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A WEEKLY JOURNAL WRITTEN BY RESIDENTS OF YOUR COMMUNITY

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## Darien looks at Cass Avenue redevelopment

BY JIM JAWORSKI  
*Triblocal.com reporter*

Darien officials received four proposals for a new town center development March 30. While officials hope it will bring in new revenue, it may displace some businesses that are older than the city itself.

Since 2002, the city has been looking to redevelop the triangular area between Plain-

field Road, 75th Street and Cass Avenue.

Four developers have stepped forward with town center-style plans, with new retail and green space and, possibly, condominiums.

"We don't have a downtown," said City Administrator Bryon Vana, citing the city's lack of a train station. "But we want to create an atmosphere where people can come out and it will feel like a town center."

The city bought the western portion of the area along Cass Avenue for \$5.5 million in sections over the last three years. That is the only portion that will be redeveloped, as the Colonial Manor apartments, located in the center of the property, rebuffed the city's offer to purchase the complex.

Darien does not have much vacant property for new developments, so the area is a top priority, Vana said.

While reviewing the redevelopment to \$9.1 million over the next few years, depending on the sale of the property.

All four proposals are under review at city council.

PLEASE SEE DA...

## DG Moose donate 'Tommy' to firefighters

BY DOWNERS GROVE  
MOOSE FAMILY CENTER

A staple of the Downers Grove community since 1930, the Downers Grove Moose Family Center No. 1535 provided 12 stuffed moose to the Clarendon Hills Fire Department.

Governor Roy A. Brown III presented "Tommy Moose" to firefighters John Horton, Will Swain and Capt. Dave Sobottke, all members of the Downers Grove Moose Family Center.

They accepted Tommy Moose, which will be kept in the ambulances to give to children as needed.

"It is important to have items like Tommy Moose available to emergency services personnel," Brown said. "Tommy Moose is designed to help fire and police officers comfort children in traumatic situations."

The Downers Grove Moose Family Center, as part of its com-

munity service efforts, will provide Tommy Moose as needed to emergency services.

Moose lodges conduct about \$95 million in community service annually.

As part of those efforts, members of the Downers Grove center donated more than 20 units of blood to Heartland Blood Centers March 23.

Twenty-four members participated in the event, said blood bank chairman Brendan Kenny.

"It is important to have events like this to help the community out," Kenny said.

The next blood drive is expected to be held in June, Kenny said.

Moose International is an organization of 1.9 million members active in four nations dedicated to bettering the lives of children and the elderly and making communities better places to live.

For more information, go to [www.dgmoose.org](http://www.dgmoose.org) or call 630-968-4550.



'Tommy Moose' joins Clarendon Hills firefighters.

Photo submitted by Downers Grove Moose Family Center