

New bike shelters offer repair stations



Oak Park is already recognized as a bicycle-friendly community, but it just got friendlier thanks to four new stations equipped with everything needed to easily make simple bike repairs on the go.

Construction crews recently put the finishing touches on the new bike shelters near the CTA Blue and Green lines. Each new shelter houses a *Fixit* station, which includes all the tools necessary to perform basic bike repairs and maintenance, from changing a flat to adjusting brakes and derailleurs.

An air pump and an assortment of tools are securely attached to each stand with stainless steel cables and tamper-proof fasteners.

Among the tools available are Philips and flat head screwdrivers, Allen wrenches, a headset wrench, a pedal wrench, box wrenches and tire levers.

Another feature of the *Fixit* stations is sure to appeal to frequent riders — the ability to hang a bike from arms that

Bicycling in Oak Park — By the numbers

1,915	13	9	4.8	4	3
bicycle parking spots	Divvy bicycle sharing stations	covered bike shelters	miles of shared bike lanes	Fixit stations	miles of dedicated bike lanes

allow pedals and wheels to spin freely while making adjustments.

Fixit stations can be found near the Blue line by the intersections of Harrison Street and Euclid Avenue, Oak Park Avenue and Garfield Street and Harrison Street and East Avenue. A fourth station is near the Green Line at the intersection of Forest Avenue and North Boulevard.

In addition to providing an easy way to tune up a bike on the go, the new bike shelters also created nearly 100 new bike parking spots, bringing the

total spaces to park a bicycle in Oak Park to more than 1,900.

The bike shelter at the corner of Forest Avenue and North Boulevard also is a first for Oak Park. Designed to preserve limited sidewalk space, the shelter incorporates a semi-vertical rack that secures bicycles in an upright position, literally standing on their back wheels.

For more information on bicycling in Oak Park, including a map of bike rack locations in the Village, visit www.oak-park.us/bicycling.

Yard waste collection underway

Collection of bundled brush and yard waste is underway through November. Bundled brush and yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs, vines and storm debris are picked up along with garbage and recycling on regular refuse collection days from the same collection point. Each brush bundle should be no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and have a green yard waste sticker attached. Yard waste should be in 32-gallon paper bags or rigid containers, each with a green yard waste sticker attached. Stickers are available for \$2.50 each at Oak Park grocery and hardware stores and the Cashier's Office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. 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

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

Owners responsible for storm debris on private property

When severe weather creates debris from trees on private property, owners are reminded not to bring limbs or brush to the curb, but make other arrangements for its disposal. Public Works crews pick up debris only from parkway trees — a big job with nearly 19,000 trees on public property throughout the Village. However, brush from private property will be treated as yard waste if it is tied into bundles, each tagged with a green yard waste sticker and placed in the regular refuse pick-up area. Each bundle should be no larger than two feet in diameter, four feet in length and not exceed 50 pounds. Yard waste stickers are \$2.50 each and are available at most Village grocery and hardware stores, as well as in the cashier's office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Yard waste is collected from about April through November. The Village's contract refuse hauler also will come to a home and estimate the cost for removing larger, unbundled quantities of yard waste — call 888.656.5350 to request an estimate. Refuse collection is funded by user fees billed quarterly with the water bill, rather than property taxes, an approach that means only those properties that require the service pay. About half of Oak Park's 26,000 residential addresses are in multifamily buildings. For more information on yard waste, recycling and refuse hauling, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

A Day in Our Village festival is June 4

The 44th annual *A Day in Our Village* festival celebrating diversity and community involvement is scheduled for Sun., June 4. Activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will fill Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. along with live performances and a food court featuring local restaurants. Rehm Park & Pool and the Oak Park Conservatory, Garfield Street at East Avenue, also will offer many activities from 1 to 6 p.m., with \$5 wristbands for unlimited access to carnival games, rides, entertainment, inflatables and the trains. Admission to Rehm Pool will be half price during the event. An Oak Park Township mini-bus will provide free transportation between venues. For more information, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Be prepared for severe weather

Tornadoes, lightning, flash floods, damaging winds and destructive hail strike Illinois each spring, summer and fall, sometimes with incredible violence. Being aware of severe weather safety rules and knowing what to do might save your life, which is why the National Weather Service urges you to develop a safety plan for use at home, work, school, driving and during outdoor activities. For more information, visit www.ready.illinois.gov.

Know the terms... A *tornado watch* means severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are possible over the next few hours, so be prepared. A *tornado warning* means a tornado has been sighted by a trained storm spotter, or intense rotation that will likely produce a tornado has been detected by Doppler radar — get to a place of safety immediately.

Local warning siren... The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC), the emergency 911 hub for Oak Park, River Forest, Elmwood Park and Park Ridge, sounds a warning siren when a tornado is sighted within a 10-mile radius. The sirens also are activated at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month as part of a regular statewide test. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/fire. Information on severe weather also is posted by the National Weather Service at www.spc.noaa.gov.

Free legal assistance available

Senior citizens and people with disabilities needing assistance preparing advance directive legal documents such as power of attorney of health care and property or a living will can get help through Oak Park Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Representatives from the Center for Disability & Elder Law are available for free by appointment every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. To qualify, household income must be at or below 150 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Residency in Oak Park or River Forest also is required. Call 708.383.8060 or email seniors@oakparktownship.org for an appointment and more information.



Inspectors protecting public, maintaining aesthetics

Village property inspectors are checking single-family homes and apartment buildings for visible code violations to ensure public safety and community aesthetics as part of the *Neighborhood Walk Program*. Village code requires grass and weeds to be cut below eight inches, including in parkways, alleys, parking pads and between garages. Debris that often collects under porches and stairwells during the winter also should be removed, and peeling paint should be scrapped and repainted. For nuisance violations such as garbage, debris and overgrown vegetation, inspectors will leave a notice on the door as a reminder to clean up and remove the materials. However, for building maintenance issues related to code violations that pose a danger, the property owner will be notified by mail. If you receive a violation letter, please take care of the repairs within the period specified in the letter. For more information call 708.358.5430 or email building@oak-park.us.

Free movies return to Scoville Park

The Park District of Oak Park's popular free movies program returns to Scoville Park on Thurs., May 18. Families are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets for the feature film series set to begin at dusk in the park on Lake Street, just west of Oak Park Avenue. Rain dates will be posted at pdop.org.

Screening Schedule

May 18: Secret Life of Pets

June 15: Rogue One – A Star Wars Story

July 20: Field of Dreams

Aug. 17: The Queen of Katwe

Sept. 23: Beauty and The Beast (2017)

Construction season gets underway

Warmer weather typically means construction, and this year is no different. The biggest project on the horizon this season is rebuilding Fillmore Street, which runs east-west across the entire south side of the Village one block north of Roosevelt Road. Work on Fillmore is expected to begin on the far west side of the Village in late May and progress toward Austin Boulevard, with completion in November. The primary objective of the Fillmore construction project is to install a main to supply the villages of Brookfield and North Riverside with Lake Michigan water. The installation of the water main also will involve work in Forest Park and Chicago. As part of the Village's agreement with the Brookfield-North Riverside Water Commission, the entire stretch of Fillmore Street in Oak Park will be completely rebuilt, allowing upgrades to the Village's underground water and sewer network. Elsewhere in the community, construction has resumed on Chicago Avenue as the final phase of the resurfacing project that began last summer extends into the business district between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. The work will include new lighting, decorative sidewalks and street furnishings. Other construction initiatives planned for this summer include installing a new traffic signal at Washington Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue and sewer and water main repairs on Berkshire Street between Grove and Euclid avenues. A number of road resurfacing projects and alley improvements also are scheduled for various locations throughout the Village. An interactive map displaying all construction projects planned for 2017 is available at www.oak-park.us/construction. For more detailed information on any specific construction, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Farmers' Market to begin 42nd season

The Oak Park Farmers' Market will open its 42nd season on Sat., May 20. The Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from opening day through October in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot, 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. Opening day will feature seed-potting activities for children, as well as Go Green tables, with information to help families live and garden in more environmentally friendly ways. Special guests from the YMCA also will be giving out veggie-of-the-week cards that contain recipes for seasonal vegetables. Other upcoming special events include the Oak Park Public Library's book bike on May 27 and farm-related children's activities on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from June through October. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, bedding plants, honey, cheese, frozen meat, bread and baked goods, the Market also features donuts made on-site, fresh coffee and live bluegrass music. Regional vendors will offer sustainable, organic and locally sourced goods again this season, including several heirloom products. To help support Market administration, a variety of items will be sold at the information tent, including reusable shopping bags, t-shirts and travel mugs. Non-profit bake sales will be offered each Saturday as well as occasional cooking demonstrations featuring chefs from local restaurants. A majority of the vendors now accept credit/debit cards, as well as WIC and senior coupons. All vendors accept Link cards. For more information call 708.358.5780, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Market volunteers needed

The annual Friends of the Farmers' Market recruitment night is 7:30 to 9 p.m., Thurs., May 11 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. This informal orientation session is intended for anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the Oak Park Farmers' Market. Friends of the Market 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. For information on volunteering, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us, call 708.358.5780 or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

House walk offers rare glimpse of historic homes



The owners of historic Frank Lloyd Wright houses and other landmark residences in Oak Park will invite the public inside their carefully restored homes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., May 20. The 2017 *Wright Plus Housewalk* kicks off a year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. This year's walk will include interior tours

of rarely seen private homes and public buildings designed by Wright and his contemporaries. For more information about tickets, the house walk and its related events, visit www.flwright.org/wrightplus.

Key box ensures access in an emergency

Property owners who want to guarantee first responders have access to their homes and businesses in an emergency are invited to participate in the Oak Park Fire Department's key box security program. Working with industry leader Knox, the Fire Department maintains a master key to access the entry key stored securely inside the box. Officials say the cost of the key box generally is less than replacing a door that may have had to be forced to gain access in emergency. More information on the program, which is available for both commercial and residential properties, is posted at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Grant bolsters fire prevention efforts

When a fire strikes a home in Oak Park, most everyone on the block knows about the incident. The Oak Park Fire Department plans to harness this natural neighborhood interest and raise awareness about the importance of smoke detectors through a new program made possible by a \$2,000 grant from FM Global, one of the world's largest commercial property insurers. As part of the new program, when a house fire occurs in Oak Park, Fire Department personnel will visit surrounding homes on the block with information about the incident and reminders to check the batteries in smoke detectors. The public education material distributed after a fire occurs will include instructions for residents whose homes need a smoke detector to contact the Oak Park Fire Department, which will provide and install the life-saving device for families who need help. Fire Department personnel will track the location of smoke detectors provided through the program and follow up with regular maintenance reminders. Residents interested in acquiring a smoke detector can call 708.358.5600 or email fireprevention@oak-park.us. For more information about the Oak Park Fire Department, visit www.oak-park.us/fire.

Municipal jobs posted online

Residents interested in working for the Village of Oak Park can keep track of job openings at www.oak-park.us/jobs, where descriptions and qualifications are posted for specific positions. Most open positions require applicants to fill out an employment application and equal employment opportunity form, which can be submitted digitally. Separate forms must be submitted for each position since applications are not retained once a job is filled. Unsolicited resumes not identifying a specific job opening are not accepted or acknowledged. The application process for police officers and firefighter/paramedics uses a different application form that will be posted as needed for specific recruitment efforts. For more information on Village hiring policies and procedures, email hr@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5630
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

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 pinterest.com/oakparkil

 twitter.com/vopnews

 youtube.com/vopnews

Oak Park, other communities working to save the Monarchs

The Village of Oak Park is doing its part to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic North American species whose populations have declined dramatically in recent years.

Village officials recently joined nearly 300 communities across the country — including nearby towns like Evanston, Elmhurst, Glenview and Schaumburg — in a pledge to create a healthy habitat that will aid monarch butterflies on their annual migration across the continent.

In addition to issuing a proclamation to raise awareness of the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat, the Village will plant native milkweed and nectar plants on public properties when appropriate across the community, including traffic diverters, cul-de-sacs, medians and planters.

The Village already uses mostly native material in public right-of-way locations,

but now will be sure to include monarch-friendly vegetation to the planting palette.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, more than one billion Eastern monarch butterflies migrated to Mexico 20 years ago, but only 60 million made the trip in 2014.

Environmental groups claim that the steep decline indicates problems in the environment and note that helping monarchs boosts the entire ecosystem.

Oak Park residents can make a difference, too, by planting native milkweed and nectar plants on their property to provide habitat for pollinators like the monarch butterfly. Milkweed can spread aggressively, so residents are encouraged to plant with care.

Tips on how to create a monarch garden are available on the website of a local environmental group — just visit westcook.wildones.org and click the

Monarch Garden Support tab at the top of the page.

For more information about the Village's Monarch Pledge, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Parking restrictions eased for holidays

As a courtesy to residents and their guests, the overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during several holidays in the year ahead. Restrictions will remain in effect in areas reserved for overnight permit holders, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. For more information on parking in Oak Park call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us.

Memorial Day – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m. Sat., May 27 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., May 31

July 4 – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., July 1 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Thurs., July 6

Labor Day – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Sept. 2 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., Sept. 6

Thanksgiving – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 22 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Mon., Nov. 27

Christmas/New Year – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 23 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Jan. 3

Water backflow preventers required

Residents who received a survey from *Aqua Backflow* about how their water supplies are connected to the public delivery system are urged to respond promptly and set up an inspection. Federal and state regulations require every municipal water supplier to make sure all customers have devices installed to prevent water already inside the structure from flowing back into the public water supply, which may create contamination issues. Residential and commercial backflow preventers are required in a range of applications, including lawn irrigation, fire sprinklers, hot water heating, swimming pools and water features. Some require annual testing and maintenance by a licensed plumbing contractor at the property owner's expense. Call 708.358.5700 or visit www.oak-park.us/backflowprevention for more information.

Township News

Youth scholarships available...

A limited number of Financial Assistance Scholarships (FAS) are available for youth in low-income families through the Oak Park Township. Funds may be used towards registration and participant fees in local activities and programs. For more information, including guidelines and qualifying programs, call 708.445.2727 or visit www.oakparktownship.org/services/scholarships.

Senior transportation improvements...

Oak Park and River Forest Townships Senior Services will bring its transportation services in-house this month and expand its fleet to two buses and a van to better serve senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. All three vehicles are equipped with wheelchair lifts. Persons over 60 years old or with disabilities can make reservations for curb-to-curb transportation service up to 24 hours in advance — just call 708.383.4806 or visit www.oakparktownship.org/services/transportation.



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



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews Dan Moroney

Simone M. Boutet Jim Taglia

Andrea Button Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman

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

Vehicle sticker sales begin this month



Village vehicle stickers for the 2017/2018 season are scheduled to go on sale later this month, after renewal notices go out to the owners of vehicles registered to Oak Park residents.

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase and display a Village sticker annually before July 15 to get the lowest rate. The rate increases by \$20 after the deadline. Failure to display a

valid Village sticker also could result in a \$75 ticket.

A current vehicle sticker is needed to purchase a parking permit.

Residents whose vehicles already are registered with the Village can save time by renewing online at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices, rather than via mail or in person at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

Vehicle owners who renew online will have the option to receive next year's renewal notice via email, eliminating the need for a paper notice sent by mail.

First-time vehicle sticker purchasers — and residents who have turned 65 since they last renewed — must come to Village Hall and provide proof of residency, such as a lease, utility bill or other government-issued item. A driver's license and vehicle information also is required.

Renewal forms mailed to current sticker holders include a unique web identification number that allows a vehicle owner to correct or update most data, including address and telephone number, and vehicle information. Online renewals require a credit card and an email address for confirmation.

Anyone who loses the renewal notice will be able to look up their web ID number using the email address or telephone number registered during the previous year's application.

In-person sticker purchases and renewals will be available at Village Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, except holidays.

Individuals renewing in person are urged to bring their renewal notice to speed up processing. Lines and wait times for in-person renewals grow as the deadline nears.

Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. Persons age 65 and older, and anyone who has a state-issued handicapped license plate or placard, receive a discount. Disabled and active-duty veterans with the proper documentation are eligible for free stickers.

For more information call 708.358.7275, visit www.oak-park.us/parking or email parking@oak-park.us.



Sculpture Walk coming to Arts District

The Oak Park Sculpture Walk returns for a sixth season this month, with 12 sculptures on display in an outdoor exhibit in the Oak Park Arts District along Harrison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Sculptures are chosen through a juried competition and vary in materials. This year's Sculpture Walk features work from artists throughout the Midwest, with submissions coming from as far as Missouri and Ohio. The sculptures are scheduled to be installed in time for the annual *What's Blooming on Harrison* festival May 19 – 20 and will remain on display through Sept. 4. Brochures with details about the art and the artists will be available on site, at Oak Park libraries, area businesses and online at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk. Visitors can also download the free *Otocast* app on their smartphones to access information about the sculptures and hear descriptions of the work by the artists. The Sculpture Walk is organized by the Oak Park Area Arts Council. For more information, email sculpturewalk@oakparkareaartscouncil.org.