

# Hometown TIMES

*“Downers Grove Preserves the Balance Between Tradition and Progress”*

**Issue 1  
2015**

**Mayor's Message  
Page 2**

**Leave Fireworks to  
the Pros  
Page 3**

**Fire Department  
Achieves ISO  
Class I Rating  
Page 4**

**Water  
Quality  
Report  
Page 4**

**Downers Grove  
Police Recognized  
as Traffic Safety  
Leader  
Page 6**



## Independence Day Celebration

Give three cheers for the red, white and blue at the Independence Day Parade on July 4, 2015. The parade begins at 12:45 p.m. at Main and Grant Streets and proceeds south on Main, ending at Warren Avenue.

## 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.



# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Hello Downers Grove!

On Tuesday May 5, 2015, I had the distinct honor of being sworn-in to a second term as your Mayor. Thank you again for allowing me the privilege of serving our community once more in that capacity. Joining me at the swearing-in ceremony were new Council members William Waldack, Gina Vattimo and William White. We welcomed each of them to the Council, where they join myself and returning Commissioners Robert Barnett, Greg Hose and David Olsen. I look forward to working with all of them. That evening, it was also my pleasure to thank and recognize former Commissioners Geoff Neustadt, Sean Patrick Durkin and Becky Rheintgen for their admirable 22 years of collective service to the community. We greatly appreciate their contributions to the betterment of Downers Grove.

The 2015-2017 Village Council is a very diverse group. Diverse in backgrounds, experience, age, ideology, geography, and more. This Council is a good reflection of the diversity within the community. And like the community, we will undoubtedly have our disagreements, but I am confident that with open dialogue and engaged governance, we'll be able to overcome challenges and take advantage of opportunities in ways that our citizens both comprehend and support.

Our first major collaborative effort will be to work with the community and staff in the development and adoption of the Village's Long-Range Plan (LRP). The process for LRP development is used to identify and address those policy issues which impact the long term future of Downers Grove.

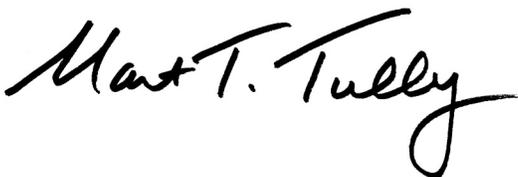
The LRP is used by staff to direct daily operations. It provides clear direction by establishing goals, objectives and action priorities which in turn drives exceptional performance throughout the organization. Since 2009, the Long-Range Planning process has helped the Village provide cost effective top quality services and improve the condition of our street, water and stormwater systems. Here are a few of the many successes achieved through LRP implementation:

- Reduced or maintained the property tax levy for operations for five consecutive years.
- Reduced staffing levels by 13.4%.
- Achieved a AAA bond rating, reducing the cost of borrowing money to fund infrastructure improvements.
- Improved the condition of the street system, lowering the total cost of owning and maintaining streets.
- Improved the condition of the water system, reducing the total cost of owning and maintaining the system.

You will find the complete list of priority action items achieved through the LRP at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) in the Long-Range Plan Summary & Results 2009-2015. LRP meetings are scheduled to take place on July 2, July 21 and August 18 immediately following the regular Tuesday evening Council Meetings, which begin at 7:00 p.m.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Rotary Grove Fest and the July 4 Independence Day Parade. In any event, please have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Best regards,



Martin T. Tully, Mayor



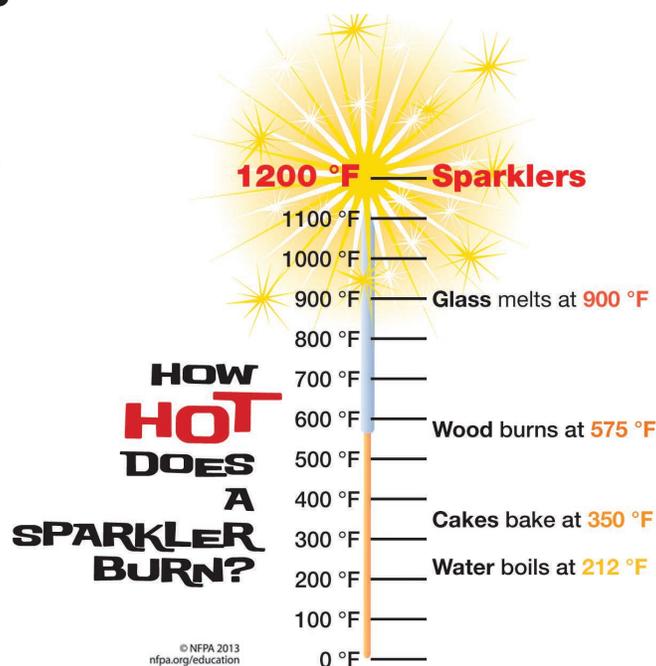
*2015 Village Council L-R  
Greg Hose, William Waldack,  
Gina Vattimo, Mayor Martin T.  
Tully, David S. Olsen, William  
"Bill" White, Robert T. Barnett*

## 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. Any person convicted of violating this law is subject to a fine of between \$75.00 and \$750.00.

Legal firework novelties such as sparklers, fountains, snakes, party poppers, and ground spinners, marketed as “safe,” still possess dangers. For the period July 2 to July 5, fireworks injuries make up about one quarter of emergency room visits. The risk of fireworks injury is more than twice as high for children ages 10-14 as for the general population. Children as young as two years old are commonly handed sparklers which reach temperatures of 1,200 to 1,800 degrees, hot enough to cause third-degree burns, yet adults underestimate the dangers.

For an Independence Day that’s both exciting and safe, leave the fireworks to the experts and take the family to a professional outdoor display. (See cover story.)



## Is It a Jungle Out There?



Mowing the lawn may not be a favorite summer pastime, but it comes with the territory of property ownership. Here are a few important details regarding lawn care regulations that are in effect year-round.

With the exception of ornamental grasses, grass and/or weeds on all properties may not exceed ten inches in height. Property owners in violation of this regulation will be notified that the grass must be cut within five days. If the grass and/or weeds are not cut to less than ten inches within the specified period of time, arrangements will be made to have them cut at the owner’s expense.

Senior citizens or disabled residents who are in need of assistance to care for their property can call the Village at (630) 434-5500 and inquire about the Home Chore program. Participants will be matched with a volunteer who will perform yard work or other household chores for an agreed upon price.

## Car Wash Tips to Help the Environment

There is no doubt that washing your car on a warm summer day can be a pleasant way to pass the time, but unfortunately that comes with a cost to the environment. From a water conservation standpoint, a typical at-home car wash uses the equivalent of seven washing machine loads of water! From a pollution standpoint, the soaps and contaminants, including chlorides from roadway salt, oil, grease, and even heavy metals, are being washed down your driveway and sent into the stormwater system. Stormwater is not treated, therefore any contaminants flow directly to our streams and into the DuPage River, affecting fish, plants, and the quality of water.

In contrast, wastewater from commercial carwashes is collected into the sanitary sewer system where contaminants are removed before being released into our waterways. In addition, modern car washes are more efficient with the water used in their processes, so overall, less water is used.

If you feel your car needs a bath this summer, please consider alternatives to the DIY carwash. Take the car to a self-serve or drive-through commercial carwash. If you must wash your car at home, consider using an eco-friendly spray and wipe product instead of the hose. The environment will thank you for it!

## Water Meter Reading Device Project Update

Since January, the Village has been in the process of replacing the transmission units that send water meter readings from residential and business customer meters to the Village for water billing. The original transmission units, known as MTUs, which were installed in 2002 had begun to fail.

Over the next year you may see one of the two gentlemen pictured here in your neighborhood. That's Mike Lures and Dave Wilson who work for Scope Services installing new MTUs.

Before Mike or Dave arrive at your location you'll be notified as to when work is planned to occur in your area. If we have your phone number on file we will call you twice: two weeks prior to the scheduled replacement and two days prior to the installation.

Most MTU replacements take less than 30 minutes and occur entirely on the exterior of the building, with the same exterior placement as the existing MTU. For locations where the MTU is inside a home or building, Scope will make an appointment with the customer to access the unit. Scope maintains a customer service line, (888) 209-5075, to respond to your inquiries. You can also contact the Village with any questions.



L-R Mike Lures & Dave Wilson



## Water Quality Report

The annual Water Quality Report (WQR) contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2014. 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.

Please visit <http://www.downers.us/WQR> 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 Public Works by request.

## Work Continues on IMET Fund Recovery

A Chicago Tribune article published on Friday, April 10, 2015, described and identified the municipal and school district assets invested with the Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund (IMET) that have been restricted as a result of alleged fraud.

The Village took action and communicated to the public when the circumstances involving this restriction of funds became known. IMET advised its municipal clients that they expect to recover 60 to 70% of the total funds lost. To date, \$29,000 of the \$586,000 in Village investment funds affected by the fraudulent activity has been returned.

Work by IMET to recover funds continues including the sale of assets and filing of insurance claims. The Village will continue its efforts to monitor the situation and recover the remainder of all lost investments.

The Village invests funds using sound financial practices in keeping with its Cash Management and Investment Policy which is available at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us).



## Downers Grove Police Recognized as Traffic Safety Leader

The Police Department received recognition in the **2014 Illinois Traffic Challenge**, as the top agency in the state for municipal agencies with 66 to 100 sworn officers for their overall approach to traffic safety.



Traffic safety is one of the highest priorities for the Downers Grove Police Department. Police personnel work year-round to educate our citizens, beginning with preschool students, on the importance of being safe in a vehicle, on a bike, and as a pedestrian. Aggressive and consistent traffic enforcement, coupled with educational efforts, offer the greatest chance of reducing the incidence of traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities.

The following statistics support the department's traffic safety efforts:

- **Seat belt** use is up! More people are buckling up in Downers Grove. Our seat belt compliance rate increased to 97.6%. This compliance rate is better than the State of Illinois compliance rate of 94.1%.
- There were no traffic related deaths in Downers Grove in 2014.
- The total number of traffic crashes with injuries was reduced and the number of crashes in our high traffic volume locations was also reduced when compared to the 2014 statistics.

## Police Department Achieves Accreditation



The Downers Grove Police Department received Accreditation with Excellence from The Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This is the highest level of recognition awarded by CALEA. Only about 4% of CALEA accredited agencies meet the criteria for the Excellence award, which is about .25% of all police agencies in the nation.

The professionalism of department personnel, the high quality of service provided to the community, and the well organized and thorough condition of the policy files reviewed during an on-site audit resulted in a very successful accreditation outcome. The accredited status will remain in effect for a three-year period.

The purpose of CALEA's Accreditation Programs is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners.

The CALEA Accreditation Process is a proven modern management model that promotes the efficient use of resources and improves service delivery-regardless of the size, geographic location, or functional responsibilities of the agency.

Congratulations to the hardworking members of the Downers Grove Police Department. Thank you for your commitment to excellence in public safety services.

## Summer Injury Prevention Reminders

- Always wear a helmet when riding a bike – this includes Mom and Dad!
- Closely supervise children around all bodies of water, no matter how small the pool or container.
- Keep a watchful eye on children around fire pits. It only takes a second for them to get a serious burn by standing too close or tripping near the pit.
- Never leave a child unattended in a car, not for even a “few minutes.”
- Children from birth to 4-years old are at highest risk for heat stroke. Keep them cool during warm weather.



## Door-to-Door Solicitation Regulations



The rules for door-to-door solicitation apply to anyone that appears at your door and attempts to sell any goods or services. It also includes persons seeking monetary contributions for charitable or religious organizations, scout troops, school groups or other nonprofit groups.

All solicitors must:

- Wear their identification cards on their outer garments. The identification cards are issued by the Village and will include the individual's name, their business or organization, the purpose of their solicitation, and the expiration date for the solicitation permit.
- Honor "No Soliciting" signs when prominently displayed near the main entrance to the premises.
- Leave the premises when requested to do so.
- Indicate the purpose of their visit and not misrepresent that their purpose is other than to solicit.

Commercial solicitors selling goods or services for profit may solicit Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Non-commercial solicitors such as scout groups or school groups may solicit from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., including weekends and holidays.

The Police Department strongly advises against inviting any solicitors into your home. **If you have any concerns about a solicitor or feel they are in violation of these regulations, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 to report the incident.**

Residents interested in obtaining a "No Soliciting" sign contact Marion Heintz at (630) 434-5606 or [mheintz@downers.us](mailto:mheintz@downers.us).

## Fire Department Achieves ISO Class 1 Rating

On April 16, 2015, the Village of Downers Grove Fire Department was awarded the highest Public Protection Classification by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). **Receiving a Class 1 designation now places the fire department in the top 1% of fire departments nationwide.**

Public Protection Classifications are based on a community's fire suppression systems including, emergency communications, fire department (including operational considerations), and water supply.

ISO is a company which provides information about risk to insurance companies, fire departments and insurance regulators. Property and business owners in communities with an excellent ISO rating, like Downers Grove, benefit from lower insurance rates.



Some interesting ISO grading facts:

- Grading scale ranges from 1 through 10 (1 is best)
- 48,855 fire departments have been graded nationally
- Only 97 departments have achieved Class 1 status
- 2,413 departments have been graded in Illinois
- **The Downers Grove Fire Department is now one of only four Illinois departments with a Class 1 ISO rating.**

Congratulations to the hardworking members of the Downers Grove Fire Department for their commitment to excellence in public safety services.

# Reminders And Other News

## Summer Holiday Garbage Collection

There will be no change or interruption to garbage collection the week of June 29, as the Independence Day holiday falls on a Saturday. Labor Day is Monday, September 7, 2015. As this is also a holiday for Republic Services, please remember that if your collection day falls on or after the holiday, collection will be one day later during this week.

## 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. For tips on using outdoor water wisely, visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

## 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 Avenue. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. seven days a week. Delivery is not available.

## Book Your Block Party

What better way to celebrate summer with your friends and neighbors than with a Block Party? There are several websites that can tell you how to plan for a Block Party, including incorporating a theme, children's games and a potluck.

Downers Grove residents wishing to host a Block Party must fill out a permit request form at least three weeks in advance of the party date. Contact Public Works at (630) 434-5460 or visit the Village website at [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us) and use the search field for "Block Party."

### SAVE THESE DATES!

- **Night at the Firehouse – October 7, 2015**
- **21st Annual Fire Service Silent Parade – October 9, 2015**



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

801 Burlington Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mayor Martin T. Tully

Commissioners Robert T. Barnett, David S. Olsen,  
Greg Hosé, Gina Vattimo, William "Bill" White,  
William Waldack

Council Meetings 1st, 2nd & 3rd Tues.-7:00 p.m.  
Fire, Medical or Police Emergency 9-1-1  
Village Hall (630) 434.5500  
Communications Department (630) 434.5550  
Community Response Center (630) 434-CALL(2255)  
TDD (630) 434.5511

Village Hall Hours

Tues. 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mon. and Wed. through Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Published by the Village of Downers Grove

## Why Do I Need a Stormwater Permit?

Did you know that even a relatively small change to one's 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. Because of these reasons, the Village requires a stormwater permit for any project that:

- Disturbs more than 500 square feet of land;
- Involves a floodway or floodplain;
- Is within 100 feet of a wetland or has been identified as a Localized Poor Drainage Area (LPDA).

Other permitted work over a certain size, including all new buildings and larger additions, automatically receive a stormwater review.

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 done without a required permit, the homeowner may be required to remove or modify the alterations 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.

