

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

January 2, 2024





The successes featured in the 2023 Annual Report are the direct result of the input and participation of the residents and businesses of Downers Grove, the Village Council, Village Staff and our partner organizations.

There are over 30 key accomplishments contained in this year's report including these highlights:

- Civic Center Project Update
- Downtown Beautification Efforts
- Bike and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements
- Joined Greenest Region Compact (GRC)
- Top Rated Public Safety
- Social Services Referrals Implementation

Downers Grove is a community that values all its members as such, we are a community ready to engage future challenges. Together we will continue to make our community all it can be.

David Fieldman
Village Manager

Civic Center Project

On Schedule and Under Budget



Features & Attributes

- Downers Grove Police Department
- Village Hall Departments
- School District 58 Administrative Offices
- Mayor Betty Cheever Council Chambers
- Israel Blackburn Plaza
- Environmentally Sustainable Elements (see page 5)

Civic Center Project

Lot 2 Sale and Redevelopment



Details and Attributes

- Council Selected LCI Development Partners
- Proposed Apartment Building and Two Story Townhouses
- Design Elements to Compliment Village Buildings and Adjacent Neighborhood
- \$13 Million Estimated Land Sale and Real Estate Tax Revenue
- No Additional Property Taxes Needed for Civic Center Project

Steward of Environmental Sustainability

Civic Center Project Environmental Sustainability Focus

- Green Roofs
- Rain Harvesting
- Permeable Pavers
- Solar Panels
- Native Landscaping



Steward of Environmental Sustainability



7 Bioswales



Water Usage Down 22.6% Since 2012



312 Rain Barrels Sold

Top Priority

- 7 Bioswales Installed - Total Bioswales in Village Now 39
- Incorporated Native Plantings Wherever Possible to Improve Biodiversity
- Conducting Rain Barrel and Native Tree and Shrub Sales since 2010
- Village-Wide Water System Consumption Down Over 20% Since 2012

Joined Greenest Region Compact



- Joined Greenest Region Compact (GRC) March 2023
- Long-Standing Commitment to Environmental Stewardship
- Significant Alignment Between the Village's Existing Sustainability Efforts and GRC

“Thank you for the remarkable work you put into using the GRC Framework to analyze your own sustainability accomplishments and goals. It is an impressive report. I hope you are proud of what Downers Grove has accomplished. I’m so very impressed with how the GRC goals VoDG’s strategic goals align. That is a wonderful build on the GRC Framework. Thank you for demonstrating such thoughtful work. Clearly DG is one of our leading communities - on the strong side.”

Edith Makra
Dir. of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

- Downers Grove supports;
 - 94% of the GRC Goals
 - 57% of GRC Objectives
 - 51% of GRC Strategies
- Hired Professional Staff Member Specializing in Environmental Issues & Policy

Improved Pedestrian Safety

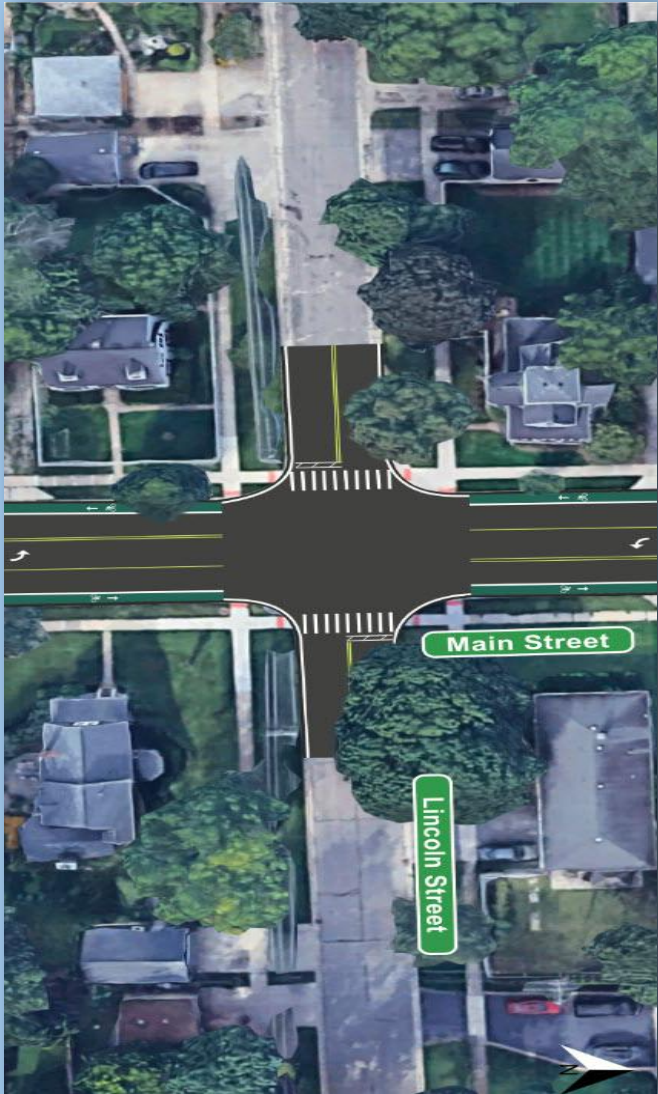
Top Priority

Main Street Safety Project

- Design & Construction Authorized
- Reconfigured To One Vehicle Lane In Each Direction
- Dedicated Bicycle Lanes
- Pedestrian Lighting
- Enhanced Traffic Signals
- Construction in 2024

New Sidewalk

- Saratoga - Near North High School
- Improved Connectivity
 - Parking Areas
 - Ogden Businesses



Improved Pedestrian Safety



Neighborhood Traffic Study #8

- Southwest Area of Downers Grove
- New Stop Signs & Striped Sharrows on 71st Street
- Reduced Speed Limit on Dunham Road
- Installed Park Zone Speed Limits at these locations:
 - O'Brien Park
 - Powers Park
 - Concord Square Park
 - Dunham Place Park
 - Mar Duke Farms
- Established School Zone Speed Limits near Kingsley School and Downers Grove South High School.



Improved Pedestrian Safety

Downtown Enhancements

- Accessibility Features on Main Street Traffic Signals
- New Traffic Signal Heads with Uninterrupted Power Supplies
- Repair and Replacement of Crosswalks
- Four-way Stop at Carpenter and Grove
- Striped Parking Boxes and Sharrows on Carpenter

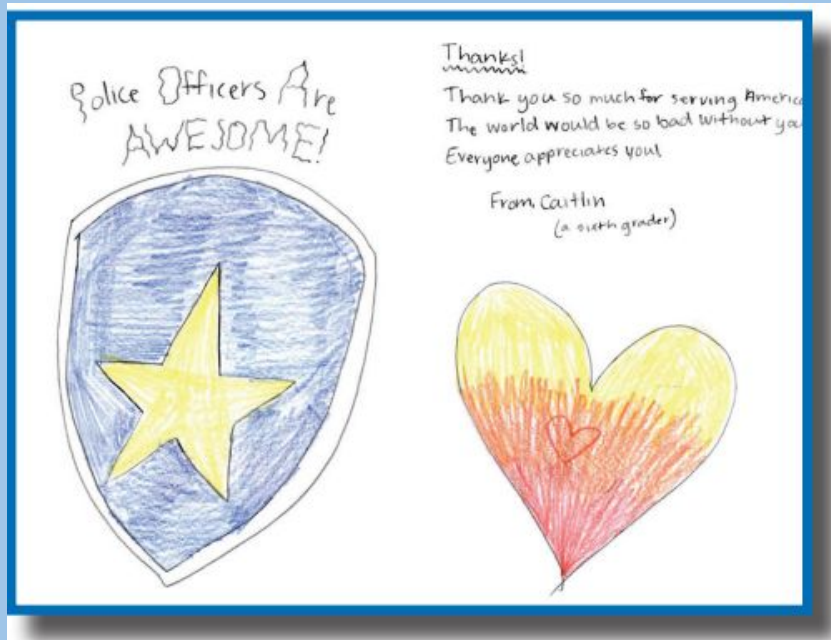


Beautified Downtown

- Replaced Sidewalk Corner Treatments and Crosswalks
- Installed New Landscape Planting Beds
- Enhanced Existing Planting Beds
- Added Irrigation Systems To Planting Beds
- Repaired Curbs and Sidewalk



Implemented the SAFE-T Act



- SAFE-T Act Went Into Effect in 2023
- DGPD Highly-Regarded, Long-Time Leader in People-First Policing
- Increased Officer Training in These Areas
 - Use of Force
 - Duty to Intervene
 - Duty to Render Aid
 - Responding to Mental Health Related Incidents

Improved Police Technology

- Continued Investment in Police Department Through Technology
- Providing Officers with Tools Needed to Perform Duties and Meet Community Expectations
- New Technology Enhances Services and Improves Safety
- Village Works Continuously to Improve Safety, Transparency and Accountability
- Department Continues to be Accredited by CALEA



Body Worn Camera

Top Ranked Public Safety



ISO Class 1

- Fire Department Retained Class 1 Public Protection Rank for Protection Effectiveness
- 1 of 27 Departments in Illinois
- 1 of 411 Departments Nationwide with Class 1 rating.

American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline EMS - Gold Plus Achievement Award

- Fire Department Recognized for Success in Treating Cardiac Emergencies and Strokes
- Received Five Consecutive Years



Social Services Referrals

- Offers Personal Referrals to Social Service Providers
- Actively Seeks to Identify and Contact Individuals Who May Need Services
- Improved Program Awareness
 - 22% Increase in Total Referrals
 - 27% Increase in Accepted Referrals
- Over 600 Referrals Made with Nearly 90% Acceptance Rate
- Majority of Referrals Made for Housing, Mental Health, Transportation and Senior services.



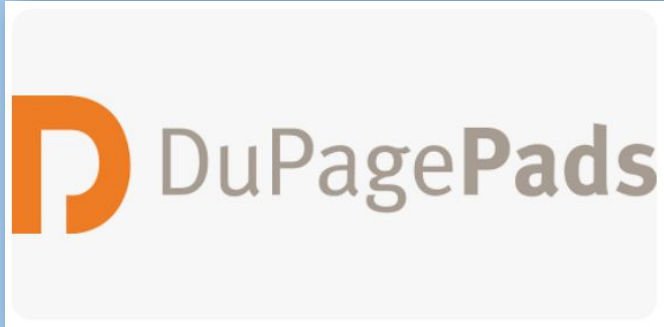
REACH OUT WHEN YOU NEED A HAND.

The Village of Downers Grove employs a full-time Social Worker who can refer people to the social services they are in need of. These include resources for mental health, housing or homelessness, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

CALL 630.434.6894 for Social Services Referrals
or visit downers.us.



Collaborated with PADs



- Helped PADS Address Resident Needs At Butterfield Road Facility
- Village Coordinated Meetings with District 99, District 58, the Park District and Library to Identify Needs and Develop Strategies
- Results Achieved:
 - Addressed Resident Needs
 - Engaged Private Security Firm
 - Reduced Number of Emergency Calls to Facility
 - Provides Safe Place for PADs Clients
 - Create Path Toward Stable Housing for Families and Individuals

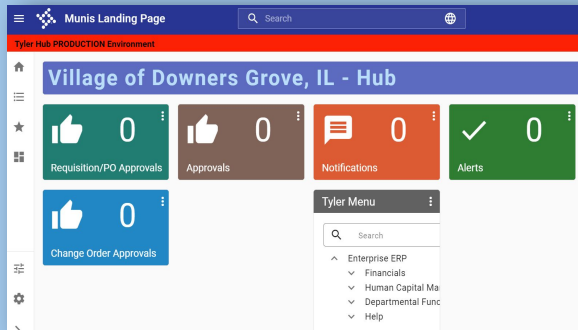
Collaborated with Community Kitchen

- Helped Community Kitchen Program Provide Meals
- Village Coordinated Meetings and Worked Together with Community Churches to Assist Those Experiencing Food Insecurity
- Results:
 - Developed Operating Plan
 - Minimized Negative Impacts on Areas Near Participating Churches
 - Reduced Demand for Emergency Responses

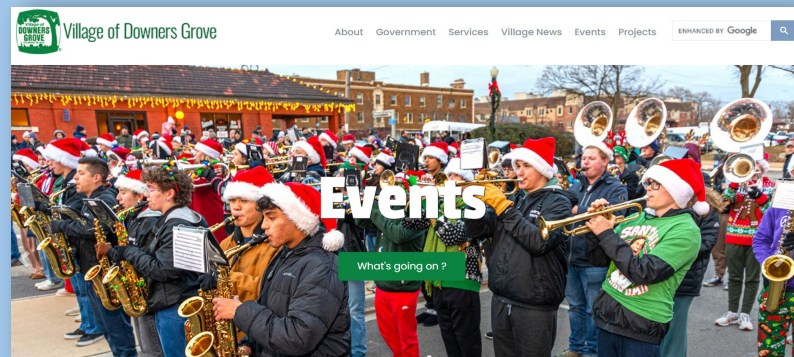


The Downers Grove Community Kitchen is open Monday nights, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., FCUCC hosts a sit-down meal at the Two Way Street Coffee House. Other churches host sit-down meals and grab-n-go meals on other evenings.

Replaced ERP System, Enhanced Cyber Security, Launched New Website



- Upgraded Technology Systems Used to Provide Vital Services
- Improved Efficiencies and Expanded Capacity to Conduct Village Business Online
- Expanded Cybersecurity to Reduce Risk of Business Interruption and Loss
- New Village Website Features
 - Updated Visual Graphics
 - Easy to Use on Computers and Mobile Devices
 - Scrolling Formatt to Reduce Click-Throughs
 - Maintains Powerful Search Function to Access Information, Documents and Data in One Search



Updated Building Codes

- Building and Fire Codes Updated to Most Recent Versions
- New Codes Make Buildings More Safe
- Enhanced Environmental Sustainability
- Maintains Top ISO (Internal Organization for Standardization) and FEMA Ratings
- Top Ratings Lower Insurance Premiums for Residents

The public is invited to attend this meeting to discuss pending changes to the Village's building codes.

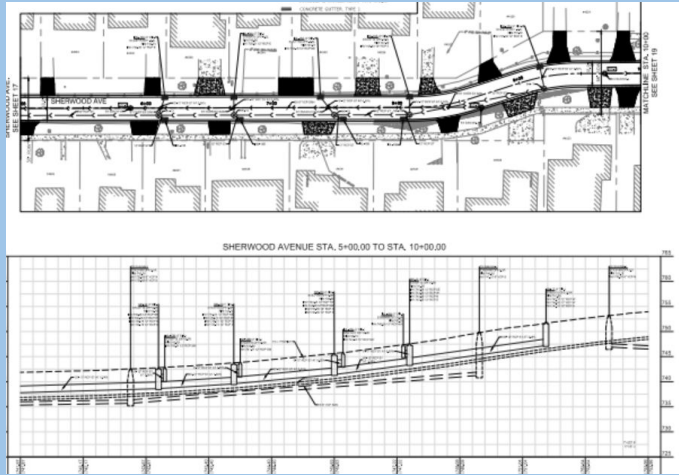


Stormwater Capital Plan



- Over 90 Projects Completed at a Cost of Over \$50 Million Since 2008
- Dangerous or Damaging Flooding of Structures Less Frequent
- Stormwater Retention Systems Direct and Drain Runoff Promptly
- Current Stormwater Capital Plan includes 12 Projects for \$7.5 million
- \$1 Million Added Per Year for Recurring Programs
 - Drainage Cost-Share Program
 - Green Streets/Sustainable Stormwater Program
 - Downtown Water Quality Improvements
 - Minor Stream Corridor Maintenance
 - Storm Sewer Replacements

Stormwater Capital Plan



Sherwood & Chicago Improvements

- Sherwood and Chicago Drainage Improvements Highlights
 - No Formal Drainage Infrastructure Before Project
 - New System Installed From Chicago to Grant and Sherwood to Linden
 - Road Resurfacing and V-Gutter Included



Capital Projects: On-Time, On-Budget

- The Village Owns and Operates 167 Miles of Streets
- \$4 Million Invested in Local Roads in 2023
- 35 Street Segments Resurfaced
- Regular Maintenance includes:
 - Filling Potholes and Surface Cracks
 - Patching Surfaces
 - Resurfacing Segments



Gilbert Avenue Resurfacing

Approved Video Gaming Ordinance



- Video Gaming Ordinance Approved October 24, 2023
- Allows Video Gaming in Limited Highly Regulated Manner
- Ordinance Goes Into Effect January 1, 2025
- An Advisory Referendum Question on Video Gaming Has Been Placed on November 2024 Ballot
- Provides Increased Awareness and Opportunity For Public Input
- If Referendum Fails Village Council May Reconsider Video Gaming in November or December 2024

Successful Partnerships



Positive Impacts

- Large, Diverse Tax Base
- Constant Cycle of Development in Commercial Areas
- Strong Financial Position for Village
- Festivals and Celebrations
- Job Creation
- Ensuring Downtown Vibrancy



Economic Development Wins



- Significantly Improved the Downers Grove Economy Working Together with EDC
- Welcomed These Noteworthy Additions



- Panera Bread
- Chicago Auto Place
- Woodspring Suites Hotel
- Dash Apartments



- Old Second Bank Corporate Office
- Travelers Insurance Corporate Headquarters
- LEC Event Technology

- Community Benefits

- Increase Sales Tax Revenue
- Food & Beverage Tax Revenue
- Enhanced Property Tax Base
- Created Jobs
- Improved Community Appearance



Extended Ogden TIF District

- Ogden Avenue Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Created in 2001
- Over 30 Redevelopment Projects Completed Over Two Decades
- Increased Taxable Value of Properties From \$29.3 million in 2000 to \$55.0 Million Today
- Transformed Appearance of Ogden Avenue Corridor
- Village and EDC Worked with General Assembly to Extend Expiration of Ogden TIF

Ogden & Forest



- Allows Investment of TIF Revenues Received Before Original Expiration on Redevelopment Projects
- Benefits of New or Expanded Businesses
 - Sales Tax
 - Food and Beverage Tax
 - Job Creation and Retention
 - Enhanced Property Values



Promoted Warhol Event

- Partnered with EDC and Downtown Management to Promote Andy Warhol Exhibit at The McAninch Arts Center
- EDC Placed a Warhol-Themed Promotional Sign on Butterfield Road
- Downtown Management Placed Warhol-Themed Banners on Street Light Poles
- Efforts Increased Awareness About the Event, Downers Grove Hotels and Downtown Downers Grove



**WARHOL INSPIRED DOWNTOWN
DOWNERS GROVE**

Increased Staff Diversity

- Significantly Advanced Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Practices in 2023
- Increased Diversity of Staff Through Employee Attraction and Retention
- All Staff Members Received Training on Diversity, Welcoming and Inclusion
- Participated in Metro Mayors Caucus Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Working Group and Task Force
- A Government That Reflects Its Residents is Best Ready to Serve Them



2023 New Hire Village Employees	
White	72.7%
Black	3.0%
Hispanic	18.2%
Asian	6.1%

Financial Stewardship



Friendship Park, Downtown Main Street

Village of Downers Grove, Illinois

*Municipal Budget
Community Investment Program*

2023

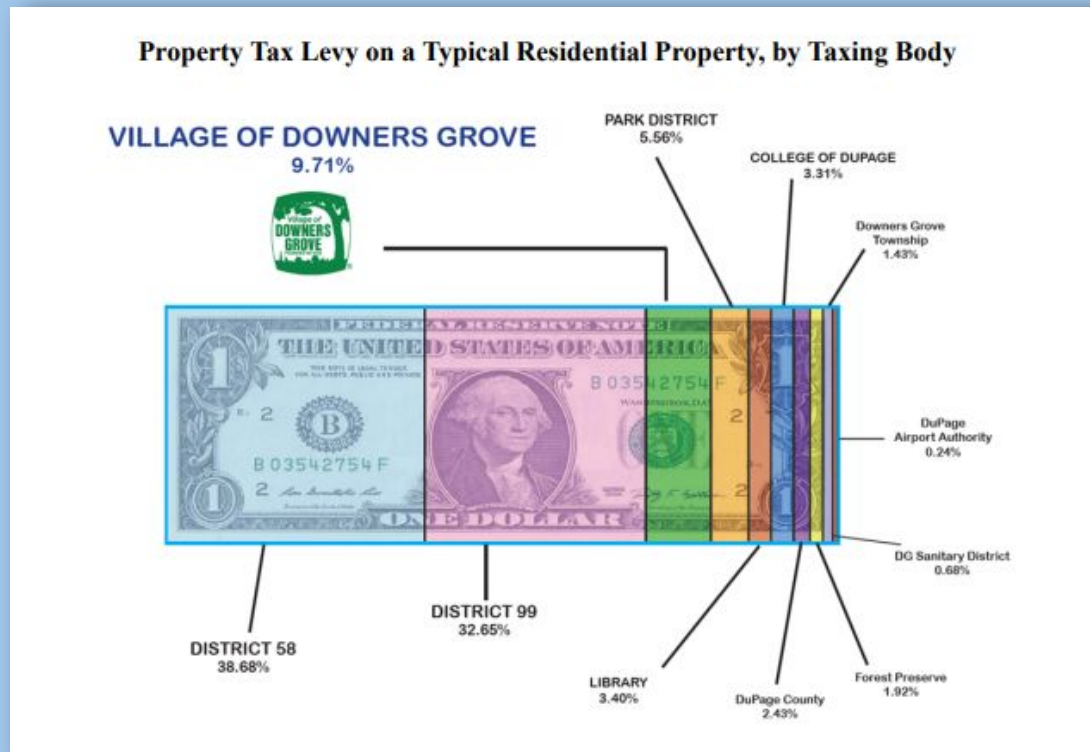


*801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
downers.us*

- General Fund Expenses Kept to Budgeted Amounts while Revenues Exceeded Budget
- \$2 million Transfer to Other Funds to Address Short and Long-Term Financial Needs to Minimize Burden on Taxpayers in Future
- Established Public Safety Pension Stabilization Reserve Earmarking Funds for Future Contributions to Police and Fire Pension Funds Reducing Impact on Property Tax Payers

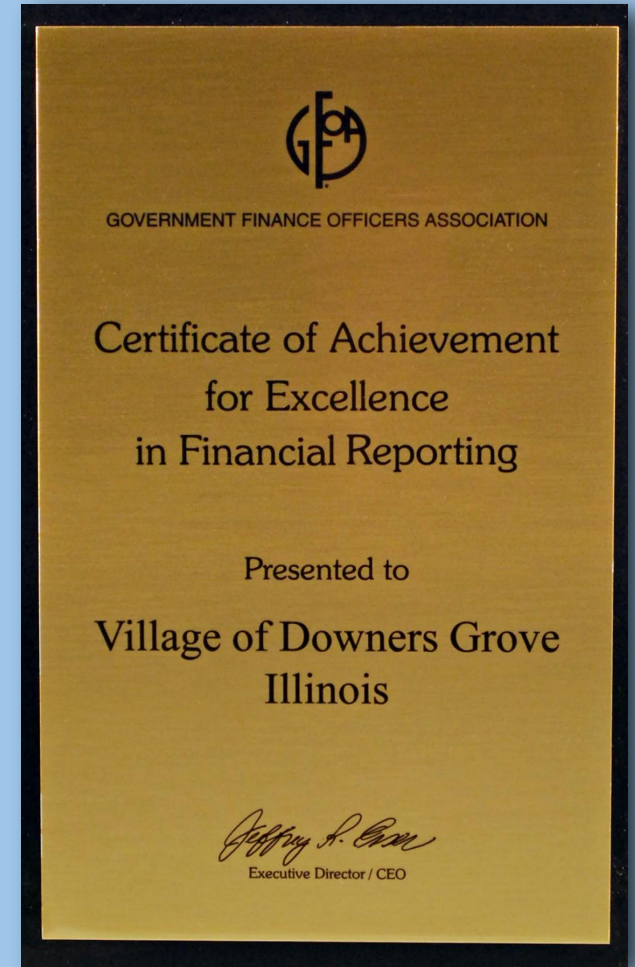
Financial Stewardship

- FY2024 Budget Contains A Sustainable General Fund
- No Increase in the 2024 Property Tax Levy
- Typical Property Will Pay \$787 in Property Taxes, Less Than \$2.50 Per Day



Awards and Recognition

- Recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association over 30 years for:
 - Accuracy
 - Transparency
 - Consistency



Connect With Us



- Communication and Information are Keys to Understanding Your Community
- Here's How to Get the Latest on Village Issues and Operations:
 - Follow Us On Facebook, X and Nextdoor
 - E-News - Links to Village website, Meeting Agendas, Construction Updates and Events - [Register Here](#)
 - DG Notify - Important Messages from Village via Phone, Email and Text - [Register Here](#)

Please visit our website at downers.us and choose the communications method that works best for you.



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