

### Did You Know...



📍 Legendary Route 66 runs through DuPage County. Part of the 2,400 miles of road goes through the Village of Willowbrook.

📍 Downers Grove had the first 18-hole golf course in the country. In 1892, the Chicago Golf Club was built. Golfers now know it as the Downers Grove

Golf Course. DuPage County offers golfers more than 50 public and semi-private golf courses. DuPage has also had the privilege of hosting the 1999 and 2006 PGA Championship and looks forward to hosting the 2012 Ryder Cup.

📍 Willowbrook Ballroom is considered one of the nation's top spots for swing dancing. The Willowbrook Ballroom's 6,000 sq. ft. dance floor is one of five left in the country. Back in the 1920s through 1930s, Willowbrook Ballroom's name was Oh Henry Park, taking its name from the popular candy bar introduced in 1920.

📍 DuPage County is home to the last water-powered gristmill in Illinois. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Graue Mill in Oak Brook is the only operating waterwheel gristmill in Illinois. Daily spinning, weaving and milling demonstrations are offered, as well as displays in period room settings. In addition, Graue Mill is one of the few authenticated Underground Railroad Stations in the US.

📍 The Theatre Historical Society of America has their American Movie Palace Museum above the historic York Theatre. This museum's collection is built around the Golden Age of American Movie Houses, such as Granada, Uptown, Mabro and Avalon. The York Theatre in Elmhurst is a renovated 1924 Spanish-style movie theatre with five auditoriums, one devoted to art and foreign films.

📍 DuPage County's communities host a kaleidoscope of festivals. Throughout its four vastly different seasons, DuPage offers a wide variety of festivals featuring food, fun and entertainment for the whole family. It's a down-home touch of Americana, celebrating DuPage's proud heritage!

📍 DuPage had the country's second talking pictures theatre. In 1928, Tivoli Theatre debuted as a French Renaissance theatre with 1,000 seats. Tivoli Theatre has been restored to keep it in its

original state.

📍 DuPage hosts several Civil War encampments and re-enactments. The Civil War encampments at Naper Settlement, Graue Mill and Cantigny feature exhaustively researched re-enactments of life during the Civil War.

📍 Arbor Day was conceived from the ideas of Joy Morton, the creator of The Morton Arboretum.

📍 You can find pieces of jade that date back to the Ming Dynasty of China at the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Elmhurst.

📍 *Will & Grace's* Sean Patrick Hayes went to high school at Glenbard West, which also served as the location for the 1982 movie *Lucas*.

📍 Argonne National Laboratory, located in southeast DuPage County, is one of the US government's oldest and largest science and engineering research laboratories.

📍 The Addison Industrial District was the proposed location for the reconstruction of Comiskey Park, before it was voted down.

📍 Naperville has an official sister city in Slovakia named Nitra.

📍 McDonald's trains so many people at their Hamburger University in Oak Brook that they've surpassed the US Army as the nation's largest training organization.

📍 The Oakbrook Terrace Tower was designed by Helmut Jahn, considered one of the top ten most influential living American architects by the American Institute of Architects.

📍 The Bolingbrook Aquatic Center was the location of the first indoor wave pool in the US.

📍 Ty Warner Park opened in Westmont, thanks to a \$3 million donation from Ty Warner to the local park district. The names of 300 of his Beanie Babies are engraved in bricks surrounding a fountain.

