



# Downers Grove Township

Frank Wurster • Supervisor

[www.dgtownship.com](http://www.dgtownship.com)

Issue 3 • Winter Newsletter 2009

## Elected Officials

### Assessor

**Theresa A. Cockrell**

Phone: (630) 719-6630

Fax: (630) 719-6653

[www.dgtao.com](http://www.dgtao.com)

### Clerk

**Diane A. Konicek**

Phone: (630) 719-6610

Fax: (630) 719-6608

### Highway Commissioner

**Lawrence C. Anderson**

Phone: (630) 719-6620

Fax: (630) 719-6624

[www.dgthwy.com](http://www.dgthwy.com)

### Supervisor

**Frank Wurster**

Phone: (630) 719-6610

Fax: (630) 719-6608

### Trustees

**William J. Swanston**

**Robert C. Del Sarto**

**Rita J. Carlson**

**Kathleen A. Abbate**

## Additional Departments

### Human Services

Phone: (630) 719-6670

### General Assistance

Phone: (630) 719-6610

### Downers Grove Township

**4340 Prince Street**

**Downers Grove, Illinois 60515**

### Office Hours:

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Monday - Friday

## A Warm Welcome To...



## Our New Township Officials

The Township offices have seen several changes in the last month, with two of our long-term officials retiring and two well-tenured Township officials stepping up to fill their shoes. With the recent retirements of Supervisor Barbara Wheat and Highway Commissioner Ed Smith, we welcome Frank Wurster and Andy Anderson as their replacements. Frank and Andy were both sworn in during small ceremonies in January and immediately hit the ground running. Additionally, long time Darien resident and community leader Kathy Abbate was appointed to fill the Trustee vacancy on the Township Board. While all three are new to their positions, they certainly have a wealth of experience in township government.

"All of us have a passion to continue serving Downers Grove Township and look forward to new challenges the Township presents," said newly appointed Supervisor Frank Wurster. "I know I speak for Kathy and Andy when I say thank you to everyone for the early show of support."

## A message from the Assessor...

### What's Going on...

Are you a property owner that is going to be 65 this year or who is already over 65 years old? If so, would you like to save on your property tax bill? Then it's time to apply for the Senior Homestead Exemption. The exemption deducts 4,000 in assessed value prior to tax bill calculation. When you apply in 2009, the exemption will be deducted in the 2009 assessment year, tax payable in 2010.

For those who already have this exemption, check the mailbox for your status cards in early April. Make sure you sign this card to continue to be eligible for this exemption.

If you qualify for the Senior Homestead Exemption, then you may be eligible for the Senior Assessment Freeze. To qualify your total gross household income must be \$55,000 or less. The 2009 Freeze applications will be available in April. Remember, this is an ASSESSMENT freeze, not a tax bill freeze.

For further details on these two exemptions, and others, please go to our website at [www.dgtao.com](http://www.dgtao.com). You may also contact our office or the DuPage County Supervisor of Assessments, who process these exemptions.

### There's more...

The 2008 assessment year is nearing completion with the Board of Review and State of Illinois finalizing and equalizing assessments. In April the County Clerk will begin the process of determining tax rates. The levies of all taxing bodies have already been submitted to the Clerk and once the assessment information is finalized, Gary King, the County Clerk, begins the process of calculating the tax rates in preparation of tax bill printing.

From there the tax bills for all properties in DuPage County are printed and mailed around May 1. The tax bills are paid in two installments, June 1 and September 1. Once the June 1 installments are paid, the DuPage County Treasurer, Gwen Henry, transfers the first installment of tax dollars to each taxing body. After September 1 the taxing bodies receive the second installment of their requested funding.

Theresa A. Cockrell - Assessor



**“You may be eligible for the Senior Assessment Freeze?”**

TAXING BODY	2008 TAX	2007 TAX
DUPAGE COUNTY	141.44	120.63
REAL ESTATE TAX BILL	26.51	26.14
ST. CLAIR COUNTY	48.97	39.64
COUNTY OF DU PAGE	18.15	14.39
PENSION FUND	172.12	135.10
COUNTY HEALTH DEPT	11.25	9.24
COUNTY PENSION FUND	25.75	20.67
PENSION PRESERVE DIST		

DU PAGE COUNTY COLLECTOR - SEND THIS COUPON WITH YOUR 1<sup>st</sup> INSTALLMENT PAYMENT OF 2007 TAX

ADDRESS: [Redacted]

DU PAGE COUNTY COLLECTOR - SEND THIS COUPON WITH YOUR 1<sup>st</sup> INSTALLMENT PAYMENT OF 2007 TAX

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## A message from the Clerk...

### The Township Officials of Illinois Scholarship Program

Every year since 1989 the Township Officials of Illinois have awarded scholarships to graduating seniors who plan to continue their education in Illinois colleges or universities. This year the Scholarship Fund will be awarding seven \$2,000 scholarships to deserving students throughout the state. You may pick up the applications at the township office, 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove or download from the attachment below.

To be eligible you must meet the following criteria. Scholarship forms are available at the Township Office 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove Illinois or from your school counselors.

- Student must be a senior high school student who is graduating this year, minimum grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.
- Student must be a United States citizen and resident of Illinois.
- Student must have a history of extracurricular activities or a commitment to civic responsibility, social consciousness and a willingness to serve the community.
- Student must submit a 500 word essay on The Role of Township Government in Today's Society and in the Future.
- Student must submit two letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, local officials or business people.
- Student must submit an official high school transcript.
- Student must submit a cover letter and completed application form.
- Student must plan to enroll at an Illinois school as a full-time undergraduate student pursuing a bachelor's degree.

\*Deadline for the application and all documentation is March 1, 2009. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2009.

[Download PDF Application](#)

### Your vote does make a difference

The Consolidated Election will be held on April 7, 2009. I urge all who are eligible to take part in the election process. Remember the right to vote is a privilege in this country so please make your voice heard.

Make sure you are registered to vote. You can register at the township office located at 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. Voter registration ends March 10th. You must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years old by election day and have lived at your current address at least 30 days prior to the election. Bring two forms of personal identification having your legal name and address. Please remember if you have moved or changed your name, you must reregister. If born outside the United States, you will need to know the court, city, state and date of naturalization.

Are you interested in being an election judge? Judges are always needed in the polling places. The base pay for a judge is \$130.00 for the day. If you have received training and passed a test given by the Election Commission, the pay would be \$160. If you have taken a refresher course held by the Election Commission, the pay would be \$165.00. For more information on the duties or pay of election judges please contact the Election Commission at 630-407-5600.



Diane A. Konicek - Clerk

## A message from the Highway Commissioner...

### Ed Smith Celebrates retirement after 48½ Years



Ed Smith, Highway Commissioner of Downers Grove Township, celebrates his retirement after 48 ½ years of service to the Township as of December 31, 2008.

Ed started as a laborer/truck driver back in 1960. He was promoted to Foreman in 1974. The next step was a big one - he ran for Highway Commissioner and was elected in 1981. Since then, he has been re-elected six times. He has had a long and successful career because of his hard work, honesty and exceptional service to all residents.

Ed is proud of his years spent with the Highway Department, and he would like to thank the residents for supporting him as Highway Commissioner. The Township thanks him for his dedication and service and wishes him a very happy retirement. He will be greatly missed by his staff, co-workers and friends.

### New Commissioner

Congratulations to Lawrence “Andy” Anderson, the new Downers Grove Township Highway Commissioner. He was appointed on January 8, 2009. Andy started working for the highway department in 1984.

Over the past 25 years Andy has gained expertise in managing storm sewers, relieving area flooding, maintaining right-of-way forestry and keeping township roads safe and clean. In 1996 he became foreman and has been managing the township crew ever since.

Andy is a lifelong resident of Downers Grove. Andy has been married to his wife Sharon for the past 19 years and has an Australian Shepherd named Binky. He graduated from Downers Grove North and also graduated with a BA in communications from North Central College in 1983. Andy's hobbies include music, gardening and spending time with family and friends.



### Winter Parking Ban



Please be aware that Downers Grove Township has entered into an agreement with the Clerk of the Circuit Court and the other townships in DuPage County. Under this agreement, the Sheriff's office will aggressively enforce parking restrictions on our roads, and citations will be processed through the Circuit Court. Township Ordinance No. 2005-0118 provides for fines not to exceed \$250 for any vehicle not in compliance with posted parking restrictions. In various areas, parking may be restricted completely, or only during certain hours. During the winter, there will be no parking allowed on any Township road when it snows.

We would appreciate it if you would remind residents in your subdivision, through your association meetings or newsletters, of the following guidelines. Keep ALL vehicles OFF THE STREET whenever a snowfall is predicted so that we can more efficiently use our plowing/salting equipment. Also, residents are not to shovel or plow snow into the street, as it could freeze and cause a hazardous situation with possible legal consequences (605 ILCS 5/9-117 and 605 ILCS 5/9-130).

With everyone's cooperation, we will provide the best job of snow and ice removal possible. Thank you for your attention.

Lawrence C. Anderson - Highway Commissioner

## A message from Human Services...

### Many People Help Make Township Programs Possible!

Did you know??? Almost all of the Human Services Division's youth and family services programs and activities are done in partnership or cooperation with schools, police departments, courts, and other agencies. Many citizen volunteers from our communities are also involved.

Each year the Township recognizes some of these contributions to the programs that benefit people in our communities at an annual luncheon. This year it took place on December 8, 2008 at Home Run Inn. Here are some of the people who were honored this year.

Rebecca Adelman and Jason Shiliga, the Township's Life Skills Educators, recognized Andrea Conley from Lakeview Jr. High, Mrs. Dolores Mielzynski, Principal at St. Mary's of Gostyn, and Molly Moran from Cass Junior High. They are three of the many who make it possible for the classes to be presented at almost all of the middle schools in the Township.

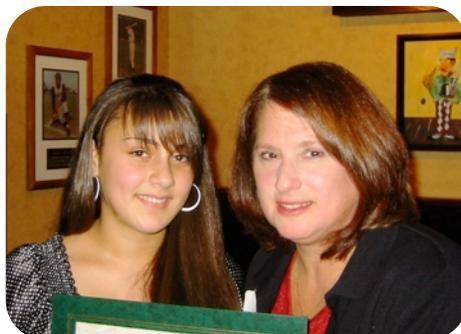
The DHS-funded peer led program at Westview Hills Middle School relies on the enthusiasm and dedication of the high school students who teach positive skills and attitudes in the classroom and also plan and run after-school activities. This year, prevention specialist Tyler Hill recognized student Nick Toland, a senior at Downers Grove North.

Cathy Rager introduced three of the unsung heroes at Burr Ridge Middle School who assist with the Township's DHS-funded drug prevention programs there. They are: Luke Peterson, athletic director, Renata Butauskiene, librarian, and Hiedi Elafifi, an 8th grade student leader of the peer mediation program.

The Peer Jury program is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when individuals and organizations come together to address the needs of people, including community service sites, schools, police departments, villages, volunteer moderators, and jurors. This year Lori Wrzesinski recognized Ron Searl, Village Manager for Westmont, Detective Russ Rau, Downers Grove Police Department, and two student jurors – Taylor Burch and Clare McCabe, both from Hinsdale Central, for their outstanding contributions to the peer jury program.



Andrea Conley, Lakeview Jr. High, and Jason Shiliga, Township Life Skills Educator



Heidi Elafifi, Burr Ridge Middle School Peer Mediator, and Cathy Rager, Township Drug Abuse Prevention Specialist



Detective Russ Rau, Downers Grove Police, and Lori Wrzesinski, Township Director of Youth Services

### Township Helps Local Middle School Students Attend Leadership Camp

Mid-Level Institute is a leadership/alcohol-drug prevention program for middle school students that is offered throughout the state. This year Human Services' staff helped arrange for several students from two of our cooperating schools to attend McHenry County's MLI weekend held at Camp Algonquin over the October 24th-26th weekend. Cathy Rager, Township Prevention Specialist, lined up participants from Burr Ridge Middle School. Lakeview Junior High Health Teacher Andrea Conley brought several students from her school as well. Jason Shiliga, the Township's Youth Education Coordinator, also attended with the group.

### Township Life Skills Reaches Out To Younger Students

The Life Skills classes taught at local schools by Human Service staff are generally targeted to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. After doing classes for the 6th graders at St. Mary's of Gostyn school in Downers Grove, the Township was asked to come back to teach Character Education and Bullying Prevention to the 3rd graders at the school. Rebecca Adelman, Life Skills Educator at the Township, researched character education activities that would be beneficial for the younger students and developed a new curriculum for this. This curriculum was also used for the Life Skills program's 5th grade classes at Gower Middle School, and it will be possible to bring these interactive activities to other younger students who can benefit from the Character Education program that the Human Services Department offers.

- Human Services Department

# A message for Seniors...

## Home Support Services for Senior Citizens

During the cold winter months many older persons appreciate services which are provided in their homes. For example:

### DuPage County Senior Citizens Services

1. In-home assessments to determine the needs of individuals and arrange for appropriate services
2. A homemaker service for income eligible seniors
3. Home Delivered Meals for homebound seniors who are unable to prepare meals.

\*For more information please call (800) 942-9412.

### Counseling

Counseling to help elderly persons and their families in coping with emotional, personal, family, or financial worries is provided by:

1. Metropolitan Family Services (630) 784-4800
2. Hinsdale Community Service (630) 323-2500

### Home Support Services

A variety of home support services are provided by private Home Health Care Agencies. A list of agencies is available at DuPage County Senior Citizens Services. Please call 1(800) 942-9412 or the Downers Grove Township Human Services.

### Private Care Managers

Private Care Managers help to determine the type of home support services that are needed and where to find them. A list is available at the Downers Grove Township Human Services office.

### Emergency Response Systems

Emergency Response Systems summon help in an emergency:

1. Free cell phones, programmed to dial 911 are provided by the DuPage County Sheriff's office at (630) 407-2400 and by some Police Dept's.
2. Computer automated phone calls to check on your well-being are provided the Sheriff's office at (630) 407-2400

### Medical Services

Medical services for homebound patients are provided by the following:

1. HomeCare Physicians (630) 614-4960
2. Home Physicians (773) 292-4800
3. MD at Home (866) 632-8466

### Other Services

Books and other library materials are delivered to homebound patrons by some libraries.

For additional information about home support services, please call the Downers Grove Township Human Services office at (630) 789-6670.

Hanna Benioff - Senior Services Coordinator



**“Many local services exist to assist senior citizens”**

Visit [www.dgtownship.com](http://www.dgtownship.com) for more Township news.