

insideDG



**Independence Day
Parade and Fireworks**

Mayor's Message

Water Quality Report

**Issue II
2019**

VILLAGE HALL HOURS

Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 8:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.

MAYOR

Robert T. Barnett

COMMISSIONERS

Greg Hosé
Margaret "Marge" Earl
Nicole Walus
Leslie Sadowski-Fugitt
Rich Kulovany
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
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 434-5500

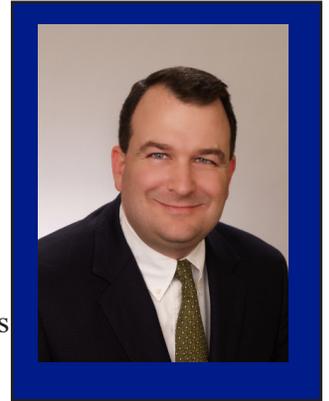
downers.us



VoDG Residents,

It's been about two months since I was sworn in as Mayor and I'd like to once again thank everyone who participated as informed and engaged voters. Congratulations to Commissioners Nicole Walus, Leslie Sadowski-Fugitt, and Rich Kulovany for choosing to serve and being elected with votes of confidence by our community, to our colleagues Greg Hosé and Marge Earl who remain committed to service, and to our newest Council member, Cavanaugh Gray, who was unanimously appointed by the Council to fill the seat I vacated. I'm looking forward to building and strengthening relationships that will help us serve Downers Grove together.

A community that values all its members is a community best ready to engage challenges and address the unknowns we might face tomorrow. The better we're able to serve and encourage everyone to make our community all it can be, and include those who may feel they don't have a stake or a voice in what we do, the stronger we'll be. It's my goal to ensure our local government is practical, real and accessible and that we provide quality services at a value that reflects the standards and priorities of our community.



**Mayor
Robert T. Barnett**



Humane Society Groundbreaking

What makes our community truly great is us- each of us. Together we are our best investment. In my brief time as Mayor, we've already shared in some great events organized by local people focused on doing good things in our community including; the Historical Society's Founders Day Ceremony, the dedication of Linda Kunze Plaza, the Memorial Day Parade hosted by American Legion Post 80, and the groundbreaking for the new West Suburban Humane Society. We are better when we work together.

Elections offer opportunities for restarts and new beginnings and so no matter who you voted for, please know your Village Council values you and values your input. You can reach us anytime at mayorcouncil@downers.us or use the individual email addresses and telephone numbers available for each Council member under the Mayor & Council section of the Village website at downers.us. We meet the first, second and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Village Hall. If you can't make it, please know each meeting is live-streamed on our website and archived on the Village of Downers Grove *YouTube* Channel so you can stay updated on your Village Council at a time and place that's convenient for you! It's easy to follow along with all the documents and information we use during the meetings, which are posted at downers.us under *This Week's Meetings*.

When I began my service on the Village Council 10 years ago, we talked about building a better future for our Village and how we might weather economic uncertainty. Through the hard work of two different Mayors, many Council colleagues, Village employees and our residents, who found innovative ways to serve the community, our Village has done well making frugal prudent decisions. While we continue in those traditions, we can also create new ones and redefine what's needed for lasting change that improves our community. Together we can address challenges with honest assessments and focus on what matters most: the people of our community. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve Downers Grove and look forward to the next four years.

Thank you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Barnett', written in a cursive style.



Dedication of Linda Kunze Plaza.

Why Do I Need a Stormwater Permit?

Did you know that even a relatively small change to a property can alter the flow of stormwater and potentially affect others in the vicinity? In addition, federal floodplain and wetland regulations have become increasingly more stringent in recent decades. Due to these regulations, the Village requires a stormwater permit for any project that:

- Disturbs more than 500 square feet of land
- Includes driveway work of any kind or size
- Contains flatwork with a total area of 100 square feet or more
- Involves steps/stoops
- Adds 100 square feet or more of impervious surface
- Has floodway, floodplain, or LPDA on the property



Each stormwater permit is checked by an engineer to make sure the work is compliant with local, county, state, and federal requirements, and to mitigate potential flooding issues. If work is performed without a required permit, the homeowner may have to restore the property at their own expense, and possibly be subject to additional fees and fines.

Remember, it's always best to check with the Community Development Department at (630) 434-5515 before starting any type of construction project.

Village AAA Bond Rating Affirmed By S&P Global

S&P Global has affirmed the Village of Downers Grove's AAA Bond Rating, the highest rating issued by the agency. The Village has held this rating since 2013, allowing for the financing of infrastructure projects at the lowest possible cost and millions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

AAA bond ratings are challenging to achieve and Downers Grove is one of about 20 municipalities in Illinois to earn this top rating. S&P acknowledged that the Village's performance in the following areas contributed to the high rating:

- Very strong management conditions
- Very strong budgetary flexibility
- Strong budgetary performance
- Very strong economy

This outstanding municipal bond rating is directly attributable to the Village's efforts to be a steward of financial sustainability which benefits all residents and businesses.

The S&P Global summary report also cited the Village's long range financial and capital planning efforts as contributing factors for the AAA rating.



Celebrate Independence Day!

Give three cheers for the red, white and blue at the 2019 Independence Day Parade. The parade begins at 1:00 p.m. at Main and Grant Streets and heads south to Warren Avenue.



Uncle Sam wants you to keep it safe, so **please keep children out of the street at all times. Candy will only be passed out curbside** to help keep the sidelines clear for parade participants and first responders.

FIREWORKS

Join your friends at the fireworks display, brought to you by the Village of Downers Grove, Village of Woodridge and City of Darien. The show starts at approximately 9:30 p.m. There are several parking lots in the area of 75th Street and Lemont Road to park and enjoy the show.

Water Rates to Increase

Water rates will soon increase by 0.40 %. The new rates will be reflected on water bills received **AFTER July 1, 2019**. This is a pass-through of the increase in the cost the Village pays to purchase water from the DuPage Water Commission (DWC). The DWC purchases Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago and in turn, distributes and sells it to member communities, including Downers Grove.

These new rates, which do not affect the fixed fee portion of Village rates, are as follows:

Customer	Current Rate	Rate Reflected on bills received AFTER July 1, 2019
Within Village Limits	\$ 6.07/unit	\$6.10/unit
Outside Village Limits (Unincorporated)	\$6.97/unit	\$7.00/unit

Actual consumption is metered in cubic feet and reflected in units on the water bill. One unit is equal to 100 cubic feet or approximately 750 gallons of water.

Water Quality Report



The annual Water Quality Report (WQR) contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2018. 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 the WQR, the quality of the water provided by the Village meets or exceeds all state and federal standards.

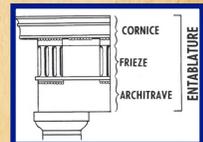
Visit http://www.downers.us/public/docs/Forms_Publications/WQR_2019.pdf to view the annual Water Quality Report. If you would like a paper copy mailed to your home, please call 630.434.5500. Copies are also available at Village Hall and the Public Works Facility by request.

Preserving History: Lyman Clifford House

This home at 844 Maple Avenue has been designated as a local landmark for displaying characteristics of a Gable-Front or Gable-Ell style home.



The vernacular Upright and Wing, often referred to as Gable-Front and Gable-Ell, was a common building type from the 1870s through the 1920s. This architectural style arose during the popularity of Greek Revival and thus can often include Greek Revival elements like pilasters, cornice returns, and wide entablatures.



This building type can feature a dominant front gable with one or two short wing extensions on the rear elevation. The side wing is usually one to one-and-a-half stories tall with a side facing gable. These homes are typically laid out in either an L or T shaped plan. Additionally, the building form can feature qualities of other architectural styles, most notably Queen Anne.

Originally built around 1876 as 96 East Maple Avenue, tax records show the original owner to be Lyman Clifford. Clifford acted as the Downers Grove Township Assessor from 1854 to 1856.

The home on 844 Maple Avenue showcases a two story vertical upright portion with a dominant gabled roof. The west wing is one-and-a-half stories tall and sits just behind the front entrance. The east wing was added in the 1920s and is one story. Several of the original architectural features of the home are still present including; the multi-paned wood double-hung windows, wood storm windows, wood entry doors, wood clapboard siding, window trim and hood molding, and wood trim under the gable.

Fire Department Recognized with Highest Award for Cardiac Response

The Downers Grove Fire Department has been recognized once again in 2019 by the American Heart Association with its highest *Mission: Lifeline* EMS award. This is the third year in a row that the Downers Grove Fire Department has received the highest rating.

This recognition honors Emergency Medical Service organizations for applying the most up-to-date evidence based treatment and improving cardiac related emergency care and related outcomes in the communities they serve.

Previously, *Gold Level* Status was the highest award that could be earned. In order to achieve Gold Status, the Downers Grove Fire Department had to provide statistics for patients served that were suffering from heart attacks and strokes. The American Heart Association states that the response time for patients having a heart attack should be 90 minutes or less from the time responders arrive to the time the patient receives definitive treatment at the hospital. The team must meet that benchmark 75% of the time for 24 consecutive months to qualify and maintain Gold Status. The Downers Grove Fire Department has exceeded these benchmarks for more than 36 consecutive months.

Gold Level Plus is a new and higher recognition level introduced for 2019. This level considers even more stringent criteria for qualification; most notably, the initiation of life saving cardiac care within the first 10 minutes for people experiencing a cardiac-related emergency.

The Downers Grove Fire Department has been named as one of the first and limited number of EMS organizations in the Midwest to qualify for this honor.

This recognition places the Downers Grove Fire Department in the company of some of the highest rated prehospital emergency medical service providers in the nation. The distinction comes in addition to the department's status as one of the top 1% of fire departments nationwide who are recognized with an ISO Class 1 rating for fire suppression, prevention and public education.

This is a clear indication of the training, dedication and caliber of the members of our department as well as the support provided by our community.



Burning Questions About the Outdoors

It's time to get out and enjoy the summer weather! Outdoor grilling is one of the most popular ways to cook food. Many people are not aware that the heat from a grill used too close to combustibles can cause a fire which can quickly extend throughout a home. On average, more than 10,000 home fires are started by grills each year and emergency rooms see 19,000 patients a year because of injuries involving grills.

Follow these tips whenever using grills or outdoor fire pits:

- Grills should only be used outdoors, never indoors, including inside a garage.
- Grills should be situated a **minimum of three feet** from the home and deck railings and should not be located under eaves or any overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area while in use and while the grill is cooling down.
- Keep the grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and below the grill.
- **Never leave the grill unattended.**
- When using a gas grill, always make sure the lid is open before lighting it.
- Inspect the propane hose and hookup of gas grills to check for leaks before you use it for the first time of the season.
- Use only charcoal starter fluid for charcoal grills. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Fire pits can cause serious burns and extensive fires if not used properly. They should be placed **a minimum of ten feet away from your house** and neighbors' yards, away from hanging branches, fences or other structures. Safe surfaces include brick, stone, gravel, concrete, or some type of fire resistant material.
- **Never place a fire pit on a wood deck.**
- It is unlawful, under any circumstance, to burn cardboard, leaves, twigs, branches, grass clippings, construction materials, or other types of waste or refuse.



For more information about Open Burning, visit downers.us and search *Open Burning*.

School's Out For Summer: Safety Tips for Parents and Motorists

School is out and the Downers Grove Police Department reminds drivers and parents about the importance of keeping children safe throughout the summer months.

Tips for Drivers:

- Be extra alert in residential areas and near parks. Drivers should be scanning their sight lines for children, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Expect the unexpected. Children may cross the street at the wrong place or suddenly run or ride their bike in front of you.
- Obey all laws. Slow down if there are children along the road or crossing the street. Come to a complete stop at intersections.

- Double check behind you when back out of a driveway or parking space.
- Don't be DISTRACTED. Put down the coffee, put down the cell phone, and put both hands on the wheel.
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians. It is the law.

Tips for Parents:

- Teach your children to make eye contact with the driver before crossing the street, even if the walk signal is on.
- Remind them to walk, don't run across the road. This includes walking their bicycle when crossing a street.
- Teach them to **Stop, Look and Listen** before crossing the street.
- Teach your children to use the crosswalk or intersection when crossing the street.
- Remind your children to watch for vehicles backing out of driveways or parking spaces.
- Teach your children parking lot safety, have them hold an adult's hand. Drivers in parking lots are not looking for children, they are looking for parking spaces.
- Remind children to not play in or around vehicles.
- **Head Up, Phone Down when crossing the street....no texting and walking.** This goes for parents, too!



For more information contact Stacy Blaskovich, Downers Grove Police Department Public Education Specialist 630-434-5641.

Other Summer Safety Tips to Know



Bicyclists: The majority of cycling deaths are the result of serious injuries to the head, highlighting the importance of wearing a bicycle helmet.

Whether you're a die-hard cyclist or just a recreational rider, it is important to wear a helmet every time you hit the streets or trail. Helmet use has been estimated to reduce the odds of head injury by 50 percent and the odds of head, face, or neck injury by 33 percent.

Kids especially need to wear helmets. Let the helmet absorb the shock of the crash instead of your head.

Boaters: Carbon Monoxide (CO) brings unique risks to the boating world. Poorly tuned engines produce more CO. Keep the engine properly maintained and do not swim near the boat's exhaust vents as CO tends to accumulate there.

SNIPPETS

OPERATION LIFESAVER

Chief of Police Shanon Gillette reminds pedestrians that crossing the train tracks when bells and lights are flashing is dangerous and against the law.

Please stay alert when crossing or standing close to a platform and use designated pedestrian crossings only. **Your safety is our concern!**



WATER CONSERVATION

Each year from May 15 to September 15, outdoor water use is permitted 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; if the address ends in an odd number, the resident can water on odd numbered days. Outdoor water usage is permitted between 4 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. on your watering day.

DOWNTOWN DOWNERS GROVE MARKET

Saturdays through October 19 Main Street Train Station, 7:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.



MONTREW DUNHAM HISTORY CENTER DEDICATION

July 13, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Downers Grove Museum

Join the Downers Grove Park District, the Downers Grove Museum and the Downers Grove Historical Society to dedicate the new Montrew Dunham History Center on July 13! Enjoy complimentary refreshments, receive a giveaway and view a temporary exhibit highlighting Montrew Dunham and her contributions to the Downers Grove community.

SUMMER NIGHTS CAR SHOW

Fridays through August 30, Downtown Downers Grove, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



TUESDAY NIGHT CONCERTS

Through August 20, Fishel Park at 7:00 p.m. www.dgparks.com



Last January, the Downers Grove Park District Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to rename the Annex at the Downers Grove Museum Campus in honor of local historian and author Montrew Dunham, who passed away in January 2017. The Annex, which serves as the exhibition and programming space at the Museum Campus, will now be named the Montrew Dunham History Center.