

### Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA Annual  
Meeting  
Thursday,  
December 8<sup>th</sup>  
7 P.M.  
Lincoln Center  
Room 503**

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on the world  
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[www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org)

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

## 2011 Annual Meeting

### Downers Grove's Planning & Green Projects

This fall's Annual Meeting will focus on green initiatives on the part of the Village of Downers Grove. Featured speakers will be Nan Newlon, Director of Public Works, and Tom Dabareiner, Director of Community Development. Ms. Newlon will speak about the Village's green initiatives, including use of native plantings on stormwater projects, the Green Streets program, and alternative-fuel vehicles used by the Village. Mr. Dabareiner will review the Village's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan and the significant concepts it includes for environmental and neighborhood conservation.



Nan Newlon



Tom Dabareiner

PDHA plans to honor the Village's recent green accomplishments with a certificate of appreciation and a donation to an environmental cause in honor of the Village.

PDHA welcomes the public to hear these presentations at our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM in room 503 at the Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove. Refreshments will be served. – *By Ken Lerner*

### 2011 Recycling Extravaganza Again A Success

The Village held its third annual Recycling Extravaganza on Saturday, September 24, 2011. Because of volunteer effort by residents, this event has very little cost to the Village, but has tremendous benefit to our environment.

It was another very busy event! This year residents kept tons of recyclable material out of landfills:

- ❖ 202 Lead-acid Batteries
- ❖ 120 Bikes
- ❖ 117,520 lbs of electronics (exceeds last year's 109,655 pounds)
- ❖ 115 American flags
- ❖ 126 propane tanks
- ❖ 20,000 lbs of Shredded Paper
- ❖ Plus scrap metal and other misc. items



The many persons who volunteered their time included PDHA members, several of whom volunteer each year. This year the Village ran out of time so it wasn't able to assist all residents who made the effort to properly recycle their items at this event. Due to the continuing success of the annual event, the Village has now decided to sponsor electronics recycling at the fenced-in area behind the Village Hall on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – *By Mark Thoman*

**Protect  
Your  
Heritage**

**1846 Blodgett House Update**

Our community has come a long way in its efforts to save and restore a significant part of Downers Grove's heritage – the 1846 Blodgett House. The Blodgett Family's second home in our community is one of the oldest houses in the Village and played an active role in the Underground Railroad. During the last four years, the all volunteer Downers Grove Heritage Preservation Corporation has moved this house onto the grounds of the Downers Grove Park District and restored the exterior to its 19th Century appearance, as shown here.

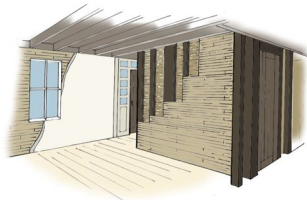


*1846 Blodgett House as now restored*

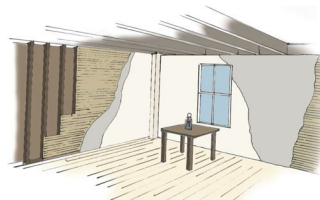
This work has been accomplished almost exclusively with private, individual and corporate donations and support – most notably from the Sara Lee Corporation, the Foundation of One Smooth Stone, Grant Dicke and the Downers Grove Park District.

The Heritage Preservation Corporation acquired the 1846 Blodgett House in 2007 and moved it into Wandschneider Park near its original location on Maple Avenue. A license agreement with the Downers Grove Park District permits the group to restore and renovate the House with the understanding that, after renovations have been completed and appropriate historic exhibits have been installed, the House will be donated to the Park District to operate as a museum of early Downers Grove history with emphasis on the community's Underground Railroad activities. We are cooperating with the Park District to add descriptive signage around the exterior of the Blodgett House to help people learn about the heritage of this significant project.

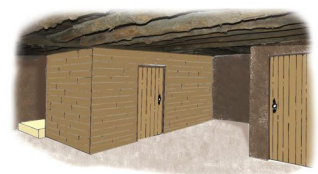
We are also working to reinforce the floors and restore the interior in preparation for exhibits and public tours. As we work to make the interior of the Blodgett House accessible to visitors, we are developing specific building plans to guide our interior renovation work. Currently, we are thinking that the interior of the house should be "finished" in a manner that will permit visitors to appreciate unique construction features of this mid-19th Century home, as well as the Blodgett Family's involvement with the Underground Railroad. Here are three conceptual sketches of possible interior design arrangements that display structural features such as mortise and tenon installation of wall studs on the first floor and hand-hewn first floor joists as seen from the basement.



*First Floor Looking Northeast*



*First Floor Looking Northwest*



*Basement Looking Northeast*

If you have contributed in the past, we appreciate your support and you should be proud of the progress for which you are responsible. If you have not yet been involved with the Blodgett House, we would appreciate your support. In any event, we invite you to read more about the house and project at <http://www.1846BlodgettHouse.org>, and to stop by the Museum Campus at 831 Maple Avenue and look at the progress in preserving this important component of Downers Grove's heritage.

– By Charley Smart and Gordon Goodman

**PDHA Directors**

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance is a 16-year old, Illinois not-for-profit corporation recognized as a charitable group by the Internal Revenue Service. The Heritage Alliance's Board of Directors manages its activities. Directors are elected at each year's Annual Meeting.

Our Annual Meeting & all other meetings are posted on our website & are always open to the public. January & February meetings are devoted to planning & budgeting for the coming year – your ideas & suggestions are welcome.

This year directors Ihor Hlohowskyj, Veatrice Jehangir & Charley Smart have decided to retire from the Board with our heartfelt thanks for their service.

**Check us out  
at**

[www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org)

## Residents & Businesses Help Plan Village Future

In 2009 the Village Staff undertook the task of Total Community Development 3 (TCD3), the third time on our Village history that such a large task was undertaken. TCD1 directly resulted in Good Samaritan Hospital being built in Downers Grove. TCD2 resolved to provide for pedestrian safety with a policy of Village-wide sidewalks on at least one side of every street. For TCD3, well over a thousand residents and dozens of businesses participated, along with most governing bodies and several civic groups, including Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance.

In meetings, focus groups, and on-line exercises the whole of the Village came together to provide a voice for our community's future. The data gathered in the year long effort of TCD3 served two purposes:

- ▲ It identified the need for a better way to address the entire range community issues more responsively to the community as a whole, and in its different parts.
- ▲ It laid the foundation for the Village's first updated Comprehensive Plan in over 46 years.

From January 2010 through March 2011 the Comprehensive Plan Ad Hoc Committee, made up of 11 residents (including PDHA's own Chair pro tem Mark Thoman), worked with staff and consultants to incorporate much of the TCD3 information into a new Planning Document for the Village.

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance participated diligently in both the TCD3 process, and in the Comprehensive Plan process. Our participation ensured that our heritage and environment are represented, acknowledged, and protected now and in the future. We are also recommending that the Village revisit its Comprehensive Plan within five years, to keep this "living document" up to date and relevant. The Village Council accepted and adopted the Comprehensive Plan on October 4, 2011, culminating over two and a half years of diligent work. Both documents - TCD3 and Comprehensive Plan - are on file at the library and Village Hall, and are on-line at <http://www.downers.us/govt/departments/community-development> – *By Mark Thoman*

## Plug In to Greener Power

Illinois consumers can choose an electricity supplier, just as they can choose a supplier for natural gas or phone service. The Illinois Commerce Commission oversees the choice program and has a website explaining the program and options available.



The website lists 40 different plans by 15 different companies. Of these, 17 of the plans by 8 different companies have a green aspect. The green plans guarantee that some or all of the electricity supplied will come from renewable resources. Some of the plan descriptions say they combine green energy with rates lower than most consumers currently pay.

Customers who switch to a Retail Electric Supplier still deal with their regular electric utility (ComEd for most of us) for billing and outages. What changes is who supplies the electricity that you consume. For further information, visit [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org).

*Please Join Us  
on Our  
Highland Ave  
2012 Adopt-A-  
Highway  
CLEAN-UP DAYS*

*April 21  
June 16  
August 18  
October 6  
Saturdays*

*8:30-10:30 AM  
Rain Dates One  
Week Later*

*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!*

*Newsletter  
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Pierce Downer  
1782-1863

Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance Fall 2011 Newsletter

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**You are invited to join us at our 2011 Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, December 8, 7:00 pm**  
**Room 503, Lincoln Center, 935 Maple Ave., Downers Grove.**  
Check our website [www.PDHA.org](http://www.PDHA.org) for more details.

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.

Your membership in the Alliance helps in our efforts working with 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.