



**MANAGER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2013**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESPONSES TO MAYOR & COMMISSIONER REQUESTS**

***Places to be this Week...***

**Village Council Meeting** – The Village Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 19 at 7 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at Village Hall.

**Stormwater/Water Conservation Education Session** - On **Thursday, February 21 at 7 p.m.**, Village staff and Jim Kleinwachter of the Conservation Foundation will provide an educational presentation to residents on the 3rd Floor of the Lincoln Center (935 Maple Ave).

***Future Calendar Reminders...***

**Village Council Meeting** – The Village Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 5 at 7 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at Village Hall.

**Village Response to Washington Street Railroad Crossing Concerns** - In response to the concerns expressed at the Council meeting on February 12, staff contacted the Village's liaison at BNSF, Pat Casler, to discuss parked trains. She said that in a regular operation, the train that is changing direction sits on the tracks about four minutes, then switches tracks to head back east. The BNSF does not typically review the length of gate delays, except in accident situations. Ms. Casler stated that the BNSF signal equipment will be upgraded to the latest technology this spring. In the meantime, she indicated to staff that they are reviewing the capability of their existing signal equipment to reduce the length of time the gates are down when the train is parked. Additionally, staff forwarded DVD copies of the resident comments at the 2/12/13 Council meeting to Metra and BNSF this week.

**Green Business Recognition Program** - At the February 19, 2013 Village Council meeting, staff will provide a presentation summarizing the Green Business Recognition Program proposed and designed by the Environmental Concerns Commission (ECC). The goal of the Downers Grove Green Business Recognition Program is to recognize businesses within Downers Grove that support the Village's goals of *Continual Innovation* and *Steward of Fiscal and Environmental Sustainability*. This recognition program is designed to encourage businesses within Downers Grove to adopt environmentally sustainable practices, such as water conservation and recycling, using a "facilitation, instead of regulation" approach.

Due to the diverse nature of the Downers Grove business community, the ECC determined that a "one-size-fits-all" approach to awarding the Green Business distinction would not be appropriate. Instead it has been proposed that each business must demonstrate green business practices within **four** of the following categories:

- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Water Conservation and Stormwater Pollution Prevention
- Energy Conservation

- Transportation
- Public Education/Awareness
- Innovation

Applicants will have examples of appropriate responses in each category but it would ultimately be up to them to describe what makes their business a “Green Business”. All businesses that can demonstrate green practices within four of the categories as determined by the ECC will be recognized. The application will be found on the Village’s website.

All recognized businesses will be announced through:

1. A Village press release recognizing Downers Grove Green Businesses and additional announcements on the Village’s Twitter and Facebook feeds
2. A Proclamation from the Mayor at a Village of Downers Grove Village Council meeting
3. A listing on the Green Business page of the Village’s website:  
<http://www.downers.us/bus/green-business-recognition-program>
4. Recognition at the Environmental Concerns Commission
5. A decal for the entry to the business and permission to use the program’s logo on the business website

Staff has discussed the program with the Chamber of Commerce and there may be opportunities to collaborate to promote the program and businesses that qualify for recognition.

**Village's Forestry Program is Reaccredited** -The Society of Municipal Arborists recently reaccredited the Village's forestry program for 2012 to 2017. The objectives of the accreditation program are to perpetuate support for the urban forestry program, recognize good performance, increase professionalism, enhance community pride and stimulate improvement. The program evaluates each Forestry Department on the basis of its stated objectives as well as compliance with nationally recognized standards. The program was originally recognized by the Society of Municipal Arborists in 2006 for the period from 2006 to 2011. A plaque from the Society of Municipal Arborists will be presented to the Village Council in early April in conjunction with the Arbor Day resolution.

**Neighborhood Meeting Conducted for Study Area** - A neighborhood meeting was held on Wednesday, February 13 at Herrick Middle School to present study findings, draft recommendations and to solicit comments and feedback from residents in the neighborhood. Approximately 30 residents attended in addition to representatives from Districts 99 and 58. The next opportunity for discussion about this project will be at the April Transportation and Parking Commission meeting in April.

## **ATTACHMENT**

Certificate of Accreditation for the Forestry Program



THE SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL ARBORISTS  
PROUDLY RECOGNIZES THE  
**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

FOR HAVING AN  
**ACCREDITED FORESTRY PROGRAM**  
2012 – 2017

AND  
COMMENDS THE COMMUNITY FOR  
OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT IN MEETING ALL  
REQUISITE STANDARDS  
AND  
IN PROVIDING OUTSTANDING VISION, COMMITMENT AND  
PROGRAMMING  
TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN  
THEIR URBAN FOREST

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John McLaughlin".

*SMA President*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jenni Johnson".

*SMA Executive  
Director*