



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



“Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress”

Be Disaster Aware: Take Action to Prepare! September is National Preparedness Month

Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere, in communities just like Downers Grove. In times of crisis, it is important to be self-sufficient as police and fire rescue may not always be able to reach you quickly. “Preparedness is a shared responsibility and it takes a whole community,” said Mary Pratt, 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.”

Follow these three simple steps to begin your preparations.

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 locations to meet** 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.
- It's also a good time to update information the Village has on file for the Community Wide Notification System. The system is used to communicate important messages in the public interest of both of emergency and non-emergency natures. Residents and businesses are encouraged to register additional devices (up to three phone numbers and two email addresses) by which to be contacted. To add or change information, visit www.downers.us and click on “Community Wide Notification” or call the Village at (630) 434-5500.

Issue 3 2014

Happy
Halloween
Page 3

Voter
Registration
Page 4

Community
Health Fair
Page 5

Fire Prevention
Week
Page 7



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor
Martin T. Tully

Hello Downers Grove!

I hope that this summer treated you well and that everyone had a chance to take advantage of the many outdoor activities and events that our community has to offer. It was terrific to see so many friends and neighbors out and about enjoying the parks, activities and other amenities that have earned Downers Grove national recognition.

With the advent of the fall season, the Village also begins its main financial planning season. Each year, the Village engages in a very open and transparent budget process and preparations for the FY-2015 Municipal Budget will be no exception. The schedule for this year's budget process provides multiple opportunities for public comment and input, and I encourage you to participate by attending a meeting, watching at home or reading the material on our website and providing comment via email to budgetteam@downers.us. The meeting schedule for this year's budget process is available on the back page of this edition of the Hometown Times.

The budget meetings noted above will focus on the proposed budget for next year and by this point much work has been done to prepare for the discussions. Budget preparation is guided by the Long-Range Plan (LRP) and the Village Council met four times between May and August to review progress made on the 2013-2015 LRP. YouTube videos of these meetings along with the complete LRP reports for each meeting are available under the LRP section at www.downers.us.

The Village recently combined elements of Long-Range Financial Planning and Strategic Planning into a successful Long-Range Plan process. The Village's planning process is one of many strong management practices that led Standard & Poor's to upgrade the Village's bond rating to AAA.

On that note, you may recall that the Village last year received a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's (S&P), the highest rating issued by the agency. The S&P Summary Report cites the following as factors which contribute to Downers Grove's economic stability:

- Strong management conditions, with a consistent track record of balanced budgets
- Very strong budgetary flexibility, with audited reserves at 41% of general fund expenditures
- Adequate budgetary performance, which takes into account capital spending
- Very strong liquidity providing very strong cash levels to cover both debt service and expenditures

As noted in the S&P Report, strong budgetary performance is an important part of the Village's success. All Downers Grove residents and businesses benefit from this as the Village is able to refinance bonds at a lower cost. For example, in August the Village refinanced \$9.7 million of General Obligation Bonds. Lower interest rates in the market along with our AAA rating helped to achieve a savings in interest of approximately \$500,000.

The FY-2014 Municipal Budget satisfied nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentations. In fact, the Village has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation award for the past five years. This reflects the commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

The staunch commitment to consistently good financial stewardship runs strong in our community and owes its success in large part to our informed and engaged citizenry. Accordingly, I encourage everyone to continue to follow along with and participate in the financial planning and budgeting process. As always, your input into that process is both welcome and appreciated.

Best regards,

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

Time to Drain the Pool



Did you know that water from our stormwater system is not treated and drains directly into our creeks and ponds? Because of this, we have to be careful of what flows into drainage structures to prevent danger to wildlife and vegetation.

Keep in mind that high levels of chlorine used in swimming pools can present dangers to the ecosystem, so draining and backwashing of swimming pools should be handled carefully. Fortunately, chlorine will dissipate in the sunlight relatively quickly, allowing water that is left untreated to enter safely into our stormwater system.

Here are some tips on how to drain your pool in a safe and responsible manner:

- Do not treat your water for a week or so prior to draining.
- Test the water to make sure the chlorine is gone.
- Try to find alternate uses for some of the dechlorinated water, such as watering plants, washing cars, or even filling squirt guns!
- Please be considerate of your neighbors and don't allow your pool drainage to collect on other properties, sidewalks, or other public areas.

Candidates Must File Nominating Petitions

Statements of Candidacy and nominating petitions are now available in the Village Clerk's Office. Downers Grove residents wishing to run for the office of Mayor or Commissioner in the April 7, 2015, Consolidated Election must file their Statements of Candidacy and nominating petitions between **November 17 and 24, 2014, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the office of the Village Clerk at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue.** The Office of Mayor and three Commissioner positions on the Village Council are to be elected in the April 7, 2015, Consolidated Election.

Signature requirements for nominating petitions must be equal to at least 1% of the total vote cast for mayor at the last preceding mayoral election, or 50 signatures.

If more than 4 persons file for the position of Mayor, and/or more than 12 persons file for the position of Commissioner, the DuPage County Election Commission will conduct a Primary Election on February 24, 2015. For further information on election law, candidates should consult their own attorneys.

For information on election procedures, candidates should contact the DuPage County Election Commission at (630) 407-5600.

Happy Halloween



Beware of little ghosts and goblins knocking at your door. The Downers Grove Police Department offers the following tips for a happy, not haunted, holiday.

Trick-or-Treating Hours

Trick-or-Treating in the Village will be on Friday, October 31, 2014. While there are no mandated hours, the Police Department recommends trick-or-treating during daylight hours.

Safety

- Kids should trick-or-treat with parents or in groups—never alone.
- Wear light colored or reflective clothing. Masks should not obstruct vision.
- Carry a flashlight after dark.
- Stay on sidewalks and never walk in the street.
- Cross streets carefully and always at corners—no jaywalking.
- Limit trick-or-treating to your immediate neighborhood.
- Trick-or-treat only at homes where outside lights are on.
- Only accept treats that are wrapped and securely sealed.
- Parents, check your child's treats before eating.
- **Vandalism is a crime.** Halloween is not an excuse to damage or destroy someone else's property.

Curfew

Curfew prohibits anyone under 17 years of age to be on the street after 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Voter Registration

Tuesday, October 7, 2014, is the last day to register or transfer registration for the November 4, 2014, General Election. To register, you must be 18 years of age on or before the election, be a citizen of the United States and a legal resident of DuPage County.

Two forms of identification with current address are needed. Applicants may register at the following locations:

- Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street
- Downers Grove Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue
- Downers Grove Township offices, 4340 Prince Street
- Lisle Township offices, 4721 Indiana Avenue, Lisle
- York Township offices, 1502 Meyers Road, Lombard
- Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2001 Butterfield Road, Suite 105 (Call first: 630-968-4050)
- DuPage Election Commission, 421 County Farm Road, Wheaton

Early Voting

The Village of Downers Grove will be an early voting site for the November 4, 2014, General Election. Early voting will take place Monday, October 20, 2014, through Saturday, November 1, 2014, in the Committee Room at Village Hall, 801 Burlington Avenue. The hours for early voting will be Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Early voting provides citizens the opportunity to vote before Election Day, at their convenience. Unlike absentee voting, one does not need a reason to vote early. If you are a registered voter in DuPage County, we invite you to participate in early voting!

Please contact the DuPage County Election Commission at (630) 407-5600 or April Holden, Village Clerk, at 434-5535 for further information about early voting.

Congratulations 2014 Cornerstone Award Winners

The Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (DGEDC) held its annual luncheon on June 26, 2014, with 150 business and community leaders in attendance. Mayor Martin Tully presented three awards which recognized projects for their economic contribution to the community.

Advocate Health Care Kelly Jo Golson, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, accepted the award. Advocate, which is the largest private sector employer in the Chicago area, moved their corporate headquarters to Highland Landmark in Downers Grove. Advocate has more than 600 employees at their new headquarters, in addition to the 2,700 employees at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital.



American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) Patricia Blake, Chief Executive Officer, accepted the award. ASGE built a new \$20 million headquarters and training facility at Esplanade at Locust Point. ASGE held an impressive grand opening, showing off their state-of-the-art Institute for Training & Technology.

Grundfos. Thomas Brun Larsen, Director of Human Resources, accepted the award. The Danish company is the largest manufacturer of water pumps in the world, with annual sales of \$4 billion. Grundfos opened their new North American headquarters at 2001 Butterfield Road in Downers Grove. Governor Pat Quinn attended the “wall breaking ceremony,” and praised the project in his State of the State Address.



Midwestern University Community Health Fair

Saturday, October 4, 2014

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Downers Grove Park District Recreation Center, 4500 Belmont Road



Join the students of Midwestern University for an opportunity to receive flu shots (available to those 17 years of age and older, limited supply), health screenings and learn effective ways to make positive health behavioral changes, all at no charge. Interactive activities will be presented at more than 30 health information booths. Attendees are encouraged to bring canned food donations to support the Downers Grove FISH Pantry.

New this year for kids is a fire truck tour, car seat safety checks, poison prevention information and a Teddy Bear Clinic, where children can bring their favorite stuffed animal or doll for a checkup to help dispel fears about doctor visits.

The Health Fair is made possible through the support of students and faculty at Midwestern University and the following local partners: Downers Grove Park District, Downers Grove Police and Fire Departments, Downers Grove Public Library, and AAA Automobile Club.

More information about the Community Health Fair can be found at www.midwestern.edu/DGhealthfair.



Public Information Session for PD Accreditation



The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) requires members to comply with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services. The Downers Grove Police Department is scheduled for an on-site assessment to achieve accreditation by verifying it meets professional standards.

Agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at the public information session on Monday, November 17, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. The session will be conducted at the Downers Grove Fire Department, Station #2, located at 5420 Main Street.

The public may also offer comments by calling (630) 434-5624 on Monday, November 17, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Comments will be taken by the Assessment Team representing CALEA.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to ten minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Downers Grove Police Department from Accreditation Manager Marion Heintz.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Downers Grove Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.

Take Our Back to School Driver Safety Quiz



School is back in session and keeping kids safe when they walk to school, ride the bus or are driven by a parent becomes a priority for the Downers Grove Police Department. Can you answer the following questions about driving around schools and school buses?

When do motorists have to stop for a school bus?

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.

When is the school speed zone in effect?

The speed limit in areas posted as "School Zones" is 20 mph on school days from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when children are present in the area. The minimum fine for this traffic offense is \$150.00.

Do drivers have to obey the directions of school crossing guards?

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 everyone on every trip, every time.

Please use caution when driving around all schools or whenever you see children in the area. Do your part to make the 2014/2015 school year a safe one for our children.

Ready to Stay Home Alone?

As the school year begins, parents need to prepare children that will be staying home alone after school. Review the following guidelines and discuss them with your children.

- **Be sure your child has a support system in place should they get scared or need help.** Who are the safe people they can contact such as neighbors, friends or relatives that live close and are available during the times your child is home alone?
- **Be sure your child has a house key.** Do not leave your home unlocked or hide a key outside the door. Burglars gain access to homes through unlocked doors or windows and they know the hiding places for house keys. You do not want your child to walk into a burglary in progress at your home.
- **Explain to your child what they should do when someone is at the door.** Burglars break into homes when they think no one is home. If your child does not answer the door, a burglar will assume no one is home, putting your child in danger. Instead, tell your child to have noise coming from inside your house so a burglar will assume someone is home. They should never open the door to a stranger. If they are scared they should know who to call, such as a safe neighbor, close friends or relative or 9-1-1.
- **Be sure your child knows they can always call 9-1-1 when they are scared.** The Police Department is a critical part of their support system and they should be comfortable calling when they need help. They will not be in trouble for calling, even if the police arrive and there is nothing wrong.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Public Education Manager Marion Heintz at mheintz@downers.us or (630) 434-5606.

Sparky Says “Test Your Smoke Alarm Monthly”

Fire Prevention Week: October 5-11, 2014



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. “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives” 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 8, 2014
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 effectiveness of residential sprinklers in the side-by-side room demonstration.

“Freddie” the robot fire truck will be on hand to visit with families, the fire safety trailer will help children practice escaping from fires, and children can practice making 9-1-1 calls with real Downers Grove emergency dispatchers. 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 natural disasters. Parents may visit with the firefighters and learn how to keep their families safe from fire and other unintentional injuries common to children.

20th Anniversary Silent Parade
Friday, October 10, 2014
Approximately 7:15 p.m.
Along Maple Avenue



The Downers Grove Fire Department will conclude Fire Prevention Week by hosting the Silent Parade on Friday, October 10, 2014. 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. In Downers Grove people may assemble along Maple Avenue to view the parade and pay tribute by holding a flashlight as the cortege passes at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The night will conclude with a memorial service and tribute to firefighters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle, just south of Route 53 and Maple Avenue. The community is encouraged to attend this service honoring the parade’s 20th year. The founders of the Silent Parade and the presiding fire chiefs of the Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills, Woodridge, Downers Grove and Lisle-Woodridge departments from 1995, will be guest speakers.

REMINDERS AND OTHER NEWS

Budget Meetings for FY2015

- Budget Workshop: October 11, 2014: Fire Station 2, 8:00 a.m.
- First Reading on Council Agenda: October 14, 2014
- Coffee with the Council: October 18, 2014: Fire Station 2, 9:00 a.m.
- Public Hearing: November 4, 2014

For more information and meeting times, visit www.downers.us and click on “Village Budget.”

Leaf Reminders

Leaves are not permitted to be swept into the street or burned. They are considered yard waste, subject to the following guidelines:

Yard waste must be placed in one of the following:

- 33-gallon biodegradable paper bag,
- 33-gallon unlined can, or
- Republic yard waste cart.

For more information visit www.downers.us and search “yard waste.”

Fall Back

Don't forget to turn the clock back one hour before turning in on Saturday, November 1. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 2, 2014.

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!

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. <http://www.downtowndg.org/>

Thanksgiving Garbage Collection

Please remember that if your collection day falls on or after the Thanksgiving holiday, collection will be one day later.



www.downers.us

801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mayor: Martin T. Tully
Commissioners

Sean Patrick Durkin, Geoff Neustadt,
Robert T. Barnett, Becky Rheintgen,
David S. Olsen, Greg Hosé
Village Manager David Fieldman

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)

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

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

Published by the Village of Downers Grove

Kids, Help A Firefighter



Pluggie's Pals is a program offered by the Downers Grove Fire Department that teaches children to take an active part in fire prevention during the winter months. Children pledge to be a pal to a fire hydrant in their neighborhood and care for it by shoveling snow from around the hydrant area and keeping it well marked. In the event of a fire, hydrants can be easily found and immediately put into use, saving firefighters valuable time. Pluggie's Pals are also asked to report any leaks or missing port caps.

The program is an excellent vehicle for scout troops and other youth organizations to help their neighbors in community service, while also helping the firefighters. For more information about this program, contact Gina Barr at (630) 434-5990.