

Protect Your Heritage

**PDHA
Meeting
Wednesday
June 16
7 PM
Lincoln
Center
Auditorium**

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Visit Us on
the world
wide web
at

www.PDHA.org

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

Preserving Historic Homes

An application to demolish Rev. Orange Lyman's home at 806 Maple Avenue, the oldest existing house in Downers Grove, built in 1839, is arousing significant concern in our community. Several community groups and individuals, as well as the Village Council, the Park Board and School District 58 are interested in preserving this important structure.



Rev. Orange Lyman's House, 806 Maple Ave.
Built in 1839

Historic preservation in Downers Grove is the main topic for the next meeting of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance. We are meeting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, June 16th, in the Lincoln Center Auditorium, 935 Maple Avenue. Our featured speaker is Jean A. Follett, Chair of the Hinsdale Historic Preservation Commission.

Jean was born and raised in Oak Park. She has her doctorate in American Studies from Boston University and has been working in the field of historic preservation for over 25 years. She has been responsible for organizations ranging in size from a neighborhood historical society to the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois and has worked on almost every type of preservation project. Much of her work now involves writing and working with communities to help them understand the value of their local historic resources and how best to protect and preserve them for future generations. She is considered an authority on the subject of teardowns and has spoken both locally and nationally on this topic.

Jean Follett plans to speak about "Preservation Possibilities and Strategies." In accepting our invitation Jean stated, "Somehow it always seems like it's one important house that galvanizes people into action — sad that it should need to be so extreme!"



First of Two Redevelopment Houses Replacing
The Austin Richards House, 702 Maple Ave
Built in 1870, Demolished in 2001

(Continued on page 2)

Protect Your Heritage

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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Preserving Historic Homes (Continued from page 1)

Jean Follett plans to discuss strategies for both individual properties (local historic designation, National Register designation, conservation easements) as well as historic districts (which can also be local, national, or a third strategy—a conservation district). She thinks, “A revolving fund is an old idea that has somehow never been used in the Chicago area—it would be amazing and wonderful if Downers Grove could model this for everyone else. We are so resistant to change here. Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois is very focused on getting communities to adopt strong ordinances, but that’s often the end point not the beginning here in the suburbs. We need to take steps that are possible rather than wait for the improbable.”

Pierce Downer’s Heritage Alliance meetings are open to all members of the Heritage Alliance and other members of the community. Please join us at 7:00 PM in the Lincoln Center Auditorium for this timely program. Following Jean Follett’s talk, there are opportunities for people to express their ideas and concerns. Finally, we plan to have time for everyone with similar interests to get together in smaller groups and begin planning their next steps toward historic preservation, environmental preservation and maintaining the sense of community in Downers Grove. Our meetings adjourn by 9:30 PM.

Lyman Woods and Belmont Prairie Happenings

- The School District 58 Wetland Education Program is complete for the year. 650 students tested the wetland water, identified macroinvertebrates, got connected, and washed away Mrs. Pfefferneusse's mini mall on the streambank ecology model during the month of May.
- The Streambank Stabilization construction phase is out to bid. As soon as a decision is made on contractors, work will begin to regrade and install erosion and water control structures, and finally to reseed and replant the area.
- A new Lyman Woods brochure is available for visitors including a new map of the area. They are available at the Interpretive Center and the newly installed kiosk at the 33rd Street area.
- Approximately 1/2 acre of buckthorn, sumac, and grey dogwood was cleared and carefully herbicided at Belmont Prairie. Many wonderful plants are green, growing, and in flower. Take a hike at the Prairie and enjoy the view.
- Registration for summer programs is open through the DGPD website, the Recreation and Fitness Center, or at Lincoln Center. Program offerings include Prairie Walks and plant and forb identification at Belmont Prairie, and family hikes, adult/child programs, and summer camps at Lyman Woods.
- The Lyman Woods Bird Log is full of great sightings for the spring season. If you are a birder, let us know what you have seen out there!



Highland Avenue Adopt-A-Highway Work

Look for our Adopt-A-Highway signs along Highland Avenue. Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance claims the section of the highway between 31st Street and 39th Street for all future clean-ups.

We are helping to eliminate litter, and hope that litter fine signs will soon be posted to help get the message out. You are welcome to join the Heritage Alliance clean up efforts along Highland Avenue. We schedule three organized workdays each year. Saturday, June 12th is the next scheduled date this year.

We meet at the 33rd Street entrance to Lyman Woods at 8:30 AM. Expect it to take no longer than 2 hours to clean up from 31st - 39th Streets.

Thank you for your continued support.

Short Takes



PDHA is helping to support the library resources at the Lyman Woods Interpretative Center. Check out the useful backpacks stuffed with guidebooks and other interpretative helpers the next time you visit Lyman Woods.

We are also helping with funds for two new garden exhibits outside of the Interpretative Center – the green roof garden and the butterfly garden that are being constructed as Eagle Scout projects. Matt Krein worked on the green roof garden and Patrick Donnelly is working on the butterfly garden.

PDHA directors are continuing to monitor closely Park District Commissioners' discussions about possible sites for a new swimming pool. We are working to ensure that our community's outstanding natural heritage sites are adequately protected.

Officers and Directors of the Heritage Alliance

Gordon L. Goodman, Chair, William (Buzz) Whowell, Chair Pro-tem, Laurel Q. Bowen, Secretary, and James Cavallo, Treasurer are the current officers of Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance. Other Directors of the Heritage Alliance are Jane E. Amorosi, Aspasia Colias, Lee A. Forsythe, Matt LeCren, Kathleen Panek, William M. Runyon, David Schulz, Mark D. Sklair and, Jerry Yoksoulian. Mark Sklair lives in Westmont and all other Directors live in Downers Grove.

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

*June 12, 2004
8:30 -10:30 AM*

*Check our
website for
updates!*

*Next
PDHA Meeting*

*Wednesday
7:00pm
Lincoln Center
Auditorium
935 Maple Ave
Downers Grove*

*For info call:
Laurel Bowen
at
(630) 852-5490*

*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 Spring 2004 Newsletter

**You are invited to join us at our next meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2004, 7:00PM
in the Lincoln Center Auditorium in Downers Grove.
Check our website 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 coalition 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 us defray expenses, but is **not** required for membership. Your email address will allow us to keep you informed of future events.