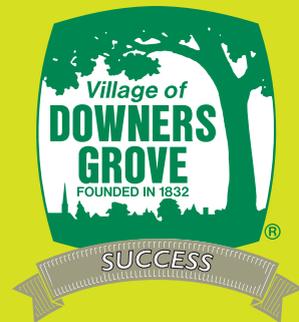


Village of Downers Grove

2015 Annual Report



VILLAGE MANAGER'S MESSAGE

The 2015 Annual Report 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

In 2015, the Village continued its exceptional performance during a time of transition of the Village Council and financial uncertainty brought on by the State budget crisis. The anticipation of and response to the State budget crisis allowed the Village to continue to provide desired services while positioning the Village for continued financial sustainability. The Long-Range Planning process resulted in clear policy direction from the Village Council.

The successes of 2015 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Fieldman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Fieldman" clearly distinguishable.

David Fieldman
Village Manager



*Mayor
Martin T. Tully*



*Commissioner
Robert T. Barnett*



*Commissioner
David S. Olsen*



*Commissioner
Greg Hosé*



*Commissioner
Gina Vattimo*



*Commissioner
William "Bill" White*



*Commissioner
William Waldack*

Village Manager

David Fieldman

Directors

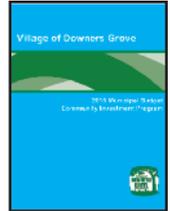
Deputy Village Manager Michael Baker, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, Village Clerk April Holden, Communications Director Douglas Kozlowski, Finance Director Judy Buttny, Community Development Director Stan Popovich, Police Chief Kurt Bluder, Fire Chief James G. Jackson, Sr., Director of Public Works Naneil Newlon, Emergency Management Coordinator Mary Pratt, Risk Manager Chanay Mackey, Acting Director of Business Technology Bill Herman, Director of Human Resources Dennis Burke

I. STEWARD OF FINANCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Positioned for Continued Financial Sustainability

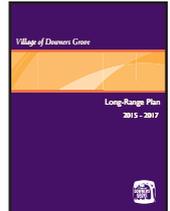
In FY15, the Village added \$1.2 million to the fund balance by controlling expenses amid moderate growth in revenues. Keeping the Village aligned with the Standard & Poor's guideline of maintaining a fund balance of 38% of annual expenses and assisting the Village reaffirm its AAA bond rating.

Over \$700,000 in expense reductions were realized by filling only essential staff vacancies and deferring all but the most essential purchases.



2015 to 2017 Long-Range Plan

Within the first 100 days of being seated the new Village Council held four long-range planning meetings to provide policy direction on key issues. The plan outlines issues the Village is likely to face over the next few years and includes strategies and solutions to address those issues.



Preserving Historic Structures Made Easy

The Village Council established the Architectural Design Review Board (ADRB) Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Historic Preservation in July to work with the existing ADRB members and increase the number of properties designated as historic landmarks and districts.

Meetings were held twice a month from August to October and recommendations were provided to Council less than 90 days after the group was formed. The final report was approved in November.

The following changes were implemented to make the preservation of historic structures easier than ever:

- Simplified nomination standards
- Allows for contiguous and thematic historic districts
- Simplified application process
- Elimination of application fees



Craftsman Bungalow



Queen Anne Style



Victorian Style

Re-Affirmed AAA Bond Rating

The Village continues to benefit from the AAA bond rating issued by Standard & Poor's. This is the agency's highest rating. Standard & Poor's acknowledged the efforts of the Village's Long Range Plan and exceptional management practices as contributing factors for the AAA rating. All Downers Grove residents and businesses benefit as the Village has the ability to refinance bonds at a lower cost.



Refunded the 2008 Stormwater Bond Issuance

- Saved \$520,000 on the refunding of 2008 Stormwater Bonds

Partnership For Public Improvements with Downers Grove Park District



Both the Village and Park District perform maintenance (patching, resurfacing, crack sealing, etc.) and reconstruction of roadways and other paved public improvements (parking lots and paths). Working together achieves the following:

- Reduced Cost for Park District Paving Projects
- Reduced Cost of Government for Village and Park District Shared Constituency.

Obtained \$1.8 Million in Grants

The Village has made it a priority to seek grant funding for capital projects. A few of the significant grants received in 2015 include:

- **Metra Commuter Parking Facility Improvement Grant \$900,000**
These funds were used for the reconstruction of Commuter Parking Lot H at the Belmont Road Train Station.
- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant \$530,000**
Funds are designated for the acquisition of properties in flood prone areas of the Village.
- **Department of Justice Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds \$290,000**
- **Multiple agencies = \$75,000 for Public Safety Programs**
- **Illinois Department of Transportation \$30,000**
These funds are designated for traffic safety improvements.



II. EXCEPTIONAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Fire Department Top 1%

The Fire Department was awarded the highest Public Protection Classification by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). Receiving a Class I designation now places the Fire Department in the top 1% of fire departments nationwide.



A community's Public Protection Classification is based on the three main areas of a community's fire suppression system: emergency communications, fire department (including operational considerations), and water supply. In addition, it includes a Community Risk Reduction section that recognizes community efforts to reduce losses through fire prevention, public fire safety education, and fire investigation.

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 I through 10 (I is best)
- 48,855 fire departments have been graded nationally
- Only 97 departments have achieved Class I 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 I ISO rating.**

Police Department Top 1%

The 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.

Public Safety Training in Partnership with Midwestern University

The Fire and Police Departments completed four weeks of intense training at Midwestern University. The University generously donated five, three-story dormitories for the training that were slated for demolition. Approximately 500 participants from 12 other departments across the country took advantage of this rare opportunity to train in a realistic environment. Firefighters labored through intense heat and a maze of dark smoke during a total of 91 live burn training scenarios.

Law enforcement agencies conducted a series of training exercises at the same location that included numerous rapid deployment scenarios in cooperation with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms.



III. TOP QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Village Reached Road Maintenance Milestone

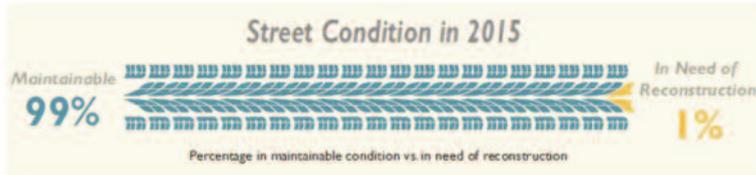
Based on the 2010 pavement assessment, the Village issued \$25 million in bonds to finance reconstruction projects and used existing funding for increased maintenance activities. As of the end of 2015 approximately 99% of all streets in the Village are in a maintainable condition.

In support of this effort, the following work has been completed since 2011:

- reconstructed 12 miles of streets in 11 neighborhoods
- resurfaced 43 miles of streets
- completed regular crack filling and patching on the remainder of streets.

Road reconstruction projects in 2015 included:

- Clyde Estates
- Orchardbrook East
- Maple Avenue



Engaged the Community On Street Maintenance Best Practices

The Village owns and maintains approximately 167 miles of streets. To increase public awareness of the success of street maintenance in the Village a series of short videos was produced highlighting:

- Street Ownership
- Maintenance Goals
- Best Practices.

These videos reached 2,066 viewers on Facebook and YouTube combined.

ComEd Town Hall Meetings Improve Reliability

On November 19, 2015, a ComEd Town Hall style meeting was held as part of the Village's ongoing work to improve electricity service within the Village. The purpose of this meeting was to allow residents and business owners to discuss their electricity reliability concerns directly with ComEd.

The Village has two goals:

- 1) achieve measurable improvements in reliability, measured by the frequency and duration of outages; and
- 2) encourage improved communications between ComEd customers and ComEd.

Key findings which point to the success of this ongoing approach since 2011 include:

- Outages continue to trend down.
- Unplanned outages were lower in 2015 (181) than through the same period in 2014 (223).
- Weather related outages tracked lower in 2015 than in any other year since the Village began reviewing data.
- Outages of long duration are tracked lower in 2015 than in any year since 2011.
- Reliability within the Village of Downers Grove was better than the region average in 2014 and 2015.
- ComEd was more proactive in contacting customers directly rather than using Village staff as an intermediary.
- ComEd completed planned equipment upgrades.
- ComEd restored power outages more promptly in the case of outages, resulting in fewer outages of extended duration.
- ComEd improved communication with customers in non-emergency situations.

IV. STRONG, DIVERSE LOCAL ECONOMY

Facilitated Investment in the Community

- Approved 3 Residential Development Projects in the Downtown.
- Facilitated the Opening of Art Van Furniture and Fresh Thyme Farmers Market.
- Attracted Zeigler Ram Promaster.



Economic Development Wins

The Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is an independent, not-for-profit entity supported by the Village of Downers Grove and over 20 private-sector businesses. The Village is committed to strengthening and enhancing the local economy through the EDC's efforts to attract jobs and employers to Downers Grove, as well as retain established businesses.

Here is a list of 2015 successes:

Alter Brewing Company opened new, 8,500 sq. ft. craft brewery.

American Access Casualty Company opened new headquarters at 2211 Butterfield Road.

Art Van Furniture opened new 112,000 sq. ft. flagship store at 1021 Butterfield Road.

Dickey's Barbecue Pit opened new location at 1332 W. 75th Street.

Fresh Thyme Farmers Market opened new 29,055 sq. ft. store at Ogden and Florence.

Fresh Thyme Farmers Market relocated headquarters from Phoenix, AZ to Downers Grove.

Glanbia Performance Nutrition, Inc. opened new North American headquarters at 3500 Lacey Road.

Harbor Freight Tools opened new store at 1640 W. 75th Street,

Jersey Mike's opened new location at 42-76 Ogden.

Katherine Frank Creative, Inc. relocated from Lombard to Downers Grove .

LexTech opened new headquarters at 1431 Opus Place.

Michael's opened second location in Downers Grove. at 1516 Butterfield Road.

Neuco, Inc. opened new warehouse/distribution center at 5120 Thatcher.

Oakley Home Builders began construction on new corporate offices and ground floor space at 5216 Main Street

Residential Home Health opened new regional offices at 1431 Opus Place.

Sanford L.P. opened new division headquarters at 3055 Lacey Road.

Shorewood Development Group LLC completed construction of new commercial center at Ogden and Florence.

Starbucks opened new location at Finley Square in Downers Grove.

Sullivans USA began expansion at 4341 Middaugh

Vequity Real Estate is developing new 5,000 sq. ft. multi-tenant commercial building on Ogden Avenue.

Zeigler Auto Group opened second dealership location at 2501 Ogden.



V. CONTINUAL INNOVATION

Private Sector Partnership

The Village and Genuine Parts Company/National Auto Parts Association (NAPA) entered into a partnership to privatize the management of the Fleet Parts and Inventory Program. The contract was approved by the Village Council in September 2015 and is projected to save \$50,000 for each of the next three years.

Utilizing NAPA's enhanced capabilities allows the Village to shorten down-time for public safety vehicles, getting them back on the road more quickly to serve the community.



Community Events Permit Improvements

In 2015 the Village issued 37 permits for events including festivals, parades, runs and walks. LEAN techniques used to improve the efficiency and coordination of community events resulted in:

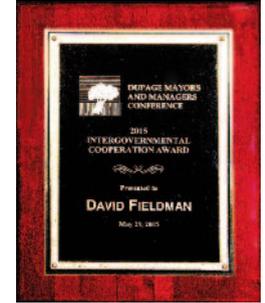
- Standardized Cost Estimating
- Simplified Applications
- Eliminated Application Fees



VI. ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) Intergovernmental Cooperation Award

Each year, the DMMC honors a local leader for his or her commitment to support the Conference and the region to further the goal of intergovernmental cooperation. This year's recipient was Village Manager Dave Fieldman. He also serves on the DMMC Board of Directors.



First Place: Illinois Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Challenge

Traffic safety is a high priority for the Downers Grove Police Department. The Department received recognition in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge as the top agency in the state for municipal agencies with 66 to 100 sworn officers for their overall approach to traffic safety.



Here are the results of 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.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

This is the sixth consecutive year that Village staff have been honored with this significant achievement, which reflects the commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The 2015 Municipal Budget satisfied nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentations. The guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. The Village's budget was rated proficient in all four of these categories.



Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)



The CAFR provides a detailed, audited account of all financial activity for the funds and departments in the Village organization. It is published within six months from the close of each fiscal year.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Patriot Award

The Patriot Award is presented to an individual supervisor/s nominated by an employee serving in the National Guard or Reserve and reflects the efforts made to support members through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed.

The Illinois Committee of *Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)* presented the award to Lieutenant Dave Bormann and Sergeant Rob McMahon.



