

Protect
Your
Heritage

PDHA
Annual
Meeting
Wednesday
November 30
7 PM Lincoln
Center Room
503

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www.PDHA.org

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

2005 Annual Meeting

Forest Preserves as Good Neighbors

Cooperation between DuPage Forest Preserves and its neighbors is the main topic for the next meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance. We are holding our 10th Annual Meeting in Room 503 at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue, at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, November 30, 2005. Our featured speaker is Dewey Pierotti, President of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

When asked about the District's future initiatives Pierotti replies, "I believe the District needs to remain on solid financial ground and fiscally friendly. I am dedicated to fostering people's appreciation for natural and cultural resources through the delivery of low-cost, high-quality recreation and education opportunities. Convincing and teaching citizens and elected officials of the value of these precious natural areas are very important."

Pierotti was elected to the combined DuPage County and Forest Preserve District Board in 1992 and was first elected by board members as president of the Forest Preserve District on December 6, 1994. In November of 2002, the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners separated from the DuPage County Board, and Pierotti was elected Forest Preserve District president in the first countywide general election for that position.

For more than 35 years, Pierotti and his wife, Leslie, have lived in DuPage County. Their current home is in Addison. Pierotti raised his family in DuPage County and, being first and foremost a family man, is fulfilling a promise made to them to see that DuPage County forest preserves remain scenic enjoyable places. "This is about working for my family and your family to see that our future in DuPage County is enhanced through our natural surroundings," Pierotti explains.

Pierotti received his Bachelor of Arts degree from DePaul University and earned his law degree from DePaul in 1965. He was in the same graduating class as John Stroger, the current president of the Cook County Forest Preserve District.

Pierotti has championed and campaigned for two successful land-acquisition referendums, and during his terms as president, more than 2,000 acres have been added to DuPage County's forest preserve system. "I am proud of the fact that nearly 12 percent of the county's total land area is forest preserve and benefits the citizens in so many ways," says Pierotti.

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 10-year old non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Downers Grove.

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



Subdivision Impact on Trees in Downers Grove

The proposed "Nelson Meadow" subdivision is 4.8 acres of land located in southwestern Downers Grove between Blanchard Street on the north, Jefferson Avenue on the south, Brookbank Road on the west, and Carpenter Street on the east. Until the recent death of the property owner, this land had remained undivided since 1920 with one home and numerous mature trees.

A developer purchased the property and clear-cut almost all of the trees in April 2005. More than fifty mature trees were lost from the environment.

Most sadly, the neighborhood lost a line of eight mature black walnut trees right along the north side of Jefferson Avenue, on land proposed to be dedicated to the Village. Because the trees were on private property at that time, not on a public parkway, the Village stated it had no power to prevent the clear-cutting.

The neighborhood residents adjoining the proposed "Nelson Meadow" subdivision have organized their efforts, compiled constructive recommendations for the Village of Downers Grove, and testified at the Plan Commission hearing concerning a number of aspects that threaten the existing character of the neighborhood.

Among these recommendations are four concerning neighborhood trees:

1. Preservation of the natural walking path that connects Brookbank Road south to Jefferson Avenue, and protection of the 18-25 mature trees on public parkway land that are proposed to be removed for street construction.
2. Protection of two mature silver maple trees on the west side of Carpenter Street on public parkway land that are threatened by grading plans within the parkway and the critical root zones of those trees.
3. Protection of twelve large mature black walnut trees on private property south of the proposed subdivision that are threatened by grading plans within the critical root zones of those trees.
4. Replacement of the lost treescape on the north side of Jefferson Avenue with more and larger trees than are currently proposed, together with a specific plan for the location of driveways and utilities to accommodate maximum tree placement.

For more information please visit the neighborhood's Internet web site:

<http://neighbors.nelsonmeadow.com>

Downers Grove residents interested in tree preservation can help with this campaign in two ways:

1. Continue to urge the members of the Village Council to bring forward for discussion the proposed ordinance for the protection of trees on private property that was tabled earlier in the year.
2. Express to the members of the Village Council their support of the specific recommendations by the neighborhood residents adjoining the proposed "Nelson Meadow" development.

Only with thoughtful and widespread public support will the Village be able to successfully balance the public interest in the preservation of trees and green space with the developers' interest in maximizing land utilization and profit. Additional public support is needed!



Mature black walnut tree

**Protect
Your
Heritage**

"Trees enhance and preserve the air quality... reduce noise... reduce topsoil erosion... reduce energy consumption... provide nesting areas for birds... which in turn assist in the control of insects... reduce storm water runoff... replenish ground water supplies... and... protect property values," according to Downers Grove Ordinance # 4673, adopted 5/17/2005.

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– John Schofield

DG Coalition for Managed Redevelopment

The Downers Grove Coalition for Managed Redevelopment (DGCMR) provides a focus for Downers Grove residents, architects, realtors, builders, and others dedicated to managing Downers Grove redevelopment in a way that promotes growth while maintaining our rich cultural, architectural, and natural heritage, as well as our economic prosperity. Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance acting together with the Downers Grove Watch Association initiated this Coalition in June 2005. Please visit the Coalition's website <http://www.DGCMR.org> for more information about Coalition activities.

Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie Happenings

Reported by Alice Eastman for the Downers Grove Park District

- **Streambank Stabilization** Project Area II, Phase I, selective clearing, is currently out to bid. Contractors interested in bidding on this work attended a pre-bid meeting on November 16.
- **Public walkthroughs** of the project area are scheduled for Tuesday November 22 at 9 am and 1 pm. Interested parties are invited to meet at the Interpretive Center to walk the site with me and ask questions. Those planning to walk should be prepared to hike through brush and mud in places (dress accordingly).
- **Plants** have gone dormant, as happens this time of year and we're waiting for the snow to fly.
- **Reminders:** there is no cross-country skiing at either Belmont Prairie or Lyman Woods, but folks are welcome to come out and birdwatch, take photographs, and enjoy the wintry beauty of the natural areas here in Downers.



Annual Election of Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 10-year old, 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 fourteen directors, but the Bylaws permit up to fifteen Directors to be elected.

This year the nominating team is proposing election of two new directors: Ihor Hlohowskyj and Chris Saricks, along with re-election of the following twelve incumbent directors: Jane E. Amorosi, Laurel Q. Bowen, Aspasia Colias, James Cavallo, Lee A. Forsythe, Gordon L. Goodman, Matt LeCren, Ken Lerner, William M. Runyon, David Schulz, Charley Smart and Jerry Yoksoulian, all of whom live in Downers Grove. We are all deeply grateful for the contributions of retiring Directors Kathleen Panek, Mark Sklair and William (Buzz) Whowell.

Current officers of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance are Gordon L. Goodman, Chair, Jerry Yoksoulian, Chair Pro-tem, Laurel Q. Bowen, Secretary, and James Cavallo, Treasurer. For 2006, the nominating team is proposing a turn-about, in which James Cavallo is elected as Chair and Gordon Goodman, as Treasurer.

*Please Join Us
at our Highland
Ave Adopt-A-
Highway CLEAN-
UP DAYS*

Again Next Spring

*Check our
website for
updates!*

*Have you
renewed your
membership in
the Heritage
Alliance?*

*See the back page
of this newsletter
for more info and
how YOU can
make a
difference!*

*Did You Know
that our website
features links to
other
environmental
websites that
you may find of
interest?*

**Check us out
at**

www.PDHA.org

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



Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Fall 2005 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our next meeting
Wednesday, November 30, 2005, 7:00PM

Room 503, Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave., Downers Grove.
Check our website www.PDHA.org for more details.

Your membership in the Alliance helps in our efforts to petition local government officials to preserve our heritage resources. Your participation in our programs demonstrates to our community the strength of our alliance to protect Downers Grove's natural and cultural heritage.

Please join Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance or renew your membership now as we work for protection of the natural and cultural 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: \$ _____ (Employer matching 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.