

Approved 10/05/16

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE  
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM  
801 BURLINGTON AVENUE  
AUGUST 3, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Gorman called the August 3, 2016 meeting of the Downers Grove Comprehensive Plan Ad Hoc Committee meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the meeting with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Dave Gorman, Carine Acks, Irene Hogstrom, Ed Kalina, John Luka, Daiva Majauskas, Mark Thoman, Jim Wilkinson

**ABSENT:** Member Marge Earl

**STAFF:** Community Development Director Stan Popovich

**VISITORS:** Devin Lavigne and Ian Tobin with Houseal Lavigne Associates; Don Rickard, 4735 Main St., Downers Grove; Miles and Amy Boone, 117 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Downers Grove

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 14, 2016**

**MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2016 WERE APPROVED ON MOTION BY MR. KALINA, SECONDED BY MS. HOGSTROM. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE OF 8-0.**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW – (Section 3)**

Mr. Devin Lavigne, with Houseal Lavigne Associates, reported that this section pertains to the village's land use plan which describes the various land uses that are desired in the community and will be used to form zoning decisions. The plan acts as a policy guide. Mr. Lavigne stated he was looking for comments on the land use map and the various land use classifications, but more specifically, he asked members to closely review the Office and Corporate Campus classification, since there appeared to be a large surplus of empty corporate office space/office buildings along the east/west tollway. However, it was pointed out by one member that the occupancy rate for corporate office space was over 93% in Downers Grove and there was going to be more development coming, seeing that the east/west corridor at I-88 and I-355 was the most sought after corridor for office space.

General discussion followed that Downers Grove's stock of office buildings was newer and more compatible for tech firms than some of the older buildings located in Oak Brook and elsewhere.

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Asked if there was going to be a “Downtown Center” area identified on the land use map, Mr. Popovich explained that due to a council member vacancy and the matter being held off at the village council level, this matter would not be discussed until September. However, staff envisioned that the center would remain as Downtown Mixed Use and then refer back to the Sub-Area Plan for a specific map.

Adding to the discussion about the Downtown and the idea that Millennials seem to prefer housing with a lot of “amenities”, Ms. Majauskas stated she did not see a lot of amenities in the downtown area, i.e., shoe stores, bars, or hip cafes and asked how the village planned to attract that specific demographic to move into the four buildings planned for the Downtown plan when those amenities were not being offered. She emphasized that the village needed a reason for those Millennials to come to the downtown versus them traveling to other vibrant towns such as Oak Park or Naperville. She cited examples.

Mr. Thoman commented that the transit-oriented development aspect was problematic for the village in that most of the existing buses were commuter buses to the train or to/from Joliet to Yorktown. He still voiced his thoughts that although people liked to consider the village urban development, it was still a suburb. He preferred to see stronger language in the Downtown Commercial Mixed Use area speak about compatible heights and compatible vistas to attract the single-home buyer “who wants to believe they’re still living in Mayberry.”

Still, other comments followed that HUD released a recent report on the housing ownership percentage which dropped to a 51-year low, or approximately 40% of the U.S. population renting its housing and the village should not ignore that. It was pointed out that suburbs that had high ownership ratios with medium to high household income, and included five-, six- or seven-story rental units in the downtown, included such communities as Wheaton, Arlington Heights, and Mt. Prospect. However Mr. Thoman pointed out that the seven-story buildings in Wheaton were located on the ring of the downtown.

Conversation was raised that the village had to consider a 50/50 housing stock, adapt to it, and consider the new millennium, which included Millennials, middle agers and seniors, all living within a building (aging in place). Dialog continued that the amenities had to be available to draw the residents; however, dialog also followed that “amenities” was a broad term and what did it really include, i.e., access to the city, forest preserve system, bike routes, etc.? Other comments followed that the village eventually would have to find out what works and what does not, within the next two years when all the units come on-line.

Asked if there were anymore issues with the sections of the land use plan, comments included:

- clarification of a small parcel near the corner of Ogden Avenue and Downers Drive (south side of Ogden, northeast of the park site; pg. 26), which staff identified as a water tower, i.e., identified as a “utility”.
- Did the committee want to distinguish a different kind of mixed use around the Belmont Station? (Staff felt it would be good to keep it as a long-term goal.)
- Add language about the cottage industry, i.e., a small brewery was mentioned.
- Should language be added to the definition of Office/Corporate Campus – reconfigure the area and expand the envelope at the corner of Warrenville and Belmont/Finley Rd. to make

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it more adaptable for 21<sup>st</sup> century corporate headquarters or commercial properties, where the layout is open, no cubicles, high traffic and there is an increased parking ratio rather than the typical four and one-half spaces per 1,000 square feet? (Staff mentioned that the language should mention that new office development should keep up with the trends in development and trends in employee density.)

- Should there be language to encourage and allow energy/water/wind efficient buildings to be constructed? (Members favored that suggestion.)
- Regarding a building located at Fairview Station (Maple and Fairview Avenues) that is designated as Mixed Use, would there be additional mixed use around the station? (Staff suggested reconciling the paragraph.)
- Referring to an area along Warren Avenue between the railroad tracks and Warren is it confirmed as all Light Intensity Office?

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The chairman invited the public to speak. No comments followed.

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW (Section 9)**

Belmont / Ellsworth – Mr. Lavigne walked through the changes for this focus area. Per a question on what a “unified streetscape” meant, Mr. Lavigne offered to show some photographs or cross-section of the street. Continuing, he stated that with the underpass improvement and because more traffic was traveling that way, opportunities for lot consolidation existed which could draw investors to the area. He asked to think about expanding the area into the current residential area to allow other mixed uses, in general. However, Ms. Majauskas suggested not dividing up the area and possibly keeping the area multi-family and not necessarily retail, as she did not see retail as a big draw. She also saw the area as a cut-through. Mr. Lavigne explained the reasoning behind the two cul-de-sacs depicted in the plan, i.e., access restrictions, or possibly using a round-in or right-out design.

Staff discussed with Mr. Lavigne the idea of adding new graphics and possibly an overlay regarding the potential for corporate campuses along Maple as well as something around the mixed-use at the Belmont Station. A question was also raised regarding the unincorporated area behind the golf course up to Ogden Avenue.

Butterfield Road – Mr. Lavigne reviewed the changes for this focus area – adding pedestrian/bike accommodations and crosswalks, to the area. The Red Roof Inn would remain but be moved into Catalyst Site 21. It was suggested to promote more hospitality businesses near the Red Roof Inn. Someone pointed out that the proposed train line running along I-88 to Highland Avenue, as discussed in concept by CMAP, was missing. Mr. Lavigne would confirm if the train extension was in CMAP’s vision.

Ogden Avenue – Ms. Majauskas voiced concern that there were a number of issues associated with Ogden Avenue, such as the various sizes/ shapes of the lots, the buildings were much older, and petitioners were constantly asking for zoning changes. Consolidating the lots would improve the street so that larger buildings could be placed on the lots. A solution would be to establish a minimum lot size and grandfather the older lots. Good examples within the village were cited,

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especially examples of commercial expansion into residential neighbors throughout the corridor. Mr. Popovich recalled elsewhere in the plan there was mention of expanding the lot depth of Ogden Avenue and, while it was a good idea to consolidate the smaller lots, the village had to still support the businesses that existed. Other challenges were discussed as well as a discussion about reducing the number of curb cuts on Ogden Avenue. Ms. Hogstrom saw an opportunity to add “street” trees on Ogden Avenue, which would beautify Ogden.

Staff proceeded to discuss the various catalyst sites (west end of Ogden) that had activity on them: Site 23, Site 27, and Site 26. Since Catalyst Site 32 on the east end of Ogden was developed with Fresh Thyme, Mr. Popovich suggested moving the catalyst sites kitty-corner to the northeast corner of Florence and Ogden (the former Downers Grove Yamaha) since there appeared to be some interest in redeveloping the block. Asked what the committee wanted to keep as Site 31: Luxury Motors development or Five Guys development, or both, the committee, after a short dialog, agreed that Five Guys development should be removed. Dialog then turned to having gateway signage on the east end, possibly utilizing the area behind Panera.

Fairview – Mr. Lavigne spoke about this site as a neighborhood center with a different feel. Gateway features were pointed out. Member comments included: 1) adding some “fun” restaurants to the area versus the Belmont corridor; 2) when some of the old industrial uses move out, opportunity existed to redevelop the area; and 3) make the area more walkable/bike-friendly.

Also mentioned by the chair was the suggestion to eliminate the at-grade crossing at Maple. However, he preferred that a traffic study be done first. Adding to the Maple Avenue dialog, Mr. Lavigne described how he wanted to eliminate the high-speed cut-through for the area using a deliberate left turn at Douglas and Rogers Streets so that a square footage opportunity becomes available for new development. However, there was concern raised that much traffic would be utilizing that left turn and that the village would have to look at making Fairview and, possibly Main, as through-streets. Flooding issues in the nearby parking lot (NW corner of tracks on Fairview) were then expressed. Additional members acknowledged the same problem. At the same time, it was also pointed out by someone that the area may have been designed to collect rain and that businesses on the east side needed that parking.

Per a question, Mr. Popovich indicated that staff was receiving calls on the empty gas station site located at Fairview Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and the Perma-Seal site.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The chairman opened up the meeting to public comment regarding the above topics.

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Miles and Amy Boone, 117 Second Street, own buildings 1519 through 1523 Fairview and asked for staff's clarification about the Comprehensive Plan's "suggested use" for redevelopment concepts and whether they were just being discussed or were going occur, wherein Mr. Popovich explained it was a concept currently, citing an example. Ms. Boone stated the two of them just purchased the building six weeks ago and no one discussed this plan with them. She and her husband had a plan and were moving ahead with their plan for the building. Mr. Popovich stated there was nothing stopping them from renovating their existing building and the plan was basically a vision for the area.

Ms. Boone shared what the plan was for her building and just wanted to express concern that they did not want to spend more money on improvements if the village had a different plan for their property. She asked for staff to explain what the process was should there be changes to the plan, to which staff explained the comprehensive plan further detail.

Ms. Boone was asked to share what businesses she had in her building and what she envisioned for the area, to which she responded that the tenants included a blind shop, ICL (Illinois Right to Life), a Pilates studio, and a chiropractor (weight loss). The upper story would house a photography co-op with an art gallery and painters. Long-term she would like to see a coffee shop/restaurant with Tobias especially during the summer where they can incorporate live music with an art show – like a cultural event. Mr. Boone concurred, stating that much foot traffic and train traffic already walked the area.

Staff agreed that the Boone's were great property owners and that they could get the other property owners involved and excited about redevelopment of their properties. Ms. Majauskas proceeded to shared some of the small garden shopping districts she saw near Tulane University in New Orleans. She agreed Fairview would be "perfect" for the area.

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW (Section 10)**

Mr. Lavigne recalled for the members that the text regarding the Implementation chapter, discussing available funding sources, would be returned and better described. Details followed on what would be added and "bulked up" in the text. Also noted by Mr. Lavigne was that rather than the village have an Action Agenda (like many communities) the village would not because it was difficult, as the consultant, to choose the village's priorities. Therefore, Mr. Lavigne recommended upon adoption of the comprehensive plan, that the village form an implementation committee or subcommittee to determine the village's priorities and funding sources, based on what was being discussed at this committee.

On that note, Mr. Popovich mentioned to the members that Village Council establishes its high priority action items on a two-year schedule and the review of this plan was one of those updates. He pointed out that there will be an update to the zoning map to take place after this ad hoc committee completes its charge in order to update those areas that were annexed into the village and some to match up zoning.

Continuing, Ms. Hogstrom and Mr. Thoman recommended adding language in the Public Communication/Outreach section to mention that the village uses social media to update residents on various projects as well as videos promoting outreach to the community. Mr. Popovich

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commented on some of the videos that have been completed to date and which could be added to the section.

On another brief matter, Mr. Popovich discussed what the next steps were for the subcommittee since Commissioner Olsen left the village council. He would follow up the comprehensive plan review schedule with Mr. Lavigne, commenting that the goal was to complete this plan by the end of the year. Mr. Lavigne thought it could still be accomplished. Staff would update the members.

### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW – PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED SECTIONS**

Members were then asked if they wanted to add additional information to the previously discussed section that they may have forgotten.

Referring to the map on page 26, a member mentioned that the large green space in the NW corner was an underutilized parcel wherein it was mentioned that it was owned by the forest preserve but that it should have an access off of Finley or Lacey. Someone also pointed out that nearby was a Low Intensity Office zoned next to a Office Corporate Campus parcel which would give access to Hidden Lake and Morton Arboretum from that side. Staff added that it could be zoned Office Corporate Campus with the developer, as part of the development, provide access for the parking.

Dialog was also raised regarding an area in the village's planning area and staff needing to work with the forest preserve on who owns the site and whether the owner would want the access or not.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None.

Staff would confirm with members whether a September meeting would take place.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:20 P.M. ON MOTION BY MR. LUKA, SECONDED BY MS. ACKS. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE OF 8-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Celeste K. Weilandt  
(As transcribed by MP-3 audio)

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION OF 2017 BUDGET  
AUGUST 24, 2016, 6:30 P.M.  
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to order.** President Wendee Greene called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Roll call.** Members present: Trustee Ed Earl, Trustee Susan Eblen, Trustee David Humphreys, Trustee Art Jaros, Trustee Thomas Read, President Wendee Greene. Absent: None.

Also present: Director Julie Milavec, Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien, Assistant Director for Public Services Bonnie Reid, PR Manager Melissa Doornbos, Friends of the Library President Joanne Hansen, Resident Sharon Downer, Resident Jonathan Graber, Resident David Rose, Resident Ed Pawlak, Resident Laurel Bowen, Resident Marge Earl, Resident Genene Murphy.

3. **Welcome to visitors.** President Greene welcomed the visitors and thanked them for their interest in the library.
4. **Public Comment.** President Greene invited comment. Resident Ed Pawlak inquired about expanded services in the budget and President Greene noted that the staff had identified areas which will be discussed during the budget consideration tonight.
5. **Presentation and Discussion of Proposed 2017 Budget and Levy.** Milavec presented a draft of fund balance, expenditure, revenue and tax impact information. Discussion ensued, including the importance of a reserve fund for capital replacements, the impact on the taxpayer of the four scenarios presented, the costs for personnel and materials in the budget, using the elimination of the bond payment as a way to fund a capital replacement plan without taxpayers seeing an increase, and the three areas in which savings may accrue (contingency, capital replacements and fund balance).

Milavec noted that a long range facilities plan and long range budget plan would allow the public to understand the need for a reserve fund for capital replacements. She also noted that 2017 will be the year to develop and begin implementation of the next Strategic Plan, and the budgets for 2018 and forward will reflect the priorities set in that Strategic Plan.

Milavec will speak with Jaros and Earl to discuss specific questions they have about the budget and funding. She will also prepare the final budget proposal for the September 28 Board Meeting.

6. **Adjournment.** President Greene adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
AUGUST 24, 2016, 8:00 P.M.  
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to order.** President Wendee Greene called the meeting to order at 8:18 p.m.
2. **Roll call.** Members present: Trustee Ed Earl, Trustee Susan Eblen, Trustee David Humphreys, Trustee Art Jaros, Trustee Thomas Read, President Wendee Greene. Absent: None.

Also present: Director Julie Milavec, Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien, Assistant Director for Public Services Bonnie Reid, PR Manager Melissa Doornbos, Circulation Clerk Sharon Downer, Friends of the Library President Joanne Hansen, Resident Ed Pawlak, Resident Marge Earl, Resident Jonathan Graber, Resident Genevieve Murphy, and Resident Laurel Bowen.

3. **Welcome to visitors.** President Greene welcomed the visitors and thanked them for their interest in the library.
4. **Approval of Minutes.**
  - a. July 27, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting. It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Eblen THAT the Minutes of the July 27, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting be approved as amended. Earl requested that the minutes be amended to show that the resident Earl spoke to at the Farmer's Market who asked about fundraising activities didn't decline to leave her name, but declined to volunteer her services. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: None. Abstentions: Humphreys.
5. **Financial Matters.**
  - a. July 2016 Financial Report. Milavec presented the report. Jaros suggested it would be useful for the Board to have a list of items that are paid annually, along with their budget lines and month paid, so the Board could better follow the expenditures reports.
  - b. Approval of August 2016 Invoices. It was moved by Read and seconded by Jaros THAT August 2016 invoices totaling \$151,956.19 and July payrolls totaling \$207,381.64 be recognized. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: None.
6. **Public Comment on Agenda items.** President Greene invited comment. There was none.



7. **Public comment on other Library business.** President Greene invited comment. Resident Ed Pawlak said since circulation has gone up 5% and property values have gone up 5%, these facts should be factored into the budget. He also said he would like to continue to see any funds not spent at the end of the budget year be put into the reserve fund.
8. **New Business.**
  - a. Liability Insurance Renewal. It was moved by Jaros and seconded by Humphreys TO renew with CNA, for one-year package liability, workers' compensation and umbrella policies, effective October 1, 2016, at a total premium of \$37,635.00. Roll call: Ayes: Earl, Eblen, Humphreys, Jaros, Read, Greene. Nays: none. Abstentions: None.
  - b. Strategic Plan Process Expectations. Milavec invited comments from Trustees on the desired process and deliverables for Strategic Planning. In addition to including values and broad goals in the new strategic plan, the Board would also like to see a specific, measurable action plan that ties back to the strategic plan. Milavec plans to have the strategic plan in place by the March 2017 Library Board meeting. By the end of 2017, Milavec plans to have a strategic plan, facilities sustainability plan, and a long range budget in place.
  - c. Meeting Packet Reports and Statistics. Milavec requested Trustee feedback on Board packet reports and statistics. As suggested by Milavec, Board members would like very brief reports from department managers included in the Board packet. The statistics report is in the process of being tweaked. Milavec offered Board members a choice between an electronic version of the Board packet or a hard copy of the Board packet. Jaros suggested Board members email Milavec with any further suggestions.
9. **Report of the Director.** Milavec presented her written report (attached). Milavec reminded Trustees of the upcoming Super Retreat on September 14 and 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash on October 16. She also reported that Teen Services Coordinator Lynette Pitrak had a visit from Niara Briggs, a participant in both the View from the Director's Chair and View from Behind the Lens programs. Niara is now a Downers Grove South graduate and will be attending DePaul University. She has been in touch with Jasmine Smith, another View from the Director's Chair student who graduated from Downers Grove North last year. Jasmine had an internship with a production house that took her to the Cannes and Berlinale Film Festivals. She started her own film production company. Jasmine and Niara are working on a project together, creating a documentary about a chef who hired them to tell his story. These two hardworking young ladies started their friendship and partnership at one of our Teen workshops.
10. **Board Member Comments and Requests for Information.** Eblen cancelled the Downers Grove Library Foundation Board meeting in September. It will be rescheduled, date and time to be determined.

Earl asked Milavec to speak about her answer to Laurel Bowen's questions about the Adult Coloring Meetup, and Milavec spoke about the purpose of this program in particular and library programs in general.

Humphreys shared information about his visits to libraries on his trip to South Africa.

As Read's Library Board term is expiring, Greene thanked him for his many years of service as a trustee; a successor has been identified.

The Board thanked O'Brien and Reid for their outstanding work as interim co-directors.

11. **Adjournment.** President Greene adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
AUGUST 24, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

Report of the Director

a. Circulation Statistics

Circulation for 2016 is on track to reach 1 million! Ebook circulation from June and July saw significant decreases. Students from District58 can check out library ebooks directly on their school-issued iPads – but the iPads were returned to the District this summer. September statistics are expected to jump when the students are issued their iPads for the school year.

b. IT Manager search

Applications have closed for the position. Dave Kenny, IT Manager of the Village of Downers Grove, met with Library IT staff to review the technical skills and qualifications needed to perform the job duties. He will be conducting pre-screening telephone interviews with selected candidates to confirm their technical qualifications. Any candidates not meeting the technical qualifications will not continue to in-person interviews with Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien and me.

c. Super Retreat – September 14, 2016

The Super Retreat, your opportunity to learn more about the plans and goals of the other government entities in Downers Grove, is scheduled for 6:30pm to 9:45pm at the Downers Grove South Cafetorium. Each entity will make a brief presentation, including an overview, Top Priorities and Key Issues. I will focus on the upcoming planning at the Library: Strategic Planning, Facilities Sustainability and Long Range Budget. Each entity will have a display table of information and staff available to answer questions in an open networking session following the presentations. The meeting will be posted by the Village and all participating units of government, according to the Open Meetings Act. Trustees are strongly encouraged to attend.

d. Requests for Information and Suggestions

An unnamed resident emailed an article from the New York Times online edition about a group of London bookstores that have banned cell phone use and blocked Wi-Fi with the suggestion that the Library do the same. I responded with information about 21<sup>st</sup> century library services, our Library Environment policy and an offer for staff to help identify quiet locations for reading and study. Included in your meeting packet is the response to resident Laurel Bowen's questions and request for information about the Adult Coloring Meetup program series, hosted by Ballydoyle.

e. Training for Illinois Library Trustees

See attached.

f. Recent media coverage

See attached.



## RAILS and United for Libraries Present: Training for Illinois Library Trustees

### Short Takes for Trustees

Series of 10 short videos (8-10 minutes each):

- ◆ What it Means to be a Trustee
- ◆ Board Meetings
- ◆ Board Ethics
- ◆ Library Advocacy
- ◆ Library Policies
- ◆ Strategic Planning
- ◆ Working with Friends
- ◆ Evaluating the Library Director
- ◆ Board Self-Evaluation
- ◆ Succession Planning and New Board Orientation

### Trustee Academy

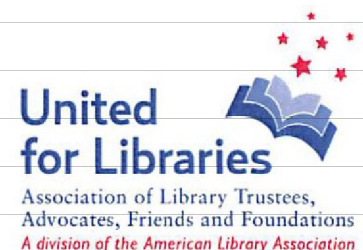
Series of 30 – 60 minute online courses:

- ◆ Trustee Competencies
- ◆ Trustee Basics, Part 1
- ◆ Trustee Basics, Part 2
- ◆ Working Effectively with Your Library Director
- ◆ The Library's Budget
- ◆ Advocating for Your Library
- ◆ Evaluating the Library Director
- ◆ Working Effectively with Your Trustees

All videos/online courses are offered without cost to system member library staff and trustees.

RAILS members: log into the RAILS website and visit [www.railslibraries.info/ce/trustees](http://www.railslibraries.info/ce/trustees). To create a website (L2) account, visit [www.railslibraries.info/L2help/account](http://www.railslibraries.info/L2help/account).

Questions? Contact Joe Filapek, RAILS Consulting and Continuing Education Manager, at [joseph.filapek@railslibraries.info](mailto:joseph.filapek@railslibraries.info).

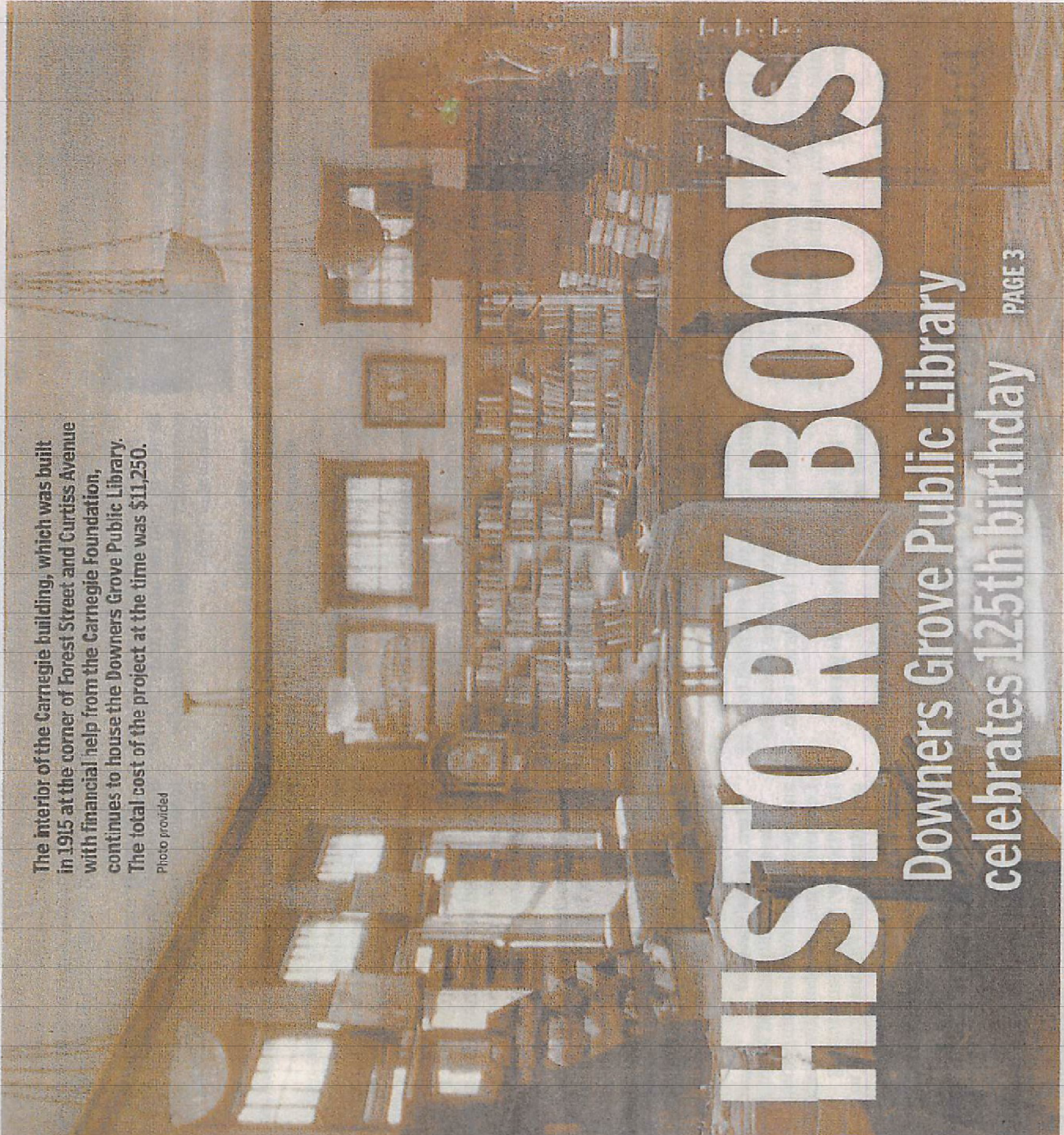


# Suburban Life

YOUR NEW DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER

The interior of the Carnegie building, which was built in 1915 at the corner of Forest Street and Curtiss Avenue with financial help from the Carnegie Foundation, continues to house the Downers Grove Public Library. The total cost of the project at the time was \$11,250.

Photo provided



# HISTORY BOOKS

Downers Grove Public Library celebrates 125th birthday

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# Downers Grove library celebrates long history

## Special 125th birthday party in October part of monthly events

### SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

**DOWNERS GROVE** – For 125 years, the Downers Grove Public Library has been loaning books and providing knowledge to the residents of the village, and it will be celebrating that long history throughout 2016.

The library is planning a mix of activities for those of all ages, culminating in a special 125th birthday party Oct. 16. Here are some of the offerings during the next few months – and beyond. For more about the celebrations, visit [dglibrary.org/125th](http://dglibrary.org/125th).

#### **American Beauty**

**Time and date:** 2 to 3:30 p.m. July 31

**Audience:** Adults

**Details:** A presentation on the history of the beauty industry and the cultural meanings of American beauty ideals.



Photo provided

The Mouse Cafe on the first floor of the Downers Grove Public Library was one of the areas that underwent renovations in 2014.

See LIBRARY, page 4

LIBRARY  
Continued from page 3

**Magic: The Last 125 Years**

**Time and date:** 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 15

**Audience:** Adults

**Details:** Magician Tony Noice presents a history of magic for all to enjoy.

**Downers Grove Streets From A-Z**

**Time and date:** 2 to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 9

**Audience:** Adults

**Details:** Find out the history of streets across the village in a presentation from the Downers Grove Historical Society.

**125th Birthday Party**

**Time and date:** 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 16

**Audience:** All

**Details:** A celebration of the library's birthday with games, music, snacks and prizes throughout the building.

**Little Schoolhouse on the Prairie, Circa 1912**

**Time and date:** 7 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 9

**Audience:** All

**Details:** An actress brings the experience of school in the early 1900s to attendees.

**Historic Fashion 1910 to 1930**

**Time and date:** 11 a.m. to noon Nov. 17

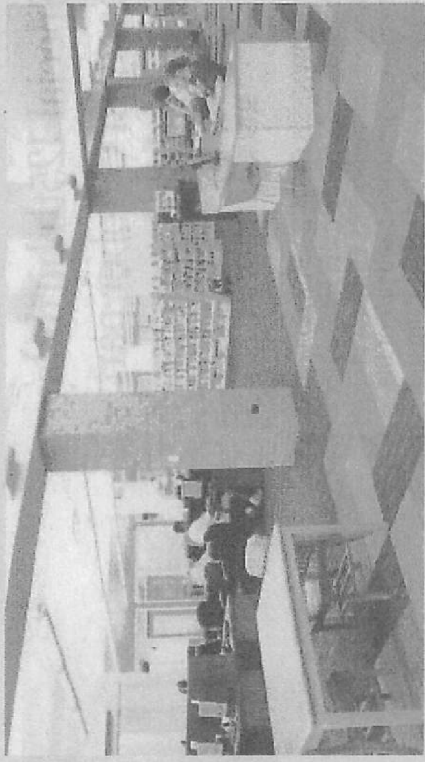
**Audience:** All

**Details:** A presentation on fashion styles from the era of the early library.

**Downers Grove Public Library history**

A brief timeline of the Downers Grove Public Library's history, provided by the library:

- **1891:** The Ladies Library Association begins a small reading room above the Farmers and Merchants Bank on the northeast corner of Main and Curtiss streets. It eventually holds more than 600 volumes.
- **1911:** A small building on Main and Curtiss is constructed following a successful referendum for a tax-supported library.
- **1915:** A new building on the corner of Curtiss Street and Forest Avenue is constructed with financial help from the Carnegie Foundation to the tune of \$11,250.
- **1956:** A new expansion is built to accommodate growing usage.
- **1977:** A 1975 referendum leads to the razing of the old library building, with a new 40,000-square-foot building taking its place.
- **1999:** The new, reconstructed and updated library opens in February 1999 after an \$8.2 million referendum in 1996 funded work on the structure.



**ABOVE:** The AV and computer help desk on the second floor of the Downers Grove Public Library underwent renovations in 2015. **LEFT:** The Carnegie building, pictured in 1937, housed the Downers Grove Public Library until it was razed to construct a new facility in 1977.

Photos provided

■ **2014:** Construction is completed on a \$2.4 million renovation as part of the library's strategic plan.

■ **2015:** The AV and computer help desk on the second floor of the library undergo renovations.

mySuburbanLife.com

# New Downers Grove Public Library executive director eager to learn about community

Published: Monday, July 25, 2016 1:30 p.m. CDT

DOWNERS GROVE – As the Downers Grove Public Library enters its 125th year in the community, it will do so under the leadership of a new executive director.

The library's former director Rick Ashton retired in March, kicking off a monthslong search that led to the selection of his successor, Julie Milavec, director of the Plainfield Public Library since 2000.

Although she doesn't begin her time in Downers Grove until Aug. 1, she spoke with Suburban Life reporter Nathan Lurz about her hopes and plans for the library.

Lurz: I know you have a good deal of experience in the library world – what should people in Downers Grove know about you and what you've done?

Milavec: I've been a library director for more than 20 years. I was born an Army brat, but I was raised in the Chicago suburbs. Most of my family is in the Chicagoland area, so I'm very familiar with the entire area, which really helps me understand the different communities and the differences between them.

Downers Grove is a great community, it's got wonderful history. It's a fantastic place to work and live and raise children, and the library is a big part of that.

Lurz: What drew you to the job?

Milavec: In Plainfield, I feel like I had taken it as far as I could at this time, so I was looking for a new challenge and to be a little more cutting-edge in services and really start to explore the differences of libraries in the 21st century and how we can continue to evolve and be meaningful to our community.

Now is a great time to come in and be able to help the board and staff and community through a new strategic planning process.

Lurz: What direction do you see the library taking?

Milavec: Libraries in this day and age are more about access and instruction, instead of just checking out an item and getting a physical book. ... We're in a new knowledge economy where people are constantly collaborating and creating and sharing new information, and that's really a key new role for libraries.

We've got digital media ... those are the things that are going to position libraries and continue the tradition of public libraries to be a point of access and an educational resource to people of all ages.

Lurz: Are there any areas you specifically see as a strength or weakness in the Downers Grove library?

Milavec: (Laughs) I haven't even gotten that far yet. I still need to go in and talk to people and see



where the community wants the library to go.

Lurz: What kind of leader do you see yourself as?

Milavec: I am a very collaborative leader, and I like to put together a team and lead a team where everybody has the opportunity to contribute according to their own strengths and interests. [A time] where everybody has an opportunity to try something new ... every experience is a learning experience.

I'm really excited to learn who my team is and what challenges they'd like to take on and helping them meet their own personal goals in their careers.

Lurz: Last question I think is a pretty simple one – what do you like reading or what are you reading right now?

Milavec: One thing that people tease me about is that there is no music on my phone and mp3 player, it's all audiobooks. I'm an audiobook addict. I always have a book on. ... I think it's the greatest thing for me personally to be able to read no matter what I'm doing. Digital services that allow us to have access to books at any time and anywhere are just amazing.

I went back and started reading the Jack Reacher series. I had never picked it up, but I think I'm on book four or five – I don't even pay attention to what number it is, I just look at the next title and get it (laughs). I'm also reading [an Alexander] Hamilton biography that the musical is based on.

Lurz: Any final thoughts?

Milavec: I'm really excited to get in and spend some time learning about Downers Grove and about the library in particular. It's just an exciting opportunity and I'm just excited to be coming.

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# New Director Julie Milavec Joins DGPL Staff

Milavec will create and carry out a plan for 21st century library services, replenishing capital funds and maintaining the building.

By Morgan Searles (Patch Staff) - August 11, 2016 5:34 pm ET



DOWNERS GROVE, IL — After a national search, the Downers Grove Public Library Board of Trustees recently announced the appointment of Julie M. Milavec as library director.

As director, Milavec is responsible for creating and carrying out a plan that provides 21st century library services, replenishes capital funds, and maintains the physical building.

“My first responsibility will be creating this plan. I’ll help the Board of Trustees, residents, and staff determine what their vision is. And then I will help make this vision a reality,” she says.

Julie is excited to get the process started.

“There will be opportunities for input. We will have lots of conversations. Talking, learning, asking questions. I can’t wait to meet everyone!”

Libraries have always been a part of Julie’s life. Inspired by her father’s and grandfather’s long, successful library careers, she started volunteering in libraries as soon as she was able to shelves books. She went on to receive her Master of Library Science degree from Florida State University and has worked in many towns since then, including Lemont, Plainfield, West Chicago, and Worth.

At each stop she’s immersed herself in that community, and found that the library is one of the greatest things about it.

She goes on to explain, “Everyone is welcome at a library, and we literally have something for everyone.”

One of her goals in Downers Grove is to help each and every resident be more aware of this: “We have something for you.” You’re invited to welcome Julie to Downers Grove at the library’s 125th birthday party on Sunday, October 16.

She’ll be in the lobby from 1 - 4:30 p.m. excited to meet you. You can also swing by the first floor Administration Office anytime or send an email to [Jmilavec@dglibrary.org](mailto:Jmilavec@dglibrary.org) to say hello.

*Submitted by the Downers Grove Public Library.*

<http://patch.com/illinois/downersgrove/new-director-julie-milavec-joins-dgpl-staff>

DOWNERS GROVE ■ WESTMONT

# Suburban Life

MAGAZINE

FALL 2016



## A literary life

**Julie Milavec** follows family footsteps to the front door of the Downers Grove Public Library **PAGE 7**

**Celebrity Dance marks decade in Downers Grove**

**PAGE 14**



# Editor's Note

Imagine all of the stories about your community – the shops, restaurants and your neighbors – beautifully presented in a magazine worthy of a sunny morning with a cup of coffee.

Now you have it.

Suburban Life Magazine presents its Downers Grove/Westmont edition, filled with everything you need to know about the people, places and events happening in your hometown.

Every season, you'll get a magazine focused on you, with an expanded local calendar of events, community artisans, and stories about outstanding volunteers and interesting city businesses.

In this fall edition, we get ready for school with the help of local educators and pediatricians, explore school days gone by at the Downers Grove Museum and celebrate 125 years with the Downers Grove Public Library.

We get to know the newest library director, Julie Milavec, local running enthusiasts. Downers Grove business owners Ken and Nell Posmer, and learn a few steps from the team at Celebrity Dance Studio.

We honor anti-bullying advocate Mary Ellen Young, one of our 2016 Women of Distinction honorees. And we're showcasing Fannie Moy of Westmont as our featured artist of the month.

Speaking of art, it's nearly time for the Downers Grove Fine Arts Festival, a great local summer event, and the Westmont-based Progressive Village Performance Network is gearing up for its next production. We preview them both and get you ready to end the summer in style, right here, in your hometown!

Thanks for reading-



**Sherri Dauskurdas**  
 Editor



## on the COVER

The Downers Grove Public Library welcomed its new director, Julie Milavec, to town this month, and continues its 125th anniversary celebration through the fall. Read more on page 7.

Photo by Aldo Risolvo  
 Salon Services by MARIO TRICOCI  
 Stylist-ELIZABETH  
 Makeup-PENNY

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 1101 W. 31st Street  
 Downers Grove, IL 60515  
 Phone: 630-368-1100  
[suburbanlifemagazine@shawmedia.com](mailto:suburbanlifemagazine@shawmedia.com)

### General Manager

Laura Burke  
[lburke@shawmedia.com](mailto:lburke@shawmedia.com)

### Advertising

Bill Korbel  
 630-427-6230  
[bkorbel@shawmedia.com](mailto:bkorbel@shawmedia.com)

### Editor

Sherri Dauskurdas  
 630-427-6209  
[sdauskurdas@shawmedia.com](mailto:sdauskurdas@shawmedia.com)

### Designer

Carol Manderfield  
 630-427-6253  
[cmanderfield@shawmedia.com](mailto:cmanderfield@shawmedia.com)

### Correspondents

Wendy Foster, Melissa Riske, Shonda Dudlicek, Kara Silva

### Photographers

Aldo Risolvo, Joe Perez, Greg Wilkelmann, Bill Ackerman

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# Racking up memories

Library marks 125 years with nostalgic programs and celebratory events

By SHONDA DUDLICEK | Photos by ALDO RISOLVO



In 1891, the Ladies Library Association opened a small reading room above the Farmers Market and Merchants Bank on the northeast corner of Main and Curtiss in Downers Grove. By 1895, the library held about 700 volumes.

Fast-forward 125 years to 2016, and the Downers Grove Public Library, at 1050 Curtiss St., now holds 321,709 total items in its collection, which includes books, CDs, DVDs, e-readers, e-magazines, video games and more.

Melissa Doornbos has been public relations manager of the Downers Grove Public Library since 2010 and says that she's seen many changes in her six years.

"We've introduced Blu-Ray, videogames, e-books and e-magazines and even so many more items and equipment. You can use a laptop and bring it around the library instead of looking up information on our database on our computers. We have cameras to check out; we provide training on how to use them. Since 2015 we've added VHS-to-DVD recorders that you can check out and take home and convert your tapes to DVD. More music equipment, like software, for your computer. You can also check out a keyboard or guitar. That might be expensive for one person to buy, but when you can check it out at the library – and lots of people can do this – it's a great value."

She added that adult fiction and nonfiction books in Chinese, Polish and Spanish were introduced earlier this year as part of the new World Languages Collection.

"We added more study rooms and Downers Grove Grade School District 58 and Community High School District 99 have tutors here and host events here. They all need workspaces," Doornbos says.

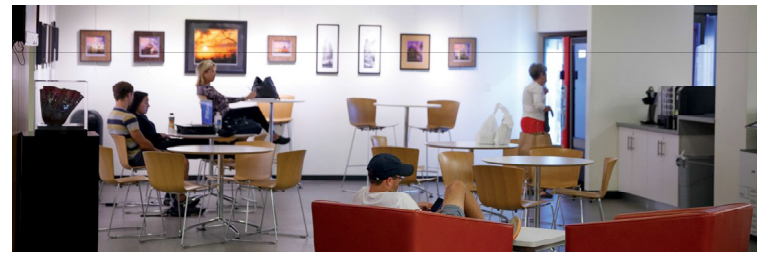
Back in 2012, a strategic plan included a \$2.4 million renovation plan for more study spaces, upgraded technology, improved Wi-Fi, enhanced displays of items and a cafe space. Construction was completed two years later.

This, of course, was not the first round of renovations for the 67,738-square-foot library.

It began in 1911, following a successful referendum for a tax-supported library, when a small building on the southwest corner of Main and Curtiss became the library's second home. Circulation had jumped to 1,520 by November 1912 – nearly doubling the collection housed in the reading room above the bank.

*-Continued on page 8*





**Save the Date!**  
**DOWNERS GROVE LIBRARY 125TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY**  
 Sunday, Oct. 16  
 1 to 5 p.m. (during normal library hours)

*-Continued from page 7*

Three years later, in 1915, money from the Carnegie Foundation helped construct a new brick building on the corner of Forest and Curtiss. The new library cost \$11,250.

In 1956, a wrap-around addition expanded the Carnegie Building from 1915. This was done to accommodate a booming local population and, again, usage grew.

Nearly 20 years later, a 1975 referendum called for the old library building to be razed and the collection was moved to temporary housing just east of the library. In fall 1977, a new 40,000-square foot building opened. In 1983, the second floor was redesigned and the reference department moved upstairs.

In 1996, Downers Grove residents approved an \$8.2 million referendum to reconstruct and update the library with an addition. The new 67,738 square-foot building opened in February 1999.

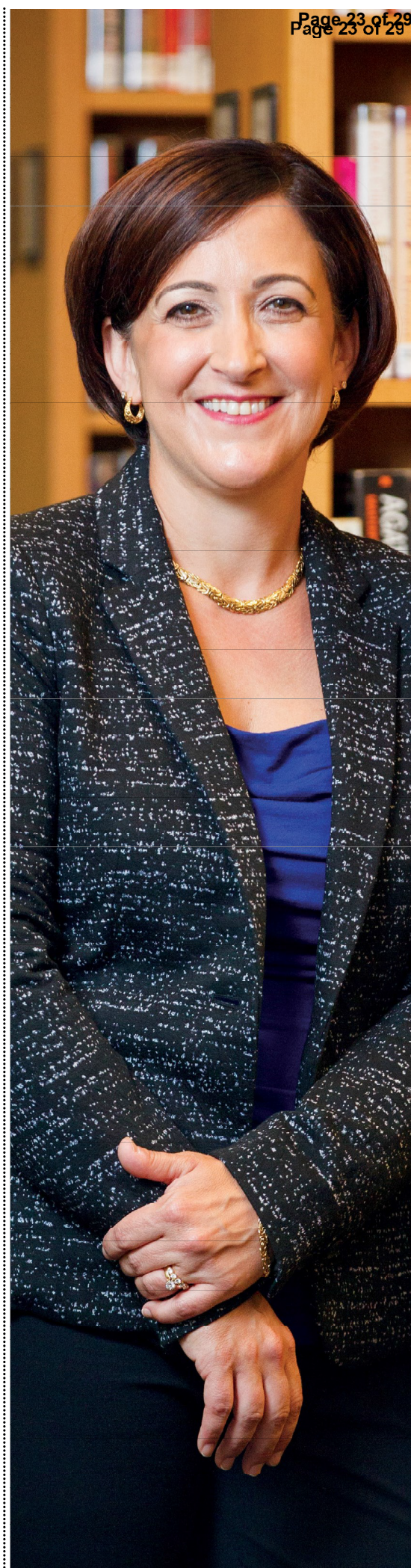
Marking 125 years is a milestone, and the library has been celebrating since January

with a variety of historic portrayals, gallery displays, activities, musical performances, story times, trivia and it will host a birthday party in the fall. The party will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16 (during normal library hours).

Residents also have shared their memories of the library in the bimonthly newsletter. And the library has added historical photos on its Facebook page, [facebook.com/DGLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/DGLibrary).

“We’re celebrating the library being part of the community for 125 years,” Doornbos says. “So, we’re taking a history-related approach. We’re looking at what was popular in music, activities, food and historical events.”

► Visit [dglibrary.org/125](https://www.dglibrary.org/125) for upcoming 125th anniversary-related events.



# Get to know Julie Milavec

## Downers Grove Public Library Director

By SHONDA DUDLICEK | Photos by ALDO RISOLVO

Julie Milavec is a third generation librarian, and the newest member of the Downers Grove community, taking the helm as Downers Grove Public Library director. Suburban Life Magazine writer Shonda Dudlicek took a few minutes to chat with Milavec about the job, her experience as director for the Plainfield Public Library, and her hopes for the future.

**SHONDA DUDLICEK:** How does it feel to take over a library in the midst of its 125th year?

**JULIE MILAVEC:** The Downers Grove Library has a long history of service to this community. This anniversary year is the perfect time to celebrate that history and plan for the library's future. I'm eager to begin talking to residents about their needs and to the board and staff about how the library can best meet those needs.

**DUDLICEK:** What have you learned as director of the Plainfield Public Library?

**MILAVEC:** The way people access information changed significantly during my tenure there. Public libraries had to evolve to keep pace. In 2000, cellphones were not common. Now they have more power than home computers from that time. How libraries provide access to information and recreational reading material shifted from focusing on physical to encompassing a variety of virtual access points. It's paramount for libraries to keep up with technology and the way people access and use information.

**DUDLICEK:** Many of us have fond memories of the visiting the library as children. What notable memories do you have?

**MILAVEC:** My father was the director of the Joliet Public Library when I was growing up, so I have lots of memories of the library! I was always asking my dad to bring me something new, one of those kids who checked out stacks and stacks of books at a time. One vivid memory is testing the very

first computer catalog for the library. To prove it would be easy for kids to use, my dad had my brother and I come in and try it, without any instructions. We were about 9 and 10 at the time. We loved it – and the skeptical staff was sold!

**DUDLICEK:** Why did you decide on a career in library science?

**MILAVEC:** Did I mention my dad? Also, my grandfather was the director of the Illinois State Library in the 1970s. Public libraries were a logical choice for me. I wanted a career that would help people and give back to the community. I believe in public libraries for providing education, information, entertainment, inspiration and opportunity.

**DUDLICEK:** What is your favorite genre to read?

**MILAVEC:** Depends on what I am doing. I like light romances and historical fiction at the end of a long day. On the non-fiction side, I tend to pick up biographies and humor. I prefer mysteries and suspense while walking the dog or gardening – and yes, I am an audiobook fan!

**DUDLICEK:** Do you have a favorite book?

**MILAVEC:** I have a favorite book for just about any occasion – they depend on mood and genre. Overall, my favorite book usually winds up being the one I am reading now! At the moment, I've got the Hamilton biography that inspired the musical – it's fascinating!

**DUDLICEK:** What was your favorite book as a child?

**MILAVEC:** I was a voracious reader as a child. I rarely re-read anything, but was constantly moving on to the next topic or genre. L.M. Montgomery was one of the few exceptions – I re-read her series, "Anne of Green Gables," and the lesser-known "Emily" trilogy several times.

**DUDLICEK:** What was your favorite book as a young adult?

**MILAVEC:** "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle got me started in the science fiction and fantasy genres.

**DUDLICEK:** What is the library's place in the community and how should it serve the public?

**MILAVEC:** By definition, it provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination for all, regardless of age, beliefs, ability to pay, etc. But exactly what that means is as individual as the community served. A rural library may be one of the few places available to residents for free Internet access while suburban libraries may focus more on things like downloadable materials, helping people learn to use the latest gadgets or demonstrating useful apps. Engaging residents and understanding their needs is the most important thing a library can do to ensure its services are responsive to those needs. That's exactly what the Downers Grove Public Library will be doing while creating a new strategic plan to guide us into the next 125 years.

**DUDLICEK:** What plans do you have to help lead the Downers Grove Public Library into the next 125 years?

**MILAVEC:** First and foremost, I want to get out and meet people, talk to them about the community and their thoughts on issues and needs in the community as a whole and the library specifically. The better the board, staff and I understand what our residents value and need, the better we can ensure that the library is responding with services that fit the community.

**DUDLICEK:** If someone tells you they don't have a library card, what is your response?

**MILAVEC:** That they should get one to make the most of their investment in their community! There really is something for everyone. You don't even have to physically go to the library anymore to be an avid library user. From access to databases that require subscriptions to books and magazines that can be downloaded instantly, public libraries give a great return on investment – if you use them.



## **MINUTES OF SUPER RETREAT**

### **VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE, COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 99, DOWNERS GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58, DOWNERS GROVE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS, DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP, YORK TOWNSHIP, DOWNERS GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND DOWNERS GROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

#### **DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

Mayor Martin Tully welcomed everyone to the Super Retreat at 7:05 p.m. at Downers Grove South High Cafetorium, 1436 Norfolk Street, Downers Grove.

#### Officials Present:

Village of Downers Grove: Mayor Martin Tully; Commissioners Bill White, Bill Waldack, Marge Earl, Nicole Walus, Dave Fieldman, Enza Petrarca, Doug Kozlowski, Don Wilson, April Holden  
Community School District 99: Julia Beckman, Michael Davenport, Donald Renner, Deborah Boyle, Rick Pavinato, Terry Pavesich, Dr. Hank Thiele, Mark Staehlin, Gina Ziccardi, Jill Browning

Downers Grove Grade School District 58: Christopher Heppner, Elizabeth Sigale, John Miller, Dr. Kari Cremascoli, David Bein, Megan Hewitt

Downers Grove Board of Park Commissioners: Matt Cushing, Tom Salaba, Cathy Mahoney, Bob Gelwicks, Bill McAdam, Geoff Penman

Downers Grove Township: Kathleen Abbate, Christina West, Frank Wurster, Mark Thoman, Laura Hois

York Township: Michael Mariani, Pam Sarno

Downers Grove Sanitary District Board of Trustees: Amy Kovacevic, Nick Menninga, Alyssa Cherwak

Downers Grove Public Library Board of Trustees: Ed Earl, Wendee Grene, Susan Eblen, Dave Humphreys, Julie Milavec, Sue O'Brien

Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation: Michael Cassa, Lisa Wentzell

Mayor Tully welcomed everyone to the retreat. He thanked District 99 for hosting this event. He said the last retreat was 15 years ago and although much has changed, the need for taxing bodies to collaborate, communicate and cooperate has not changed. We are here to learn about each organization's mission, vision, goals, objectives and strategic plans in order to identify

opportunities for future collaboration and cooperation. He hopes this will generate momentum to carry it into the future.

Mayor Tully then reviewed the agenda and the order of presentations.

#### Community School District 99

Dr. Hank Thiele, Superintendent, introduced school board members in attendance.

Dr. Thiele said District 99 serves over 80,000 students and has 686 staff members. Top priorities include a caring and challenging environment to develop lifelong learners. Key issues include funding, new standardized testing mandates and modernizing facilities.

#### Downers Grove Park District

Bill McAdam, Executive Director, introduced board members in attendance.

Mr. McAdam reviewed the mission, vision, culture and core values of the Park District. He touched on the key programs and events. Key issues include addressing changing recreational trends in terms of recreation space, maintenance of infrastructure, growing the non-tax base revenue; growing and sustaining partnerships and sponsorships; managing open space, engaging with the community and management of invasive species.

#### Downers Grove Township

Christina West, Deputy Supervisor, introduced township officials in attendance.

Ms. West said Downers Grove Township was established in 1832 and covers 52 sq. miles. Ms. West outlined all of the municipalities in the township. She reviewed the functions of the Supervisor's Office, the Township Assessor's Office and the Township Highway Department. Top priorities in the Supervisor's Office include Ride DuPage, prevention and life skills education, senior referral information and services, maintaining a balanced budget with no debt as well as general assistance. Top priorities in the Assessor's Office include educating property owners as to the property assessment and exemption process. Top priorities in the Highway Department include tree removal, electronic recycling, road maintenance, brush pick-up, snow removal and storm sewer maintenance. Key issues are to work with municipalities to help fund Ride DuPage; increase the Township presence within schools; inform, assist and educate on assessments; and maintain roads.

#### York Township

Mike Mariani, Deputy Supervisor, introduced township officials in attendance.

Mr. Mariani said Township government is the oldest form of government in the country. There are three mandates: General assistance to the indigent; assessment of property for taxes; and maintenance of roads and bridges. Additionally, there are programs for senior citizens.

Mr. Mariani reviewed York Township's top priorities: General assistance, emergency assistance, back to school fairs, holiday programs, Salvation Army, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, food pantry, senior nutrition, senior transportation program, and senior center. Key issues include resource development in terms of nurturing existing partnerships, continuing to develop relationships to expand and enhance programs and services, and raising funds and community awareness.

#### Downers Grove Public Library

Julie Milavec, Director, introduced Library board members in attendance.

Ms. Milavec said the library's mission is to serve people to help them learn, grow and thrive. She provided an overview of the funding for and usage of the library. She described the makeup of the Library Board and explained that the board is an autonomous body and sets its own budget and levy. Top priorities include strategic planning, a facilities sustainability plan and a long range financial plan. Key issues are to align services with community needs, to budget with minimizing taxpayer impact in mind and to create a sustainable library infrastructure and service model.

#### Downers Grove Sanitary District

Nick Menninga, General Manager, introduced Trustees in attendance.

Mr. Menninga said the sanitary sewerage utility includes 250 miles of collection sewers and an 11-million gallon per day treatment plant. The service area extends beyond Downers Grove. The District owns the wastewater treatment plant and sewers. Top priorities include customer service, infrastructure integrity, environmental protection, stream ecology, discharge quality, cost control, energy, partnering, transparency, web presence and the annual open house. Key issues include regulatory pressure such as nutrients, wet weather operations and stream health; and an aging infrastructure. The sewers date to 1906 and the plant to 1954.

#### Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Michael Cassa, President and CEO

Mr. Cassa said the EDC is a public/private partnership founded in 2006. He reviewed the mission statement and objectives of the EDC. Top priorities include implementation of the strategic plan, implementation of the 2016 Economic Development Plan to enhance the sales tax base and redevelopment of catalyst commercial centers. Key issues include older, obsolete commercial centers; sites with lot depth, visibility and access issues; regional competition for business projects; and impact of the internet.

#### Downers Grove Grade School District 58

David Bein, Assistant Superintendent for Business, introduced school board members in

attendance.

Mr. Bein said District 58 is composed of 11 neighborhood elementary schools, two middle schools, 5,000 students, 640 full and part-time employees, and has an annual budget of \$65.0 million. District 58 shares services, partners and engages with the Park District and District 99. Top priorities include student learning; student well-being/social emotional learning; technology for teaching and learning; and facilities, finance, operations and maintenance. Key issues are anticipating and preparing for state funding uncertainty; continuing improvements in curriculum, instruction and technology; challenging and inspiring students; and maintaining and improving facilities to support 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

Village of Downers Grove

Martin Tully, Mayor, introduced Council and staff members.

Mayor Tully said the Village was founded in 1832 and incorporated in 1873. The Village has 49,000 residents and 3,500 businesses in 14.75 square miles. The Village Council consists of a Mayor and six Commissioners. Over 300 services are provided with a staff of 325 employees. The Mayor said the Village has a AAA bond rating and discussed various national awards. He said our relationships with other governmental bodies make these awards possible. Priorities include a facility sustainability plan; review downtown zoning, update the Comprehensive Plan, review the stormwater utility, enhance the sales tax base, emergency dispatch consolidation, review the sign ordinance, partnerships to address human services issues, review the zoning map, historic preservation, food truck ordinance and the super retreat. Key issues include facilities, rising personnel costs/public service pension costs, state funding threats and the stormwater utility.

Question and Answer Period

Mayor Tully spoke about barriers to collaboration. He also explained three referenda on the November ballot regarding how to pay for the Village's stormwater management system.

Bill Waldack spoke about the issue of homelessness and the opportunity to jointly address this matter.

Marge Earl asked about mosquitoes and mosquito spraying.

Dave Fieldman spoke about mosquito abatement programs conducted by various governmental bodies. The cost is \$10,000 for each spray. Bundling services may actually drive the cost up due to the monopoly on companies that provide this service.

Donald Renner noted that some students do not have internet access and there may be an opportunity to cooperate with the Village to lower Comcast costs.

Julie Milavec said the Library may be able to partner with District 99. She spoke of their program to loan out Wifi Hotspots.

Mark Thoman noted that all governmental units have IT departments. He suggested looking to consolidate hardware and personnel to reduce costs.

Bill McAdam spoke of working with the Boy Scouts to combat mosquitoes through the use of bat houses.

Mayor Tully thanked everyone for attending this retreat and expressed his hope that this was valuable. He thanked District 99 for coordinating this effort. He asked for feedback as to how to keep this going.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

April K. Holden  
Village Clerk  
Village of Downers Grove