

New approach aims to strengthen community policing program

Oak Park Police are launching a new initiative to enhance and strengthen the popular Resident Beat Officer (RBO) program by expanding the pool of potential candidates beyond just residents.

Called the Neighborhood Resource Officer Program, this new initiative will ensure citizens in each of the Village's eight designated policing zones always will have an officer assigned to address community livability issues within their specific beats.

When the RBO program was created more than two decades ago, RBO candidates were required not only to reside in the Village, but live within the geographic area they would serve.

This requirement was not an issue in the early days of the program when most Oak Park police officers were residents.

Today, the majority of Oak Park police officers live outside the community, which significantly limits the number of officers eligible to apply to be RBOs. Three vacancies exist currently in the RBO program.

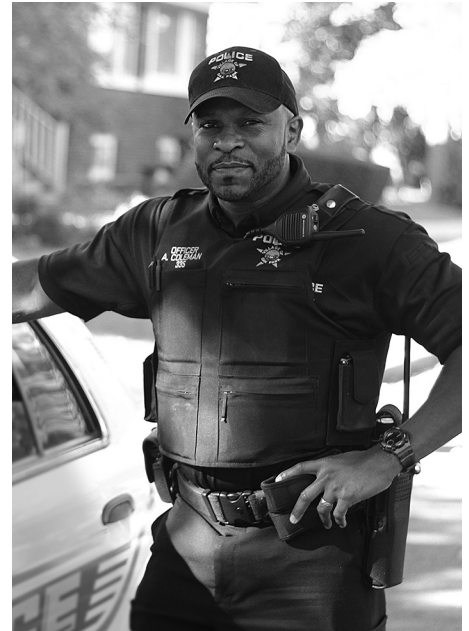
As officers have transitioned out of the RBO program due to promotion and reassignment, positions have become increasingly difficult to fill within the program's strict residency requirements.

The goal of the new program, police say, is to offer any officer on the force an opportunity to apply to be assigned to one of the eight neighborhood zones when vacancies arise.

Officers who live in Oak Park will, of course, be urged to apply under the existing requirements of the RBO program. And those RBOs already on the job will continue to serve their neighborhoods.

Officials view the new program as a necessary evolution of the basic RBO concept that will make sure no zone is without an assigned officer just because of the residency requirement.

Neighborhood Resource Officers, or NROs, will perform the essential duties of RBOs. Working directly with members of the community, they will develop problem-solving policing solutions, monitor crime trends and



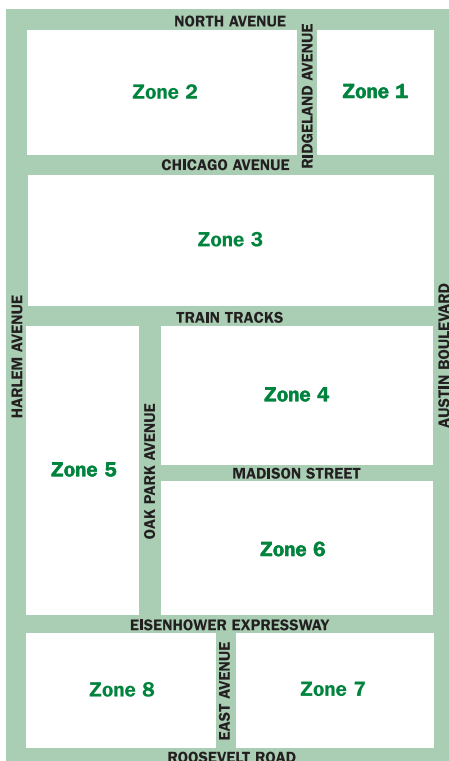
Zone 1 Resident Beat Officer
Anthony Coleman

engage in community outreach efforts such as community meetings.

Recruitment of candidates for the open policing zones already is underway, as police officials move quickly to fill vacancies and prepare for future staffing needs.

To get to know your RBO — or new NRO — visit www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Neighborhood Policing Zones



RBO/NRO Duties

- Work directly with residents to develop policing solutions to neighborhood problems
- Collaborate with patrol officers to monitor and address crime trends
- Host and attending community meetings
- Interact with other police and municipal operations to address neighborhood concerns
- Train in advanced community oriented policing strategies
- Work flexible schedules to address community needs
- Apply department resources to implement effective community oriented policing techniques

911 registry for special needs

Oak Parkers with special needs that should be considered in an emergency situation can register with the Village to ensure first responders are aware when dispatched via a 911 call. Knowing that they are being sent to a home where someone may have a hearing or visual impairment, mobility limitation, cognitive impairment or uses an electrically powered medical device could prove vital to emergency medical personnel. Residents or their caregivers can register online at www.oak-park.us/911registry. A form also is available via email to prepare@oak-park.us or by calling 708.358.5488. All information is kept confidential and should be updated annually.

April is Fair Housing Month

April marks the 48th anniversary of the 1968 Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin and sex. The Village passed a local Human Rights Ordinance the same year and continues to be committed to encouraging diversity and integration. Over the past year the Village and its housing partners have been working to increase coordination and revamp the annual rental housing management seminar curriculum with more information on fair housing. Any person otherwise qualified who is denied or discriminated against in seeking housing should contact the Village for more information, conciliation or to file a formal, written complaint. For more information on fair housing protections, including videos, brochures and fact sheets, visit www.oak-park.us/fairhousing.

Free marketing support offered to landlords



As part of the Village's commitment to fair housing, grants and rental reimbursements are available to multifamily rental building owners who agree to market their units in ways that encourage diversity. The Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program offers matching grants of up to \$10,000 and rental reimbursement to buildings with a history of marketing difficulties. The program is designed for buildings with four or more units and requires agreeing to allow the Oak Park Regional Housing Center to market vacant units for one year. Applications are evaluated by Village

staff and citizens volunteers on the Housing Programs Advisory Committee, and approved by the Village Board. For more information, call 708.358.5410, email housing@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/housing.

Condo association members invited to free educational seminars

Condominium association members are invited to learn more about their responsibilities at a free two-part educational seminar, featuring presentations by an attorney specializing in condominium law. Village staff also will be on hand to discuss local requirements and available support resources. Both sessions will be held in the Council Chamber at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Registration is offered, but not necessary. Here is the schedule:

Part One: Rules and Regulations — What to know and consider when drafting rules
6 to 8 p.m., March 9
Register online at conta.cc/1PRmf6b

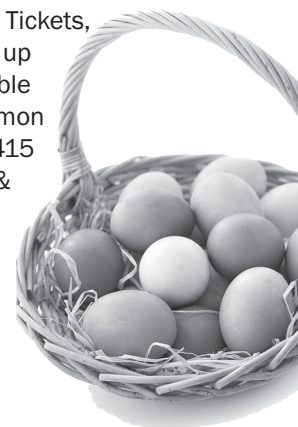
Part Two: Enforcing Rules — How to conduct a hearing
6 to 8 p.m., April 5
Register online at conta.cc/1Qwulxh

Local groups, volunteers needed for A Day in Our Village

Planning is well underway for the 43rd annual *A Day in Our Village*, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement, scheduled for Sun., June 5. Local groups wishing to attract volunteers, clients or new members, and civic-minded volunteers are invited to participate. Last year more than 100 Oak Park organizations set up activity and information booths in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue, local restaurants sold food nearby and the Park District of Oak Park sponsored activities in Rehm Park. In addition to participants, volunteers are needed to donate an hour or two of time well before the event, distributing promotional literature and hanging posters around the community. Volunteers also are needed to help on the day of the event. For more information on participating or volunteering to help with the 2016 *A Day in Our Village* celebration, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Egg hunts set for kids and dogs

Tickets are available for the free annual egg hunt and bunny photo op set for Sat. March 19, in Taylor Park, 400 W. Division St. Three separate events are set for children — 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., with groups divided by ages of 3 to 6 and 7 to 10. A special hunt for dogs is set for noon. The outdoor event is rain or shine, so participants are advised to dress for the weather. All dogs must be on a leash no longer than eight feet. Tickets, which must be picked up in advance, are available at the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex, 415 Lake St., Gymnastics & Recreation Center, 21 Lake St. and Geppetto's Toy Box, 730 Lake St.



Ceremonies set for all-weather fields

The public is invited to the April 9 grand opening of the all-weather sports fields at Oak Park's two public middle schools. Ceremonies are set for 9 a.m. at Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland Ave., and 10:30 a.m. at Brooks Middle School, 325 S. Kenilworth Ave. Both fields use ground tennis shoe soles as the infill, which has been identified as a more environmentally friendly option. The projects were a community collaboration funded by a partnership of the Park District of Oak Park, Elementary School District 97, Good Heart Work Smart Foundation, American Youth Soccer Organization, Chicago Edge Soccer and Oak Park Youth Baseball/Softball Association. The fields will be used by students on school days during school hours and will be scheduled for use by various sports affiliates on certain days and times. However, they are open to the public when they are not scheduled for programmed activities. For more information, visit www.pdop.org.

State to host college fund event

Oak Park residents are invited to learn about participating in the state's prepaid college tuition plan at an information session set for 6 to 7 p.m., Thurs., March 24, at the main Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Representatives of College Illinois!, the state's program based on Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code designed to help families save for college, will be on hand to talk about the program and answer questions. Savings can be used for tuition, books and other education-related expenses at most accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities, U.S. vocational-technical schools and eligible foreign institutions. For more information call 877.877.3724 or visit www.collegeillinois.org.

Environmental lecture series returns

The annual *Green Tuesdays* public lecture series will return to take on a range of important environmental challenges and issues relevant to the community. Lectures are scheduled for 7 to 8:30 p.m., each Tuesday in April at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Like *Green Tuesdays* of the past, the 2016 series will focus on the unique local environmental challenges of our time. Now in its 10th year, the program is sponsored by the Village's Environment & Energy Commission. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information. Here's the schedule:

- **April 5 – Environmental programs, initiatives and activities** provided by the Village, local organizations and individuals (Small Meeting Room)
- **April 12 – Group workshop discussion** on a specific topic to be announced (Book Discussion Room)
- **April 19 – Big Data in the Village** – panel discussion of how big data, the Internet and engaged citizenry may link towards a transitional village (Veteran's Room)
- **April 26 – State of the Environment: 2016** – annual report of Oak Park performance metrics on energy, materials, information and costs (Small Meeting Room)

Celebrate green living at Earth Fest

The Village's annual celebration of green living – Earth Fest – is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., April 23, in the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. This year's event will include food trucks, vendors and information booths highlighting local environmental organizations and initiatives. Booths for recycling eyeglasses, sun glasses, hearing aids, rechargeable batteries and cell phones also are planned. Visit www.oak-park.us/earthfest for more information.

Earth Hour is March 19... Oak Parkers are invited to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour at 8:30 p.m., Sat., March 19, to stand up, take responsibility for and get involved in working toward a sustainable future. Since Earth Hour was launched in 2007, it has become the world's largest voluntary action with people, businesses and governments in countries across every continent coming together to celebrate a commitment to the one thing that unites us all – the planet. For more information, visit www.earthhour.org.

Farmers' Market seeking volunteers

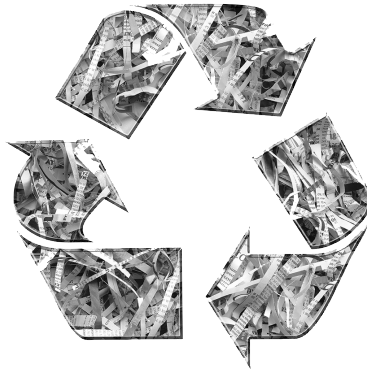
Volunteers are now being sought to become Friends of the Oak Park Farmers' Market, with plans well underway for the May 21 opening of the 41st season. The annual Friends' of the Market recruitment night is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Thurs., May 12 at the main Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. These volunteers become part of this quintessential Village summer experience by helping out at the Commissioners' Booth on Saturday mornings, volunteering at special events and contributing to the smooth running of the market. The market is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., every Saturday morning, from opening day through October, in the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake St. For information on volunteering, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us, call 708.358.5780 or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Daylight Saving Time returns

Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 a.m., Sun., March 13. Clocks should be set ahead one hour. The Oak Park Fire Department recommends using the time change as a convenient reminder to replace the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but one-third are estimated to have dead or missing batteries. For more information, call 708.445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Recycling opportunities ahead

Shred sensitive papers... Help prevent identity theft by shredding documents containing personal information at a free recycling event scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., April 9, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes. Only items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information will be accepted. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted.



Recycle old clothing... Safely recycle all types of old clothing and apparel in any condition from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., April 9, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Through a cooperative program with the Epilepsy Foundation, items, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels, will be sent to developing nations to repurpose. The Epilepsy Foundation also offers residential pickup — visit www.epilepsychicago.org or www.donateillinois.org for more information.

Repurpose latex paint... Safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint or get free paint at the Great Paint Exchange, scheduled for Sat., April 16, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Half-to-full cans of latex paint will be accepted from 9 to 11 a.m. Anyone in need of paint may pick it up from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Rehab loans available for single-family, small rental properties

Single-family homes – No interest loans of up to \$25,000 are available to income-eligible households to correct health and safety issues and building code violations. No monthly payments are required. Loans are repayable after 20 years or when the property is transferred.

Rental properties – Rental properties with fewer than eight units may be eligible for forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 per unit for projects such as property repairs, unit upgrades and energy efficiency improvements. Owners must contribute matching funds of at least 25 percent of the total project cost and agree to rent to income-eligible tenants for two years.

For more information, call 708.358.5410, email housing@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/housing.

Nominations sought for public health awards

Nominations now are being accepted for an annual award that honors those who made exceptional contributions to improving the health of Oak Parkers during 2015. The nomination deadline is 5 p.m., Fri., March 25. The Oak Park Department of Public Health will honor those individuals and organizations with the William Fitzsimmons Award during 2016 Public Health Week, April 4 – 10. A nomination form is posted at www.oak-park.us/healthawards. Forms also are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Completed forms should be mailed to or dropped off at the Oak Park Department of Public Health, Village Hall, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302, Attn: Public Health Awards. Nominations also may be sent via email to health@oak-park.us. Nominations submitted via email should include responses to all fields listed in the original nomination form. The Fitzsimmons Award is named for local physician and humanitarian William Fitzsimmons who served as the Health Department's medical consultant from 1976 to 1992. For more information on the awards program, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
Development Customer Services	358.5420
Business Services	358.5425
Neighborhood Services	358.5410
Housing	option 1
CDBG	option 2
Property complaints	option 3
Permits & Inspections	358.5430
Planning	358.5440
General questions	option 1
Historic Preservation	option 2
Zoning	option 3
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (nonemergency)	358.5600
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Mayor & Trustees	358.5784
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	725.2000
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	383.0700

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005
Mental Health Board	358.8855

Stay connected...

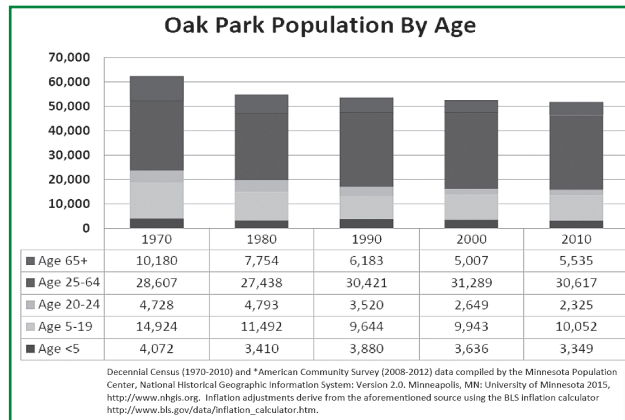
- oak-park.us
- facebook.com/vopnews
- twitter.com/vopnews
- pinterest.com/oakparkil
- youtube.com/vopnews

Officials assess demographic trends

Representatives of Oak Park's six taxing bodies recently bored deep into a snapshot of community demographics from 2000 to 2010. A presentation by the Village included details on housing, incomes, transportation costs, employment status and other factors that can affect public policy strategies that serve both current and

perspective residents. The gathering was the third annual InterGovernmental Assembly — or iGov — where elected officials and senior staff share information, discuss potential collaborative opportunities and talk about present and future challenges. Highlights of the presentation on demographics included data showing that the

senior population increased both numerically and as a percentage of population. Oak Park's racial diversity has grown as well, including a sizeable increase in residents who identify as Hispanic or Latino. Analysis of the data also confirmed that mixed use and multi-family rental developments under construction and in review could go a long way toward meeting current demand. In addition, the presentation included data showing that foreclosure filings have slowed dramatically since their peak in 2011. More information on the iGov meeting, including the demographic presentation, is posted at www.oak-park.us/igov.



When permits are required...

Most construction projects, both large and small, require a permit issued by the Village. Constructing, enlarging, altering, repairing, moving, demolishing or changing occupancy of a building or structure requires a permit. So does erecting,



installing, enlarging, altering, repairing, removing, converting or replacing any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing systems. The permit application process is a system of checks and balances.

Larger jobs involve a minimum of five people to ensure the safest and highest quality project possible. A professional architect licensed by the state draws the plans, a certified plans examiner reviews

the plans, a registered and insured contractor builds to the approved plans and professional certified staff inspects the work to ensure it is done properly. The Village's Development Customer Services Department can provide guidance throughout the permit application process. For more information, call 708.358.5432 or email scutaia@oak-park.us.

Psychiatric services expanded

Access to psychiatry services by Oak Park children and adults in need of support and medication management has been expanded by the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township through the PCC Community Wellness Center. PCC has implemented a no-turn-away policy for residents seeking psychiatric service who use Medicaid, private insurance or are uninsured. Call 773.378.3347, extension 4283 for more information.

Zoning workshops planned

The Plan Commission is preparing for public meetings and open houses to discuss the status of the first comprehensive review of Village zoning regulations since 2002. Drafts of recommended changes should be ready for public discussion in late April, as efforts focus on revisions to better align local laws with recommendations in Envision Oak Park, the community's long-range comprehensive plan adopted last year. Camiros Ltd., a Chicago-based planning and zoning firm, was selected through a competitive process early in 2015 to lead the zoning project. The goal, project planners say, is to help make Oak Park a more sustainable, livable and business-friendly community. The proposed Madison Street Zoning District was approved by the Village Board in February 2016. A formal public hearing will be held before the Village Board considers revisions to the full zoning code sometime in late-summer. In the meantime, property owners can learn more about the project and follow its progress via a dedicated website at www.oakparkzoning.com, where presentations and reports are posted and public comments accepted. For more information, call 708.358.5440 or email planning@oak-park.us.

Mandatory rental management seminar set

Owners of residential rental properties or their designated agents are required to attend a seminar to learn about fair housing and the Village's crime-free rental housing ordinance as part of their license application or annual renewal. The next seminar is scheduled for 2:30 to 5 p.m., Wed., March 23 in the Council Chamber of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Advance registration is required and space is limited. Visit www.oak-park.us/rentalseminar to register. Information on the crime-free housing program is posted at www.oak-park.us/crimefreehousing. For more information on management training and other housing programs, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.



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



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Peter Barber
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Colette Lueck
Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

News for Renters

Discrimination complaints... Village Code defends the rights of individuals within the protected classes of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status or disability in the purchasing, leasing, securing a loan, renting or occupying housing or other real estate. Any person otherwise qualified who is denied or discriminated against in these processes should call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us for more information, conciliation or to file a formal, written complaint.

Interest rates on security deposits... Tenants of apartment buildings containing four or more units are entitled to interest on their security deposits. Interest must be paid or applied toward rent within 30 days of the expiration of each 12-month period. The security deposit must have been held for at least six months and the rent must be current to be eligible for interest. Call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us for more information.

Tenant handbook... A free handbook outlining rights, responsibilities and regulations is available online at www.oak-park.us or from the Community Relations Department in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The handbook does not offer legal advice, but does contain helpful hints and tips for positive landlord/tenant relationships. For more information call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Dispute resolution... Free mediation services are available to help landlords and tenants resolve issues that may be disrupting quality of life. Participation is voluntary and agreements made are between the two parties and not enforced by the Village. To learn more, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Yard waste collection begins

Collection of yard waste will begin April 4. Bundled brush no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs and vines will be picked up on regular refuse collection days. A green yard waste sticker must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container. Stickers are \$2.45 each. Residents are urged to look for alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or backyard compost piles. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Where to Buy Yard Waste Stickers

- **Dressel's Ace Hardware**
1137 Chicago Ave.
- **Fair Share Finer Foods**
6226 Roosevelt Rd.
- **Jewel Food Stores**
438 Madison St., 7036 Roosevelt Rd.,
7525 Lake St. (River Forest)
- **Pete's Fresh Market**
259 Lake St.
- **Schauer Ace Hardware**
7449 Madison St. (Forest Park)
- **Village Hall**
123 Madison St.
- **Walgreens**
811 Madison St., 6412 Roosevelt Rd.

Early voting offered at Village Hall

Early voting for the March 15 Presidential Primary Election will be offered at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. through March 14. Voting hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays. Village Hall also is a grace period registration site, allowing eligible citizens to register in person and cast a ballot during the early voting period. Valid photo identification is required to cast an early vote or register. Valid forms of ID include a current driver's license, state-issued ID card, university/college ID or another government-issued ID with a photograph. Individuals who will be 18 years old by the Nov. 8, 2016 Presidential General Election also can register and cast an early primary election ballot. For more election information, including polling places and offices on the ballot, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com.