



June Highlights

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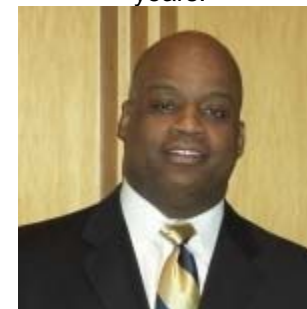
We are pleased to provide you with the DGEDC newsletter. We hope that you find it enjoyable reading and welcome your input. As always feel free to visit our website, www.dgedc.com for the latest updates on Economic Development happenings in Downers Grove

Funding for Belmont Road Underpass Completed

At a hearing conducted by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) on Thursday, June 12, 2008, it was confirmed that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will provide the \$8.3 million dollars in capital funding needed to allow construction to begin immediately on the Belmont Road Underpass. This commitment successfully completes recent efforts undertaken by the Mayor, Council and Village Staff to secure final funding for this much needed project.

Welcome New Board Member Tommie Van

Welcome to Mr. Tommie Van, General Manager for Chicago Marriott Suites in Downers Grove, to the EDC Board. Mr. Van has been with Marriot Hotels and Resort for over 17 years. His roles have included Director of Operations, Director of Services and Director of Events Operations. Mr. Van has been the recipient of Marriott's Manager of the Year (Living the Vision) award 2 consecutive years.



Welcome New Executive Board Members

Bill Nienburg
and

Prior to the ICC hearing, a meeting was convened with various participating agencies by DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom to address closing the funding gap. "It was a terrific meeting and we obtained the best possible outcome when IDOT committed to funding this vital public safety project. This was a team victory and many good people had a hand in it", stated Mayor Sandack. The list of local and state officials includes former Downers Grove Mayor Brian Krajewski, State Representatives Patti Bellock and Sandra Pihos, State Senators Dan Cronin and Kirk Dillard, DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom and Districts 2 and 3 County Board Members Brien Sheahan, Jeff Redick, Pat O'Shea, Tom Bennington, Kyle Gilgis and Michael McMahon.

In 2002, a partnership was formed by the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Metra, and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) to construct an underpass at the Belmont Road grade crossing in Downers Grove. Since 1996, the Belmont Road crossing has been the site of 56 accidents, making it the most dangerous grade crossing along the BNSF line. When completed, this project will mitigate a public safety hazard, as well as improve traffic flow along this busy arterial route that serves many communities.

DINE IN

EGG HARBOR CAFÉ (Downtown Downers Grove)

Welcome **Egg Harbor Café**, located in **The New Acadia on the Green** located at **5128 Mochel Drive**, phone number is 630-963-0390 (one block east of Main Street between Burlington Avenue and Curtiss Street). This family friendly restaurant serves breakfast and lunch 7 days a week. For more information www.eggharborcafe.com

ROCCA'S MEXICAN GRILL (Downtown Downers Grove)

Welcome to **Rocca's Mexican Grill** located at **994 Warren Ave**, phone number is 630-963-8083. This new restaurant specializes in seafood with options including stuffed calamari and shrimp and sea scallops served spicy over rice. You can get festive with fresh guacamole, Spanish wines and 10 to 15 varieties of tequila. Rocca's opened in Downers Grove on June 16th.

Special thanks to Linda Kunze and the Downtown Management

Gordon Humbert

The EDC would like to welcome Bill Nienburg and Gordon Humbert to the DGEDC Executive Board. Both Bill and Gordon have served on the EDC Board for the past year and have recently moved up to serve on the Executive Board.

DGEDC News PDF Versions

2007 Year in Review
October 2007
September 2007
July 2007
May 2007
April 2007
February 2007

Fast Links to Downers Grove

[Village of Downers Grove](#)
[Downers Grove EDC](#)
[Downtown Management Corporation](#)
[Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce](#)



Corporation for all of their hard work and their success in finding great restaurants for Downtown Downers Grove!

Unified Voice

The DGEDC is working with the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Management to development market specific associations/task forces for Downers Grove businesses. These associations have be established to address specific regional needs, to provide support to like businesses and their unique set of issues, to facilitate communication and to provide a unified voice for businesses at the local, state and federal levels. In addition, it is the goal of the associations is to uncover challenges and opportunities facing the businesses in Downers Grove and work to minimize the challenges and maximize the opportunities.

Ogden Avenue Alliance

After success in creating other taskforce/alliances, the DGEDC and the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce are working together to form an Ogden Avenue Alliance. All businesses located on Ogden Avenue, regardless of size, are invited to participate. The next meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2008 at 5 p.m. at the Downers Grove Chamber offices (2001 Butterfield Road, Suite 105). For more information on the alliance or to attend the next meeting please contact the EDC at 630-729-0380 or email at info@dgedc.com. Please include in the subject line Ogden Avenue Alliance and include any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting.

Restaurant and Hospitality Association of Downers Grove

The Restaurant and Hospitality Association has recently been formed to work with Downers Grove restaurants and hotels to focus specifically on the growing needs of Downers Grove, maximize opportunities within the community, to address local and state issues, provide networking opportunities and collaborative events that focus on the businesses in Downers Grove who have a facility that serves food and beverage to the public. The next meeting is July 14th at 2 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel.

For more information or to attend the next meeting please contact Cindy Klima at 630-729-0380 or cklima@dgedc.com. Please include in the subject line Restaurant and Hospitality Association and include any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the next meeting.

Ellsworth Business Park Taskforce

The Ellsworth Business Park Taskforce established 8 months ago is actively moving ahead with several projects. As a result of their meetings, new directional signs have been installed on Maple Avenue and a new monument sign for the park is under way as well. As part of our efforts to meet the growing needs of the park and its tenants, a Workforce Development Expo was held with representatives from College of DuPage, Choose DuPage, DuPage WorkNet and the Workforce Development board in attendance. For more information please contact DGEDC at 630-729-0380 or info@dgedc.com

In Campaign

The "In" Campaign has been developed to encourage Downers Grove businesses, residents and organizations to "THINK DOWNERS GROVE FIRST" and to use community resources before looking elsewhere. Two of the six strategic video casts have been completed and are available to view on our [website](#). The remaining videos will have a dedicated message about the community or a specific corridor.

Copies of the videos are also available for marketing purposes by any business in the area. To obtain a copy of the cd's please contact Jennifer at 630-729-0380 or jwilson@dgedc.com

Main Street Train Station

The Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation has installed signage in the Main Street Train Station promoting Downers Grove. The first set of signs also promote Downtown Downers Grove dining opportunities to the more than 2000 commuters passing through the trainstation. These signs will be changed quarterly and will highlight different aspects of Downers Grove and will all center around our "In"

Campaign.

Quarterly Highlights

The Downers Grove's **Sales Tax**, which does not include home rule sales tax, were consistent for the first quarter of 2008. Downers Grove sales tax is showing a 1.40 % increase quarter over quarter.

Class A Office Building Occupancy/Vacancy rates continue to be strong with Downers Grove class A vacancy rates for the 1st Quarter of 2008 at 12% vacancy, or 88% occupancy. Our total available space has remained the same as it was in 2006.

Our **Hotel Sales Tax Revenues** saw a increase in the first quarter of 2008 from the first quarter of 2007 of 12%.

The **Employment history**, indicates the number of people in the work force who reside in Downers Grove that are employed. This trend continues to grow and unemployment of Downers Grove residents continues to fall.

Don't hesitate to call us for more information at 630-729-0380 or visit www.dgedc.com

We are happy to help!

Greg Bedalov
President

Cindy Klima
Marketing and Tourism Manager

Jennifer Wilson
Project Coordinator

Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation

Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation

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