



Downers Grove
Economic Development Corporation

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PRESS RELEASE

All New! The Heritage Trolley Tours

Celebrating 175 Years of Downers Grove History
August 4, 2007

The Downers Grove Park District Museum and the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation Tourism Division have teamed up to celebrate 175 years of Downers Grove history with all new tours - The Heritage Trolley Tours.

In celebration of Downers Grove's 175th Anniversary the Park District Museum and the Economic Development Corporation Tourism Department have combined their efforts, on Saturday, September 9, 2007, to present for the first time the Heritage Trolley Tours! The Heritage Trolley Tours will be led by Downers Grove resident and historian, Bob Jensen. Visitors can view the Museum's newest exhibit, **History of Downers Grove: Objects and Images We Remember**; they will then have an opportunity to take a trolley around Downers Grove to see historical landmarks within the community or to participate in the Sears Home Tour. Each tour will focus on specific aspects of Downers Grove's rich and diverse history. After each tour, the Museum will be hosting a reception with light refreshments and an opportunity to enjoy the festivities going on at the museum or lounge in the beautiful gardens that surround the facility.

Space is limited, registration will be required. Reservations will be taken at the Lincoln Center located at 935 Maple, the Recreation & Fitness Center located at 4500 Belmont or online at www.dgparks.org

Heritage Trolley Tours **September 8, 2007**

Cost: \$11 for residents
\$16 for non-residents

Time: 8:30 Sears Home Tour
10:30 Historic Downers Grove Tour
12:30 Sears Home Tour



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Downers Grove History: Objects and Images We Remember

"Downers Grove History: Objects and Images We Remember" will feature items from the personal collection of Charles Derer and the museum's extensive collection and will depict the long rich history of the Village. Experience your heritage at the Downers Grove Park District Museum. Take a glimpse back into a past which nostalgia has gently etched in our memories. Exercise your mind and expand your knowledge of the community around you. Tour the 1892 Blodgett House.

The Exhibit will be open to the public June 19, 2007 - September 21, 2007

Located at 831 Maple Avenue

For more information call 630.963.1309

Special Note: Museum public tour hours for Heritage Fest weekend are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Sears Home Tours

In 1895 the idea of a self-assembled, mail-order home was realized by companies such as The Hodgson Company, Aladdin Homes, Montgomery Ward, and of course the largest and most successful of these enterprises - Sears, Roebuck and Co. Between 1908 and 1940 the Sears Roebuck specialty catalog offered more than 450 different models of "kit" homes and many variations of them with prices ranging from \$146.25 for the Golden Rod Cottage up to \$5,140 for the Magnolia - the grandest of all homes.

The average kit home had 30,000 parts, not including nails, screws, etc. It included everything except the lot, foundation and energy to assemble it. Each precut piece was perfectly shaped, no sawing was required, and all parts were number-keyed to a blueprint. These ready-to-assemble homes reflected the American taste of the period complete with modern conveniences such as indoor plumbing and electricity. They were shipped only by rail car to buyers across the country. Downers Grove boasts of the largest verified collection of Sears Catalog Homes.

Sears Catalog Home Self-Guided Walking/Driving Tour - The walking/driving tour includes up to 20 homes and takes up to 90 minutes to walk. For more information and to obtain tour maps please call 630-729-0380 or email info@dgedc.com.