

Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA Annual
Meeting
Tuesday
December 8
7 PM
Lincoln Center
Room 503**

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Visit Us
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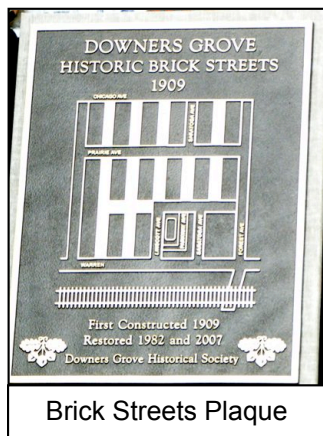
www.PDHA.org

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

2009 Annual Meeting

Historic Features in Downers Grove

After a short business meeting, the main topic for the next meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is "**Historic Features in Downers Grove.**" We are holding our 14th Annual Meeting in Room 503 at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue, at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. Our featured speakers are Jeff O'Brien, Planning Manager of the Village of Downers Grove, and Bob Jensen, leading authority on Sears Homes in Downers Grove.



Brick Streets Plaque

We are also pleased to be able to recognize activities of the Downers Grove Historical Society. The Society encourages voluntary historic preservation efforts by giving recognition to historically significant features throughout the Village. A representative of the Historical Society has been invited to describe several of the group's recent initiatives such as installation of a plaque commemorating the Village's Historic Brick Streets.

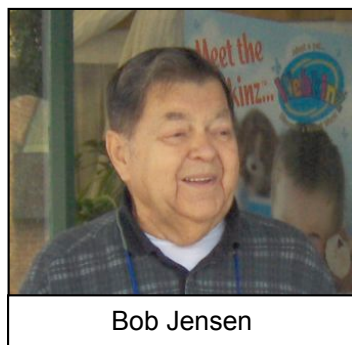
The Village of Downers Grove now has produced the Downtown Pattern Book that pays special attention to the historical significance of our commercial buildings. Jeff O'Brien is going to discuss some examples of the important historic resources identified in the Pattern

Book, which will be available at the meeting.

Jeff has been with the Village since August 2005. While at the Village, several of his key projects have been the Village's Historic Preservation Ordinance, 2006 residential zoning amendments and Downtown Pattern Book. Prior to arriving in Downers Grove, he was employed as a planner with the Village of Barrington. Mr. O'Brien is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and graduated with a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa.



Jeff O'Brien



Bob Jensen

Downers Grove has an outstanding collection of Sears Catalogue Homes. Bob Jensen is going to discuss their significance as an interesting historic feature of our Village. Bob is a lifelong Downers Grove resident and tells many interesting stories about his life in the Village. From time to time, he conducts very popular tours of the Sears Homes in Downers Grove and has presented his Sears Homes story at the Library of Congress as well as helping the Village of Downers Grove develop a brochure about our authenticated Sears Homes.



Elmhurst Model Sears Home

Protect Your Heritage

Bill Runyon Remembered with a White Oak

On October 26th a White Oak tree was planted in Lyman Woods in memory of William, "Bill", Runyon. Bill was devoted to Lyman Woods and worked at every opportunity to preserve and enhance this restful verdant oasis tucked between office buildings, university parking garages, expanding hospital wings and suburban homes.

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance has memorialized Bill's stewardship of the environment and his years of service as a Founding Director by planting a White Oak tree. A plaque will soon identify this tree. Until then look for Bill's young White Oak near the picnic tables, just south of the Interpretive Center.

– *By Jim Cavallo*

Calling all photographers!

Submit your photos of Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie for the fourth annual Natural Areas Photo Contest. Selected photos will be featured at the William F. Sherman, Jr. Interpretive Center. Submissions are due January 16th.

Visit the Natural Areas page at www.dgparks.org or contact the Interpretive Center, at 630.963.1304 for information and rules. – *By Shannon Forsythe*



Bill Runyon's White Oak

Annual Election of Directors and Officers

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 14-year old, Illinois 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 thirteen directors, but the Bylaws permit up to fifteen directors to be elected. Jim Cavallo has asked to be replaced after he has served for four years as Chair of the Heritage Alliance. Long-time Director and current Chair Pro-tem, Jerry Yoksoulian has decided to leave the board at this time and we wish him all good things.

This year the Nominating Committee is proposing re-election of incumbent directors: Jane E. Amorosi, Wally Brown, James Cavallo, Gordon L. Goodman, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Ken Lerner, Chris Saricks, John Schofield, David Schulz, Charley Smart, Mark Thoman, and Sonja Tieg, all of whom live in Downers Grove. If you would like to become more active and are interested in serving as a director of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members: Gordon Goodman (630-964-0245), Jerry Yoksoulian (630-969-7731) or John Schofield (630-810-1403).

The Nominating Committee is proposing that the following officers be elected for 2009-10: Ken Lerner, Chair, Mark Thoman Chair Pro-tem, Ihor Hlohowskyj, Secretary, and Gordon L. Goodman, Treasurer.

"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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Chicago Suburban Alliance Meeting

On Saturday, October 24, the Downers Grove Coalition for Managed Redevelopment (www.DGCMR.org) hosted a meeting of the Chicago Suburban Alliance. The Chicago Suburban Alliance is a network of local officials and residents interested in historic preservation, chaired by Genell Scheurell, Director of the Chicago office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Participants come from across suburban Chicagoland and include village staff, village commissioners, historic preservation commissioners, and members of local resident groups such as the Coalition. Local attendees at the October 24th meeting included Mike Davenport, Chairman of the Downers Grove Architectural Design Review Board, and several Coalition members.

After the meeting, interested attendees received tours of the 1846 Blodgett House, led by Charley Smart, and of the Downers Grove Historical Museum, led by Carol Wandschneider. – *By Ken Lerner*



Charley Smart explained progress of the 1846 Blodgett House restoration work to members of Chicago Suburban Alliance.

1846 Blodgett House

The 1846 Blodgett House was built by Israel and Avis Blodgett. The house has both architectural historical significance as one of the oldest houses in the Village and cultural significance as an active stopover point on the Underground Railroad.



The Downers Grove Heritage Preservation Corporation acquired this historic house, moved it onto the Park District Museum Campus and is now restoring it to create a new museum focusing on the Underground Railroad. After a summer of exterior renovation, the 1846 Blodgett House recently received its final coat of paint. Crews from No Name Painters took advantage of warm fall weather to put the final touches on the house. Please visit www.1846BlodgettHouse.org for more information. – *By Charley Smart*

*Please Join Us
Next Year
on Our
Highland Ave
2009 Adopt-A-
Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*Dates to Be
Announced*

*Saturdays
8:30-10:30 am*

*Check our
website for
updates and to
sign up to
participate!*

*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 2009 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our 14th Annual Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2009 7:00 pm
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.