

## Founders Day 2018 a Great Success

Great weather helped make this year's Founders Day celebrations a great success. The 10 events scheduled over 13 days saw record participation: from golfers to gardeners; from bicycling to gunny sack races; from petting zoo to Civil War music; from graveside dedication to educational seminars and history walks ... so much fun and meaningful history lessons were woven into the fabric of each event.

The coming together of many different organizations is the secret. It is truly a labor of love by all involved and we would like to thank each organization who made it a great event: Downers Grove Historical Society; Downers Grove Museum; Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club; Downers Grove Golf Club; Pierce Downer's Heritage Alliance; Windy City Walkers; Downers Grove Bicycle Club; Village of Downers Grove;

Downers Grove Police Department; Mayor Martin Tully; Downers Grove Public Library; the Downers Grove Park District, and Friends of the Edwards House. We would also like to thank the American Legion for participating at the Walter Blanchard dedication ceremony. There were many other groups and individual volunteers who participated under the varied umbrellas of the organizations mentioned above. We would like to thank everyone who came out to support Founders Day.

If you would like to continue the fun, you can still participate in the Downers Grove Museum's Scavenger Hunt. Just visit the museum anytime this summer, pick up the clue sheet, and test your knowledge of Downers Grove History! <http://www.dgparks.org/places-to-go/the-museum>





# 9 Homes Recently Recognized Under Historic Home Program

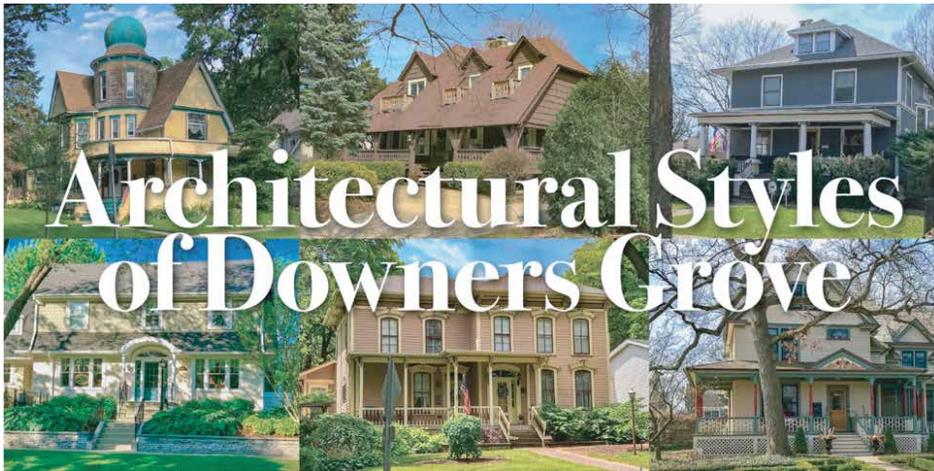
The Downers Grove Historical Society and the Downers Grove Museum are pleased to announce nine homes have recently been recognized under the Historic Home Program! Thank you to the homeowners for choosing to participate in this honorary program which aims to preserve the history of homes in our community. The chart below lists each home, along with a photograph, house name, year built, and architectural style/type.

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 Downers Grove Museum for future generations to learn more about these important architectural structures in our community.

Homes Recently Recognized by the Historic Home Program

Photo	Address	House name	Year built (circa)	Architectural type/style
	5327 Carpenter Street	The Lester and Mary Naramore House	1891	Gothic Revival
	5331 Carpenter Street	The Mary Welling House	1926	Sears "Vinemont" Bungalow
	1135 Curtiss Street	The Darius Crescy House	1890	Tri-Gable Ell
	4605 Forest Avenue	The Henry Kerschner House	1924	Sears "Cornell" American Foursquare
	4710 Highland Avenue	The Wells House	1894	Queen Anne
	5429 Lee Avenue	The George Graves House	1927	Sears "Del Ray" Bungalow
	4632 Main Street	The Alexander Cameron House by Harris Brothers	1922	Harris Home No. N-1033 Craftsman Bungalow
	1324 Maple Avenue	The Century of Progress House	1936	Georgian
	5708 Springside Avenue	The Joseph Moore House	1927	Sears "Bedford" Bungalow

For more information about the Historic Home Program or to download the application, please visit <http://www.downersgrovehistory.org/historic-homes.html> or <http://www.dgparks.org/places-to-go/the-museum> Contact us at [HistoricHomes@DownersGroveHistory.org](mailto:HistoricHomes@DownersGroveHistory.org)



The Downers Grove Historical Society recently hosted a free educational event at Emmett's Brewing Co. titled "Architectural Styles of Downers Grove". More than 50 people showed up for this "sold out" event which featured guest speaker Douglas Gilbert, a historic preservation architect from Oak Park. This presentation was the third of a series of four educational events that the Historical Society is hosting this year. The final event of the series is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, November 17 and will focus on Sears Catalog Homes. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

*Downers Grove Historical Society Honors*  
2018 HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR  
**Joyce Tumea**

Each year the Downers Grove Historical Society recognizes a person who has contributed to the Society's mission of celebrating and preserving Downers Grove history. We are proud to recognize Joyce Tumea as the 2018 Historian of the Year.

Over the past three decades, Joyce has kept history alive through her songs, poems, skits, stories, newspaper columns and features celebrating Downers Grove and DuPage County's people, places, and events. Her Village-sponsored cable TV show "Today's Tidings" featured interviews with or about notable residents recognized for their achievements and contributions over the years, such as opera star (and Downers Grove native) Sherrill Milnes, former Mayor Betty Cheever, Choral Society founder Thelma Roe Milnes, comedian Emo Phillips, WWII Congressional Medal of Honor recipient

Fred Lester Jr., Sears Home expert Bob Jensen, Underground Railroad expert Glennette Tilley Turner, Historical Society historians Carol Wandschneider and Lois Sterba, and local historian and noted author Montrew Dunham, among others. She has interviewed community leaders involved with groups such as Downers Grove Rotary, Kiwanis, Artist Guild, PADS, AAUW, Questers, DAR, League of Women Voters, Garden Club, and many others.



Joyce's newspaper column "Dateline Downers" featured in both the Suburban Life and Suburban Life-Reporter Newspapers also focused on interesting people, events and organizations in town, as well as on daily Downers Grove life.

Joyce is an active volunteer with the Downers Grove Historical Society and has been active with the Downers Grove Museum mainly as a docent. She has portrayed Lucy Downer, Arvilla Wells and Avis Blodgett for various events. She also has produced programming for these organizations, such as “A Downers Grove Holiday Historical” about our early Christmas traditions in Downers Grove, and “Guests in the Graveyard” about some of our early settlers buried in the Main Street Cemetery. Along with her all-volunteer troupe of actors called PriMerry Players, Joyce continues to write and produce historical skits, programs and songs celebrating Downers Grove, DuPage, and Illinois history.

A Downers Grove resident for 38 years, Joyce grew up in Brookfield and was educated at Lyons Township High School, College of DuPage, Illinois State University and Bradley University. She and her husband Tony have three children, Connie, David and Phillip.

The Downers Grove Historical Society would like to congratulate Joyce for her selection as the 2018 Historian of the Year and to thank her for all she has done and continues to do to bring Downers Grove and regional history to life for readers and audiences throughout the area.

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## Board of Directors News



We are proud to welcome Rich Kulovany to our Board of Directors. Rich brings with him his extensive business experience and his passion for community involvement. In addition to being on our board, he is also a Director of Pierce Downer’s Heritage Alliance and serves on the Village of Downers

Grove’s Plan Commission. He is past Chair of Friends of the Edwards House guiding them to 501(c)(3) status and the achievement of the 2017 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for Advocacy. He is an active member of our Historic Home Program sub-committee and will also be taking the leadership role in updating our incorporation documents over the next few months. We are excited to have Rich’s creative energies and enthusiasm at work on our board.



Amy Gassen, current Historical Society board member, has been appointed Vice President of the Board. Amy has been on the board for the past 2 years and has exhibited great energy and creativity for our mission and programs. She is a licensed architect and teaches architecture courses at College of DuPage. She also serves on

the Village of Downers Grove’s Plan Commission and served on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Historic Preservation. Amy, along with her husband Dave, recently founded American Foursquares of Downers Grove; an initiative which seeks to highlight and celebrate the American Foursquare home type. She is Chairperson of the Historic Home Program subcommittee (formerly Centennial Home Program) working tirelessly with her committee to re-energize and update this program; which now includes a series of educational seminars to increase awareness of the rich architectural history of Downers Grove. We thank Amy for her continued efforts and are appreciative of her willingness to accept these additional responsibilities.



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## Focus on Volunteers

Chuck (Charlotte) Holtzen is an Historical Society member who serves on the Historic Home Program (HHP) subcommittee. Chuck's experience in historic research has proved to be invaluable as she performs research on behalf of and in collaboration with homeowners who are interested in applying for the HHP. One of the Program requirements is to determine the chain of ownership of the home all the way back to the original owner(s) of the property. This research may involve visiting the Downers Grove Museum (where Chuck also serves as a volunteer), the Downers Grove Public Library, the DuPage County Office of Records and County Clerk's Office, the DuPage County Historical Museum, Naper Settlement and various genealogy and newspaper archive (census) web sites.

Chuck and her husband Byron have shown leadership in renovating and registering their circa 1868 Tri-Gable Ell in the Historical Society's original Centennial Home Program, and later as an official Downers Grove landmark. Chuck also assists with the HHP subcommittee's educational events. The Historical Society is fortunate to have active volunteers who add their creativity and many talents to the fulfillment of our mission. We would like to publicly thank Chuck for her enthusiastic involvement in helping to research and preserve the history of Downers Grove homes.



## We Need You!

**Railroad Buffs Wanted:** We will be celebrating the arrival of the railroad in Downers Grove in 1864 as our theme for the 2019 Founders Day Celebrations. Would you like to work on this new committee (just a 10 month commitment) to bring railroad exhibits and presenters to Downers Grove for this event?

**Graphic Design Volunteers Needed:** We could use some help on our Technology Committee. Projects could include: Newsletter layout (MailChimp); Web page content updates; Web page content creation; Creative ideas sessions looking for ways to use technology to further our goals to celebrate Downers Grove History. Training available.

**Oral History Committee:** We would like to develop an Oral History Committee which will schedule and produce interviews with important life-long residents and prominent citizens

in our town whose memories need to be captured for future generations. This will require an understanding of this art form, including interviewing skills, appropriate audio and/or video technology use, and transcription technologies.

**Writers and Researchers:** Bring your writing skills to bear on our newsletter! There's plenty of ideas and historical subject matter filed away at the museum. Past news events can be brought back for today's enjoyment; use your own passion for history to find Downers Grove topics to bring to light. Write articles about our living historians ... folks who have lived here all their lives and have so much to share.

**Fund Raising Committee:** The Downers Grove Historical Society runs on donations. Celebrating Downers Grove history in print, on websites and Facebook, new programs to preserve oral histories, fees to bring in educational programs and speakers, designing and executing history events ... they all take money. Do you have ideas and the know-how? We'd like to hear from you!

Email us at [info@downersgrovehistory.org](mailto:info@downersgrovehistory.org) if you have an interest in any of these committees.