



Hometown TIMES

"Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress"

Celebrate July 4

Give three cheers for the red, white and blue at the Fourth of July Parade. The parade begins at 12:45 at Main and Grant Streets and heads south on Main, ending at Warren Avenue.

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.

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www.downers.us

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor
Martin T. Tully

Hello Downers Grove! Congratulations, you are all award-winners!

Those who live and work here have long known it to be true, but in case you haven't heard, it's now official. By all outside measures, Downers Grove is truly an exceptional place to call home. I'm referring, of course, to the high rankings our community has received for its safe neighborhoods, exceptional schools, abundant recreational options, varietal housing, sustainable environmental practices and terrific community events. Here is the list of the recent rankings that showcase the "sheer awesomeness" of our community in many important respects:

• **Top 10 Livable Cities for Kids #2 (Livability.com) May 2014**

Downers Grove was chosen for its highly rated schools and less than a quarter of the national average crime rate. The Village's 600 acres of parks and green space, more than 140 community events, and renovated downtown were credited as making this the perfect place for families.

• **Most Exciting Cities in Illinois #10 (Movoto Real Estate) April 2014**

Downers Grove's entertainment options including live music venues and recreational activities per capita, together with the great assortment of non-fast food restaurants won the day for this ranking.

• **Best Cities in Illinois #8 (Movoto Real Estate) October 2013**

With a high school graduation rate 12% higher than the rest of the state, above average household income (35% > then state) and a comparatively low crime rate, it's easy to see why Downers Grove is one of the best cities.

• **Top Transit Community #7 (DePaul's Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development) July 2013**

The ability to walk or ride public transportation to our train stations are main reasons for this best of ten ranking. The extensive dining, retail and professional services options available within walking distance of the Main Street station were described as being unsurpassed in the western suburbs.

• **America's Friendliest Towns #8 (Forbes) December 2012**

The large percentage of homeownership, a highly educated citizenry and generous charitable giving were the categories used to determine this ranking. Abundant parks, green space and community events helped solidify Downers Grove as one of America's most friendly towns.

• **Best Places for Healthy Retirement #5 (CNN Money) September 2012**

Downers Grove received this ranking for its abundance of parks, nature, and stellar hospitals.

Of course, it is no accident or coincidence that Downers Grove continues to garner this kind of unsolicited recognition. The sponsors of these rankings use statistical data on crime, housing, education, healthcare and environmental preservation to compare like communities and the Village continues to score at or near the top in most of these categories. The collective success of our community is attributable to many things, including the following:

1. The very active, informed and engaged citizens of Downers Grove.
2. Communication, cooperation and collaboration among local agencies like the Village, Park District, School Districts, Library, local non-profit organizations and neighborhood groups, all of which play a vital role and contribute mightily.
3. A shared commitment to financial and environmental sustainability.

Celebrating success is important and I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who serve the community as an elected official, community board member, service club volunteer or agency staff member. Thank you for your service and dedication. To be sure, it is you who make Downers Grove a great place to live, learn, work and play.

I look forward to seeing everyone around town at one or more of the nationally-recognized events and activities we are known for. Be well, and please have a fantastic summer!

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

All Village Properties Qualify For Reduction In Flood Insurance Premiums!

The Village has been notified by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) that Downers Grove's rating under the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System has been raised from a CRS 7 to CRS 6. The Community Rating System (CRS) is a **voluntary** incentive program that recognizes communities for implementing floodplain management practices that exceed Federal minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to provide protection from flooding. Only 57 communities in Illinois participate in the CRS.

In exchange for a community's proactive efforts to reduce flood risk, policy holders can receive reduced flood insurance premiums for buildings in the community. These reduced premiums reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community efforts toward achieving the three CRS goals:

1. Reduce flood damage to insurable property
2. Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP
3. Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management

There were over a dozen stormwater best practices and activities in place by the Village that were recognized by the rating agency. Some of these practices include Village flood protection standards, local flood studies, and open space preservation. The improved rating speaks to the effectiveness of the Village's proactive approaches to stormwater management and mitigating flood risk.

What does this mean to property owners in Downers Grove?

The Village's CRS 6 rating qualifies property owners who live in the floodplain for a **20% discount on flood insurance premiums**, as of May 1, 2014. Property owners that do not live in the floodplain can still benefit from a 10% reduction in flood insurance premiums.

How do I get NFIP flood insurance?

Ask your insurance agent if they or their company participate in the National Flood Insurance Program; not all of them do. Or visit www.floodsmart.gov to find a participating agent in the area to take advantage of the coverage and savings.

Illinois State Bar Recognizes Domestic Violence Efforts

Downers Grove Police Sergeant Joel Marquez has received the prestigious Illinois State Bar Association Law Enforcement Award for his efforts to educate DuPage County law enforcement and raise awareness of the many issues involved with domestic violence. Sergeant Marquez serves on the DuPage County Family Violence Coordinating Council.

DuPage County Circuit Judge Robert Anderson nominated Sgt. Marquez for the award and cited his work educating police on the long-term impact domestic violence has on the families of victims through his training program, DuPage County on Domestic Violence Protocol.

"Sergeant Marquez's efforts have significantly enhanced the integrity of the criminal justice system in DuPage County," said Judge Anderson. "He is someone who is making a real difference for the children and families in DuPage County."

Congratulations, Sergeant Marquez!

Save These Dates!

- **Night at the Firehouse – Wednesday, October 8, 2014**
- **20th Annual Fire Service Silent Parade – Friday, October 10, 2014**

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Village Will Not Renew Electrical Aggregation

The Village's electrical aggregation contract with FirstEnergy Solutions will end in **August 2014**. The two-year contract initiated in 2012 locked in low electricity supply rates for residents and small businesses. Through the aggregation program, participants saved 42% over the ComEd rates.

The Village has reviewed options for renewing the contract with FirstEnergy and has also looked into other independent energy suppliers. In today's market, the rates available from other energy suppliers are nearly identical to ComEd's rates. There will be no benefit to residents or businesses by continuing the aggregation program. Should the energy supply market change, the Village can reevaluate after 18 months.

Next Steps

- All participants enrolled in the aggregation program will return to ComEd's supply rates at the conclusion of the contract ending in August. **ComEd's rate for October 2014-May 2015 will be 7.42 cents per kilowatt hour**, plus an additional adjustment capped at .5 cents per kilowatt that will vary each month. This rate is determined by the Illinois Power Agency, a State of Illinois agency that purchases power supply for ComEd.
- Customers will have two billing cycles to decide whether to sign up on their own with an independent/third party authorized energy supplier or be locked into ComEd's rates for 18 months.

If You Switch

The Illinois Commerce Commission provides information about company complaints and other information about power suppliers at pluginillinois.org. Residents are encouraged to contact the ICC directly if they have complaints about misleading marketing tactics. Utility complaints may be submitted by calling 800-524-0795 or online at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/contactus>.

Modernized Zoning Ordinance Will Support Community Vision

The Zoning Ordinance has undergone a comprehensive update that will provide the improved technical guidance needed to achieve the community's vision for the physical surroundings of the Village. The vision was developed as part of the Total Community Development 3 public engagement process and is expressed within the Comprehensive Plan.

The modernized Zoning Ordinance takes effect on June 15, 2014, and includes the following improvements:

User Friendly Document: The Zoning Ordinance is now easier to read and has been formatted to make greater use of graphics and tables. It relies on hyperlinks to help the user quickly find related topics both within the document and elsewhere in the Municipal Code or other documents online.

Enhanced Neighbor Communication: Adjacent properties within a certain distance of a subject property are required to be notified by mail of public hearings. Based on public input, the distance for public notification has been modified to encompass a greater area. Additionally, neighborhood meetings are required for certain zoning requests and are encouraged in all cases.

Modernized to Address Technology: Advances in green technologies and practices such as geothermal energy, solar panels, electric vehicles, and car sharing arrangements have been incorporated into the ordinance.

Improved Standards and Practices: Amendments have been incorporated to clarify technical standards and measures, as well as to provide greater options for making improvements to nonconforming structures.

The Zoning Ordinance is available on the Village website at www.downers.us.

Downers Grove: A Premier Business Address From Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Downers Grove residents already know that the Village is a great place to live, work and play, but businesses, too, are finding Downers Grove to be a premier location for corporate and division headquarters, for many of the same reasons. Attracting and retaining occupancy in our many office spaces and encouraging development are priorities of the EDC.

- Advocate Health Care, the largest private sector employer in the Chicago area, has moved its corporate headquarters to the Highland Landmark.
- HAVI Global Solutions has opened their new headquarters at Esplanade II. Other new corporate tenants at Esplanade II include Fresenius Medical Care, Invesco Power Shares, and the new division headquarters for Sanford LP. Sanford is the maker of Sharpie and Paper Mate.
- Grundfos, the world's largest manufacturer of water pumps, opened its new North American headquarters at Esplanade at Locust Point.
- The American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) has built a new headquarters and training center at Esplanade, featuring a state-of-the-art conference facility.
- Addus Health Care, one of the nation's largest providers of home health care services, has recently moved their corporate headquarters to Downers Grove.
- State Farm has expanded their operations in Downers Grove, and now has more than 600 employees at their regional office on Opus Drive.

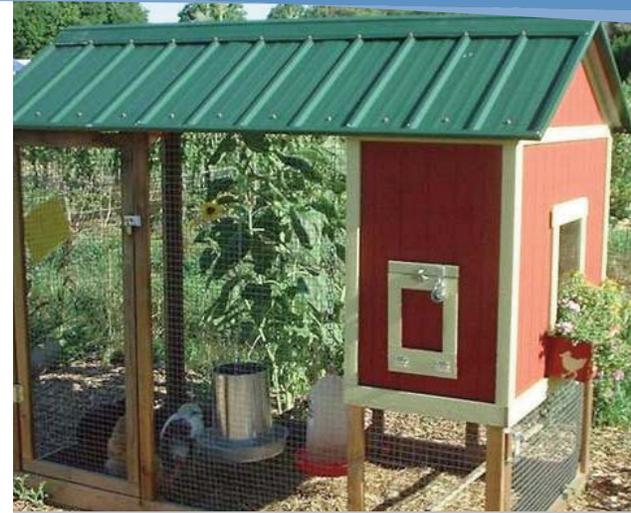
Finally, no report on Downers Grove could be complete without mentioning Midwestern University (MWU), one of the great economic engines of our community. MWU has opened their new 193,000 sq. ft. Multispecialty Clinic, which features their state-of-the-art Dental Institute. The Multispecialty Clinic offers a wide range of health care services to the community. The \$113 million project is located on their new Esplanade campus on Lacey Road.

Green Business

The Village launched the Downers Grove Green Business Recognition program in February 2013. The purpose of this program is to officially recognize local businesses who have made substantial efforts to become environmentally sustainable by adopting best practices in the areas of waste reduction, recycling, water conservation, stormwater pollution prevention, energy conservation, transportation, public education, and innovation. Below is a list of the four businesses that have been recognized by the Environmental Concerns Commission since the program's inception and some best practices that could be adopted by businesses looking to make an impact:

Downers Grove Green Businesses
(Listed in order of recognition)

Bales Mold Services, Inc. (2824 Hitchcock Avenue)
Competitive Lawn Service, Inc. (1355 Warren Avenue)
Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital (3815 Highland Avenue)
HAVI Global Solutions, LLC (3500 Lacey Road)



Village Approves Keeping of Hens

On May 6, 2014, the Village Council approved an ordinance that will allow residents to keep hens in their rear yards, with a permit issued by the Village following proof of consent by neighboring property owners. Hens are allowed under the following parameters:

- Only hens will be permitted. All other fowl, including roosters, are prohibited.
 - No person shall keep more than four hens.
 - Properties currently eligible under the 50-foot setback requirements will not be required to obtain a permit, unless seeking to place the structure less than 50 feet from all property lines of an adjacent property
 - Structures housing hens shall be located in the rear yard only
 - Under the neighbor consent model, the set back requirement for a structure housing hens is seven feet from all property lines of an adjacent property. Adjacent is defined as a parcel that comes into contact with the applicant's property at one or more points.
 - The permit application shall include a consent form signed by each adjacent property owner and tenant.
 - The fee for the permit is \$84 as defined in the Village's User-Fee, License and Fine Schedule.
 - Permits will be limited to single-family detached residences and will expire five years after the date of issuance
 - All feed shall be kept in rodent-proof containers.
- Residents seeking a permit to keep hens must use the consent form on the permit application provided by the Village. Permits will be issued beginning May 19, 2014.

AAIM Recognizes Downers Grove's Top Cops

The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) partners with police departments to fight against impaired driving and to stop this preventable crime from occurring on our roadways. It is a fact that each year people are killed or suffer severe injuries as a result of alcohol and drug-related traffic crashes.

AAIM conducts annual surveys of police departments to identify "Top Cops" in each agency and recognizes them for their exceptional public service.

The following Downers Grove Police officers were recognized by AAIM for their devotion to removing impaired motorists from the roads here in our community:

- Officer Jonathan Joyce – 40 impaired driving arrests in 2013
- Officer Nicholas Linklater – 30 impaired driving arrests in 2013
- Officer Scott VonAlmen – 16 impaired driving arrests 2013
- Officer Craig Widlacki – 13 impaired driving arrests in 2013

The Downers Grove Police Department is extremely proud of the work of these officers and reminds our citizens the best defense against an impaired driver is to wear your seat belt every trip, every passenger, every time!

Summertime In The Downtown: Good Rules To Know

Summertime means lots of kids visiting our Downtown Business District. The Downers Grove Police Department advises parents and kids of the following local ordinances that apply when they come downtown:

- **Skateboarding, roller-skating, or in-line skating is prohibited.** This ordinance prohibits anyone from riding a skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, electric scooter, motorized skateboard, or "any other similar device" in the downtown or in the parking deck. **This ordinance includes the roadway, Fishel Park and in any private parking lots where the business owner/manager has signed an agreement authorizing enforcement by police.** These private areas will be posted with signs indicating skateboarding, etc. is prohibited.
- **Bicycle Riding Prohibited on the Sidewalk Area and in the Parking Deck.** Bike riding is not permitted on any portion of the sidewalk or Parking Deck. Bikes may be walked on the sidewalk areas and bike riding is permitted on the roadway. The Parking Deck is not a safe place for kids to congregate. It 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.
- **Fishel Park** – Fishel Park, located downtown, is closed each day from dusk to sunrise, including the pavilion area of the park. Skateboarding, roller skates, and in-line skating are strictly prohibited in Fishel Park at all times.

The Downers Grove Police Department would like parents to discuss this information with their children. Business owners/managers have been instructed to contact the police department when they see violations of these ordinances or other actions such as abusive language or gestures, causing public disturbances, fighting, etc. The ordinances are in place to make our downtown a safe and welcome place for everyone.

Prescription Drug Disposal Program is a Success!

In January of this year, the Downers Grove Police Department launched a new Prescription Drug Disposal Program to assist residents in safely disposing of old medications. Storing unused medications can pose serious safety issues. Improper disposal of medications can pollute drinking water with toxic chemicals.

In the first four months of the program, the Police Department took in 251 pounds of medications that will be disposed of in accordance to the protocol for disposal of drugs being held in evidence. The method used is safe, will not threaten the drinking water, and eliminates the possibility of the drugs being improperly used by others in the household. Please consider using this free service to dispose of drugs that may be in your home.

Persons interested in participating in this program must make an appointment by contacting Drug Disposal Coordinator Mary Wennerstrom at (630) 434-5681 or mwennerstrom@downers.us.



Carbon Monoxide Detectors – Turn Them Over!



Did you know that carbon monoxide (CO) detectors only have a five to seven year life? If you can't remember when you purchased your home's CO detector, it is probably time you replace it. Look at the back of the detector to check the expiration date. Listing a build date or an expiration date on the label is a fairly new practice. If there is no date on yours and you can't remember when you bought it, you're probably due for a new one.

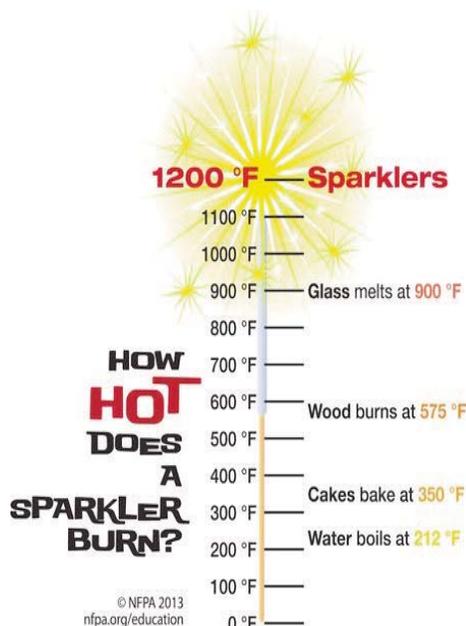
Summer is a good time to pick up a new CO detector when visiting the local home improvement store. Here are a few things to remember when considering your CO detector:

- Choose a model with a digital readout and a “peak level” memory retention feature. That's helpful to emergency personnel if they suspect CO poisoning. If you have small children, consider buying a talking CO detector. A voice warning is more effective than a horn to wake sleeping children
- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, but at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Since carbon monoxide is roughly the same weight as air, it neither rises toward the ceiling nor sinks to the floor. Detectors can be mounted anywhere as long as they're at least 15 inches below ceilings
- Do not mount CO detectors near the furnace
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move everyone to a fresh air location outdoors. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.

How to Dispose of a CO Detector

Carbon monoxide detectors do not contain any hazardous materials so they can be safely thrown away. However, batteries should be removed and properly recycled.

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 pose dangers. Fireworks related injuries represent about one quarter of emergency room visits 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.)

REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

Summer Holiday Garbage Collection

Please remember that garbage collection will be one day later, if your garbage collection falls on or after Friday, July 4, 2014 or Monday, September 1, 2014 (Labor Day).

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.

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 Katrina Avenue. Hours are dawn to dusk, Monday-Friday, and 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Book Your Block Party

What better way to celebrate summer with your friends and neighbors than with a Block Party? There are several websites that can tell you how to plan for a block party, including incorporating a theme, children's games and a potluck. Downers Grove residents wishing to host a Block Party must fill out a permit request form at least two weeks in advance of the party date. Contact Public Works at (630) 434-5460 or visit the Village website at www.downers.us and use the search field for "Block Party."



www.downers.us

801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mayor Martin T. Tully
Commissioners

Sean Patrick Durkin, Geoff Neustadt,
Robert T. Barnett, Becky Rheintgen
David S. Olsen, Greg Hose

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

Published by the Village of Downers Grove

Trouble Finding Parking?



TRY FAIRVIEW TRAIN STATION (LOT I)

- JUST 6 BLOCKS FROM MAIN STREET
- PARKING IS ADJACENT TO THE STATION
- SEVERAL WAYS TO PAY
 - COINS, CASH
 - CHARGE CARDS (VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER)
 - PAY BY PHONE (\$.50 FEE APPLIES)
- CONVENIENT MORNING SCHEDULE TO CHICAGO
 - 6:38 a.m. train arrives at 7:12 a.m. (34 minutes)
 - 6:51 a.m. train arrives at 7:35 a.m. (44 minutes)
 - 7:13 a.m. train arrives at 7:56 a.m. (43 minutes)
 - 7:28 a.m. train arrives at 8:05 a.m. (37 minutes)
 - 7:48 a.m. train arrives at 8:23 a.m. (35 minutes)
 - 8:07 a.m. train arrives at 8:45 a.m. (38 minutes)
- FREE PARKING AFTER 11:00 A.M. IN PERMIT SPACES



For more information call 630-434-5500 or visit www.downers.us.

Visit www.metrarail.com for train schedules.

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 ten inches in height, as determined by the Downers Grove Property Maintenance Code. Property owners in violation of this regulation will be notified by the Village and must cut the grass and/or weeds within five days. If the grass and/or weeds are not cut to less than ten inches within the specified period of time, the Village will arrange to have them cut and all expenses incurred will be billed to the property owner. Residents are reminded that they must also maintain the parkways adjacent to their property.

