

insideDG

ISSUE III 2019

**National Preparedness
Month**

**Village and District 99
Partner on
Pedestrian Safety**



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 L. 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,

School is underway once again and like many Downers Grove families, the Barnett household ushered in the annual season of new beginnings with optimism and hope for a great year. From Herrick to DGN and beyond, we too prepared for those first days back - photos of smiling/grimacing kids and all.

This summer your Village and District 99 began preparing well in advance of the new school year through a cooperative effort to improve pedestrian safety around our schools. Over the break, plans were set to make short-term improvements to pedestrian safety at both high schools and to launch a safety awareness campaign. And planning for long-term improvements at both schools is underway.

Changes you may have noticed to improve pedestrian safety before school started include:



Mayor
Robert T. Barnett

- Reduced Main Street speed limit to 25 mph from Ogden Ave. to Prairie Ave.
- Created **School Zone speed limit of 20 mph** from Ogden Ave. to Lincoln Street, directly in front of North High.
- Increased signage and speed feedback signs at both schools.
- Placed digital signs reminding drivers that school is back in session and to watch for pedestrians on:

63rd Street at South High

Main Street at North High

- Installed safety stickers on sidewalks to remind pedestrians to look up and be aware near crosswalks.



The campaign lays the groundwork for ongoing community input and discussion about potential long-term improvements. Pedestrian safety consultants are assisting in the process by collecting detailed information about vehicle speeds, crashes and near misses at each high school, in addition to developing solutions to improve safety. Community Pedestrian Safety Forums were held on September 5 at North and South High Schools. These events featured an update of what's been done so far and provided the opportunity for those attending to share suggestions and feedback regarding safety improvements.

With the constant tension between a strong, vibrant community that draws employees and visitors from across the area and the importance of walkability and connected neighborhoods, community input is an important part of this process. If you missed the Safety Forums, please join the discussion by posting your concerns and suggestions on the interactive map located under Trending Topics at downers.us.

A final report with recommendations for moving forward is expected in November. In the meantime, let's all do what we can to keep it safe while driving near any school. Please remember that speed is the most important factor for crash risk and severity, so slow down, obey the posted speed limit near schools and stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

There's Always Time For Safety!

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

Are You Ready? 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 be 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.

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

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.



PREPARED, NOT SCARED

National Preparedness Month 2019

- **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.

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.



Green Fleet Honors

The Village of Downers Grove has again been selected as one of the *Top 50 Greenest Fleets in North America*. The Government Green Fleet Award was awarded to the Village for our dedicated use of alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles.

In 2018, 83% of the Village's fleet utilized some form of alternative fuel. These alternatives included Biodiesel (B-20), E-85 (Ethanol), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), propane, solar power, and hybrid combinations. The Village uses CNG fuel to power a wide range of vehicles including compact sedans, pick-up trucks, cargo vans, police patrol vehicles and five-ton trucks. The Village's five-ton trucks were the first in the Midwest to be powered by CNG.

The implementation of green initiatives like the use of cleaner, more efficient alternative fuels achieves the Village's Strategic Plan goal of being a *Steward of Financial & Environmental Sustainability*. Using alternative fuels reduces the environmental impact of fleet operations and is more cost-effective than traditional petroleum based products. Being selected as an award winning Government Green Fleet is a great accomplishment for the Village.

The Police Department's Community Support Officers recently began use of the Village's first plug-in electric hybrid vehicles. After just one month of use, the vehicles are averaging over 75 miles-per-gallon.



Cornerstone Awards

The Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (DGEDC) recently held its annual luncheon with more than 200 business and community leaders in attendance. The DGEDC created the Cornerstone Award to recognize projects for their economic impact on the community. Awards were presented by Mayor Bob Barnett to the following recipients:



Rexnord was honored for the development of their new manufacturing facility and division headquarters in the Ellsworth Business Park. Chirag Dua, Vice President-Sales and Marketing, accepted the award.

Holladay Properties was recognized for the development of Burlington Station in downtown Downers Grove. Drew Mitchell, Partner and Vice President of Development, accepted the award.



Vequity was honored for the commercial redevelopment project at Ogden Avenue and Main Street. Chris Ilekis, Principal, accepted the award.

Trammell Crow was recognized for the development of Maple & Main in downtown Downers Grove. Jerome Ebert, Senior Vice President-Development Management, accepted the award.



Preserving History: Chilvers House

The home at 4836 Middaugh was designated as a local landmark for demonstrating architectural features typically found in both two-story Gabled-Ell and Queen Anne styles.



Gabled-Ell homes were a popular home style throughout the mid-to-late 1880s. Typical features associated with this form include a dominant open-gable elevation facing the street and an entrance porch on one side of the house, also along the street. This style home appealed to the working and middle-class and several of them can be found within E.H. Prince's Subdivision.

It was very common for this building form to incorporate several architectural styles such as Greek Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne. Some architectural stylistic characteristics associated with the Queen Anne style include: steeply pitched asymmetrical roofs, wood clapboard, banboard or wood trim bargeboards, elaborate porches with spindlework, and other forms of ornamentation.

The Chilvers house features a dominant gable that adorns both facades on Franklin Street and Middaugh Avenue. Perhaps one of the most notable design features is the L-shaped cross-gable that indicates the footprint of the original home. While not original to the home, the wrap-around screen porch (circa 1900) encloses the wood panel front door. All of the original wooden and double hung windows have been preserved. Additionally, original interior features include a fireplace with decorative tile, flooring, and doors.

The Chilvers family lived in the structure for five years. Mr. Chilvers was on the very first North Side Volunteer Fire Department in 1894. In 1895, he became a Village Trustee.

If you are interested in landmarking your home or have information about the history of your home, please contact the Community Development Department at 630-434-5515.

Not every hero wears a cape.
PLAN and PRACTICE your ESCAPE!TM
firepreventionweek.org



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: October 6-12, 2019

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. “PLAN and PRACTICE your ESCAPE!” is this year’s theme for Fire Prevention Week.

The Downers Grove Fire Department will mark the week with the following events:

NIGHT AT THE FIREHOUSE

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Station 5, 6701 Main Street**

Take a station tour, see demonstrations of automobile extrication and rescue techniques, and get acquainted with the various uniforms and protective apparel worn by firefighters. Witness how quickly a fire can spread and the difference a closed door can make in your survival in the side-by-side room demonstration.

Firefighters will help teach children how to escape from fires in the fire safety trailer and children can learn about injury prevention from Good Samaritan nurses. Meet Sparky! Plus, kids can take a slide down the fire pole!

Learn what you need to do to keep your family prepared and safe in the event of disasters. Parents may visit with the firefighters and learn how to keep their families safe from fire and other common childhood injuries.



25th ANNUAL SILENT PARADE

**Friday, October 11, 2019
Approximately 7:15 p.m.**

The Downers Grove Fire Department will conclude Fire Prevention Week by hosting the Silent Parade. The parade pays tribute to all those who have lost their lives to fire and features fire department vehicles from many surrounding villages. All vehicles will display lights only; no sirens will be sounded.

The parade will begin in Hinsdale at 7:00 p.m. and pass through Downers Grove at Main and Maple at approximately 7:15 p.m. People may assemble along Maple Avenue to view the parade and pay tribute by holding a flashlight as the cortege passes.

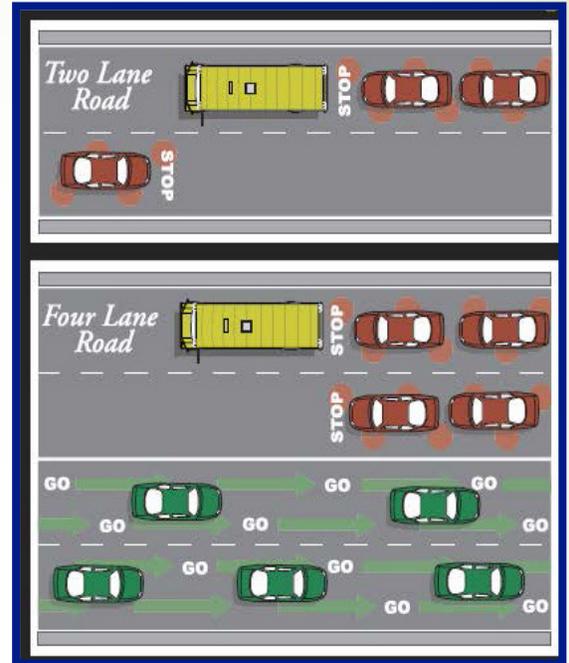
A brief ceremony, which officially closes Fire Prevention Week, will be held at the Hinsdale Fire Department to begin the parade. The parade route ends at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1101 Kimberly Way (two blocks south of Route 53 and Maple Avenue), Lisle at approximately 7:45 p.m. where the public and firefighters can gather for refreshments.



BACK TO SCHOOL Reminders for Motorists

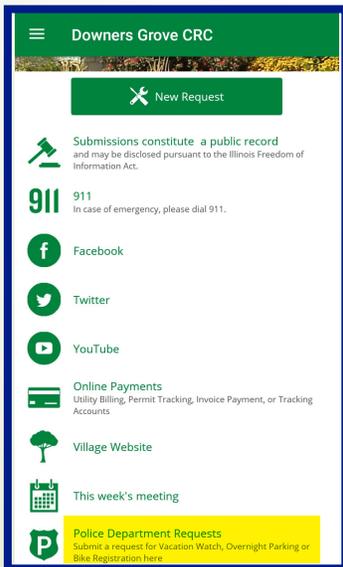
Motorists should be aware that the following laws are in place for the safety of the children going to and from school each day.

- On any two-lane roadway and within school parking lots, all traffic must stop when the school bus has its “STOP” arm extended. On a four-lane roadway, only vehicles traveling the same direction as the bus are required to stop. The penalty for the first offense of passing a stopped school bus is a \$150.00 fine and a 90-day suspension of driving privileges.
- The speed limit in areas posted as “School Zones” is 20 mph on school days from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM when children are present in the area. The minimum fine for this traffic offense is \$150.00.
- Motorists are required by law to obey the instructions of adult school crossing guards, so use caution and be prepared to stop. Be alert for student patrols that may be assisting children crossing the street.
- Always BUCKLE-UP every trip, every time.
- **Cell Phones are PROHIBITED in school zones! State statute prohibits the use of cellphones for all drivers, while operating a motor vehicle in a school zone.**



Overnight Parking

Perhaps you're having overnight guests or maybe you just had your driveway sealed and you're wondering about overnight parking. Even though on street parking is prohibited between 2:00 and 6:00 a.m., it's easy to request overnight parking using the DG CRC app. Select *Police Department Requests* from the menu and fill out the request form. The free app is available in the App Store for iPhone or Google Play. You can make up to 12 overnight requests per year. If you don't have the app, visit the Village website at downers.us and click on [Request Overnight Parking](#).



Where Else Can I Park Overnight?

- Residents of the Downtown Business District can park overnight in the designated area on Level 1 of the Parking Deck, with a valid permit. The quarterly cost is \$195.
- Commuters with valid quarterly parking permits who wish to leave their cars overnight should request permission from the Police Department at 630.434.5600.

Main Street Station

- **Lot L** (near Village Hall and the Police Station): An overnight parking permit can be purchased in advance at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue. The fee is \$6 per night. Overnight parking is limited to five nights per calendar month.
- **Level 5 of the parking deck** on Friday and Saturday evenings, only. You will need to provide your parking space number via the DG CRC app, online via our website ([see above](#)) or by phone at 630.434.5600. Please remember to have your space number handy.

Belmont Road Station

Overnight parking is available in the designated area on the north side of the tracks along Burlington Avenue, west of Belmont Road, near Rose Avenue (Spaces #497-510). These spaces are free after 3:00 p.m., but need to be paid for by 7:00 a.m. the next day (Monday-Friday). You can *Pay By Phone* when you sign up for an account at passportparking.com or by calling 630.581.2445.



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

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 8, 2019.** Visit events.downers.us for more information.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to turn the clock back one hour before turning in on Saturday, November 2. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 3, 2019.

CHANGE THE 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!

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Trick-or-Treating in the Village will be on Thursday, October 31, 2019. While there are no mandated hours, the Police Department recommends trick-or-treating during daylight hours.

FALL FOR DOWNTOWN EVENTS

Girls Night Out, Halloween window painting, trick-or-treating, and the Gingerbread Festival are all on the calendar in the next few months. Visit the Downtown Management website to keep up on the details. www.downtowndg.org

YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS FOR THE YEAR

The week of December 9 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.

PUMPKIN SMASH: Saturday, November 2, 2019

What will you do with your pumpkin after Halloween? Rather than letting it languish in a landfill, bring your jack-o-lantern to the annual Pumpkin Smash to be composted – nature's method of recycling. Come smash your pumpkin or simply drop it off and have us do it for you. By composting your pumpkin, you are keeping waste out of landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and creating a natural fertilizer for our soils. Times and locations to be posted at scarce.org.