



Main Street Downers Grove, circa 1940's. The scene is looking South down Main Street from Curtiss Street.
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As the heat and humidity of early August begins to fade the memories of a long and fruitful summer, the Downers Grove Historical Society is hard at work uncovering new initiatives and creating momentum in serving and preserving history.

Please donate your time and resources as you can.

Come to the Membership Meeting!

Join us for our first membership meeting in a long while. We haven't been idle...we just haven't been scheduling regular meetings...and now we want to correct that. We look forward to seeing you as we update you on a long list of recent Historical Society accomplishments, varied activities underway, and a look ahead at a very special 2018 when the Historical Society will be celebrating our 50th anniversary.

We will also take time to honor our historian of the year, Carol Wandschneider.

Our meeting will follow the library-sponsored special presentation on the Underground Railroad in Downers Grove and DuPage County by noted author Glennette Tilley Turner. We hope you'll come to hear this Underground Railroad historian and stay for our meeting.

Dues levels are as follows:

- * Individual - \$15
- * Family - \$20
- * Senior/Student - \$10
- * Business - \$25
- * Life Individual - \$100
- * Life Couple - \$200

We are always seeking additional support and if you would like to contribute, please feel free to support us in any way you can.

Donate to the Historical Society today.

Then and Now. 5100 Forest.

5100 Forest has been a very active property in Downers Grove over the past century. It's proximity to the railroad tracks and the "just off Main street" location have served this property well. One of the most important things we look at as a valued parcel of land, historically, is its ability to create opportunity to the many companies and residents who choose to modify its' use over time.

This property has quite an interesting pedigree -- including The Lord Lumber Company and its' original location in 1883, changing hands to Illinois Lumber, Gee Lumber and eventually razed to become the A&P Grocery in 1965. Shortly after in 1969, the building was again re-purposed to become the home of Standard Federal Savings.

In 1883, A.P. Lord opened his first lumber location in La Grange, Illinois. Shortly after, he opened a new and bustling location in downtown Downers Grove at 5100 Forest. Just a few years after opening, George Heartt became president of Lord Lumber. Quickly, George bought the businesses outright. Business man Heartt quickly changed ownership by selling both locations to George Luce in 1890. A decade later, the business again changed owners and found its way back to the Heartt family (and the Herring family) was sold to W.J. Herring and Irving Heartt who renamed the business 'Illinois Lumber'

and went on to successfully run the lumber outfit for 27 years before selling it yet again.

Business continued at the 5100 Forest location under various owners until the 1960's when the A&P Grocery store tore down the aging lumber yard to build a brand-new retail grocery store location on the property. However, by 1969, the store front was shuttered as the A&P moved to its newer, and perhaps more trafficked location at 63rd and Belmont.

In July of 1975, the land was again re-purposed for a modern structure of black brick and glass that would serve as the Standard Federal Savings bank building until the early 2000s. In the past year, the long abandoned bank building was torn down making way for a massive rail side condominium community.

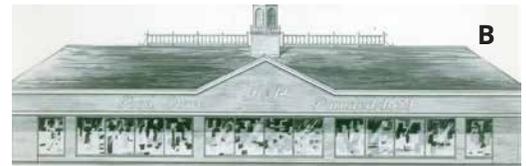
If you have been anywhere near the site recently, you can see that the property under development is improving the lot where the vacant, one-story commercial bank building and parking lot were left unattended and in poor repair. Currently underway is an ambitious project by Burlington Partners to construct a 113,000 square foot, five story, 89 unit multi-family residential structure at the northwest corner of Gilbert and Forest Avenues, commonly known as 5100 Forest Avenue. This Downtown Business is situated approximately 500 feet west of the Main Street Metra Train Station.

It is always wonderful to see a parcel of property adapt to so many uses across so many lifetimes, this lot has certainly had its fair share of productivity for the residents of Downers Grove and now will bring new residents to our community.

If you have any additional historical texture to this story, any interesting photos or knowledge of buildings in and around our town, please contact us at info@downersgrovehistory.org.

- (A) Lord Lumber at 5100 Forest (c) 1950s.
- (B) Architects rendering of the A&P store at 5100 Forest (c) early 1960s.
- (C) Ribbon cutting ceremony for a parking lot across the street from the A&P store at 5100 Forest (c) 1963.
- (D) Present day status of the Burlington Partners residential building project (c) August 2017.
- (E) Standard Federal Savings building (c) Fall 2015.
- (F) Future rendering of the Burlington Partners residential building project (c) August 2017.

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Underground Railroad.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Following in the Footsteps of Israel and Avis Blodgett

Historical Society Members are invited to hear noted author and Underground Railroad expert, Glennette Tilley Turner, on August 20th at 2pm. She will present "Following in the Footsteps of Israel and Avis Blodgett" which highlights the involvement of Downers Grove's and other area residents in the effort to help slaves successfully escape to the north and Canada in the mid 19th century.



The Downers Grove Library is sponsoring Ms. Turner's engagement which was rescheduled from our Founders Day agenda in May.

The Historical Society will meet at 3:30pm in the same room following Ms. Turner's presentation.

2017 Historian of the Year. Carol Wandschneider.

The Downers Grove Historical Society is honored to recognize Carol Wandschneider as the 2017 Historian of the Year. Daughter of Fritz and Pauline Wandschneider, Carol was raised in Downers Grove, graduating from Downers Grove High School (now North High) in 1962.



She received her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from the University of Illinois and worked in the restaurant and food service industries for 40 years. Fortunately, she returned to her home town after retiring and has spent the last 15 years researching and supporting Downers Grove's history and legacy.

Carol has a wealth of historical knowledge and a great enthusiasm for all things Downers Grove.

From childhood, Carol was drawn to the rich history of Downers Grove as her mother was the founder of the Downers Grove Historical Society and The first Museum supervisor. Carol worked part time at the Downers Grove Museum as a weekend Supervisor for several years and now enjoys volunteering there two mornings a week. For some time, Carol has been working on the monumental task of preserving a donation of 50,000 photographs of Downers Grove history, archiving and digitally storing them for the use of current and future generations. Her most recent project is indexing all the old phone directories for Downers Grove on an Excel spreadsheet for easy search-ability. Carol also enjoys answering research requests sent to the Downers Grove Historical Society's web page.

She serves on the Boards of the Downers Grove Historical Society, The Oak Hill/Oak Crest Cemetery Foundation, The Huguenot Society of Illinois and as a member of the Downers Grove Chapter – Daughters of the American Revolution, having served as the Regent four years. She also is co-chair of the Archive Committee at St. Andrew's Church –she is a cradle-to-grave Episcopalian. She served for 20 years on the Board of Directors of Theta Chapter of Sigma Kappa Sorority at the University of Illinois and as a committee chairman for the Illinois Home Economics Association and Home Economists in Business.

In 2011, Carol and several other volunteers took on the challenge of inventorying both Oak Hill and Oak Crest Cemeteries which had not been done since 1960. She has also indexed all the published obituaries and marriages in the Downers Grove Reporter (now Suburban Life) since 1892. Another of Carol's current projects is to index all the class photographs of students at both high schools in town along with faculty, staff and District Administration now totaling more than 100,000 entries.

She was named Du Page County Historian of the Year by the Du Page County Historical Society in 2015 and Volunteer of the Year in 2015 for the Downers Grove Museum.

Downers Grove is a richer place for Carol's numerous achievements. Her efforts to research and preserve Downers Grove's history are greatly valued today and will be appreciated for generations to come.

The Historic Home Program Registers Another Classic.

The Downers Grove Historical Society and Downers Grove Museum are pleased to announce that Princeholm, located at 4714 Oakwood Avenue, has recently been recognized through the Historic Home Pro-

gram. In addition to the Historic Home Program, the owners are currently seeking historic landmark designation through the Village of Downers Grove.

This Queen Anne style home was built in 1893 for Earl H. Prince and his wife Minnie and was designed by architect and carpenter J.B. Moss. It includes a stone foundation, wood clapboard siding, a hipped roof with cross gable, bandboards, and a wrap-around porch.



4714 Oakwood Avenue.

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E.H. Prince purchased land in Downers Grove and formed E.H. Prince and Company. The E.H. Prince subdivision is located in the area between Oakwood and Highland to the east and west, and Ogden and Warren to the north and south. The company prospered until the recession in 1893, after which Prince moved west to the Gold Rush and then later Alaska.

The Historic Home Program is open to homes which are 50 or more years old and have architectural and/or historical significance to the Village. Owners fill out an application which helps establish original and subsequent ownership through the years, including deed transfers, tax history and other useful information. Recognized homes are given the opportunity to purchase a Historic Home Program plaque for their home. The resulting research is permanently housed at the museum for future generations to learn more about these important architectural structures in our community.

For more information about the Historic Home Program, to see a map of all the homes which have been recognized, or to download the application, please visit <http://downersgrovehistory.org/historic-homes.html>, <http://www.dgparks.org/places-to-go/the-museum>, or contact us at HistoricHomes@DownersGroveHistory.com

Library Unveils Digital Newspaper Archive.

The Downers Grove Library just completed digitally archiving newspaper articles about Downers Grove from the years 1895 through 1922. They are excited to show you how easy it is to look up 'cool' information about the people and events from that period. Stop by to help our wonderful Library staff celebrate the launch of their new Digital Newspaper Archive!

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