



# Hometown TIMES

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

## JULY 4 CELEBRATION

### Parade: Monday, July 4, 2011

The parade begins at Main & Warren at 12:45 p.m. and heads north to Downers Grove North High School. The parade will feature floats, civic organizations and marching bands. Claws, paws and jaws will once again be welcomed to march in the parade's pet section. All pets must be leashed.

### Fireworks: Monday, July 4, 2011

Join us later for 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.



## BIKE & BUGGY PARADE

JULY 10, 2011



Kids, decorate your bike, wagon, trike or stroller and meet at 12:45 p.m. on Burlington between Forest and Main. Parade starts at 1:00 p.m. and heads south on Main Street to Fishel Park where there will be refreshments and entertainment.

Please bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to the FISH pantry.

*Sponsored by the Downers Grove/Westmont Newcomers Club.*

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

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor  
Martin T. Tully

Hello Downers Grove! Thank you for taking a few minutes to enjoy this edition of the Hometown Times.

I am thrilled to be back with the Village Council to once again serve our community alongside esteemed Council colleagues. My sincere appreciation to everyone for supporting my run for office and for allowing me the privilege of representing you as the 32nd Mayor of Downers Grove.

As many of you know, previously I served as a Village Commissioner from 2001 to 2009. Since that time, the Village has faced many daunting economic challenges and a number of difficult decisions were necessary to weather the storm. But thanks to the prescience and perseverance of the Council, staff and the community at-large, I am fortunate to have been handed the reigns of an innovative, highly-functioning municipal organization that remains on solid footing.

That said, there is no shortage of pressing issues on the path ahead and there remains much work to be done. For example, consideration of the 2011 Long Range Financial Plan (LRFP) is already underway. The purpose of this process is to develop long-term strategies and solutions that will be used in key financial decision making, including the preparation of annual budgets. It is a very important step

towards ensuring the continued financial sustainability of the Village.

In 2009, the data driven analysis used for the initial LRFP identified a General Fund structural gap which projected that expenses were on track to outpace revenues by \$4.5 million. The recommended LRFP strategies for dealing with the projected shortfall included reductions and eliminations of Village services and programs, voluntary and involuntary staffing reductions, revenue enhancements and minimal use of reserves.

By all measures, the Long Range Financial Plan has been a success and one that others seek to emulate. The identified structural gap was closed primarily by implementing expense reductions in programs and staffing, in addition to modest increases in revenues. Ultimately, it was not necessary to tap into our reserves.

The 2011 LRFP includes a variety of topics that will be discussed over the course of four public meetings, two of which have already occurred. Topics include the Transportation Fund which supports the Grove Commuter Shuttle, the Downtown Tax Increment Fund, as well as future funding for infrastructure and facilities projects. Everyone is welcome to participate in these meetings. If you cannot attend, the Village website offers a comprehensive summary of each meeting. Podcasts are also available and provide a complete unedited audio recording of these proceedings. Visit [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) and click on the Long Range Financial Plan section in the right hand column of the homepage for complete details.

On June 14 my Council colleagues and I met with Village staff and many dedicated volunteers to discuss the long awaited and highly anticipated Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan). The purpose of the Comp Plan is to serve as a roadmap of goals and objectives and a reminder to government agencies, the public, and potential developers of a community's shared vision for the enhancement and preservation of its unique characteristics.

As you may know, the last such plan was approved on July 19, 1965 — nearly 46 years ago! Needless to say, we were long overdue for an update. The latest draft of the Comp Plan now being discussed was developed following three years of public outreach, meetings and hearings, and many hours of considerable effort by a number of very committed and engaged community volunteers. Earlier this year, the Plan Commission conducted several public hearings on the draft Comp Plan and has forwarded a positive recommendation to the Village Council.

True to its name, the process by which the Comp Plan has been developed was indeed “comprehensive.” Throughout 2010, the Comp Plan Committee, an ad hoc group of dedicated residents, together with Village staff, developed the essential components and recommendations of the plan. The Comp Plan incorporates the significant data generated via Total Community Development III (TCD3), which was a nine month public outreach process held in 2009 to foster open dialogue and input regarding a variety of community issues. Also incorporated in the draft plan are sound planning principles based on guidance from consultants Houseal Lavigne.

A key difference between the document from 1965 and the one now under consideration is the difference in the amount of land available for further growth, as well as the current focus on redevelopment opportunities for long-term sustainability. Going forward, the Village Council will discuss this, as well as other issues within the proposed document, and provide direction before a final draft is developed and adopted. The proposed Comprehensive Plan is available for review at the Downers Grove Public Library and has also been posted on the Village web site. We encourage you to explore its contents and evaluate its considered vision for the future of our community.

Mayor's Message continued on page 3

**Mayor's Message continued**

Although much has changed since 2009, there is one constant - the simple, yet important fact that the citizens of Downers Grove are at the very top of the reporting line on the Village's organizational chart. Along with my colleagues on the Council, I will do my very best to fulfill the duties of the office of Mayor and thoughtfully serve the collective interests of our residents. Open and inclusive decision making is an important part of that process. The best decisions are those that are derived from careful research, solicitation of stakeholder input, fair and thoughtful consideration, and demonstrable justification. As a community and an elected body, we must unite in confronting the obstacles to our success. We will strive to build consensus for decisions that are the result of a process all can respect, even if not their preferred outcome.

In sum, while difficult challenges still lie ahead, so do many exciting opportunities. We have the advantage of one of the best municipal organizations and staffs in DuPage County and I am confident that, together, we will succeed in keeping Downers Grove a great – and perhaps even making it an even greater – place to live, work, play and prosper. Indeed, I know we will, because we have the good people of Downers Grove as our constituents and our inspiration.

*Max T. Tully*

## Cooking Oil Gets Reinvented

This summer, the Village will begin a pilot program that will turn discarded cooking oil into biodiesel to be used to operate its fleet of equipment and vehicles that run on diesel. The term "biodiesel" is used to describe diesel fuels that consist of a blend of traditional petroleum products and natural substances, usually derivatives of soybeans or corn.

The Village invested approximately \$2500 to purchase the supplies and equipment necessary to transform "straw into gold." The process begins with large containers of used cooking oil collected from restaurants and other sources. The dark brown concoction must sit for several days, allowing any particles of food and debris to settle to the bottom. Next, the separated top layers are filtered into holding tanks, resulting in a gold colored liquid that can be dispensed directly into diesel vehicles.



*These vats of used cooking oil will be used to help fuel the Village's diesel fleet.*

The use of biodiesel fuel is not a new concept to the Village which currently uses a 20% blend of Biodiesel, or B-20, in 89 pieces of machinery. During the pilot, the Village hopes to increase the biodiesel ratio used in vehicles from 20% upward to 70%. The pilot will begin with a small number of vehicles to determine best practices. In time, the higher ratio biodiesel blend will be used in all other diesel engines.

Downers Grove is one of few municipal agencies in Illinois to take what otherwise would be waste products and turn them into a useable resource that is friendly to the environment and the bottom line.

## Recycling Extravaganza

Mark your calendars for the Village's Recycling Extravaganza on Saturday, September 24, 2011. Location, times and accepted items to be announced! Monitor the Village website at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) for information as it becomes available.

Last year, over 1800 vehicles passed through the event site over the course of six hours. Used electronics comprised the bulk of items collected—109,655 pounds.

Additional information about recycling is available on the Village website. Click on **Garbage/Recycling/Yard Waste**; then select *Hazardous Waste/Electronics/Misc. Recycling*.



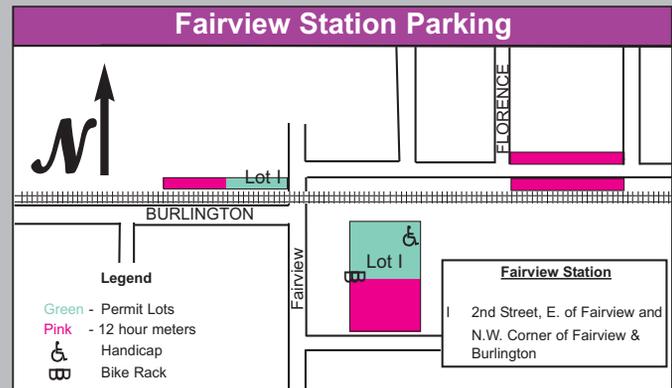
## Fairview Station is a Speedy Option



Downers Grove to Chicago during rush hour in as little as 34 minutes? Must be the express train from Main Street, right? Guess again.

The Fairview Avenue station is a great alternative for commuters and occasional riders heading into Chicago. Best of all, there is plenty of parking available. Metered parking is \$3.00 per day and permit spaces are FREE after 12:00 p.m.—perfect for those traveling to the Cubs game or other points of interest in the city.

Check the Metra website at [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com) for the BNSF schedule from the Fairview Avenue station. You might be surprised how quickly you can get where you want to go!



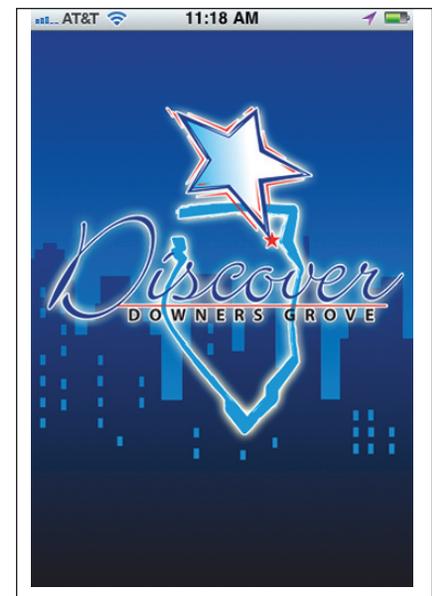
## WHERE TO GO IN DOWNERS GROVE?

(Hint: There's an App for that!)

Coming soon, the Downers Grove Visitors Bureau will be launching the Discover Downers Grove mobile application! Imagine having all of this at your fingertips:

- Listing of Community Events and Promotions
- Dining Options, by distance and cuisine
- Shopping Options, by distance and store type
- Hotel Listings including accommodations and promotions
- Links to the Facebook and Twitter pages for participating businesses
- Ability to add events directly to your calendar

This FREE application will be available in late June. Visit <http://www.visitdownersgrove.com> for more information.





Village of  
Downers Grove

Public Works  
Department

13th Annual

# Water Quality Report

June 2011



## 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 web site.

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.

# 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Results

Our 2010 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	38.0	25.5 - 44.8	7-20-09
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAAS)	ppb	NA	60	13.0	10.29 - 15.7	4-6-10
Chlorine By-product of drinking water chlorination. in organic synthesis.		NA	MRDL=4	0.6	0.535 - 0.576	12-31-10

(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	Units	EPA's Allowable Limits		Range	
Typical Source	MCLG	MCL Levels Found			
<b>CLARITY</b>					
Turbidity	%<0.3 NTU	NA	TT/95%	99.740%	99.740-100%
Soil runoff.					
Turbidity <sup>9</sup>	NTU <sup>6</sup>	NA	TT=1 NTU max	0.38	NA
Soil runoff.					
<b>INORGANIC PARAMETERS</b>					
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.182	0.0175 - 0.0182
Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.					
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	0.311	0.288 - 0.311
Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.					
Nitrate & Nitrite	ppm	10	10	0.311	0.288 - 0.311
Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.					
<b>DISINFECTANTS/DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS</b>					
THMs					
(Total Trihalomethanes) ppb		NA	80	20.000	11.700 - 28.600
By-product of drinking water disinfection					
HAA5					
(Haloacetic Acids) ppb		NA	60	10.000	6.000 - 14.200
By-product of drinking water disinfection					
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) ppm		4.0	4.0	0.80	0.70 - 0.81
Drinking water disinfectant					
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	ppm	NA	NA	33.600	30.400 - 33.600
Erosion of naturally occurring deposits.					
<b>STATE REGULATED PARAMETERS</b>					
Fluoride <sup>7</sup>	ppm	4	4	0.817	0.651 - 0.817
Water additive which promotes strong teeth					
Sodium <sup>8</sup>	ppm	NA	NA	8.98	8.26 - 8.98
Erosion of naturally occurring deposits; Used as water softener.					
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Beta/Photon Emitters (pCi/l)		0	15	0.88	0.090 - 0.880
Decay of natural man-made deposits					

## 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 Flushing



Fire Hydrant Flushing and Flow Testing will continue in September. This year we will be flushing and flow testing approximately 950 fire hydrants located north of Prairie Avenue. More information regarding hydrant flushing will be posted on our website in August 2011.

## 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.



Water Meter

Transmitter For Water Meter

## 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).

## 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)  
Web Site: [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us)

### Environmental Protection Agency

Web Site: [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 utilizing the contact information 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 web sites listed in this report, public computers are available at the Downers Grove Public Library, at 1050 Curtiss Street.

## Summer in the Downtown: Local Ordinances to Know

**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.

Due to the high concentration of businesses, the volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and parking related issues, there are unique safety concerns associated with the Downtown. Parents are asked to discuss the following points with their children:

**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.**

**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.** This 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.

These ordinances are in place to make the Downtown a safe and welcome place for everyone. Questions may be directed to Officer Rob McMahon at [rmcmahon@downers.us](mailto:rmcmahon@downers.us).



*Officer Rob McMahon near a "No Skateboarding" sign posted Downtown*

## Downers Grove and Westmont Merge 9-1-1 Dispatch

The Villages of Downers Grove and Westmont have announced the introduction of consolidated dispatching services for police and fire 9-1-1 emergency calls. The shared communications center is now operational in the existing facilities of the Downers Grove Police Department after nine months of transitional work by a dedicated team of employees from both jurisdictions. By reducing overhead costs and sharing operational expenses, it is anticipated that the joint dispatch center will result in an annual savings of \$300,000 for Downers Grove and \$220,000 for Westmont.

In addition to reducing costs, this joint operation will provide an enhanced level of service via a "fire-desk." This mode of operation features trained personnel, on duty at all times, to handle the intricacies of dispatching fire and EMS (paramedic) related calls.

"Through this partnership, a great team effort has resulted in the provision of an enhanced level of service at reduced cost to taxpayers," stated Robert Porter, Downers Grove Chief of Police.

An intergovernmental agreement approved by both agencies in September 2010 provides the framework in which Downers Grove receives and dispatches Westmont police and fire 9-1-1 calls and monitors police and fire radio traffic on a 24-hour per day basis. Under the agreement, Westmont will pay for 40% of the total cost of the consolidated dispatch center and Downers Grove will pay 60%, based on call volume.

"The cooperation and professionalism between the Villages is nothing short of outstanding. Due to the high degree of knowledge, professionalism and dedication of all involved, we were able to complete this project in a very short period of time and we look forward to a long-term partnership with Downers Grove," stated Westmont Police Chief Thomas Mulhearn.

## PUBLIC SAFETY



### 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.

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, but no one believes they will get hurt because they are careful.

In 2007, sparklers and other novelties accounted for one-third of emergency room fireworks injuries. Sparklers reach temperatures of 1,200 to 1,800 degrees, throwing off sparks that can cause mild to severe burns, yet adults commonly allow children to handle them.

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.)

### Fire Department Earns Kudos for Miraculous Save

The Downers Grove Fire Department was honored by Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital as a co-recipient of the Joseph Hartmann Award of Excellence. The award is presented to a medic crew or fire department that best exhibits excellence in the delivery of emergency care in a pre-hospital setting.



On Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 10:17 p.m. the Downers Grove Fire Department received a 9-1-1 call regarding a Good Samaritan Hospital maintenance worker who was trapped under heavy machinery in the hospital's mechanical room.

Upon arrival, firefighters found the worker pinned against a wall by two 800 pound air conditioner coils. Department officials called for additional personnel and equipment from the neighboring departments of Lisle/Woodridge, Oak Brook, and Westmont. Members of the Good Samaritan trauma team were on the scene attending to the immediate medical needs of the patient while rescue workers continued extrication efforts. Firefighters worked for one hour and ten minutes to shore up the coils to free the worker. Hospital personnel transported him immediately to the emergency room.

Downers Grove Fire Chief Jim Jackson said, "The countless hours of extensive training undertaken annually by our department pays off with each life saved."

Chief Jackson and the crew of Engine Co. #3 were in attendance to accept the award: Daniel Mejdrech, Joseph Difatta, George Drobney, Gary Meiser, Mike Cipra, Steve Carlsen, Sig Markowski, Jason Slager, Mike Dravo, Mike Baldwin and Mike Covelli.

## SAVE THE DATES!

### NIGHT AT THE FIREHOUSE

October 12, 2011

### 17TH ANNUAL SILENT PARADE

Honoring those lives lost to fire

October 14, 2011

## Learn Not to Burn Contest Winners

Downers Grove Fire Chief Jim Jackson and Mayor Martin Tully recently honored students of the fire department's *Learn Not to Burn* program. During the school year, fire department educators visit third and fourth-grade classrooms on seven occasions to teach fire safety and prevention.

Students were asked to design a tri-fold safety brochure as part of a contest. The winning brochure will be distributed at fire department programs during the 2011/2012 school year to educate the community about fire safety and first aid.

The three contest categories were Cover Design, 10 Important Fire Safety Tips, and Five Important First Aid Tips. Each fourth-grade class was requested to submit one entry representing their entire class.

The winners were recognized at the May 10, 2011 Village Council meeting:

Cover Design: Mrs. Boyer's class, Highland School

Fire Safety Tips: Mrs. Schultz's class, St. Joseph School

First Aid Tips: Mrs. Boyer's class, Highland School



Mrs. Boyer's Class



Mrs. Schultz's Class

## Stop for Flashing Red Lights at the Tracks!



*Remain stopped until the gates are completely upright and the lights have stopped flashing.*

Driving across the railroad tracks while the lights are flashing can result in a traffic citation being issued. The fine for the first offense of disobeying the red flashing lights at a railroad crossing is \$250.00.

Always play it safe and remember to Look, Listen, and Live! For additional railroad safety tips, visit [www.operationlifesaver.com](http://www.operationlifesaver.com).

The Downers Grove Police Department reminds motorists they must stop for flashing red lights at all six of the railroad crossings in our community.

After the passing of a train, all motorists must **REMAIN STOPPED** at the crossing until the lights have stopped flashing and the gates are completely in the upright position.

## No Kidding; Car-Hopping is a Criminal Offense

"Car hopping" is the slang that kids use when referring to going into a victim's parked vehicle and removing property. Persons that access a victim's vehicle without permission and remove items have committed the offense of Burglary, which is a Class 2 felony in the State of Illinois. The penalty for Burglary is three to seven years in prison and a \$25,000.00 fine. Please make sure your kids understand the seriousness of this offense.

To protect yourself from becoming a victim, remember to always lock your vehicle upon exiting it and put valuables in the trunk, even when your vehicle is parked in your driveway. An unlocked vehicle is an easy target for a burglary, especially after dark. The quick entry and exit of a vehicle parked in the driveway with your valuables inside can easily go unnoticed . . . even if you are home.

# REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

## Village Collects Used Motor Oil

The Village will accept used motor oil and transmission fluid, which will be used to heat the fleet services garage during the winter months.

Items may be brought to the Fleet Services garage, Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The garage is located within the fenced employee parking lot off Curtiss Street, on the east end of the Village Hall complex.

Please see any employee to drop off your liquids. There is no curbside collection and items are not permitted to be left unattended outside the building.

## 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.

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

## Garbage Holidays

Monday, July 4, 2011 is a garbage holiday, as well as Monday, September 5, 2011. Please remember that collection will be one day later during these holiday weeks.

## Pay Parking Tickets Online

If you have received a parking ticket from the Village of Downers Grove, these may be paid online. This service is for parking tickets only and does not include speeding tickets or other traffic citations. Visit [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). Under "Online Payments," select "parking tickets."

## New Businesses

**Doggie Depot**  
Daycare, Boarding, Training  
635 Rogers Street  
630-969-7529

**Complete Website Setup**  
1341 Maple Avenue  
630-769-0230  
[completewebsitesetup.com](http://completewebsitesetup.com)

**Green Grass Inc.**  
1597 Warren Avenue  
630-353-1709  
[www.greengrasslandscape.com](http://www.greengrasslandscape.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](http://www.downers.us)

801 Burlington Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

**Mayor Martin T. Tully**  
Commissioners

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

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

Village Hall Hours  
Tues. 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

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

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**ECRWSS**  
**Resident/Business Occupant**  
**Downers Grove IL 60515-16**

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