

Village of Downers Grove

2007 Annual Report



Residents of Downers Grove,

The 2007 Annual Report for the Village of Downers Grove is being presented as required by the Municipal Code. Contained herein are highlights of the Village's finance and administrative activities for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007.

The Village marked the 175th Anniversary of its founding in 1832 with a yearlong celebration, which included events such as the 25th Anniversary Heritage Festival and the 2007 National Ice Carving Championship. The celebration extended into neighborhoods as a number of block parties were held in support of the Anniversary.

In May, our Village welcomed Ron Sandack who was sworn in as Mayor, along with Village Council Commissioners Bruce Beckman, Geoff Neustadt, and Sean Patrick Durkin. Together with Commissioners Marilyn Schnell, Martin Tully, and William Waldack, the new Village Council began the annual Strategic Plan process.

The Village's Strategic Plan was adopted by the Village Council in 2006 to define and prioritize the Village's goals and vision over the next 15 years. The Plan aligns the goals of the Village Council and the expectations of residents with the day-to-day activities of staff working in Village government. A major component of the 2007 process was the inaugural Citizen Summit, which sought the input of the community in aligning the Village's goals and priorities that will shape our future for the next 5, 10, and 15 years, respectively.

*"OUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT provides EXCEPTIONAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES
that are valued by our citizens and businesses.*

*We are FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE, have PASSION FOR OUR CUSTOMERS
and have an EYE ON THE FUTURE.*

*We ENGAGE OUR CITIZENS and PARTNER WITH OTHERS
to MAKE DOWNERS GROVE A GREAT COMMUNITY
in which to live and to do business."*

Under the guidance of the Strategic Plan, it has been an exciting year for the Village in many aspects, including developments taking shape in our Downtown. Residents began occupying Acadia on the Green and work began on the new Fire Station 2, the first Village facility built since the Public Works facility in 1997.

As we look beyond our 175th Anniversary, the Village is poised for an exciting future. We hope you enjoy reading this report and share in pride of the Village's 2007 accomplishments.



*Downers Grove Village Council (with term expiration, left to right):
Commissioner Geoff Neustadt (2011), Commissioner William Waldack (2009),
Commissioner Marilyn Schnell (2009), Mayor Ron Sandack (2011),
Commissioner Martin Tully (2009), Commissioner Sean Patrick Durkin (2011),
Commissioner Bruce Beckman (2011)*

Passion for Our Customers

The authors of the Strategic Plan produced an acronym by which Village interactions with customers are guided. PRIDE means:

We **P**roduce Results
 We Take **R**esponsibility
 We Act with **I**ntegrity
 We are **D**edicated
 We Always Strive for **E**xcellence

All Village employees are committed to deliver the best possible service to our customers, both internal and external to the organization.

Village Directors

Acting Village Manager Dave Fieldman
 Assistant Village Manager Mike Baker
 Village Attorney Enza Petrarca
 Village Clerk April Holden
 Communications Director Douglas Kozlowski
 Finance Director Judy Buttny
 Director of Community Development Tom Dabareiner
 Police Chief Robert Porter
 Fire Chief Phil Ruscetti
 Interim Director of Public Works Robin Weaver
 Director of Information Services Liangfu Wu
 Director of Human Resources Wesley Morgan
 Director of Counseling and Social Services Andy Matejczak
 Director of Community Events Mary Scalzetti

Village Boards and Commissions

Architectural Design Review Board
 Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
 Building Board of Appeals
 Community Events Commission
 Community Grants Commission
 Electrical Commission
 Environmental Concerns Commission
 Fire Pension Board
 Foreign Fire Fund
 Human Service Commission
 Library Board of Trustees
 Liquor Commission
 Plan Commission
 Police Pension Board
 Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee
 Technology Commission
 Transportation and Parking Commission
 Zoning Board of Appeals



Downers Grove Public Library by Patricia Mroczka

Exceptional Municipal Services

The Village employed more than 370 people who worked diligently to either directly provide or support the provision of services such as police and fire protection, water distribution, solid waste collection, streets, stormwater, emergency medical services, counseling services, planning and zoning, building inspections and community events. Throughout the year, employees from all departments demonstrated a commitment to the goals and priorities established by the Village Council.

In 2007, we welcomed new members to the management team including Human Resources Director Wesley Morgan, Finance Director Judy Buttny, Community Development Director Tom Dabariener and Interim Public Works Director Robin Weaver. Each has made a positive impact on the organization with the professional skills and leadership they have brought to the organization.

The following department highlights demonstrate the Village's commitment to our mission of providing exceptional municipal services that are valued by our citizens and businesses.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Downers Grove was named best in the nation for pedestrian and bike safety by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Excellence in the *Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge* program qualified the department to compete at the national level, earning top honors over 600 other agencies. These awards validate the importance of the Department's Public Education programs in making ours a safe community.
- A comprehensive policy review was completed in 2007 to meet new standards enacted by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Compliance keeps our accreditation status in good standing, certifying that we adhere to professional standards and complies with department procedures and policies.
- By the numbers: handled 24,482 calls for service, issued 6,229 citations and 248 D.U.I arrests, educated 6,457 children in Crime Prevention Unit safety programs and logged 6,206 patrol hours.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Maintained an average response time of 4:24
- Responded to 2,086 fire calls and 3542 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls in 2007.
- Firefighters completed a total of 34,632 hours of training in 2007 which includes EMS and Fire Training.
- The Public Education Division contacted approximately 16,031 people in 2007. This includes pre-school and grade school "Learn Not To Burn" programs, Basic Aid Training middle school programs, business in-service programs, the Kids Muster and Bike Rodeo, High School Prom Night Demonstration, high-rise drills and critiques, Fire Prevention Week Open House, Passport to Safety Day, Pluggies Pals, and Older Adult programs.



VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

- Processed 402 Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Won a bid to host the 2008 National Ice Carving Competition.
- Coordinated 175th Anniversary events (See Page 19).

COUNSELING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- Planned the appointment of four youth members to Village commissions.
- Assisted 79 families financially as the Downers Grove representative of the Salvation Army.
- Continued to provide a wide range of social services including affordable counseling, the Home Chore program and programs at Prentiss Creek Neighborhood Resource Center.
- Compiled the Senior Resource Guide.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Conducted the first *Employee Institute Training Day* and provided employment services to the 370 active employees in addition to benefit services to retired employees.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Issued 1,442 permits, conducted 4,301 inspections and processed 38 applications to the Plan Commission.
- The Department presented an amendment to the *Demolition and Site Maintenance Ordinance* which was enacted in 2004 to regulate construction sites, protect adjacent properties, and minimize the impact of construction to neighbors. Since its adoption, the number of violations at construction sites has significantly declined.

Among the amendments implemented, Village staff may issue an administrative citation with a fine of \$250.00 for each violation of the ordinance. This is in contrast to the former process of obtaining compliance through prosecution, a process that took a month or longer to complete. In addition, a stop work order may be issued if compliance is not immediately met and the fine paid. The complete ordinance can be found in Chapter 7.11.1 of the Municipal Code on the Village website, www.downers.us.

- In support of the efforts to reduce the impact of infill development, the Village also distributed the *Resident's Guide to Neighborhood Construction* which describes the process for obtaining construction/building permits, the rules that must be adhered to at the construction site and the resources available to neighbors.
- Adoption of the *Historic Preservation Ordinance* was also completed in 2007 and provides the tools to allow residents to preserve their historic homes and neighborhoods for future generations to enjoy. Before designating a property an Historic Landmark or part of an Historic District, the property owner must give his/her consent. The ordinance also established the Historic Preservation Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

- Handled 3,678 Community Response Center records
- Produced over 170 programs for DGTV Channel 6.
- The *Village Corner* was published weekly in the Downers Grove Reporter.
- Five *Hometown Times* newsletters were mailed to residents.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

- Continued to provide internal legal services to Village staff and the Village Council.

INFORMATION SERVICES

- Unveiled a new Village website in January.
- Introduced live webcasts, as well as podcasts, of Village Council meetings to the website in September.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for their 2006 *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*. The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting.
- The conversion of fiscal year accounting to coincide with the same time frame as a calendar year took effect in 2007.
- The Village awarded \$79,200 in Community Grants to area not-for-profit organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life in the community.
- The Village received \$244,579 in federal and state grants.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Installed 105,000 square feet of sidewalk, resurfaced 4.4 miles of streets and sealed another 19.7 miles of streets.
- Processed the purchase of five low-emission buses funded by a grant from PACE Suburban Bus Service. PACE contributed \$448,000 and the Village's portion was \$112,000. These buses will significantly reduce maintenance and fuel costs, as well as reduce emissions.
- The Village Forester was honored by the American Public Works Association (APWA) as *Facilities and Grounds Professional Manager of the Year*. The award recognizes leadership and excellence by those professionals serving in the public sector.
- For the 23rd consecutive year, Downers Grove was named a *Tree City USA*. Only 186 other cities in Illinois were honored with this distinction.

COLLABORATIVE DEPARTMENT SUCCESSES

- *Community Investment Program* (CIP) provides a summary of all major projects planned over the next five years, including a description and cost summary for each project and the funding source.

As a result of this long-range planning, the Brick Streets Project was substantially completed in 2007. This involved the reconstruction of Oakwood and Middaugh Avenues between Warren and Prairie Avenues, and Franklin Street between Linscott and Oakwood Avenues, utilizing the existing brick pavers. Work included replacement of sanitary sewer and services, water main and water services, storm sewers, curbs and gutters, sidewalks and driveways, brick pavements and full parkway restoration.

- *Watershed Infrastructure Improvement Plan*

Widespread flooding and damage from the heavy rains of October 2006 prompted the Village to comprehensively address deficiencies in the infrastructure and maintenance of our stormwater system. The extensive process began in February 2007 when the Village Council authorized contracts with four consultants to begin a thorough analysis of each of the Village's three primary watersheds.

The result was the *Watershed Infrastructure Improvement Plan*, which recommended solutions to problem areas of the Village and prioritized them according to severity. A series of public information meetings was held for the community to understand the impact and benefits of such a large undertaking. After much consideration, the Village Council approved the Plan in September. The estimated \$340 million needed to complete the most critical of these projects will come from a variety of sources:

- Issuance of General Obligation bonds
- A ¼ cent increase in the Home Rule Sales Tax
- A Property Tax levy and
- Pre-existing detention variance fee that is collected on certain types of building permits.

These sources will be diverted into the *Stormwater Improvement Fund* in the Village budget to support projects in the *Watershed Infrastructure Improvement Plan*. The Watershed Infrastructure Improvement Plan can be found on the Village website at www.downers.us.



Main Street Train Station by Patricia Mroczka

Fiscally Responsible

The Village of Downers Grove maintained a strong financial position in fiscal 2007.

Through the Village Council's leadership and Downers Grove's legal authority as a Home Rule unit of government, the Village has developed a diverse mix of revenue streams which has lessened the property tax burden on residents to address the financial needs of the organization.

Property taxes in the Village for 2007 were paid at a rate of \$0.38 per hundred dollars of equalized assessed evaluation (EAV). In other words, a homeowner with property with a market value of \$500,000 (and an EAV of \$167,000) paid \$632.50 in property taxes to the Village. On a monthly basis, this equates to \$52.70 per month for high quality emergency police and fire services, in addition to other primary services like snow removal and street maintenance. When compared to other regular household expenses such as electricity, natural gas or telephones, the Village's portion of the property tax bill is a significant value.

The Village's overall debt burden is a moderate 2%, calculated as a debt to valuation ratio and the Village maintained its AA+ *with a Stable Outlook* rating by Standard & Poors.

As of December 31, 2007, the Village maintained \$49,305,000 in general obligation long-term debt.

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007, the Village completed capital expenditures of \$13,367,858 across all funds. Notable capital projects in 2007 included water main replacements and the construction of Fire Station 2.

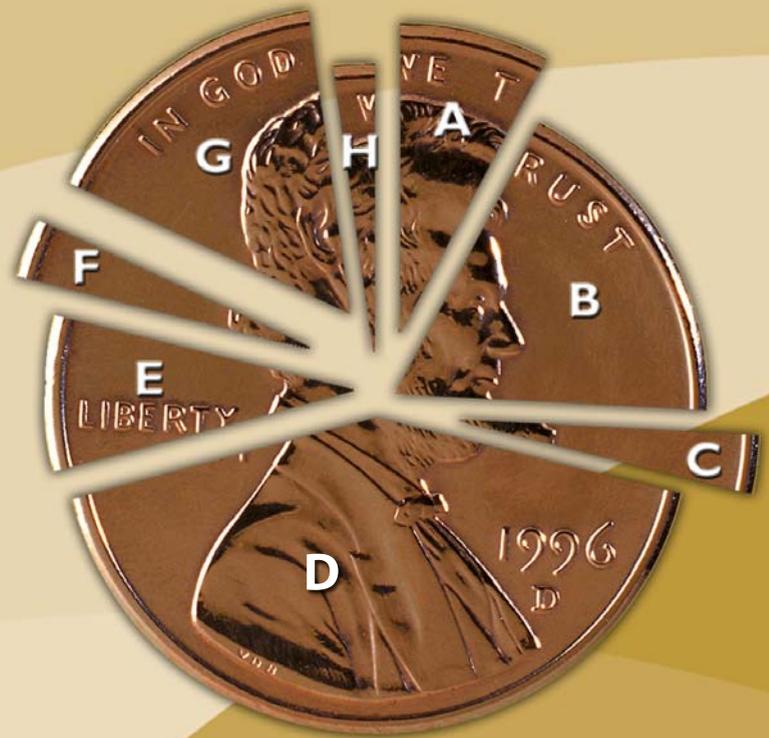
Expenses

Total

\$59,778,875

- A General Government 9%
- B Public Works 18%
- C Community Development 7%
- D Public Safety 43%
- E Community Services 5%
- F Interest and Fiscal Charges 3%
- G Waterworks 13%
- H Parking 2%

Expenses



Revenues



Revenues

Total

\$ 65,726,444

- A Property & Taxes 17%
- B Sales Taxes 28%
- C Other Taxes 19%
- D Charge for Services 24%
- E Grants and Contributions 5%
- F Miscellaneous 8%



Fisbel Park Bandsbell by Patricia Mroczka

An Eye on the Future



The health of the Village's bottom line depends on executing a solid plan to achieve stable growth. There are three resources the Village uses to guide development; the Ogden Avenue Master Plan, the Downtown Master Plan and the Strategic Plan.

One tool used to implement these plans is the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District.

A TIF District diverts a portion of the taxes paid into a special fund that is used to facilitate redevelopment and spur the economy. The Village has designated two areas as TIF Districts: Ogden Avenue and Downtown.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

In 1997, the Village Council adopted a Downtown Master Plan to manage economic growth and guide future redevelopment of land, with the goal of revitalizing the Downtown District. The plan supports the Village's vision of Downtown as a focal point of the community that offers residents an aesthetically pleasing place to live, play, shop and work.

Consistent with the Master Plan, plans for several Downtown construction projects took shape in 2007.



- **Acadia on the Green**

The first phase of this mixed-use development, bounded by Curtiss St., Burlington Ave., Main St. and Washington St., began construction in the summer of 2006 and was completed in 2007.

The overall project includes four buildings with a mix of 126 residential units and 35,000 square feet of commercial space to be leased for retail, dining, or other entertainment. All phases are expected to be complete in 2009.



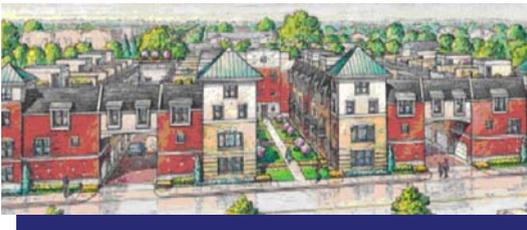
- **Charles Place**

The former site of Hart's Garage at 5151 Mochel Drive will emerge as a three-story commercial building to support a mix of retail and office space. Construction activity began in 2007.



- **4929 Forest Avenue**

Construction of these luxury condominiums is almost complete. The five-story building features 28 maintenance-free units, with 1, 2, and 3 bedroom options.



- **Downers Grove Town Homes**

Located at 922 Warren Ave. on the former site of the *Reporter* building, work began in the summer. The 46 residential units are expected to be complete near the end of 2008.

OTHER DEVELOPMENT

- **Fire Station 2**

By the end of 2007, significant work had been completed on the new firehouse on the northwest corner of 55th St. and Main St. The Village celebrated the grand opening of the new station on June 21, 2008 which was completed on time and under budget.



The modern facility will benefit everyone with centralized administrative operations and improved response times and equipment coverage to a greater portion of the Village.

- **Residences at the Grove**

Ground was broken in November for this multi-family rental community on the northwest corner of Butterfield Rd. and 355. The project consists of 270 apartments and 24 town homes.

- **Sara Lee Corporation**

Construction began on a multi-million dollar, 150,000 square foot research and development campus called the *Kitchens of Sara Lee* on the site of the company's corporate headquarters in Downers Grove.

- **Highland Landmark V**

This will be the fifth and final building in the Highland Landmark Office Park at I-88 and Highland Avenue. When completed, the eight story multi-tenant office building will have 251,275 square feet of Class A office space.

- **Good Samaritan Hospital**

A new 50,000 square foot ultra-modern surgical pavilion was unveiled in September 2007. This unit boasts the latest in surgical technology designed to ensure an exceptional patient experience.



Artwork by Patricia Mroccka

Engage Our Citizens and Partner with Others —

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF TRADITION AND PROGRESS

A number of activities to mark the Village's 175th Anniversary took place in 2007.

- *Let's Get the Party Started* was the theme for the Ice Sculpture Festival in February, and served as a kick-off for the Anniversary year's events. For the first time, the National Ice Carving Championships were held in Downers Grove as part of the festival.
- Residents were encouraged to *Plant Some Roots* and sponsor one of the 175 trees planted by the Village to commemorate the Anniversary. An historical fact about Downers Grove was displayed on a plaque by each tree, encouraging the community to learn about their history.
- The 25th Anniversary Heritage Festival featured a host of nationally known acts as well as a *Stage of History* to tell the Downers Grove story.
- Downers Grove natives were welcomed back to take part in the July 4th Parade. Lanny "The Genius" Poffo of World Wrestling Federation fame, kicked off the parade from atop a fire truck with one of his famous poems prepared especially for Downers Grove. Olympic gold medal winner Cammi Granato also came home.
- In 2007, 114 neighborhoods hosted a Block Party, which included a kit containing Anniversary themed party supplies, provided by the Village.

Blodgett House Concert

The Village partnered with the community in an effort to help relocate and restore the historical Israel Blodgett home, once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

In association with the 25th Anniversary Heritage Festival, nationally known alt-rock band The Gin Blossoms performed on Thursday night, June 21, for a crowd of 3,000 ticket holders in a special concert at the Beer Garden stage. Proceeds of the show were donated to the *1846 Blodgett House On the Move*, an organization founded to save this historic house and create a museum focusing on the Underground Railroad.



Pedestrian Walkway to Parking Deck by Patricia Mroczka

Make Downers Grove a Great Community

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Are you shopping around?

Visit Downers Grove and we'll win you over with a combination of superior services, architectural diversity, convenient amenities, and a great location. You'll love the hometown feel of our historic downtown (named one of the region's "TEN BEST" by the Chicago Tribune), and enjoy the benefits of a community that effectively balances economic growth, while maintaining its heritage.

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AT-A-GLANCE

Founded: 1832 by Pierce Downer

Location: 22 miles west of Chicago

Incorporation: 1873

Population: 50,000

County: DuPage

Township(s): Downers Grove, York, Lisle, Milton

Form of Government: Council/Manager

Elected: Mayor and 6 Commissioners

Appointed: Village Manager

Home Rule Authority: Yes

Sales Tax Rate: 7.25 %

Property Tax Rate: .38

Village Website: www.downers.us

Library: Downers Grove Public Library www.downersgrovelibrary.org

Hospital: Advocate Good Samaritan www.advocatehealth.com/gsam

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Median Age: 39

Total Households: 18,968

Household Median Income: \$65,539

Family Median Income: \$80,604

HOUSING

Total Housing Units: 19,540

Occupied Units: 19,304

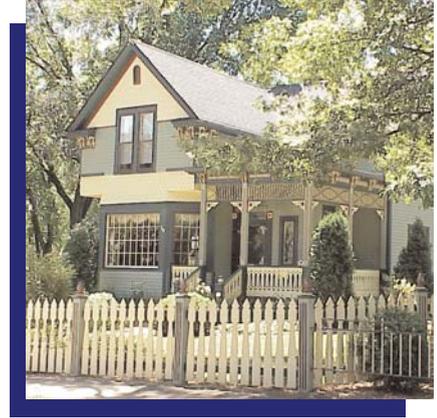
Owner Occupied: 14,869

Renter Occupied: 4,435

2006 Average Sale Price

(for all types of housing): \$364,670

Total Senior Housing Units: 1,052



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District 58 serves students in grades K-8 living in Downers Grove and portions of Oak Brook, Westmont, and Woodridge.

11 elementary schools, 2 middle schools

Enrollment: 5,110

Website: www.dg58.dupage.k12.il.us

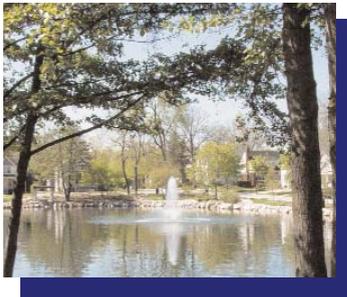
District 99 has two high schools serving students in Downers Grove, Woodridge, and parts of Bolingbrook, Darien, Lisle, Oak Brook, Westmont, and unincorporated portions of DuPage County.

Enrollment: 5,504

Average ACT Composite score: 22.4

Graduation rate: 91%

Website: www.csd99.k12.il.us



PARKS AND RECREATION

Downers Grove Park District

Website: www.dgparks.org

49 parks, 600 acres

The Recreation and Fitness Center offers services and programs to promote healthy lifestyles and enhance body and mind. Amenities include open gyms, multi-purpose rooms for classes, free weights and cardio equipment, and an indoor track.

The Lyman Woods Interpretive Center acts as a gateway to 150 acres of natural area. After a visit to the Center, explore the beauty of Lyman Woods, home to an oak/hickory forest, frogs, deer, insects, and other natural wonders.

UTILITIES

Electricity: ComEd www.exeloncorp.com

Natural Gas: Nicor www.nicor.com

Local Phone Service: AT&T www.att.com, Comcast www.comcast.com

Water Source: DuPage Water Commission www.dpwc.org (Lake Michigan) and some private wells (unincorporated areas)

Refuse/Recycling: ARC Disposal

Cable: Comcast www.comcast.com

Sanitary Sewers: Downers Grove Sanitary District www.dgsd.org

TRANSPORTATION



Airports:
 O'Hare International - 22 miles
 Midway International - 18 miles
 DuPage Airport - 25 miles

Driving: Downers Grove is located close to several interstates, offering convenient access to Chicago and other popular destinations: I-88, I-355 (5 interchanges), I-294, I-55, I-290, and Illinois Routes 34, 56, 53, and 83.

Parking Deck: A 792-space parking deck located at 945 Curtiss offers parking for shoppers and commuters in the heart of downtown, easing on-street parking congestion.

Public Rail: METRA rail service connects Downers Grove to Chicago and the far western suburbs with three stations located at Belmont Road, Main Street, and Fairview Avenue. www.metrarail.com

Bus Service: PACE Suburban Bus Service www.pacebus.com

The Grove Commuter Shuttle, operated by the Village, provides service to the Main Street Train Station during the morning and evening rush hours.





BUSINESS

Downers Grove has 12 business districts with distinct characteristics, including two industrial parks. One is sure to be the perfect fit for your next business move or the right shopping destination for your needs. Visit the Planning and Community Development website for complete information about each district.

Competitive Initiatives: Yes

Industrial Revenue Bonds: Yes

Tax Increment Financing Districts: 2

Special Service Areas: 3

Major Employers:

Good Samaritan Hospital (2,500), GCA Services (1,500), Midwestern University (1,000), Acxiom Corporation (700), Wackenhut Corporation (650), Donnelley & Sons Company (600), FTD Incorporated (500), Tricon Industries, Inc. (500), Sara Lee (1400)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Annual Events in

Downers Grove:

February: Ice Sculpture Festival and National Carving Competition

June: Heritage Festival

July: July 4 Parade and Fireworks/Bike and Buggy Parade

August: USPRO Cycling Championships

September: Fine Arts Festival

November: Hospitality Day and Tree Lighting



