

Disconnecting gutters can reduce chances of basement flooding

With the goal of reducing the chances of backups during heavy rain, the Village is encouraging property owners to disconnect their gutter downspouts from the municipal sewer system.

Storm water from roof gutters is not a problem on normal flow days with minimal precipitation. However, during heavy rain events, the main system can become overwhelmed, sometimes causing sewage and storm water to back up into basements.

Simply by eliminating water flowing from gutters into the sewer system, property owners can help reduce the chances of a back up from the Village's combined sewer and storm water system.

While some communities require property owners to disconnect their gutters from the sewer system, Oak Park encourages voluntary cooperation. Officials say they hope that when residents consider that a one-inch rainfall on a 1,000-square-foot roof can produce 600 gallons of water, they will understand how diverting storm water from downspouts away from the municipal sewer system can help reduce the chances of basement flooding.

In addition to reducing incidents of basement flooding, disconnecting gutter downspouts from the municipal sewer system also can offer a way to capture free water for plants, lawns and gardens.

Officials urge property owners to consider using rain barrels to store storm water for future use and creating rain gardens or using native plants in landscaping to help absorb runoff.

For more information on flooding prevention, visit www.oak-park.us or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us. Ask for a copy of the brochure and a link to the VOP-TV YouTube video for tips on how to disconnect downspouts.



Gutter Disconnection Tips

- **Extend downspouts** at least three to six feet away from the building foundation wall and direct flow away from the building.
- **Pick a suitable area** for the water to flow to such as a grassy area or rain garden. Route downspout extensions under decks or patios to reach these permeable areas.
- **Use a splash block** at the end of the extension to avoid soil erosion.
- **Avoid placing** an extension across a sidewalk so as not to create a tripping hazard.
- **Avoid flowing water** onto sidewalks or driveways since these may freeze during cold months.
- **Remember to cap the sewer** where the downspout once connected to prevent debris and animals from entering and odors from escaping.



Organics collection program offered

With the goal of decreasing the amount of organic refuse sent



to landfills, the Village offers food scrap composting services to residents throughout the community. The cost is \$14 per month, which is about the same as recycling one bag of yard waste per week under the current Village yard waste program that does not accept food scraps.

Participants receive a special 96-gallon mobile cart for organics, an under-sink collection bucket and a box of compostable bags for food scraps.

Subscribers who use the organics cart for their yard waste and food scraps will not have to purchase yard waste stickers for grass clippings placed into the organics cart.

Residents who maintain backyard compost piles or who mulch grass clippings are urged to investigate sharing organics carts and costs with neighbors.

Nearly 500 households currently participate in the pilot composting collection program.

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

Outdoor sculpture walk returns to downtown

Take a walk through downtown Oak Park while enjoying 12 pieces of art from established sculptors and emerging newcomers. The 12 sites are located within a four-block radius in pedestrian-friendly sites among the restaurants and retail stores in downtown Oak Park. Visitors are encouraged to pick up a brochure — available online at www.oak-park.us and at the Oak Park Visitors' Center, 1010 Lake St. — and explore the installations with a self-guided walking tour. Here's what you will see:



1010 Lake Street – Visitor's Center
Wandering Home – Andrew Arvanetes



1022 Lake Street – Lake Theater
Foods – Duke Oursler



1048 Lake Street – Chase Bank
Loss of Signal – Nathan S. Pierce



435 N. Harlem – The Gap
Current – Duke Oursler



1100 Lake – Public Parkway
Decision Point – Fisher Stolz



1100 Lake – Public Parkway
Large Suggestion of a Tree – Luke Russell



1101 Lake – Lake Street Kitchen
Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis – Robert Pulley



121 N. Marion – Ten Thousand Villages
More Wait – Nathan S. Pierce



102 N. Marion – Competitive Foot
King of Prairie Town – Nicole Beck



1002 North Blvd. – Dental Offices
Glider – Steven Lockwood



1001 Lake Street – Community Bank
Vessel #111 – Eric W. Stephenson



Forest & Lake
Three Wise and Weary – Austin I. Collins

Comment on new parking signs

If you park along South Boulevard between Austin Boulevard and Harlem Avenue, Parking Services wants to know what you think of the new signs. The Village is testing signs designed to be clearer and more user friendly, with the focus on providing information to individuals other than permit holders. Officials say that since permit holders are given detailed, written information on the rules that specifically apply to them when they receive the permit, they only need the lot number and type of permit allowed to park there. Motorists are invited to compare a new sign to an old one and share their views at www.surveymonkey.com/s/parkingsigns. The new signage will remain in place through October. Feedback gathered from customers will help refine the final approach to parking signs Village wide. Comments also may be sent to parking@oakpark.us.



Avoid risks around downed power lines

When severe weather brings down power lines, public safety personnel urge residents to be aware of the danger. Their advice — always assume power lines are live, since even momentary contact with a live power line can injure or kill. If a power line comes down, ideally, a firefighter or police officer will stand by the site until utility workers arrive. But when emergency conditions are widespread, personnel may not be available for this level of service. In those instances, affected streets or alleys are blocked and the area around the downed wire isolated by yellow warning tape. Residents who see a downed power line should call 9-1-1 right away and report the location. For more information, call 708.445.3300 or e-mail fire@oak-park.us.

Child safety seat inspections offered by appointment



The Fire Department has a special telephone line to accept requests for child safety seat inspections. Parents of young children can call 708.358.5604 to request an appointment for a car seat inspection by a certified technician. Requests also may be sent by e-mail to carseat@oak-park.us. Parents will need to bring their vehicle owner's manual and car seat manufacturer's manual along with the seat they wish to have inspected. Residents are asked not to come to the Fire Department for an inspection without an appointment. As on-call firefighter/paramedics, the technicians may not be available if duty calls.

Citizen volunteers embody long history of open government

When it comes to citizen involvement in the process of making public policy, few communities can match the number of opportunities offered by the Village of Oak Park. More than 150 volunteers serving on 19 separate boards, commissions and committees advise the Village Board on a wide range of important issues.

From proposals for new developments to plans to better manage Oak Park's limited supply of parking, the residents who participate on these bodies play key roles in making sure policy enacted by the Village Board has had thorough public review and is in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Boards, commissions and committees conduct in-depth studies, evaluate research and hold meetings that create the public record for citizen sentiments on possible future policies set by the Village Board. Recommendations are made to the Village Board whose members have the statutory authority to make new local laws and regulations.

When vacancies occur on these advisory bodies, the Citizen Involvement Commission interviews those Villagers who have volunteered to serve. The commission then makes recommendations to the Village president, who makes the formal appointments with the consent of the Board of Trustees.

A varied group of volunteers is sought to represent the Village's diversity, and renters as well as homeowners are encouraged to apply. Some commissions even include a member of high school age.

For more information on volunteering to serve, call 708.358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us. To review a complete list of the advisory bodies and to apply to serve, visit www.oak-park.us.

Congratulations to 2012 – 2013 Commission Service Award Recipients

Outstanding Chairperson – Christina Morris, Historic Preservation Commission

Outstanding Commissioner – Dr. Ravi Gravois-Shah, Board of Health

Outstanding Commission – Disability Access Commission

Electronic recycling events set

Residents are invited to recycle old electronics the last Saturday of the month through October. Just drop off items from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders/players, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. For more information call Public Works at 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Comprehensive Plan process continues



Envision Oak Park, the process to update the Village's Comprehensive Plan, is moving closer to a draft for public review. Work that began as discussions of broad concepts, moved to a close examination of key issues and then drilled down into the 11 quality-of-life topics distilled from nearly 40 workshops, interviews and meetings with residents, neighbors, business operators, students and community leaders. Preliminary goals and objectives have been identified in the categories of arts and culture; community health and safety; community life and engagement;

economic health and vitality; education; environmental sustainability; governmental excellence; land use and built environment; neighborhoods, housing and diversity; parks, open space and environmental features; and transportation and infrastructure. To follow the process, read the latest documents and provide input into the process, just visit envisionoakpark.com.

Exhibit tests detective skills

An exhibit in the Oak Park Conservatory through August 28 invites young Oak Parkers to put their detective skills to use to discover if it is possible to know what an animal eats just by looking at its teeth. Organized by the Purdue Agriculture Exhibit Design Center, the exhibit, designed to appeal to children of kindergarten age through fourth grade, teaches that mammals are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores and that each has different types of teeth and feeding habits. Among the exhibit's features are animal skulls, including a tiny weasel and a polar bear, a touch-screen game and a mirror so tooth sleuths can look at their own teeth to determine their eating category. The Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday. Admission is free, but a \$2 donation is appreciated. For more information call 708.725.2400 or visit www.oakparkconservatory.org.



Home ownership help available

Down payment assistance... Working to make home ownership more affordable, the West Cook County Housing Collaborative is offering \$10,000 in down payment assistance for select updated and rehabbed homes in the area. The collaborative is a partnership created by Bellwood, Berwyn, Forest Park, Maywood and Oak Park to address the problems of high foreclosure rates. Financing and the supply of homes is limited. To apply, call the West Cook Homeownership Center at 708.771.5801 to schedule an appointment. An application also is posted at www.WestCookHomeownership.org.

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











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
Historic Preservation	358.5417
Zoning	358.5449
Business Services	358.5648
Housing	358.5410
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 Board	358.5784
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...

-  www.oak-park.us
-  vopnews@oak-park.us
-  facebook.com/vopnews
-  twitter.com/vopnews
-  youtube.com/vopnews
-  oak-park.us/boardtv
-  oak-park.us/voptv
-  oak-park.us/news
-  oak-park.us/managersblog
-  oak-park.us/enews

Inspectors checking for violations

Village property inspectors are continually checking single-family homes and apartment buildings for code violations to ensure public safety and community aesthetics as part of the *Neighborhood Walk Program*. 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 your repairs within the period specified in your letter. For more information call 708.358.5430 or e-mail building@oak-park.us.

Loans available for accessibility modifications

Oak Parkers with special needs who would like to modify their homes to make them more accessible are invited to apply for a forgivable loan of up to \$15,000. Applicants must have a physical or age-related impairment that requires modifications such as ramps, lifts or handrails. The modifications can be in either single family or multifamily homes and may include kitchens and bathrooms. Applicants must meet income restrictions. Loans will be forgiven over five years. Call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us for more information.

Nominations sought for Green Awards

Nominations are being sought for Green Awards, a program created to recognize specific deeds or actions that embody and advance work toward a sustainable future. Nominations may be submitted by anyone on behalf of anyone. A nomination form is posted at www.oak-park.us. The nomination deadline is Aug. 30. For more information call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Making multi-family housing smoke-free

Property managers, owners and condo boards interested in creating smoke-free buildings can find help from the Oak Park Department of Public Health. Thanks to a state grant, local public health officials have created a range of materials on how to transition to a smoke-free property. Information includes sample letters for tenants, lease addendums and other resources. A smoke-free building is one where smoking is not permitted in any indoor units or common areas. No-smoking policies not only encourage healthier living and a safer environment, but also help make the building more durable, reduce operating costs and improve air quality. For more information call 708.358.5485 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Watering restrictions in effect

As part of the interstate compact for preserving the Great Lakes, summer watering restrictions are in effect May 15 through Sept. 15. Outdoor water use is limited Monday through Friday to even-numbered street addresses on even-numbered days, and to odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days. Newly planted grass seed, sod, trees and shrubs are exempt from the restrictions for their first 30 days of growth. Call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Open windows may invite burglars

Residents who leave their windows and patio doors open overnight to catch a summer evening breeze could unwittingly become targets of burglars who cruise neighborhoods looking for just such opportunities. Oak Park Police urge residents to use devices that prevent entry by limiting travel of the sash or door. Making sure patio furniture cannot be used as a makeshift ladder to reach higher windows also is important, police say. For more security tips and even an assessment of one's home, residents should contact their Resident Beat Officer, who will examine the property and offer practical suggestions for improving security. To contact your RBO, visit www.oak-park.us.

Opt out of door-to-door solicitations

Oak Park residents can opt out of door-to-door solicitations by posting a no solicitor door sticker available free from the Village Clerk's Office in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Commercial solicitors and peddlers may solicit from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Mondays through Saturday, except holidays. Solicitors seeking donations for charitable or not-for-profit organizations may solicit from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., Mondays – Saturdays, except holidays. Solicitors who provide information or advocate on behalf of political, environmental or religious groups are not restricted by times and days. Commercial and non-profit solicitors must be registered with the Village and must present their permit when asked. Violations should be reported to the Village Clerk at 708.358.5670 or via e-mail to clerk@oak-park.us.

West Nile virus threat grows

As temperatures rise, so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. The best defense is to reduce the chances of mosquito bites. Recommended steps include limiting time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn, wearing long sleeves and pants, and applying insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Residents also are urged to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, emptying birdbaths and storing containers upside down when not in use. For more information, call the West Nile Virus Hotline 708.358.5694, visit www.oak-park.us or e-mail health@oak-park.us.



Village President Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees
 Peter Barber
 Glenn Brewer
 Adam Salzman
 Ray Johnson
 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



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

OP/FYI

Scoville Park now offers free Wi-Fi

Visitors to the recently renovated Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue can stay connected with free Wi-Fi, thanks to the collaboration of the Oak Park Public Library and the Park District.

Tablet and smart phone users can check their device settings to find *scovillepark* and access the web virtually anywhere in the park – for free.



The new system includes multiple access points to

allow hundreds of users to surf the web simultaneously. The wireless network *opclair* will remain available to patrons inside the adjacent main library.

The Scoville Park wireless system was part of a year-long renovation of the venerable park that included a new playground, tennis courts, pathways, lighting and entrances, as well as extensive new landscaping. A grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources made the project possible.

Scoville Park, originally designed by noted landscape architect Jens Jensen, is named to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service.

For more information on the Scoville Park renovations and all Park District programs, visit www.pdop.org.

Nominations sought for historic preservation awards

August 30 is the deadline to nominate an Oak Park Property for a 2013 Historic Preservation Award. Nominations also are being sought for projects that address both historic preservation and sustainability issues.

Single-family residences, apartment buildings, commercial buildings, public/institutional buildings and religious structures may be nominated in the categories of restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use and additions/new construction. Additional awards are presented for stewardship, detail and design.

Projects should have been created within the past five years, and located within the boundaries of the Village, but need not be in an historic district. Interior work also may be considered in conjunction with exterior work.

Any resident, owner or tenant of eligible structures, members of local preservation and historical societies, and members of local boards and commissions may make nominations. The judges' decisions will be based upon the Historic Preservation Commission's Architectural Review Guidelines, which are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, as well as considerations of contextual and design appropriateness.

Nomination forms are available in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., by calling 708.358.5417 or by e-mail to historicpreservation@oak-park.us. A nomination form also can be downloaded at www.oak-park.us. Nominations may be submitted in person, by U.S. Mail or via e-mail.

Vehicle Sticker deadline near



Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a vehicle is required to purchase and display a vehicle sticker annually by midnight, July 15. Anyone who misses the deadline must purchase a sticker and pay a \$20 late fee. Failure to display a valid Village sticker by the deadline also may result in a \$50 ticket. Residents whose vehicles already are registered with the Village

can save 10 percent by renewing online at www.oak-park.us, rather than via mail or in person at Village Hall. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. For more information, including rates for various types of vehicles, call 708.358.PARK (7275), option 5, or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.