

JANUARY 2013

OP/FYI

A NEWSLETTER
FROM THE
VILLAGE OF
OAK PARK

VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 1

Envision Oak Park

Your voice needed to shape future of the Village

Ask any Oak Parker what he or she thinks about parking, traffic, development or municipal services and you are sure to get an earful.

It is one of the things that make Oak Park a special place. Opinions are shared, ideas discussed and actions taken. Envision Oak Park is your opportunity to participate in a community-wide process to develop the long-range comprehensive plan that will serve as a foundation for decision making in Oak Park for decades to come.

To date, 21 Envision Oak Park workshops have been conducted with residents, neighbors, businesses and students to identify the key issues facing the Village. From the economy to diversity, from education to the environment, from neighborhoods to economic development, residents have begun to identify their concerns and their ideas for new opportunities. Although many voices have been heard, we need to hear from more of you.

Over the next two months, multiple opportunities are being provided to give everyone the chance to participate and help establish a vision for Oak Park. By spending as little as 10 minutes online, or attending a workshop or event, residents can make sure their views and opinions are heard.

Participate online – Fill out a questionnaire, create an issues map, establish regional priorities. Go to www.envisionoakpark.com and click on *Participate*. The questionnaire can be accessed from a smart phone, touchpad or computer at home, work or the library. In 10 minutes or so, your opinion will be registered and added to the voices that already have participated in Envision Oak Park.



Go to envisionoakpark.com and click on the *Participate* tab to use the interactive online outreach tools – questionnaires, *Community Mapper* and regional priorities ranking.

The *Community Mapper* provides a quick, fun and effective way to create your own map of community issues and opportunities.

Conduct a DIY (do it yourself) workshop with neighbors, friends or businesses. The DIY kit contains all the information you need to conduct your own workshop with neighbors, friends and colleagues. Just call 708.358.5418 or stop by Village Hall, 123 Madison St. to pick up a kit. The workshop conversation can take as little as one hour – or you can discuss things as long as you want. Be creative. Organize your book club, knitting circle or prayer group. Have an indoor block party and share your thoughts about Oak Park's

future. Organize your school PTO or non-profit board so your cause can be part of the plan. Once complete, simply return the results to the Village. Everything you need is in the DIY Kit.

Participate in the February Vision Kick-Off. Outreach events to date have focused on identifying issues and opportunities. In February, we will begin to focus on establishing a vision for the future of Oak Park. Join your neighbors as we begin to frame what will become the foundation of the Envision Oak Park Comprehensive Plan. Watch OP/FYI and the Village web site for the date, place and time.

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan, visit envisionoakpark.com.

Awards recognize property stewardship efforts

Thirty-five projects that embraced and exemplified commitment to protecting and furthering Oak Park's heritage and pride in the community were recognized by the Historic Preservation, Environment & Energy and Community Design commissions. Historic Preservation Awards were presented for six projects and Green Awards went to seven projects. The Community Design Commission's Cavalcade of Pride awards also were presented for 22 properties whose owners were deemed to have done an exceptional job of maintaining and improving the exteriors of their homes and businesses.

- **Historic Preservation Awards** – Bee Home and Garden store, 128 Chicago Ave.; Oak Park Senior Services Center, 130 A. Oak Park Ave.; Pleasant Home in Mills; Decker Building, 200-224 S. Maple Ave./1124 Pleasant St.; 209-211 S. Elmwood Ave.; 701 S. Elmwood Ave.
- **Green Awards** – Eyrie Restaurant, 128 N. Oak Park Ave.; Beye Elementary School; Sam and Phyllis Bowen for building a vegetable and flower garden on the roof of their new garage; Debbie Becker for helping legalize beekeeping; Jim Doyle & Ana Garcia Doyle for obtaining first permit in Oak Park to install a grey water system; renovation of Taylor Park; Cary-Laszewski residence, the first Oak Park house to attain LEED Platinum status.
- **Cavalcade of Pride Awards** – 1112 Thomas St.; 1024 Fair Oaks Ave.; 1025 N. Hayes Ave.; 244 Home Ave.; 412 Wesley Ave.; 154 N. Lombard Ave.; 725 S. Kenilworth Ave.; 533 Wesley Ave.; 832 S. Humphrey Ave.; Mills Park; 265 Home Ave.; 18 Chicago Ave.; Tasty Dog, 708 Lake St.; 1530 N. Austin Blvd.; 426-436 S Euclid Ave.; 12 Washington Blvd.; 948 Chicago Ave.; 719 S. Ridgeland Ave.; 600 block Fair Oaks Ave.; Sushi House, 1107 Lake St.; PCC South Family Health Center, 6201 Roosevelt Rd.; and City of Berwyn.

For more information on the awards, e-mail planning@oak-park.us.

Coyotes a part of Oak Park life



With an estimated 30,000 coyotes currently living in Illinois, like it or not, coyotes are a permanent fixture in Oak Park. Seeing a coyote does not necessarily mean a dangerous situation for humans or domestic animals. If approached by a coyote, do not run — make yourself appear larger by yelling, standing up straight, clapping your hands and waving your arms. You can even throw something at the coyote. Your actions not only will scare the coyote, but will discourage it from approaching humans in the future. In the unlikely event that a coyote is aggressive or shows its fangs, growls or approaches,

get to safety and contact the Animal Control Division at 708.358.5680 to provide details including the date, time and address of the event. In the meantime, discourage coyotes from being attracted to your property by following these tips:

- Do not feed coyotes. This means limiting unintentional outdoor food sources like pet food and ripe fruit. Bird food, for example, attracts rodents which coyotes feed upon.
- Do not leave small pets — especially cats — unattended outside.
- Consider installing a fence at least four feet high to prevent coyotes from entering your yard.
- Keep garbage stored securely. While coyotes are not likely to eat garbage, they may be attracted to the rodents that feed on it.

For more detailed information on coyotes, visit web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife.

Village retains high fire prep rating

The Village has retained its high ranking from the Insurance Services Office, an independent organization that evaluates communities' fire preparedness capabilities. After examining the Village's Fire Department, alarm and dispatch facilities, and water supply, Oak Park earned a rating of 2 on the Public Protection Classification (PPC) scale. The PPC scale is a 1-10 rating system, with 1 being the highest possible grading. Excellent PPC ratings result in lower fire losses, which enable insurance companies to offer fair premiums for homeowners and commercial properties. Insurers also use PPC ratings for marketing and underwriting. Communities with a good PPC score typically enjoy lower prices for fire insurance, compared to communities with lesser ratings. ISO evaluates about 2,400 fire departments in Illinois. Fewer than 2.5 percent achieve a rating of 1. For more information on Oak Park's fire department, call 708.445.3300 or e-mail fire@oak-park.us.

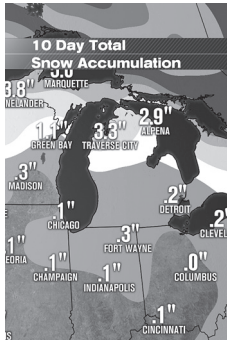


Volunteers needed for A Day in Our Village

June may seem like a long way from January, but planning already is well underway for the 40th annual A Day in Our Village, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. This year's event is scheduled for Sun., June 2. A variety of volunteers are needed to help promote and staff the event, which includes activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations, as well as demonstrations, entertainment and food provided by local restaurants. Anyone interested in volunteering — or more information — is urged to call 708.358.5407 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Forecast key to planning parking when it snows

The Village has specific rules that govern parking when it snows — rules that are enforced seven days a week, including holidays. Residents are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly. When a snow emergency is declared by the Public Works Department, all parking is prohibited on



the main streets posted as snow routes. Parking on other streets is restricted to one side from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. in residential areas and from midnight to 8 a.m. in

designated commercial districts, the side determined by the odd/even date. To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 708.358.SNOW (708.358.7669) for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOP-TV, broadcast on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. Residents who sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme will be alerted. The snow emergency parking rules and a list of frequently asked questions also are posted at www.oak-park.us/snow.

Sidewalk shoveling required

Property owners who shovel their sidewalks are doing more than making it safer for pedestrians of all ages, they are complying with the law. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. Being a good neighbor is important, too, so property owners are urged to help those who may need help clearing a sidewalk.

For more information on the shoveling requirement or help resources, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oakpark.us.



New recycling programs in the works

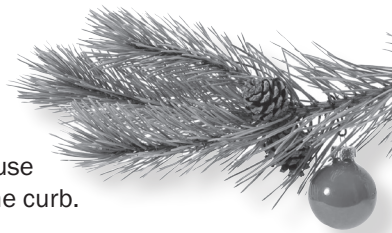
- **Organics** – The compostable food scrap pilot program tested in one collection route will be expanded Village wide in the spring. Sign-up will begin in February, with cart deliveries in March. Collections likely will begin the first full week of April. The cost will be \$14 per month, in addition to the regular collection rates, but also includes yard waste, which can be comingled with the compostables. Residents can reduce costs by downsizing refuse carts or sharing compost carts with neighbors.
 - **Unused medications** – A Keep Illinois Beautiful grant will be used to purchase a secure container to collect unused and expired medications in the lobby of the Police Department in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will collect and dispose of the medications. The Village also is investigating a program that would add a separate locked collection container for sharp items such as hypodermic needles.
 - **Carpet** – The Village is exploring the feasibility of implementing a drop-off collection program for carpeting. Two recycling companies have contacted the Village to discuss their programs. More details will be provided as they become available.
- For more information recycling in Oak Park, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Holiday tree pick up scheduled

Holiday trees will be picked up on regular trash and recycling collection days during the weeks of January 7 and 14. Please follow these guidelines:

- Place trees in the regular collection area next to the refuse cart — only residents with no alley should put trees at the curb.
- Remove all tinsel, decorations and stands.
- Do not put tree in plastic disposal bag.
- Place wreaths and garlands in the refuse cart — they are held together with wire and not recyclable.

For more information call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



Refuse hauling rates increase

Beginning Jan. 1, the cost for a 96-gallon refuse cart is \$21.38, up from \$21.15, and the cost for a 64-gallon refuse cart is \$18.10, up from \$17.90. Refuse rates are charged on quarterly water bills. Green yard waste stickers are now \$2.36, up from \$2.35. Pink bulk-item refuse stickers remain \$2. For more information on refuse collection, including recycling, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

OPDC launches green business initiative

With funding support from the OPRF Community Foundation, the Oak Park Development Corporation (OPDC) is rolling out a green businesses initiative to encourage sustainability related investments that align with the goals of the PlanIt Green community sustainability plan and help improve a participant's bottom line. The year-long program, scheduled to begin in mid-January, will include 20 businesses from Oak Park and River Forest that are interested in making green improvements, but have not made significant steps towards sustainability to date. The program has four core components:

- Pre and post-sustainability audits
- Retrofit and energy efficiency upgrade products and incentives
- Business-focused educational seminars

To learn more about the program, call 708.383.3838 or visit www.opdc.net/greenbiz.

HOUSING NEWS

housing@oak-park.us

Down payment assistance...The West Cook County Housing Collaborative is making homeownership more affordable with \$10,000 in down payment assistance for select updated and rehabbed homes. Financing and supply of homes is limited. To apply, call the HUD-certified West Cook Homeownership Center at 708.771.5801. An application also is available online at www.WestCookHomeownership.org.



Energy, water efficiency rebates...A new Village program funded by the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation will offer rebates to help homeowners reduce energy waste and use. The new Energy and Water Efficiency Rebate Program will offer \$50 to approximately 50 single-family households to conduct an energy audit and \$100 to 100 households to install low-flow toilets. Another 250 households will receive free efficient shower heads and faucet aerators. For details, call 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us.

Multi-family rehab loans...Owners of multi-family buildings with seven or fewer units may be eligible for forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 per unit and an additional \$2,500 per unit for qualified energy upgrades under the Village's Small Rental Rehab Program. Energy funds are available only until March 31. For details, call 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us.

First-time homebuyer seminars...Individuals interested in learning more about buying a home and securing a mortgage are invited to attend free seminars offered every month by the Oak Park Regional Housing Center. Seminars are held at 7 p.m., the fourth Tuesday of each month in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The next seminar is Tues., Jan. 22. For more information, call 708.771.5801.

Single-family rehab loans...Loans are available to income-eligible residents to correct health and safety issues and building code violations in their single-family homes. The program offers no-interest loans of up to \$25,000 that do not require monthly payments. Loans are repayable after 20 years or when the property is transferred. Call 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us for more information.

Funds for efficiency updates...Oak Park homeowners are eligible for a program that helps pay for upgrades to cut heating and cooling costs by improving energy efficiency. Property owners pay \$99 for an energy assessment to identify energy saving upgrades and then Energy Impact Illinois will pay a portion of the cost for the upgrades — as much as \$1,750. Officials say homeowners can save an average of \$500 per year on energy bills after upgrades such as retrofitting insulation and sealing air leaks. For more information on the program, call 708.252.0623 or e-mail pamela@energyimpactillinois.org.

Multi-family matching grants...Applications for the Multi-Family Housing Incentives Matching Grant program will be accepted beginning in mid-January. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to improve common elements or individual units in buildings with four or more units. Grants must be matched two-to-one by the owner. For details, call 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us.

Voter registration offered

Oak Parkers planning to vote in the April 9 Consolidated Municipal Election can register through Tues., March 12. Registration is offered from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri. at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Voter registration also is offered from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri. at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. Two types of identification are required, at least one with the current address.





Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	www.oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
Licenses/permits	358.5433
Codes/status of plans	358.5434
Property complaints	358.5443
Inspections	358.5440
Community Planning	358.5420
Business Services	358.5648
Housing	358.5410
Historic Preservation	358.5417
Zoning	358.5449
Community Relations	358.5405
Graffiti Hotline	358.5429
Neighborhood Programs	358.5405
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (non-emergency)	445.3300
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Police (non-emergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Day Parking Passes	option 3
Extended Pass	option 4
Night Parking Pass	option 2
Parking Permits	option 5
Snow Hotline	option 1
Vehicle Stickers	option 5
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770
EMERGENCIES	911
Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	383.0002
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015
Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032
School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000
School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	434.3107
Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005

Stay connected...

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-  oak-park.us/news
-  oak-park.us/managersblog
-  oak-park.us/enews

Village to participate in Green Cities Community Challenge

Oak Parkers who sign up for and link their utility bills to a free online energy-use tracking tool can help the Village earn up to \$25,000 for community projects, as well as receive free energy assessments and rebates for efficiency improvements. The tracking tool — EnergyBUZZ — is part of the Nicor Gas Community Challenge, which offers access to a range of programs for residential, multi-family and business properties. While homes and businesses can receive free energy assessments and rebates for energy efficiency improvements, apartment building owners can receive free faucet aerators, showerheads, light bulbs and programmable thermostats. Oak Park and Evanston are the first two communities to participate in the challenge. Officials say that while energy efficiency helps families and businesses make ends meet, improvements also benefit the community by putting more money into people's pockets to spend at area businesses, contributing to the local economy and job growth. CNT Energy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people and communities save energy and money, administers the Community Challenge program on behalf of Nicor Gas. For more information on the program, visit www.nicorgasrebates.com/Challenge.com.

VOP-TV on the web

Cable television is not the only way to watch VOP-TV, Oak Park's official government television station. In addition to streaming live Village

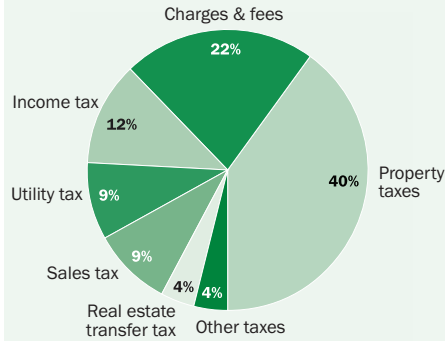
Board meetings at www.oak-park.us/boardtv, meetings are archived, allowing users to

access past events by date, click on the agenda item and jump right to that part of the meeting. VOP-TV continues to be available to Comcast subscribers on channel six and AT&T Uverse subscribers on channel 99. For more information, call 708.358.5775 or e-mail voptv@oak-park.us.

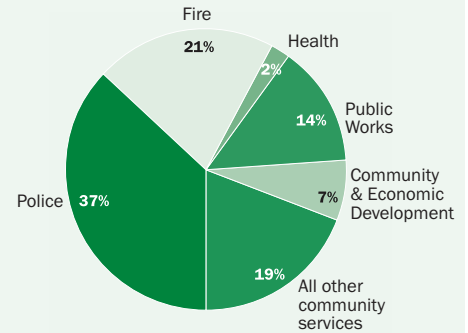


2013 Budget at a glance

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



WHERE YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR GOES



Warming centers open

Warming centers are open from 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. at West Suburban Hospital, Erie Street at Austin Boulevard, and from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 500 S. Maple Ave. Hours may be extended when weather conditions warrant. To find out if the warming center is open after hours, call West Suburban Hospital at 708.763.6747 or Rush Oak Park Hospital at 708.660.6000. If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800.

CPR classes offered

The Oak Park Fire Department offers a variety of life-saving classes including CPR and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Classes are held from 6 – 10 p.m. at the Department's certified American Heart Association community training center in the main fire station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. All courses are taught by an AHA-certified instructor. Classes are \$25 for Oak Park residents and \$50 for non-residents, in addition to a \$12 textbook fee. In-person registration at least two weeks prior to the date of the desired course is recommended. The 2012 class schedule is posted at www.oak-park.us/fire. For more details or to register for any of the offered courses, call 708.445.3300 or e-mail cpr@oak-park.us.

Register for public safety notifications

A system to communicate directly with residents when public safety issues arise is available to residents. A simple, two-step process is all it takes to register. Just go to www.oak-park.us/notifyme and complete a brief online form. The system allows residents to choose how they would like to be notified should an issue arise — by telephone, e-mail or text message. Residents who do not have an e-mail address can call 708.358.5698 to register to receive messages by telephone.



Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



OP/FYI

Village President David Pope

Trustees

Glenn Brewer
John Hedges
Ray Johnson
Colette Lueck
Adam Salzman
Bob Tucker
Teresa Powell
Cara Pavlicek
Interim Village Manager

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL
PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
Presort

Efforts underway to reduce obesity

Representatives of non-profit and private sector organizations have joined Village government in a cooperative effort to reduce the debilitating health effects of obesity. Under the banner *Wild About Wellness*, the initiative is advocating a series of community-wide policy changes designed to increase physical activity and encourage nutritious eating by children, teens and adults of all ages. The goal, officials say, is to build healthier environments and an infrastructure that will reverse the serious epidemic of obesity. *Wild About Wellness* is part of Oak Park's Pioneering Healthier Communities (PHC) initiative, a national program created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to focus community resources on changing the environment in ways that reduce community barriers to healthy living. Oak Park is one



of 16 communities in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio that are building statewide networks to reduce obesity. The West Cook YMCA was the catalyst to launch and secure funding. According to national sources, the medical cost of obesity in the U.S. is estimated at \$270 billion annually and contributes to heart disease, diabetes, asthma, arthritis, cancer and depression. Among the goals of the Oak Park Pioneering Healthier Communities team are to:

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- Increase community activities that promote healthy eating
- Encourage families to provide healthy food to children
- Align after-school programs with the new physical education standards
- Move children to walk or bike to school
- Reduce one-mile car rides within the community
- Increase fresh fruit and vegetable options for pre- and school-aged children.

For more information on the program, e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Tree pruning scheduled

Tree pruning is scheduled from early January to mid-March, weather permitting. The 2013 trim area is between Chicago Avenue and Division Street, from Austin Boulevard to East Avenue and North Boulevard to Chicago, from Austin to Harlem Avenue. Forestry Division employees will be pruning parkway trees 10 inches in diameter and under. Private contractor Winkler Tree Service, working under the supervision of the Forestry Division, will prune trees more than 10 inches in diameter. Approximately 1,500 trees will be trimmed by Village crews and 3,000 trees will be trimmed by the contractor. For more information about tree pruning, replacement and removal, or questions about general tree health, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

PHC Core Team Members

Elizabeth Lippitt, The Children's Clinic
Jan Pate, West Cook YMCA
Jill Moorhead, West Cook YMCA
Jan Arnold, Park District of Oak Park
David Boulanger, Oak Park Township
Jack Cleary, Community Representative
Gary Cuneen, Seven Generations Ahead
Bruce Elegant, Rush Oak Park Hospital
Steven Isoye, School District 200 High School
Sophia Lloyd, OPRF Community Foundation
Abby Miller, Greenline Wheels

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, Collaboration for Early Childhood Care & Education
Sandy Noel, CHLI (Community Healthy Living Index)
Ellen Efron Pimentel, School District 97 Wellness Council
Nathan Pimentel, Youth Delegate
David Pope, Village of Oak Park
Margaret Provost-Fyfe, Oak Park Health Department
Albert Roberts, PhD., School District 97
Richard Barry, Media Relations Consultant

Recycle Holiday Lights

The Village has partnered with Vintage Tech Recyclers to host a holiday light drop-off box at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., during January. Mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope and LED lights, as well as extension cords, are acceptable. Items may be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

