

Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA 2010
Annual
Meeting
Wednesday
December 8
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

2010 Annual Meeting

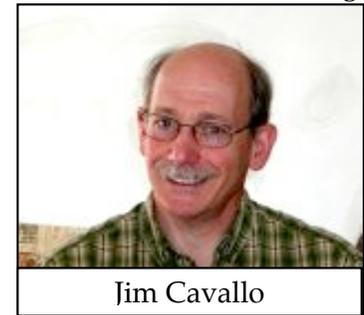
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT HOME

The main topic for the 15th Annual Meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance on Wednesday, December 8th is "**Energy Efficiency at Home.**" Our featured speakers are two experts on the subject of energy-efficient design, construction, and renovation: Lois Vitt Sale and Jim Cavallo. We will also recognize at that time creative outreach and educational accomplishments of Christa Christensen, Supervisor of the Downers Grove Park District Historical Museum.



Lois Vitt Sale

Ms. Vitt Sale is Senior Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer at Wight & Company, a leading design and construction company featuring expertise in energy-efficient design and green building. Her talk, entitled "**Designing a Clean Energy Home**" will discuss a home she designed in Downers Grove, using geothermal and solar power to bring fossil fuel use (and energy bills) to a minimum.



Jim Cavallo

Dr. Cavallo is principal at Kouba-Cavallo Associates, Inc., an energy consulting firm specializing in home energy audits, building energy use monitoring and analysis, training development, and environmental advocacy. He will speak on the subject, "**Energy Efficiency Can Save Money in Older Homes.**"

Ms. Vitt Sale and Dr. Cavallo both serve on the Downers Grove Environmental Concerns Commission.

PDHA welcomes the public to hear these presentations at our 15th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 8th, 7:00 PM in room 503 at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove. Refreshments will be served. – *By Ken Lerner*

VILLAGE RAIN BARREL SALE

During April and May this year Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance, with assistance from the Downers Grove Coalition for Managed Redevelopment, helped with publicity and volunteer staff for the first ever Village-sponsored sale of rain barrels.

The overwhelming success of this activity far exceeded everyone's expectations. Village staffers were hoping to sell 200 barrels at \$70 each through a partnership with the Conservation Foundation. PDHA members were hoping to up that number to 300. As orders started coming in, we raised our goal to 350.

The 520 barrels sold here is more than any other sale in which the Naperville-based Conservation Foundation has participated.

We want to remind rain barrel owners that now is the time to put them up for the winter, by emptying them, turning them upside down or storing them inside, and finally reconnecting the downspouts for winter operation. – *By Mark Thoman*

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.

PDHA Directors

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 15-year old, Illinois not-for-profit corporation recognized as a charitable group by the Internal Revenue Service. Activities of the Heritage Alliance are managed by its Board of Directors. The corporation's Bylaws provide that Directors are to be elected each year at the Annual Meeting.

There are currently 13 directors, but the Bylaws permit up to 15 directors.

Please let us know if you would like to become more active in PDHA.

PDHA ADVOCATES MINIMIZING WASTE

This spring, the Village Council discussed and debated making changes in the Village's refuse and recycling contract with Republic Services, Inc. Early indications from some Council members were that they favored a flat-rate system where everyone would get a refuse cart and pay a fixed monthly fee.

In a May 2nd letter and in remarks at Council meetings, PDHA officers expressed a preference to keep the current sticker-based, fee-for-service system. The sticker system provides an incentive to minimize waste: since you pay by the container, the less you put out the less you pay. That in turn encourages recycling, composting, reuse, and other ways to minimize waste sent to the landfill. The sticker system lets people save money by doing the right thing for the environment.

We were not alone. In a Village-sponsored survey, almost 80% of respondents favored retaining the sticker system. And by all accounts, the Council received many calls, letters and emails expressing that sentiment – leading to a unanimous vote to direct staff to negotiate a new contract keeping the stickers as an option.

Of course, nothing ever stays exactly the same. The new village refuse contract, as expected, will allow sticker prices to rise. And it provides for just one "amnesty day" over the next 5 years. However, note there are other ways to pursue recycling and reuse of your unneeded items:

- Once a year, the Village and the Park District cooperate in holding a recycling event, where you can drop off many kinds of items. This year's Recycling Extravaganza on September 11 collected over 100,000 lbs. of electronics, 157 auto batteries, and 300 inkjet printer cartridges for recycling. In addition, many items were collected for reuse, including furniture, hearing aids, and over 600 pairs of eyeglasses.
- Downers Grove Township hosts a recycling pickup on the third Saturday of every month, 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the township garage, 318 East Quincy St. in Westmont. They take computers, printers, copiers, phones, and other electronic equipment; for more information call 630-719-6620 or visit <http://www.dgtownship.com/?p=1349>.



and yard waste options may be found on the Village website at <http://www.downers.us/res/garbage-and-recycling>. – By Ken Lerner

LITTLE SPROUTS

A Resource for Sustaining Appreciation of Our Natural Heritage

For several years, PDHA has provided direct financial support for the work and educational mission of the Downers Grove Park District's Little Sprouts program. The program was developed in partnership with Downers Grove School District 58, beginning in 2003 to meet the curriculum needs defined for first grade soil and plants education. In the Chicago region and across the country, formal initiatives have burgeoned in recent years to encourage children to spend more time outdoors and to promote the integration of environmental education into our educational system. The Little Sprouts program supports this important movement's goal to foster a generation of children who care enough for nature to understand and protect it. The program won the Illinois Park and Recreation Association's Outstanding Conservation Program Award for 2005 in recognition of achievements in environmental education and the promotion of conservation.

Little Sprouts field trips for the District 58 students use the Lyman Woods Interpretive Center (near 31st Street and Highland Avenue) as their program base and consist of *four hands-on learning steps, or stations*, described below. Before these field trips begin, program staff conducts a workshop for all new first grade teachers to prepare them. This workshop includes the distribution of a teacher's guide complete with vocabulary lists and pre- and post-visit activities to introduce and reinforce back in the classroom concepts learned during the field trip.

For the Little Sprouts experience, students are divided into four groups that rotate through four stations: **Coats & Cotyledons**, **Flower Fashion Show**, **Chef Soil-ar-Dee** and **Sprout Cycles**. Each of the stations fulfills one or more learning goal of the Illinois State Board of Education as adopted into the District 58 curriculum.



Coats & Cotyledons – At this station, students use the analogy of a well-prepared hiker to discover the parts of a seed and sprout. New vocabulary is introduced as students learn how each part of the seed functions to protect and provide resources for the seed on its long journey to becoming a plant. Students then dissect lima beans to see the parts of a seed first-hand.

Flower Fashion Show – During the Flower Fashion Show students have fun dressing their teacher up as a flower while learning the parts of a plant and their functions. The students then learn a new song to remember what they have learned at this station.



Chef Soil-ar-Dee — This station takes the form of a cooking show in which students help to “cook up” soil. Students learn what soil consists of, how it forms, why it is so important, and about the organisms that help decompose organic matter to enrich the soil.

Sprout Cycles – Students learn all about the life cycle of a plant at the Sprout Cycles station. Students begin by collecting seeds to learn about methods for dispersing them, including wind and hitchhiking. After examining their seeds, the students role-play the life cycle of a plant. – *By Chris Saricks and Shannon Forsythe*

*Please Join Us
on Our
Highland Ave
2011 Adopt-A-
Highway
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*April 23
June 18
August 20
October 8*

*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!*

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Pierce Downer
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Fall 2010 Newsletter

You are invited to join us at our 2010 Annual Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 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.