

insideDG



Issue I 2020



Mayor's Message

Introducing *WaterSmart*

Fire Prevention Week: *Focus on Kitchen Safety*

VILLAGE HALL HOURS

Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR

Robert T. Barnett

COMMISSIONERS

Greg Hosé
Margaret "Marge" Earl
Nicole Walus
Rich Kulovany
Leslie Sadowski-Fugitt
Cavanaugh Gray

MAYORCOUNCIL@DOWNERS.US

VILLAGE MANAGER

David Fieldman

Council meetings are held on
the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Tuesday of
the month at 7:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Village Hall

630-434-5500

Emergency

9-1-1

Non-Emergency Police

630-434-5600

Non-Emergency Fire

630-434-5980

Public Works

630-434-5460

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VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

801 Burlington Avenue
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VoDG Residents,

At the August 18, 2020, Village Council Meeting, it was my pleasure to announce the winners of the *Show You Know the 3 W's* Poster Contest. You may recall that the Village called on school age kids to create posters reminding us of the importance of practicing the 3 W's to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



**Mayor
Robert T. Barnett**

The 3 W's are the simple things everyone can do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 whenever they leave the house, including:

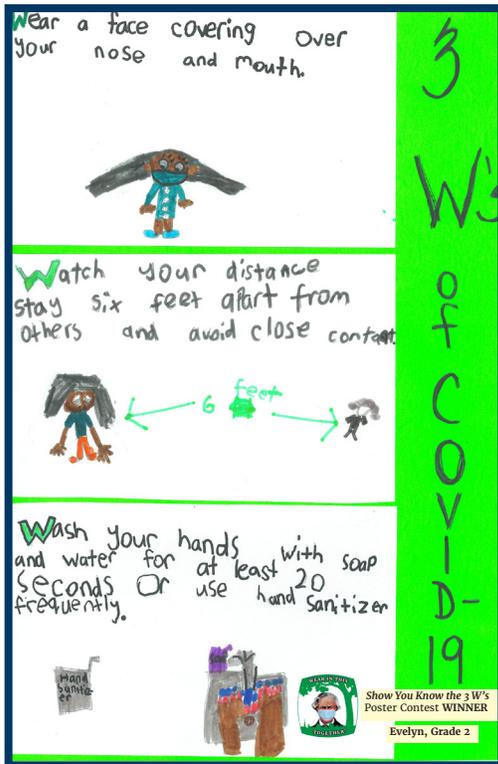
- **WEAR** a cloth covering over your nose and mouth.
- **WATCH** your distance. Stay 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- **WASH** your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

I know we're tired. And frustrated. And discouraged - 2020 has become a verb, right?!? Nothing seems right and we're constantly barraged with changing information about COVID-19. Add in managing changes in school routines, work routines, travel and family ... it's exhausting. But don't forget that lots of people are working hard in the field of medicine to put this behind us and we can do our part to make the best of things right now. COVID isn't forever, and together, we will get past it.

But make no mistake: the choices we make help, or hurt, our collective effort.

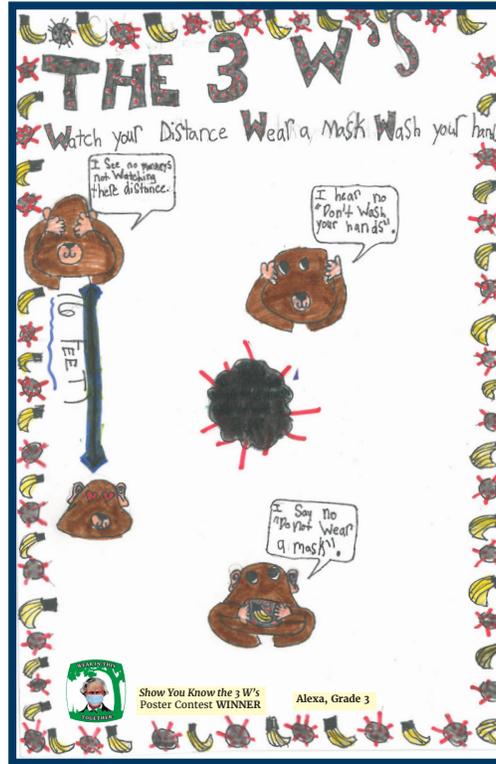
I'm happy to report that the kids in our community really stepped up with some creative ways to help promote this important topic. Here are the winners in each age category:

K - 2nd Grade



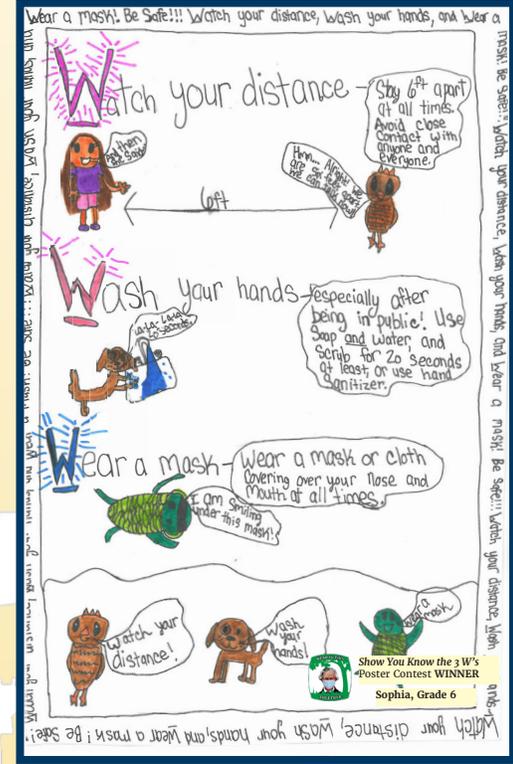
**First Place
Evelyn Smetana, 2nd Grade**

3rd - 5th Grade



**First Place
Alexa Nash, 3rd Grade**

6th - 8th Grade



**First Place
Sophia Nash, 6th Grade**

The message from our kids is be safe, follow the 3-W's, be a rainbow in your community, don't sit on the fence when it comes to the 3 W's and remember to smile under that mask. Pretty straightforward advice I know we're all capable of following.

On behalf of everyone here at the Village I'd like to congratulate the winners and thank everyone who participated. The posters are being used to promote the 3 W's throughout the Village and our winning artists were awarded Downtown Dollars to spend at participating businesses in Downtown Downers Grove. Please look for these posters around town and when you see them, remember the importance of working together to keep the spread of COVID-19 to a minimum.



Community Engagement on Policing in Downers Grove

Following the tragic death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, while in the custody of Minneapolis police officers, the Village received many inquiries concerning the policies and practices of the Downers Grove Police Department. In response, information about the department’s policies, procedures, training, activities and results were compiled in an easy to read format. It is important to note that policies are frequently updated and reviewed to keep current with new laws, training and best practices.



An FAQ document was also prepared based on questions received from the public and the concepts expressed by the #8Cantwait Campaign and the Ten Shared Principles.

On Wednesday, August 5, 2020, the Downers Grove Public Library, in partnership with the Village, hosted a Listening Session for the community about policing in Downers Grove. The meeting was held at the Park District Recreation Center. The event focused on improving communication, enhancing relationships, and furthering confidence and trust among our Police Department and the community.

The program provided the opportunity for Downers Grove community members to have their voices heard on policing issues. Active listeners included Downers Grove Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Chief of Police Shanon Gillette, and District 99 Superintendent Dr. Hank Thiele. Moderators for the session included Michael Childress, President, DuPage County NAACP and Joy Matteson, Adult and Teen Services Librarian, Downers Grove Public Library.

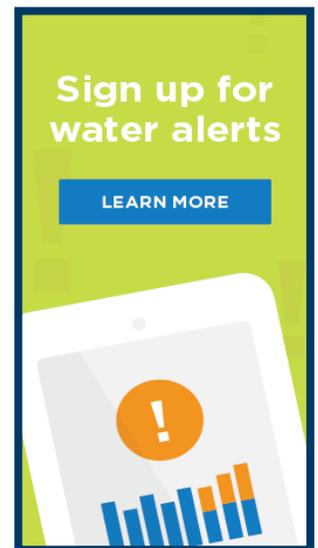
To learn more about this important community engagement effort, you can review the Police Department Information and Transparency FAQ on the Village website at downers.us. A complete recording of the *Listening Session on Policing in Downers Grove* is available at youtube.com/user/DGPLnews.

Introducing WaterSmart

WaterSmart is a new online customer portal offered by the Village of Downers Grove that allows you to:

- Track your water use.
- Set alerts for possible leaks or unusual usage.
- View personalized tips on saving water.
- Choose your communications preferences.

This is a **FREE** service. All you need is your water billing account number and an email address to register at downers.us. Start saving today.



		
LOG ON Register to access your data	GET NOTIFIED Sign up for alerts	SAVE Money saving actions

September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month (NPM), recognized each September, provides an opportunity to remind us that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year.

Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere, even in communities like Downers Grove. In times of crisis it is important to be self-sufficient as emergency personnel may not be able to reach you quickly. Crews may be delayed by downed trees or power lines, or they may be overwhelmed by the demand from the emergency.



“Preparedness is a shared responsibility,” said Jennifer Rizzo, Village of Downers Grove Emergency Management Coordinator. “All households are strongly advised to prepare for an event that includes the loss of electricity, water service, and access to a supermarket and local services for a few days.”

Get a Kit

Keep enough emergency supplies on hand for your family for at least three days; water (one gallon, per person, per day), non-perishable food, first aid supplies, prescriptions, flashlight, and a battery powered radio. Remember to include food and supplies for your pets, too.

Make a Plan

Be sure everyone in the family understands where to go and what to do in case of an emergency. Establish responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.

- **Designate two meeting locations** in case it is impossible to return home or if you have to evacuate; one near your home and one outside of the neighborhood. Make sure your family knows the address and phone number of both locations.
- **Designate an out-of-area contact person.** This person should be far enough away that it is unlikely he or she would be affected by the same emergency. Family members should call this person to report their locations if they cannot reach each other.
- Provide your contact person with important names and numbers so he or she can assist in keeping others posted on your situation. Create a communications card for each member of your household to keep with them at all times.

Be Informed

- Discuss with your family the types of disasters that can happen where you live.
- Visit ready.gov or ready.illinois.gov to find preparedness information.

For more emergency preparedness information and planning tools, visit ready.gov.

Preserving History Pierce Downer House

The home at 4437 Seeley has been designated as a Historic Landmark based on the criteria that the property was owned and occupied by a person of historic significance to the community. The property was built and owned by the Village’s first settler and founder, Pierce Downer.

After arriving in 1832, he staked his claim to the surrounding 160 acres of prairie and timberland, and completed a log cabin on his land by the winter. The original 160 acres of the Downer farm and the house remained in the family for 92 years until the farm was passed out of the family and was reduced to 83 acres. On August 24, 1924, the land was annexed to Downers Grove.



Pierce Downer was a leader among the early settlers. He built his home on the highest ground of the farmland, south of the Southwestern Plank Road, known today as Ogden Avenue. The home was a one-story structure with an east-facing front door and an attached barn/summer kitchen to the west.

The Pierce Downer home is currently situated at its original location on the property. While the house has endured major renovations over the years, the overall shape and massing of the original house has been maintained. Best efforts have been made to replace the original materials with similar items such as clapboard siding to maintain the appearance of the home. The rear additions to the house were completed in the 1970s and 1980s. Some of the remaining notable elements of the original home are the exterior basement entrance to the south of the house, stone foundation walls and the hand-hewn timber joist in the basement.

If you are interested in landmarking your home, please contact the Community Development Department at 630.434.5515.

Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10, 2020



Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire which began on October 8 and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871. *“Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen”* is this year’s theme for Fire Prevention Week.

Here’s what’s cooking for the week!

VIRTUAL WEEK AT THE FIREHOUSE

Though we are unable to gather together as a community for our annual *Night at the Firehouse*, we are happy to bring the fun to you on a virtual basis. On each of the five weekdays of Fire Prevention Week, we will be featuring a new and exciting video on social media and the Village website, downers.us. Here’s what to expect:



- **Monday, October 5:** The different uniforms and protective gear worn by our professional, well-trained and fashionable firefighters. *(right)*
- **Tuesday, October 6:** How to complete a home fire escape plan.
- **Wednesday, October 7:** Using a fire extinguisher properly.
- **Thursday, October 8:** *Close Before You Doze:* A fire demonstration on the importance of closing the doors in your home, especially when you sleep.
- **Friday, October 9:** Fire safety tips in the kitchen for the whole family.

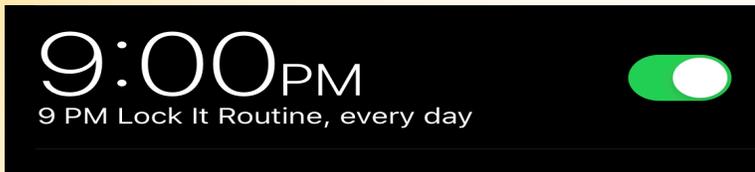


REMEMBRANCE IN RED

The Downers Grove Fire Department asks that every resident and business owner light their home or business with red lights during Fire Prevention Week as a show of support for the department and to honor the lives of all those lost to fires.



Form a Habit That is Good For You



The Downers Grove Police Department has seen an increased number of calls for burglary to motor vehicles and vehicle theft. The majority of these incidents happen to vehicles that are unlocked, often with valuables left in plain sight. Burglars don't want to draw attention to themselves by breaking windows, they search for easy targets such as unlocked doors, open windows or vehicles running with the keys left inside. Burglaries and thefts are often crimes of opportunity with thieves taking advantage of unsecured doors and windows to steal items left unattended or out in plain view.

Residents can stop crime by doing one simple thing--locking up every night.

The Downers Grove Police Department urges you to set an alarm for 9:00 p.m. and make the **9 PM Routine** part of your day. The daily alarm reminds you to:

- **Remove valuables from your vehicle.** Do not leave keys or the key fob inside the vehicle.
- Lock vehicle doors and close the windows and sunroof.
- Close the overhead garage door and lock the inner garage door.
- Close and lock all exterior doors to your home and close all windows.
- Turn on exterior lights.



Please remember that no call is too small for us to respond. If you see something, say something. We need your help to stop these burglaries in our neighborhoods. Together, we can make a difference.



You may have heard about a study by Underwriters Laboratory, commonly known as UL. UL is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to public safety. Their research shows one simple action taken in homes across the U.S. could potentially save lives: **Close Before You Doze**, which means close all the doors at home each night before bed.

Evidence shows that in a home fire, a closed door can be an effective barrier against deadly levels of carbon monoxide, smoke and flames. Yet, a new consumer survey conducted by UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI) showed that many people keep their doors open at night.

Why is the **Close Your Door** message so important now? Because fires have become more dangerous than ever. Modern synthetic construction materials, home furnishings, and contemporary layouts allow fire to spread and become toxic much faster. Due to these developments over the last 40 years, the average time to escape a home fire has been reduced from 17 minutes to **three minutes or less**.

But a closed door can slow the spread, reduce toxic smoke levels, improve oxygen levels and decrease temperatures dramatically – and that could make a life-saving difference in your home.

To learn more and see compelling videos showing the power of closing the door, visit closeyourdoor.org.



801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DOWNERS GROVE, IL
PERMIT NO 321**

ECRWSS Resident Occupant Downers Grove, IL 60515-16

SNIPPETS

LEAF IT TO FALL

Autumn is just around the corner. As the leaves begin to fall from the trees, the potential for stormwater backups due to blocked grates, culverts, and drainage pipes increases.

Significant numbers of leaves in creeks tend to accumulate at bends and collect in culverts, acting as a dam. This can increase high water levels in the area, along with the potential for flooding of adjacent houses.

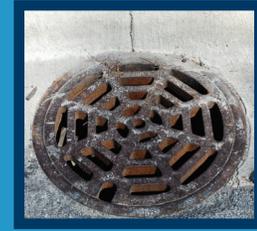
Leaves collecting in a detention basin can block outlet pipes, causing standing water for long periods of time. Leaves covering storm grates on the streets cause excess standing water on the roadways. Leaves left in ditches can block driveway culverts, causing them to overflow or not drain effectively.

In addition, as leaves break down they release phosphorus, which at high levels, is not healthy for the ecosystem of the creek.

Here are a few reminders to help minimize these problems:

- **Do not** place raked leaves in the streets or ditches.
- **Do not** place leaves in or adjacent to a creek.
- **Do not** allow leaves to accumulate within detention basins.
- If you are able, please clear leaves off inlet grates along your front curb as part of your raking routine.

If you observe any of the above conditions and suspect a blocked pipe or culvert, please call Public Works at 630.434.5460.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Don't forget to turn the clock back one hour before turning in on Saturday, October 31. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 1, 2020.

ORNAMENTS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAY TREE

Attention scout leaders, teachers, youth groups and Downers Grove kids! Handmade ornaments are needed to decorate the holiday tree at the Main Street Train Station. **Ornaments must be delivered to PUBLIC WORKS, 5101 WALNUT AVE. by November 13, 2020.** Visit downers.us for more information.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS FOR THE YEAR

The week of December 7 will be the final week of yard waste collection. Please remember that leaves may not be raked into the curb/street and must be bagged and stickered.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

The Downers Grove Fire Department recommends you change the battery in all smoke/carbon monoxide alarms in your home when you change the time. A working smoke alarm more than doubles your chances of surviving a home fire. Also, don't forget to test them every month!