.44
<b>DISINFECTANTS/DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>					
THMs (Total Trihalomethanes) By-product of drinking water disinfection	ppb	NA	80	26.00	0.0 - 26.00
HAA5 (Haloacetic Acids) By-product of drinking water disinfection	ppb	NA	60	21.00	0 - 21.00
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) Drinking water disinfectant	ppm	4.0	4.0	0.90	0.90 - 0.90
TOC (Total Organic Carbon) The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month and the system met all TOC removal requirements set by IEPA					
<b>UNREGULATED PARAMETERS</b>					
Sulfate Erosion of naturally occurring deposits.	ppm	NA	NA	16.1	14.4 - 16.1
<b>STATE REGULATED PARAMETERS</b>					
Fluoride <sup>7</sup> Water additive which promotes strong teeth	ppm	4	4	0.92	0.81 - 0.92
Sodium <sup>8</sup> Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener.	ppm	NA	NA	6.64	6.63 - 6.64
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/l) Decay of natural man-made deposits		0	15	0.88	0.090 - 0.880

## Information from the EPA

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency adopts regulations setting the standards for public water systems. The federal Food and Drug Administration regulates contaminants in bottled water and is responsible for providing the same level of public health protection.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

## Water Restrictions

Water restrictions are in effect in the Village from May 15 to September 15. Outdoor water use is based on an odd/even system according to address. If you have an odd numbered address, you may water on odd numbered days. Even numbered addresses may water on even numbered days. On those days, you may water between the hours of 4 and 11 a.m., and 4 and 11 p.m.

## Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program



All of the Village's 2,711 fire hydrants will be inspected in 2012 to ensure that hydrants work correctly when needed. In addition, approximately 540 hydrants will also be flow tested and all the hydrants north of Ogden will be painted. More information regarding the Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program will be posted on the Village website or contact the Water Division at 630-434-5462.

## Automatic Meter Reading

Water consumption in your home and business is measured through a water meter. Water meter readings are automatically transmitted directly to the Village and are used to calculate and produce your water bill. This automatic meter reading system gives us the ability to track daily water consumption and run a variety of reports to indicate high and low water usage, as well as reduce the number of estimated water bills. With this new technology and the data available to us, we are now able to help answer many commonly asked questions right over the phone. If you have any questions regarding your water meter, meter reading, received an estimated bill or a high bill due to excessive consumption, please call our AMR coordinator at 630-434-5471.



## Voluntary Testing

The Chicago Water Department monitors for contaminants which are proposed to be regulated or for which no standards currently exist, but which could provide useful information in assessing the quality of the source water or the drinking water.

One of these contaminants is the disease-causing organism cryptosporidium commonly found in the natural environment. Analyses have been conducted monthly on the source water since April 1993. Cryptosporidium has not been detected in these samples. Treatment processes have been optimized to ensure that if there are cryptosporidium cysts in the source water, they will be removed during the treatment process. By maintaining low turbidity and thereby removing the particles from the water, the threat of cryptosporidium organisms getting into the drinking water system is greatly reduced.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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## Important Contacts for Water Information

### **Village of Downers Grove Public Works Department**

5101 Walnut Avenue  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515-4074

#### **Public Works Facility Hours**

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### **Public Works Customer Service**

630/434-5460 (for leaks, dirty water, etc.)

#### **Water Quality**

Contact: David Bird  
Phone: 630/434-5462  
E-Mail: [dbird@downers.us](mailto:dbird@downers.us)  
Website: [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us)

#### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Website: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)  
Safe Drinking Water Hotline:  
1-800/426-4791

## How Can I Get More Involved in Decisions Affecting My Drinking Water?

Inquiries regarding your drinking water can be made at the contacts listed above.

Residents are welcome to attend Village Council meetings held the first, second, and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Council Chambers at 801 Burlington Avenue.

If you don't have a computer to access the websites listed in this report, public computers are available at the Downers Grove Public Library, at 1050 Curtiss Street.

# Stormwater 101

## What is stormwater/run-off?

Stormwater originates from rain or melting snow or other activities involving outdoor water use such as car washing or hosing off the driveway or sidewalk. Water that does not soak into the ground becomes run-off and picks up whatever debris and pollutants it encounters along the way such as dirt, pesticides, animal waste, salts, oil, or litter.

This runoff either flows directly into surface waterways or is channeled into the Village's system of pipes, ditches, catch basins, and storm drains, before being discharged into local waterways.

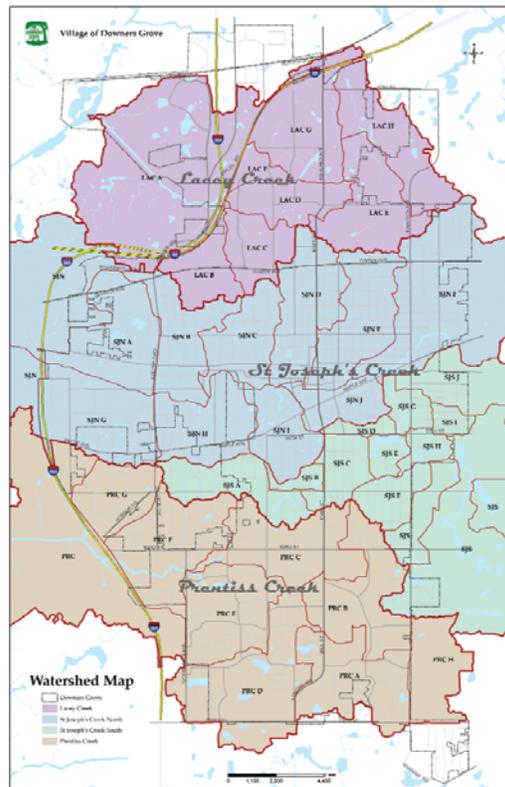
The three creeks in Downers Grove all drain westward and empty into the East Branch of the DuPage River:

- Lacey Creek, which is north of Ogden Avenue;
- St. Joseph Creek, which flows through the central portion of the Village;
- Prentiss Creek, which is south of 63rd Street

The key to cleaner and healthier water and more sustainable communities is to capture rain where it falls, by helping it drain into the ground, as nature intended. There are several things residents can do to prevent contaminants from entering local waterways:

- Install a rain barrel or plant a rain garden to capture run-off. Use the stored rainwater to give your plants a drink.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly or look to more organic methods to control pests.
- NEVER DUMP ANYTHING INTO THE STORM SEWER!
- Get the car's exterior cleaned at the car wash where wash water is treated to prevent run-off contamination.
- Limit the use of salt on icy driveways or sidewalks. Use sand, which can be swept up between storms for reuse. Tips at: <http://www.drscw.org/chlorides/DRSCWhomeowners.pdf>
- Limit the amount of impervious surfaces on your property or consider the use of permeable pavement, which allow water to soak through, rather than run-off.

**Less asphalt and pavement = More green space = Less stormwater run-off.**



## Is It a Jungle Out There?

Mowing the lawn may not be a favorite summer pastime, but it comes with the territory of property ownership. The Village reminds residents of the lawn care regulations that are in effect year-round.

With the exception of ornamental grasses, grass and/or weeds on all properties may not exceed 10 inches in height, as determined by the Downers Grove Property Maintenance Code. Residents are reminded that they must also maintain the parkways adjacent to their property.

Senior citizens or disabled residents who are in need of assistance to care for their property may call the Village at (630) 434-5500 and inquire about the Home Chore program. Participants will be matched with a volunteer who will perform yard work or other household chores for an agreed upon price.

**On April 10, 2012, the Village Council adopted a motion to implement a stormwater utility system within the Village of Downers Grove.**

**The stormwater utility is expected to be implemented in January of 2013. For more information, follow "Stormwater Utility" on [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us).**



## RadKids Keep Their Cool

Resisting Aggression Defensively (radKids) is a program that empowers children ages 7 to 9 years old by teaching them how to respond to a variety of dangerous situations. The Downers Grove Police Department will present radKids through the Downers Grove Park District from July 16 – 20, 2012.

Topics covered in the program include bike safety, gun safety, bullying, safety in cars, good and bad touch, and much more. In addition, each day of the five-day program includes a segment that teaches children simple techniques that they can employ if someone is hurting them.

Registration information is available in the Downers Grove Park District Summer Guide and online at [www.dgparks.org](http://www.dgparks.org).



## Knock Knock; Who's There?

During the summer months, the Village receives an increased number of calls related to solicitation. The Downers Grove Police Department would like to remind residents of the solicitation regulations in the Village.

**Commercial Solicitation** is defined by the Downers Grove Municipal Code as contact with residents, without an appointment, for the purpose of selling for profit any goods, services, or articles, such as magazine subscriptions, insurance policies, real estate listings, and cleaning products.

**Non-Commercial Solicitation** is contact with residents, without an appointment, for the purpose of requesting contributions (money, property, or financial assistance) or selling items for charitable, religious, and political causes.

NOTE : Persons who are only seeking or giving information (public opinion polls, political campaigns, pamphlet distribution) are not defined by the Village's ordinance as solicitors.

### All Solicitors must:

- Apply for a solicitation permit at Village Hall.
- Wear their identification cards on their outer garments.
- Honor "No Soliciting" signs prominently displayed near the main entrance to the premises.
- Leave the premises when requested to do so.
- Indicate the purpose of their visit and not misrepresent their purpose.
- Solicit only during the hours set by the ordinance:  
*Commercial Solicitors:* Monday thru Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., excluding holidays; *Non-Commercial Solicitors:* 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. including weekends and holidays

A solicitation permit issued by the Village does not constitute any type of endorsement or verify the applicant's credentials. Residents are urged to use common sense when dealing with any solicitor, even those displaying a valid solicitor's permit. As a reminder, police strongly advise against inviting any solicitors into your home.

**If you have any concerns about a solicitor or feel they are in violation of these regulations, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 to report the incident.**

## SAVE THE DATES!

NIGHT AT THE FIREHOUSE  
October 10, 2012

18TH ANNUAL SILENT PARADE  
Honoring those lives lost to fire  
October 12, 2012

# New Tools for the Fire Department



The Downers Grove Fire Department (DGFD) recently acquired two hydrogen cyanide meters which will be on the scene of all fires. Hydrogen cyanide is a toxin present in smoke produced through the combustion of virtually all products. Inhalation of this substance can result in instantaneous death. Firefighters must be able to detect the presence of hydrogen cyanide, allowing them to select the proper gear and determine the level of exposure to firefighters and smoke inhalation victims.

In step with the arrival of this new equipment, the department has also been approved to carry and administer the antidote for hydrogen cyanide poisoning. Thanks to the fire department's safety advocacy efforts, the DGFD is one of very few departments in the Chicagoland area that has secured the capability of delivering this antidote.

## Guatemalan Firefighters Visit Downers Grove

Recently, Downers Grove Firefighter Mike Baldwin and Battalion Chief Matt Daly spent a day training firefighters from Guatemala through a partnership with the non-profit organization, Hearts in Motion.

Daly and Baldwin showed their guests basic firefighter drags using webbing; how to bail out of a window and down a ladder in rapidly changing conditions; and how to move an unconscious firefighter down a ladder. The Guatemalan trainees were given instruction on how to overcome obstacles commonly faced by firefighters when searching for victims. They practiced their new skills in a simulated training drill.



## Downtown Road Rules

**What is the Downtown Area?** The Downtown boundaries are generally defined as Maple Avenue to the south, Franklin Street to the north, Washington Street on the east, and Forest Avenue to the west.

The Downers Grove Police Department asks parents to discuss with their children the following ordinances that are in place to make the Downtown area a safe and welcome place for everyone.

**Skateboarding, Roller-skating, or in-line skating.** This ordinance prohibits the use of skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, or "any other similar device" (except motorized devices for the disabled) anywhere downtown or in the Parking Deck, including streets and private parking lots where the business has signed an agreement for police enforcement. Prohibited areas will display warning signs.

**Officers will take possession of skating devices from juvenile offenders that have previously been warned about violations of this ordinance. The devices will be released to the parents of the juvenile offender once they are no longer needed as evidence.**



Officer McMabon near a "No Skateboarding" sign posted Downtown.

**Bicycle Riding Prohibited on the Sidewalk.** While bicycles are allowed downtown and may be used on the streets, bike riding is not permitted on any portion of sidewalk or within the Parking Deck. Bikes must be walked on downtown sidewalks and in other business areas of the Village.

**Parking Deck.** The facility is specifically for parking of vehicles and is not an area where kids should congregate. The Parking Deck area is closely monitored by police patrols as well as an internal security system that includes cameras on each level that are viewed by police personnel 24 hours a day.

**Park Closing.** Fishel Park, located downtown, is closed each day from dusk to sunrise. This includes the pavilion area of the park.

# REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

## GARBAGE HOLIDAYS

Wednesday, July 4, 2012, is a garbage holiday, as well as Monday, September 3, 2012. Please remember that if your collection day falls on or after the holiday, collection will be one day later.

## WATER RESTRICTIONS

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 and vice-versa.

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. If you have questions about the water restrictions, contact Public Works at (630) 434-5460. For tips on using outdoor water wisely, **visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)**.

## FREE WOOD CHIPS

Residents are welcome to take the desired amount of wood chips for landscaping needs, available at the fenced site on the north side of Curtiss Street, at the intersection of Katrine Avenue. Hours are dawn to dusk, Monday-Friday, and 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

## DON'T FEED THE WILDLIFE!

Coyotes can become a nuisance when they have easy access to food in residential areas, such as pet food or garbage. To discourage their presence:

- Feed pets indoors or promptly remove dishes when pets complete their meal outside. Store bags of pet food indoors.
- Clear brush and dense weeds from around property. This deprives rodents of shelter and reduces protective cover for coyotes.
- Use trash cans equipped with tight clamping devices on the lids, which will prevent spills should they be tipped over by large animals.
- Educate your friends and neighbors about the problems associated with feeding coyotes. If you belong to a homeowner's association or neighborhood watch, bring up the subject during one of the meetings.
- DO NOT feed or provide water for coyotes or other wildlife. This practice attracts coyotes and promotes increased numbers of rodents, birds, snakes and other creatures that can provide major portions of the coyote's natural diet.

## New Business

**O'Flaherty Law**  
5002 Main St., Ste. 201  
630-324-6666

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

801 Burlington Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

**Mayor Martin T. Tully**  
Commissioners

**Marilyn Schnell, William Waldaack,  
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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