

insideDG

2019

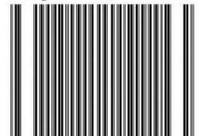
YEAR IN REVIEW

CARING FOR TREES

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DOWNTOWN

DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY

Village of Downers Grove



0 92382 10590 3

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ON THE COVER

*A 150 year-old cottonwood tree stands on Rogers Street.
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Planning for the future of the Downtown*

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Village Council



**Mayor
Robert Barnett**



**Commissioner
Greg Hosé**



**Commissioner
Margaret
"Marge" Earl**



**Commissioner
Nicole Walus**



**Commissioner
Leslie Sadowski-Fugitt**



**Commissioner
Rich Kulovany**



**Commissioner
Cavanaugh Gray**



VILLAGE MANAGER

David Fieldman

DEPUTY VILLAGE MANAGER

Michael Baker

VILLAGE ATTORNEY

Enza Petrarca

VILLAGE CLERK

Megan Miles

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Douglas Kozlowski

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Judy Buttny

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR

Stan Popovich

POLICE CHIEF

Shanon Gillette

FIRE CHIEF

Jeffrey Pindelski

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Andy Sikich

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Dennis Burke

INFORMATION SERVICES

DIRECTOR

Dave Kenny

PUBLISHED BY:

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

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Downers Grove, IL 60515

(630) 434-5500

The 2019 Year in Review highlights the key accomplishments and significant measurable results of the past year. The achievements featured support the following goals of the Long-Range Plan:

- Steward of Financial, Environmental and Neighborhood Sustainability
- Exceptional Municipal Services
- Top Quality Infrastructure
- Strong, Diverse Local Economy
- Continual Innovation

The Village achieved significant results consistent with these goals. The many accomplishments of 2019 include:

- Facilitated transition of new Mayor and three new Commissioners.
- Approved FY2020 Budget with a Balanced General Fund.
- Strengthened Regulations Protecting Parkway Trees.
- Completed the *Plan For the Future of the Downtown*.
- Invested over \$17 million in Street, Sidewalk, Water and Stormwater System Improvements.

The successes of 2019 are the direct result of input and participation by the citizens of Downers Grove, effective Village Council leadership, and cooperative interactions among professional staff members in all departments.

Sincerely,



David Fieldman

Village Manager

AWARDS YOU CAN COUNT ON

The Village of Downers Grove consistently demonstrates financial excellence. In 2019, the Village earned a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 7th straight year as well as an Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the 18th straight year.

DOWNERS GROVE The Standard in Financial Excellence



Village Council Transition

The 2019 election resulted in a new Mayor and three new Commissioners.

Newly elected members of the Downers Grove Village Council were sworn into office on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Judge Ann Celine Walsh presided.

- Mayor Bob Barnett
- Commissioner Nicole Walus
- Commissioner Rich Kulovany
- Commissioner Leslie Sadowski-Fugitt
- Commissioner Cavanaugh Gray
(sworn in June 18, 2019)



The Village also recognized those leaving the Village Council and thanked them for their time and dedicated service to making Downers Grove the outstanding community that it is.

- Mayor Martin Tully, 2011-2019
- Commissioner William Waldack, 2015-2019
- Commissioner Bill White, 2015-2019

Caring For Trees

A Long Time Friend

The large tree featured on the cover is located in the Rogers Street parkway east of Highland Avenue. This well-known cottonwood has stood watch over the neighborhood for 150 years and even witnessed the construction of the Tivoli Theater in 1928.

An assessment of the tree was completed and presented options that included significant pruning or removal. After carefully evaluating these options, the Village chose to prune the tree and monitor its condition. This course of action enhances public safety and also protects and maintains the character of the neighborhood.

Preserving and increasing the number, health, and value of parkway trees is a major focus of the Village's approach to urban forestry.



TREE CITY USA®

Tree Protection

Recently, some activities at construction sites were not in the best interest of the parkway trees nearby. The Village strengthened the Tree Ordinance to provide greater protection to parkway trees during construction, including increased fines and a required pre-demolition meeting at the construction site to discuss issues that may affect the parkway trees.

As part of the building plan review, the Village identifies parkway trees within a construction site and makes recommendations to protect the trees from damage. Builders are required to address any conflict issues identified, prior to a building permit being issued.

Downers Grove has been a TREE CITY USA since 1984. To see the complete inventory of the more than 23,000 parkway trees maintained by the Village, visit the Village Trees interactive map at downers.us.

Long-Range Plan 2019-2021

The Long-Range Plan 2019-2021 (LRP) reflects the policy direction of the Village Council. The LRP establishes the goals and priority actions that guide annual budgets, daily operations and service delivery.



The LRP was developed over the course of seven public meetings from August through October, 2019. It is one of many strong management practices that led *S&P Global* to grant the Village their highest bond rating of AAA.

Priority Action Items

The following Long-Range Plan Priority Action Items will serve as the work plan from September 2019 to April 2021.



- Create a Village Facilities Replacement & Sustainability Plan.
- Create a Plan for the Future of the Downtown.
- Develop and Implement a Downtown Parking Plan.
- Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Plan Near High Schools.
- Create a Stormwater Capital Projects Plan.
- Expand the Human Service Ad Hoc Committee Report.
- Consider Regulations and Taxes on Recreational Marijuana.
- Replace the Enterprise Resource Planning System.

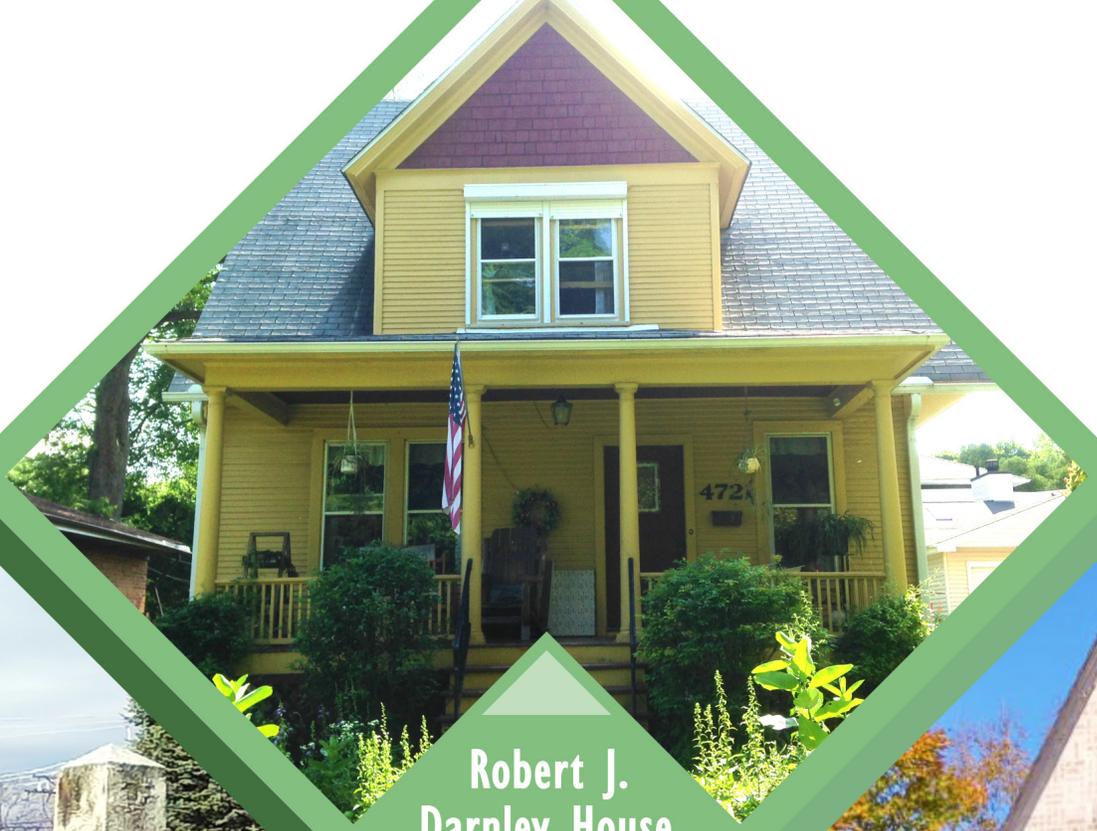


One of the GREENEST FLEETS Around



For the past 7 years, the Village of Downers Grove has consistently won awards for having one of the **Top 50** Greenest Government Fleets in all of North America. Considering there are nearly 38,000 qualifying fleets, Downers Grove has set a benchmark for municipal fleets.





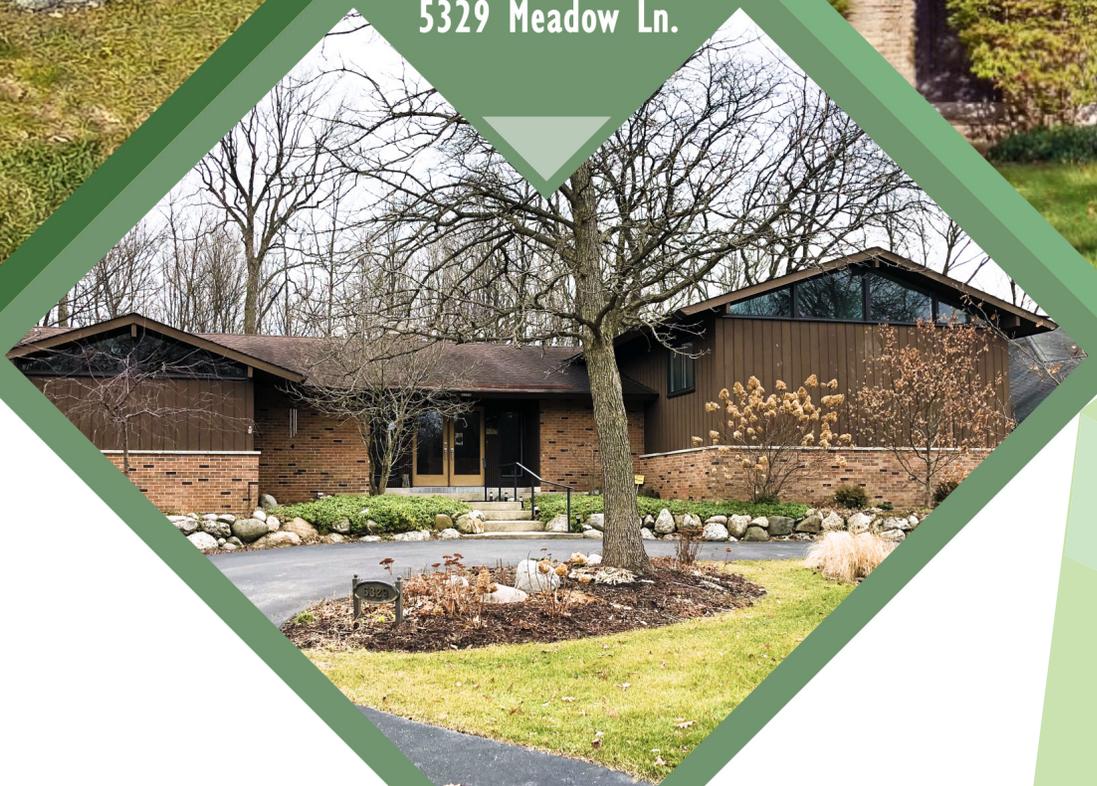
**Robert J.
Darnley House**
4721 Highland Ave.



**Main Street
Cemetery**

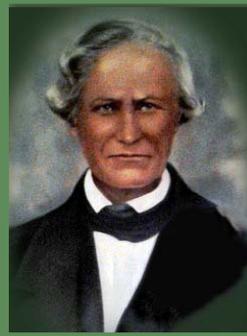


**H.M. Patton
House**
5 Jacqueline Dr.



Mochel House
5329 Meadow Ln.

SAVING PLACES



Preserving Downers Grove properties as historic landmarks is easier than ever. Cooperation between property owners, the Village, Friends of the Edwards House and the Downers Grove Historical Society, resulted in 4 landmarked properties in 2019, bringing the total in the Village to 28.

Pierce Downer would be proud.

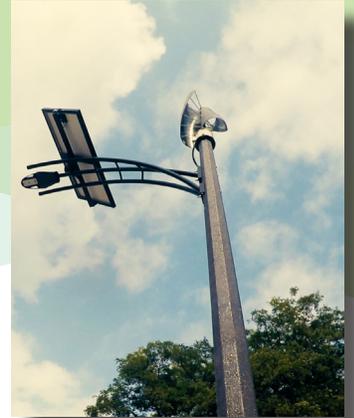
Residential Solar Panels

Thinking about going solar? We can't bottle the sunshine for you, but the Village has made it easy to install solar panels on your property.

The use of solar power has increased in the Village. There are 32 solar arrays in use throughout town on a variety of residential, commercial and municipal properties.

In 2008, the Village installed residential hybrid street lights in Prentiss Creek, the first of its kind in the nation. And in 2011, nine solar furnaces were installed in Village buildings. These buildings have been using more sunlight than natural gas for nearly a decade.

To get your solar project seeing the light of day, please contact the Community Development Department at 630.434.5515.



COMMUNITY



Diverted ONE TON from landfills!

SHARING CONNECTIONS
we furnish hope



Our partnership with the community allows employees of the Village VOICE Committee to

GIVE BACK!

Midwest Shelter For Homeless Veterans
District 58 School Supply Drive
Salvation Army Angel Tree Program
Recycling Holiday Lights
Coat Drive
Blood Drives



WINTER COAT DRIVE

Collected **314** coats for those in need.

Exceptional Services Begin With A Balanced Budget

The Municipal Budget aligns everyday operations and Village resources with the community priorities outlined in the Long-Range Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. Each year the budget is reviewed and discussed over multiple meetings in a participative process to allow for dialogue between community members, the Village Council and staff.

In FY2019, the Village held expenses at the budgeted amount of \$48.2 million. In addition, the estimated year-end revenue came in 1% higher than budgeted.

Overall sound fiscal practices resulted in:

- Renewal of the AAA bond rating allowing the Village to borrow funds at the lowest cost possible for more infrastructure projects.
- Successful independent financial audit.
- Receipt of over \$900,000 in grants.
- Awards by Government Finance Officers Association for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Municipal Budget.



In keeping with the Village's commitment to good financial stewardship, the FY2020 General Fund is balanced with revenues and expenses matched at \$49.6 million. The General Fund includes funding for the majority of Village services.



Discover everything there is to see and do in Downers Grove, including the shops and restaurants in our vibrant downtown.

With seven hotels to choose from, we have accommodations and meeting space to fit your group or event.

Downers Grove is located in the heart of DuPage County at the intersection of I-355 and I-88, 20 miles west of the city of Chicago with easy access to Metra train service and O'Hare and Midway airports.

Downers Grove
Visitors Bureau
630.729.0380
visitdg.com

Discover Downers Grove



DoubleTree Suites
2111 Butterfield Rd.
630.971.2000

Marriott Suites
1500 Opus Pl.
630.852.1500

InTown Suites
2540 Ogden Ave.
630.241.4754

Comfort Inn
3010 Finley Rd.
630.515.1500

Red Roof Inn
1113 Butterfield Rd
630.963.4205

Holiday Inn Express
3031 Finley Rd.
630.810.9500

Extended Stay America
3150 Finley Rd.
630.810.4124

Plan For the Future of the Downtown

Today, Downtown Downers Grove is a vibrant community centerpiece enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. It's the authentic heart of the Village that has been continually evolving for over 185 years.

Like many suburban town centers in the 70's and 80's, changing patterns led people and money to other places. So in 1997 the Village changed the course of the downtown by creating a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District and Special Service Area (SSA) to improve infrastructure and encourage private investment.

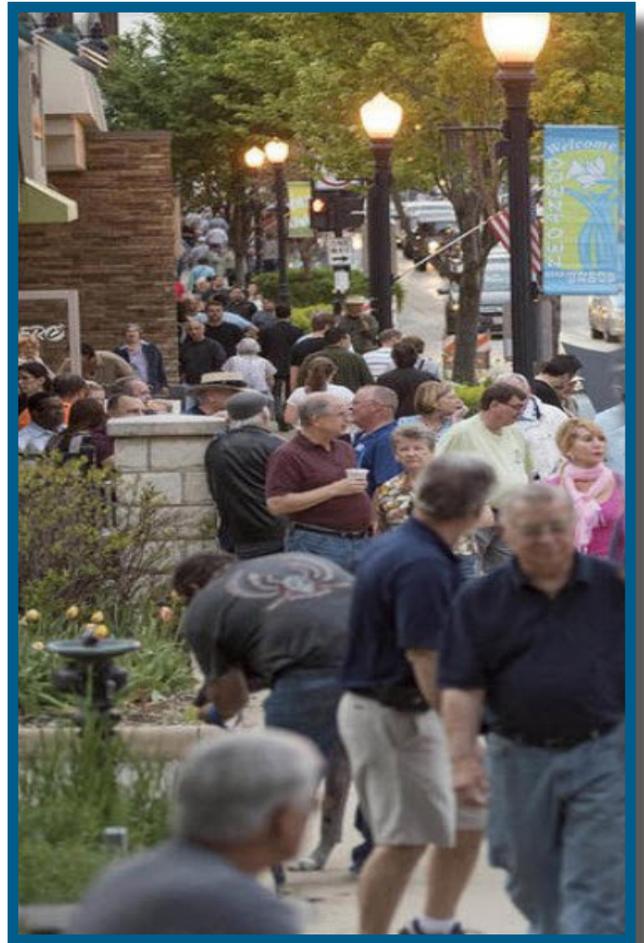
With the adoption of the TIF and SSA, the Downtown experienced significant reinvestment and growth. In the last 20 years, commercial space has grown by 69%, residential units by 89% and downtown property values have grown by over 300%.

The TIF was used to fund public infrastructure improvements and the SSA supports the operating budget of the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC). DMC is a liaison to downtown property and business owners and operates the Friday Night Car Shows, Fine Arts Festival, Gingerbread Festival and the Ice Sculpture Festival. When the TIF and SSA expire in 2020, there will be ongoing infrastructure costs and service-related needs, without funds available to support them.



To address key issues related to the expiration of the TIF and SSA the Village, together with the DMC Board and membership, developed a plan to ensure ongoing investment in the Downtown. The Village will create a new SSA to fund DMC operations and keep the momentum going with events, beautification and landscaping enhancements.

In the coming year, the Village will work to revise the operating agreement with DMC and prepare to implement the SSA. The future of Downtown Downers Grove is bright and will continue to attract new business and development.



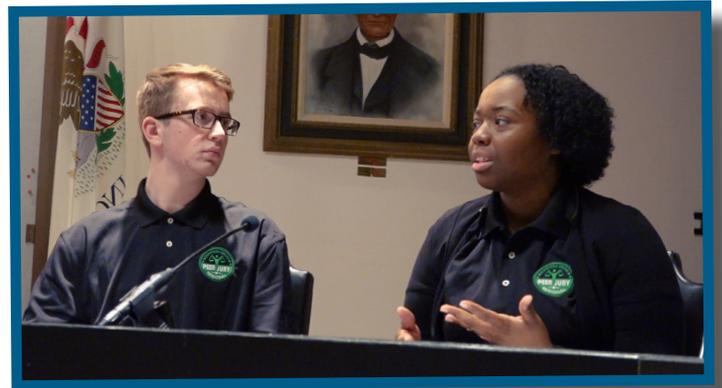
Peer Jury Success



The Village began operating a new regional peer jury program to offer first-time juvenile offenders an alternative to court for non-serious offenses like theft, vandalism and disorderly conduct. This cooperative effort includes Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Oak Brook and Willowbrook.

Peer Juries provide a means for young offenders to account for their behavior to a group of peers and repair any harm caused to victims and the surrounding community. They do not determine guilt or innocence.

Peer Jurors attempt to understand why the person committed the offense and then determine the consequences needed to help them be accountable and further develop into an upstanding member of the community.



Downers Grove and the participating municipalities established an operating plan and objectives for a six month test period. A rotating jury pool comprised of students from 8 area high schools processed a total of 22 cases. As a result of the successful test period, the Downers Grove Regional Peer Jury program will continue.



Downtown Parking Study

Downtown Downers Grove is a charming and authentic community centerpiece. With a mix of retail, service, office, civic, religious and residential uses, the area is bustling like never before. Balancing these different uses with parking has always been a challenge.

Recognizing that public parking is a key component to a desirable Downtown, the Village identified *Develop and Implement a Downtown Parking Plan* as a Priority Action Item in the Long-Range Plan.



To tackle the parking challenge, the Village worked with a consultant to analyze the impacts on downtown parking from three recently constructed residential properties, as well as new businesses. Extensive data was collected through an online survey, site visits, and one-on-one discussions with residents, visitors, Downtown employees, Downtown business owners and commuters. Parking system counts, observations, analysis and recommendations were also completed.

Here are the key findings of the parking study:

- 25% of parking spaces were available during peak hour demand. (12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.).
- The amount of available spaces increased to 46% at 4:00 p.m.
- On-street parking occupancy increased since 2011 by 4.9% and off-street parking decreased by 6.5%.
- There is a slight parking surplus for residents at Maple & Main Apartments, and minor deficits for resident parking at *Burlington Station* and *Marquis on Maple*.



In early 2020, the findings and recommendations will be presented to the Transportation & Parking Commission (TAP) and Downtown Management Corporation (DMC).

PROTECTING THE PROTECTORS

JACOBS



BULLETPROOF VESTS

In 2019, the Village of Downers Grove received a federal grant of \$6,075 for the purchase of bulletproof vests.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Corporate Headquarters

Downers Grove's proximity to Chicago and easy access to major expressways and transportation make it an ideal place to locate a corporate headquarters. In the last year, the Village welcomed eight new companies.



Provides fiber optics and structured cabling service for data centers.
Ellsworth Business Park,
5151 Thatcher



Distributor of compressed air systems and other components.
Ellsworth Business Park, 5235 Katrine



Biotechnologies company.
2001 Butterfield Rd.



One Home Health
3250 Butterfield Rd.



3500 Lacey Rd.



Carey|Ebanks
Environmental Group, LLC
MBE / WBE / DBE

1901 Butterfield Rd.



Provider of communications infrastructure.
1901 Butterfield Rd.

Set Your Sites on Downers Grove



Downers Grove is a premier location for corporate and regional headquarters.

Several Fortune 500 companies have offices in Downers Grove including:

**Advocate Health Care, Dover Corporation, Flavorchem Corporation,
Glanbia Performance Nutrition, Inc., HAVI Global Solutions LLC,
NEC Display Solutions, and United Healthcare**

In addition to Class A office space, there are retail and industrial facilities to meet the needs of every tenant.
This includes Bridge Point, a new 680,000 sq. ft. industrial/office project.

- Downers Grove is located in the heart of the I-88 and I-355 corridors, 22 miles west of Chicago
- O'Hare International Airport, Midway Airport and Chicago's Loop are all less than 30 minutes away
- Downers Grove has three Metra stations offering commuter rail service to Union Station in Chicago



Rexnord Aerospace Groundbreaking

Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation
5159 Mochel, Downers Grove, IL 60515
630.729.0380 www.dgedc.com info@dgedc.com



What's New?

Restaurants



5130 Main St.



1332 75th St.



2241 Maple Ave.



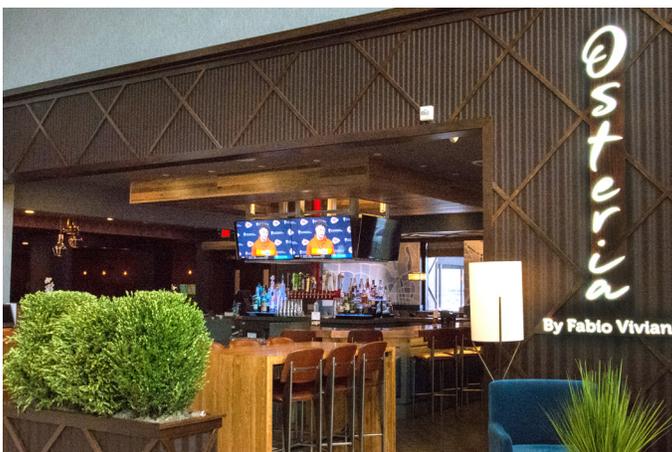
1801 Butterfield Rd.



5600 Belmont Rd.



New location in lobby of
DoubleTree Suites
2111 Butterfield Rd.



Osteria by Fabio Viviani
Inside DoubleTree Suites
2111 Butterfield Rd.



980 W. 75th St.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Retail



Napleton Aston Martin Maserati
217 Ogden Ave.



1434 Butterfield Rd.



7315 Lemont Rd.



1508 Butterfield Rd.



Shine Pediatric Dentistry
950 Ogden Ave.



\$6.8 Million
Water Systems

2019
INFRASTRUCTURE



\$5.1 Million
Stormwater System



\$5.9 Million
Streets & Sidewalks



Top quality infrastructure in the Village is a high priority.

The Village invested over

\$17 million

in infrastructure improvements in 2019.

These projects included improvements to the

Streets & Sidewalks

***Water* and**

***Stormwater* systems.**

Continual Innovation

The Village carefully considers the benefits of innovative practices to ensure success and value to the organization.

Continual innovation leads to increased value of each dollar of investment in Village operations. It is achieved by emphasizing a leadership philosophy that is issue-focused and builds on the skills and talents of all employees within the organization.

Risk Management Savings

The Village saw a \$462,000 decrease in workers compensation costs due to better claims experience and safety in the workplace training. The number and cost of workers compensation cases was reduced by 50%, compared to 2018.



Cost Saving Transition to Wireless Fire Alarms

The Village has completed converting fire alarm monitoring to an all wireless system. The transition will save local businesses \$1,000 annually by eliminating monthly fees for “old school” hardwired telephone alarms. The system is compatible with many alarm products, giving businesses the flexibility to use the fire alarm company of their choice.



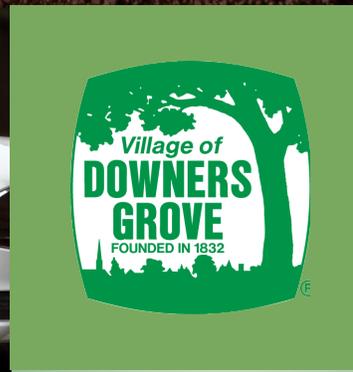
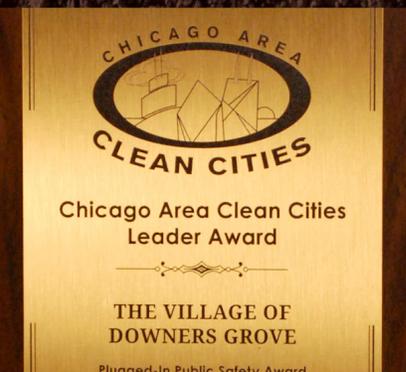
Fire alarm monitoring is a safety feature required by the Village to reduce the risk of loss of life and property. The 903 fire alarms in the system are monitored by the emergency dispatch center. The new system is also more reliable and reduces costly false alarms.

The Village will save \$8,000 per year with the conversion to wireless fire alarm monitoring.

Our Carbon Footprint Just Got Smaller



In 2019, the Village replaced two 14mpg police cars with 75mpg hybrids. The continued commitment to a green fleet was recognized with a 2019 Clean Cities Leadership Award for reducing petroleum consumption and improving air quality locally.



Sharing Our Knowledge

Village Manager Dave Fieldman

- *DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC)*
Board of Directors and Committee Chair
- *DuPage Public Safety Communications (DU-COMM)*
Board of Directors
- *DuPage Justice Information System Project Oversight Board*
Co-Chair
- *DU-COMM Fire Funding Formula Task Force*
Facilitator
- *Ad Hoc DuPage County Field Court Transition Negotiation Team*
Facilitator



Village Attorney Enza Petrarca

- *DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC)*
Legislative Committee and Regulatory Committee
- *Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association*
Board of Directors, Chair of Professional Development Committee
- *Ad Hoc DuPage County Field Court Transition Negotiation Team*
Member

Building Division Manager Kevin Walsh

- *Will County Habitat for Humanity*, Board of Directors

Fire Chief Jeffrey Pindelski

- *Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 16*, President
- *Good Samaritan Emergency Medical System Chiefs Committee*
Chair

Police Chief Shanon Gillette

- *Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police*
Education and Programs Committee
- *DuPage Chiefs of Police Association*
Liaison to the DuPage County 100 Club
- *Local Emergency Planning Committee*
Law Enforcement Representative



Deputy Police Chief James McGreal

- *DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group (DUMEG)*
Policy Board Member

Detective Sergeant Jeremy Thayer

- *Metropolitan Emergency Response & Investigations Team (MERIT)*
Major Crimes Unit Commander
- *DuPage County Fire Investigation Task Force*
Assistant Commander

Officer Samantha Glynn

- *DuPage County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Association*
Vice President

Stormwater Administrator Julie Lomax, PE, CFM

- *Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM) CRS (Community Rating System) Chair*

Public Works Director Nan Newlon

- *College of DuPage Public Service Institute Steering Committee*
Chair
- *Illinois Municipal League Public Works Committee, Chair*
- *Northern Illinois University, Board of Advisors*

Stormwater Management Recognition

The Village of Downers Grove was recognized for *Excellence in Stormwater Management* by the Illinois Association for Floodplain & Stormwater Management (IAFSM).



The Village has been a proactive leader in Stormwater Management since the 1970s. Highlights from this decades-long commitment include:

- Reducing the frequency and severity of flooding by constructing 78 stormwater capital improvement projects at a cost of \$38 million over the past 10 years.
- Strengthening stormwater regulations in 2018 to reduce the negative impacts of runoff caused by development activity.
- Regulating local poor drainage areas in a manner similar to federally mapped floodplains.
- Implementing a stormwater utility in 2013 resulting in an equitable method to collect revenue based on a property's impact to the stormwater system.
- Purchasing and demolishing qualifying houses built in floodplains and poor drainage areas.



Mayor Tully and Public Works Director Nan Newlon were presented the award by Sarah Hunn, IAFSM Board Member and Deputy Director of DuPage County Stormwater Management at the March 19, 2019, Village Council meeting.

“While we certainly have more work to do in this area, it is gratifying to know that outside organizations recognize the significant strides the Village has made over the years in terms of creatively addressing and funding meaningful solutions to chronic stormwater challenges facing our community.”

Mayor Tully said.

American Heart Association “Mission: Lifeline” Gold Plus Status

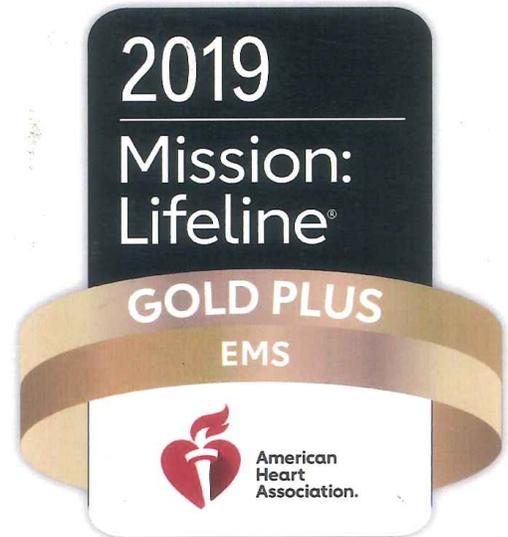
2019 Mission: Lifeline® EMS Recognition

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes

Downers Grove Fire Department Downers Grove, IL

Mission: Lifeline®-EMS – GOLD PLUS
Achievement Award – EMS Agency

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognizes this EMS provider organization for demonstrating continued success in using the **Mission Lifeline®** program. Thank you for applying the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes in the community you serve.*



Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association

Lee Schwamm, MD, FAHA
Chairperson, Quality Oversight Committee

Ivor Benjamin, MD
President American Heart Association



Mission: Lifeline is an American Heart Association coordinated, proactive system of care that turns first responders, hospitals and other healthcare providers into a team that uses proven guidelines and best practices to treat patients suffering from acute coronary syndrome, including heart attacks. The goal: help save lives and improve patient outcomes, from symptom onset all the way through cardiac rehabilitation.

In order to achieve Gold Plus 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 patients having a heart attack should have a 90-minute EMS to balloon time, which is the time period from when responders arrive to when the patient receives definitive treatment at the hospital. The team must meet that benchmark a certain percentage of the time to qualify and maintain Gold Plus Status.



CONNECT
WITH US



630.434.5500
downers.us

OUR COMMUNITY



GET IN THE KNOW

with the
**Community-Wide
Notification System**

*Receive important messages
from the Village!*



**Create Your Profile at
downers.us**