

Protect Your Heritage

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Check out our
website's
NEW LOOK and
content including
environmental links
at
www.pdha.org

Pierce Downer's
Heritage Alliance
PO Box 422
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515

Appreciating and Preserving Our Community's Trees and Other Natural Resources

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance invites members and friends to celebrate its 8th Birthday on Wednesday, November 19th, from 7 to 9:30 PM at the Lincoln Center, Room 503.

The annual meeting and celebration is a great time for people who appreciate our community's trees and other natural resources to get together and meet neighbors with common interests. This year Brook McDonald and Edith Makra, leading advocates for protecting and enhancing our local environment, will discuss several of their projects.



Photo: G. Goodman.

Brook McDonald

Brook McDonald is President and Chief Executive Officer for The Conservation Foundation, a private not-for-profit land and watershed conservation group based in Naperville, Illinois. Brook will describe work of The Conservation Foundation focusing on land preservation and watershed protection in Downers Grove and throughout DuPage County.

The Morton Arboretum's first community tree advocate is Edith Makra. In her tree management and conservation work with villages, park districts, homeowners' associations and other community groups, Edith stresses the beneficial influences of urban forestry. Not only do trees keep homes cooler in the summer and warmer in winter; they even can reduce hospital stays for people who can see them through their windows.

The public is invited to attend a brief business meeting and then to enjoy the program and refreshments. Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the natural heritage of Downers Grove.


Gordon Goodman, Chair of the Heritage Alliance, said "This celebration is a wonderful opportunity for those who really care about the natural heritage of our village and the character of our community to meet and celebrate another year of accomplishments." 



Photo: G. Goodman.

Edith Makra

Downers Grove to Form Environmental Concerns Commission

The Village of Downers Grove is creating a new seven member Environmental Concerns Commission. Proposed duties of the Commission include the following:

- a) To develop, prepare and review plans for the prevention, abatement, or control of environmental pollution ...
- b) To develop, prepare and review plans encouraging the conservation of energy, materials, and natural resources by private citizens and public agencies in the Village ...
- c) To promote and encourage close cooperation between the Village and private citizens ...

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D.G. Commission

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- d) To recommend the adoption of policies or ordinances and amendments or additions to existing ordinances that would encourage conservation of materials, energy and/or natural resources and aid in environmental control.
- e) To promulgate and effect a program of publicity and educational programs relating to environmental pollution and energy/material conservation.

Members of the Commission are to be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Village Council, for three-year terms. Residents who are interested in serving on the Environmental Control Commission are encouraged to submit background information to the Village Manager's Office using the profile form that can be found on the Village's website:


<http://www.vil.downers-grove.il.us/govt/boards/proform.htm>. 

Highland Avenue Adopt-A-Highway Work Reveals Dead Deer

During the last Adopt-A-Highway pickup for 2003, on Saturday October 11th, Heritage Alliance volunteers discovered a dead deer not far from the sidewalk close to the Lyman Woods sign on the east side of Highland Avenue. From the Downers Grove Village Operations Center, we learned that a police officer had responded to a call at 1:47 AM that morning, reporting that a vehicle had hit a deer. The officer found an injured deer still standing in the southbound lanes of Highland Avenue. He observed that the deer was injured internally and suffering. The officer decided that he needed to put the deer down using a shotgun. The officer requested that the Village's Public Service Response Team be notified to come and remove the dead deer.

While we were still working on the highway pickup work Saturday morning, a two-man village PSRT did come to the area. They told Adopt-A-Highway volunteers that the DuPage County highway maintenance workers have responsibility for removing a dead deer and that county highway workers would remove the deer the following Monday.

The next Monday was the Columbus Day holiday for county workers. On Tuesday October 21st, more than a week later, we observed that the deer carcass still had not been removed and brought the matter to the attention of Downers Grove Village Manager Rick Ginex.

At present we are working with county highway officials to have "do not litter" signs posted along Highland Avenue between 31st and 39th Streets. If deer/vehicle collisions become a serious problem along Highland Avenue or 31st Street perhaps we need to ask that warning "deer crossing" signs also be posted near Lyman Woods 

Good Samaritan Hospital To Expand Intensive Care Facilities

Good Samaritan Hospital is requesting an amendment of Planned Development No. 19 to include the former Heckel home site at 3801 Highland in order to construct a new 44-bed Intensive Care Unit as an addition to the west side of the main hospital building.

At their October 7, 2003 meeting, the Plan Commission considered the request, and recommended approval. Additional coordination with the Forest Preserve District was required of the petitioner regarding final plant substitutions on the landscape plan.

Several residents including Thomas Sisul, Mary Thomson, William Waldack and Gordon Goodman spoke about this proposal at the October 7th meeting. Tom Sisul, on behalf of the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce and Industry, supported the desirability of this addition to the hospital facilities.

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Good Samaritan Hospital

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Mary Thomson reminded everyone that she is the appointed, ex-officio member of the Plan Commission representing the Downers Grove Park District and that the Park District is co-owner and managing partner of the Lyman Woods Preserve that adjoins Good Samaritan Hospital. She pointed out that the proposed amendment to this Planned Development and expansion of the hospital first came to the attention of Park District officials at their October 2nd Board Meeting through comments by a village resident. Mary Thomson requested that in the future the Park District be informed about developments like this one that may affect the Lyman Woods Preserve at the same time that officials of the DuPage Forest Preserve are consulted.

William Waldack discussed the problems with automobile parking for hospital patients and visitors. He pointed out that counting the large parking lot near the Wellness Center toward parking needs for the hospital portion of the campus is misleading because the Wellness Center parking is rather remote from the hospital facilities.


Gordon Goodman mentioned that he is Chair of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance and thanked hospital officials for inviting members of the Heritage Alliance to attend an informational meeting for the hospital's neighbors that was held on October 1st. He spoke in support of the need to move forward with the intensive care and heart support facilities. But he pointed out that there are over ninety identified trees on the project site that are to be removed and that on the order of sixteen of these trees are handsome, mature oaks probably fifty to one hundred years old. He pointed out that the twenty or so trees to be planted near the new building and in isolated islands throughout a parking lot would provide nothing like the canopy and habitat that the Heckel home site has provided.

Gordon Goodman concluded by asking that hospital and village officials give serious consideration to planting trees on the eastern edge of the hospital campus near the Lyman Woods Preserve in order to compensate for the loss of choice trees in this and other formerly wooded, now developed sites on the hospital campus, such as the Wellness Center. 

Annual Election of Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation that the Internal Revenue Service recognizes as suitable for charitable contributions. Its Board of Directors manages activities of the Heritage Alliance. Bylaws of the corporation provide that the Directors are to be elected each year at Heritage Alliance's Annual Meeting. At present there are twelve directors, but the Bylaws permit up to fifteen Directors to be elected.

Current officers of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance are Gordon L. Goodman, Chair, Jane E. Amorosi, Chair Pro-tem, and Laurel Q. Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer. Other Directors of the Heritage Alliance are Aspasia Colias, James Cavallo, Lee A. Forsythe, Matt Le Cren, David Pfeifer, William M. Runyon, David Schulz, Mark D. Sklair and William (Buzz) Whowell. Mark Sklair lives in Westmont and all other Directors live in Downers Grove. Long-time director Rita Martin left the Board of Directors in September to spend more time on her other interests. David Pfeifer recently decided he would rather not be re-elected as a director so that he has more time to spend with his young family. Thanks again, Rita and David, for all your hard work over the years in support of preservation of our natural heritage!

This year the nominating committee is proposing election of two new directors Kathleen Panek and Jerry Yoksoulian along with re-election of the following incumbent directors: Jane E. Amorosi, Laurel Q. Bowen, Aspasia Colias, James Cavallo, Lee A. Forsythe, Gordon L. Goodman, Matt Le Cren, William M. Runyon, David Schulz, Mark D. Sklair and William (Buzz) Whowell. 

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
PO Box 422
Downers Grove Illinois 60515

Protect Your Heritage

First Class Mail



Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Autumn 2003 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our next meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2003, 7:00PM
in Room 503 at Lincoln Center in Downers Grove
Check our website for more details

Your membership in the Alliance helps in our efforts to petition the Village and County to preserve our natural resources. Your participation in our programs demonstrates to our community the strength of our coalition to protect Downers Grove's forests and wildlife.

Please join Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance or renew your membership now as we continue to work for protection of the natural heritage of Downers Grove.

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance
P.O. Box 422, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Yes, I want to begin/renew my membership in Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance

Name(s) _____

Street Address: _____ Telephone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Email Address: _____

Contribution: \$ _____ I/We can also Volunteer some time _____

A TAX DEDUCTIBLE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION of \$10 or more will help the Alliance defray expenses, but is **not** required for membership. Your email address will allow us to keep you informed of future events.