

Free holiday parking to help support shopping

Shoppers who come upon a bagged meter in downtown Oak Park or in the vicinity of South Oak Park Avenue are in luck. They can park free for two hours.

The new program, which begins after Thanksgiving, will let anyone park free for two hours at a meter or in a pay-by-space lot on Saturdays before Dec. 25. Parking always is free on Sunday.

The program is intended as a thank you for residents and visitors who shop locally. Retail sales benefit not only local retailers, but the entire Village since 2 percent of every retail sale comes back to municipal coffers to fund vital public services.

For many retailers, the holiday season is the most important time of the year. In approving the new program, the Village Board said they hope this small gesture will increase sales as well as create goodwill among the businesses and their customers.

The new free Saturday parking program will become a fixture every year after Thanksgiving through the Saturday before Dec. 25. The Village Board had previously approved free garage parking for the same period.

This latest change to local law that created the free weekend parking also made parking free in garages and in these shopping areas on July 4.

For more information on parking in the Village, email parking@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us — just search *parking*.



Shopping locally important to Village economy

Residents who take advantage of retailing and dining opportunities in Oak Park play a key role in maintaining businesses and generating important sales tax revenues essential to funding vital public services. For every retail dollar spent in the Village, 2 percent goes to help fund public services and projects such as vital infrastructure improvements. Shopping at home should be easy for Oak Parkers. Among its nearly 1,000 retail businesses, the Village boasts more than 90 restaurants, an auto dealership, several supermarkets, many specialty shops and art galleries, and a mix of both national chains and local stores. For links to more information on where to dine and shop in the Village, visit www.oak-park.us and search *shopping and dining*.

Get involved

Residents interested in helping shape Village policy are invited to participate in one of the many volunteer citizen boards, commissions and committees that advise the Board of Trustees. Apply online at www.oak-park.us/volunteer. For more information, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.



Keeping an Eye on the Ike as reconstruction plans evolve

The Village of Oak Park is keeping its *Eye on the Ike*, as the Illinois Department of Transportation prepares for the largest major reconstruction of I-290 since it forever transformed the community more than five decades ago.

With the potential for both positive and negative impacts on the community, Village efforts are focused on helping residents stay informed and get involved in the planning process to ensure the negatives are minimized and opportunities maximized.

Actual funding and construction may still be several years off, but the state is only about a year away from choosing its preferred plan. That's why the Village is working to make sure residents get the latest news and take advantage of every opportunity to influence IDOT decisions.

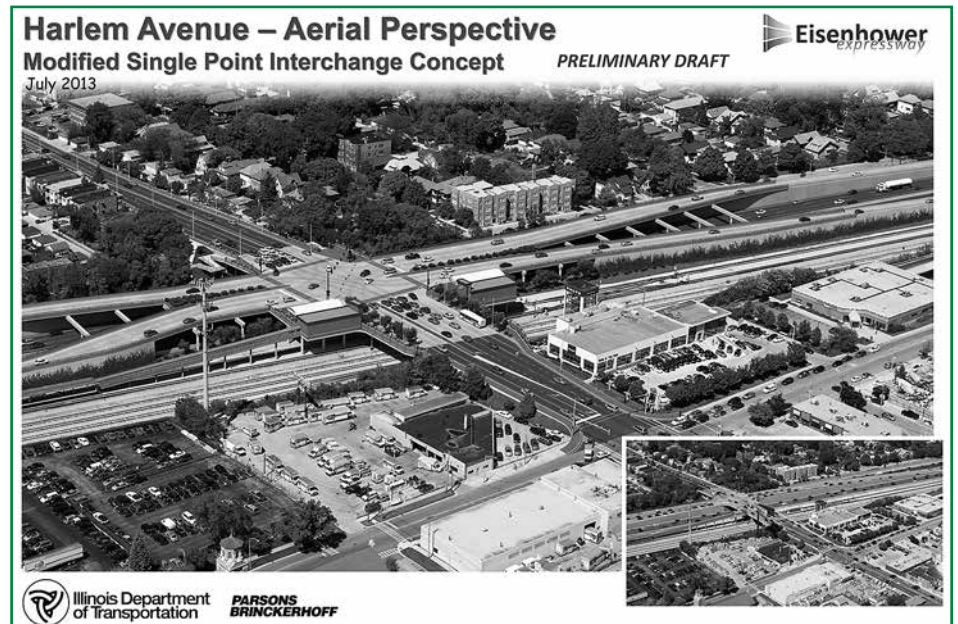
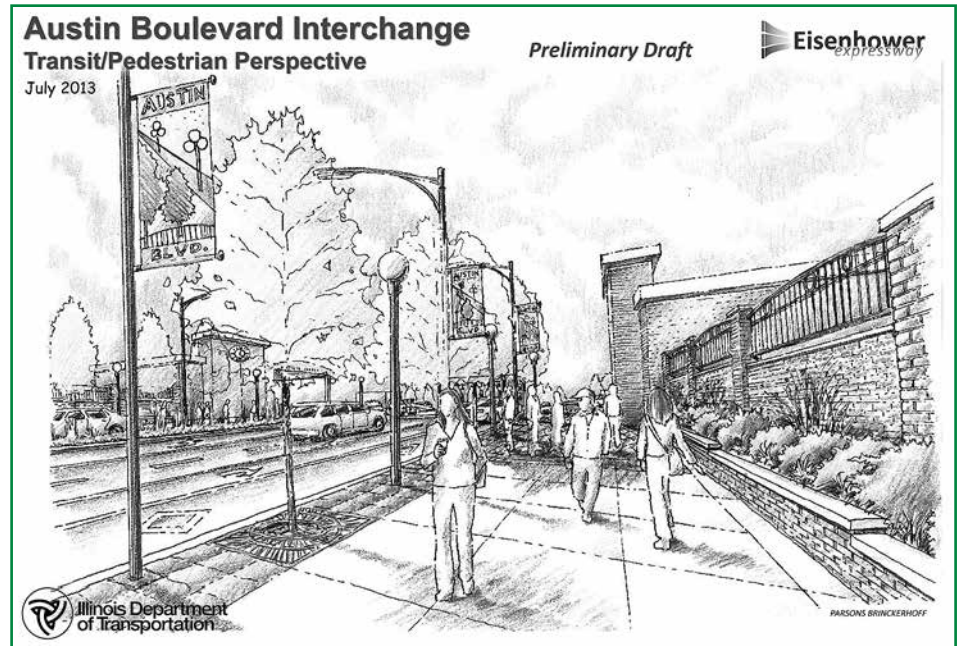
A page on the Village website — www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike — has been created as a clearinghouse for the latest information, such as dates and times of formal hearings hosted by the IDOT to gather public input, and links to studies and presentations.

In addition, the Village Board is actively calling on residents to get involved. The Board hosted a community meeting at Lincoln School in September, and State Sen. Don Harmon was scheduled to bring Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann Schneider to Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School in October to hear from the community. More local meetings are likely as IDOT moves closer to a final plan.

State transportation planners have narrowed the options to four for reconstructing I-290 from Racine Avenue to Mannheim Road. Each would widen the Ike through Oak Park from six to eight lanes and move the exit and entrance ramps to the right side of the expressway at Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard.

The elevated ramps would be well above grade along much of Harrison and Garfield Streets, a concept many say could pose the biggest negative impact on the community, bringing noise and pollution out of the current highway trench closer to the nearby neighborhoods.

But IDOT's plans also offer potential opportunities for improved pedestrian and bicycle access to upgraded CTA



State transportation officials prepared these conceptual views to illustrate how the interchanges might look, including wider sidewalks and right-side ramps. For a closer look at the concepts, visit www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike. Information also is posted on the IDOT website, eisenhowerexpressway.com.

stations and even expanded space on the new bridge decks for amenities such as bike racks, landscaping and new retail activity.

In addition, opportunities may arise to get transportation planners to look beyond a wider highway as the only solution to improving I-290 traffic flow. Many residents support improving the Blue Line and extending it further westward as part of a broader plan to reduce traffic congestion.

So what can you do? The most important steps residents can take are to stay informed and ask questions. Residents also are urged to check the Village website for updates, sign up for Village e-news alerts, watch our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter. Most importantly, residents need to tell the Village what they think by emailing questions or concerns to village@oak-park.us.

Fire Department offers range of safety information

Oak Parkers seeking information on a wide range of potential safety issues need go no further than www.oak-park.us/fire. That's the page on the Village web site that links to important information provided by the Oak Park Fire Department. In addition to details on the vital mission of fire suppression and emergency medical services, the page also includes links to fact sheets on topics such as how to deal with severe weather and properly use a barbecue grill or outdoor fire pit. Fact sheets posted on the page also offer tips on properly using candles and making sure winter holiday decorations don't create any unintended safety surprises. In addition, visitors to the web page also can see the schedule for local CPR/AED classes, learn about child safety seats and even register their burglar, fire and medical alarms. For more information on the Fire Department and related safety issues, call the Fire Department's non-emergency number 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Emergency response volunteers sought

Volunteers now are being sought to form a community emergency response team — or CERT — that would support response efforts after an emergency or natural disaster. Working with the Police, Fire, Public Works and Public Health departments, Oak Park's CERT will provide not only required assistance, but the leadership and organization ability that can help fill the gap between the number of people who need emergency assistance and the resources available within the community and their own neighborhoods. CERT members will learn basic firefighting, search and rescue, communications, traffic control and other emergency response skills. Initial training will be conducted the evenings of Jan. 18, 25 and 26. Prior experience is not required. For more information, call 708.358.5488 or email msnow@oak-park.us.

Fall leaf collection continues

The annual fall leaf collection program will continue through the week of Dec. 2. Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates, which are determined by location indicated on the map. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date are urged to keep leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Cooperation is essential to the success of the program, so please follow these simple rules:

- Leaves only — do not add brush, tree branches, grass clippings or yard waste.
- Do not park on or near a pile of leaves, which can hinder leaf removal.
- Rake leaves onto side streets whenever possible, avoiding major thoroughfares where piles of leaves might create traffic hazards.
- Do not rake leaves into or close to cul-de-sacs or traffic diverters. The equipment needs room to operate.
- Keep catch basins clear of raked leaves to avoid localized flooding.
- Dampen piles after raking to avoid wind-blown leaves.
- Consider alternatives to raking such as composting or using leaves as garden mulch.
- Inform landscape services of the leaf collection schedule.
- Be sure to obey all parking restrictions — don't risk a citation.
- Drive carefully — leaves are slippery when wet and large piles may hinder visibility.

For more information on the leaf collection program, call 708.358.5700, visit www.oak-park.us or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

NORTH AVE	
WEDNESDAY Nov. 6 Nov. 13 Nov. 20 Nov. 27 Dec. 4	THURSDAY Nov. 7 Nov. 14 Nov. 21 Nov. 28 Dec. 5

SOUTH BLVD	
TUESDAY Nov. 5 Nov. 12 Nov. 19 Nov. 26 Dec. 3	MONDAY Nov. 4 Nov. 11 Nov. 18 Nov. 25 Dec. 2

Carbon monoxide detectors required by law

An investment of about \$30 for a detector can be the difference in life and death when it comes to deadly carbon monoxide, an odorless and tasteless gas that can leak into one's home from a malfunctioning gas appliance, such as a furnace or water heater. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. That's why state law requires homeowners and landlords to install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping. Alarms can be battery powered, plug-in with battery backup or wired into the AC power line with a secondary battery backup. The alarm can be combined with a smoke detector if the combined unit complies with established standards and the alarm differentiates the hazard. The property owner must supply and install all required alarms. Landlords must ensure that alarms are operable on the date a lease is initiated. While tenants are responsible for testing and maintaining the alarm after the lease commences, landlords must provide written instructions. Carbon monoxide detectors are not substitutes for smoke detectors, fire officials caution, so both devices are essential. For more information, call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us.

News You Can Use

Holidays affect waste collection schedule...Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed by the holidays. For Thanksgiving, Thursday's collection will be delayed until Friday and Friday's collection delayed until Saturday. Collection also will be pushed back one day on Christmas and New Year's Day. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Holidays affect Village Hall hours...Village Hall will be closed on Nov. 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving, from noon Dec. 24 through Dec. 25, and on Jan. 1. Regular Village Hall hours are 8:30 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Parking Services center is open until 7 p.m. on Mondays, except holidays. For more information on Village Hall hours, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Regular yard waste collection ends...After Fri., Nov. 29, yard waste will be collected only by appointment. Call Waste Management at 888.656.5350 to arrange a special pick-up.

Nature museum activities...Cook County's Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave., in River Forest, offers a range of programs for children and adults alike, including nature stories, fitness hikes and close-up visits with the Thatcher Woods' many inhabitants. For more information, visit the Museum or call 708.366.6530.

Be cautious with alternate heat sources...When using heat sources such as portable and baseboard electric heaters, fireplaces and woodstoves, remove nearby objects, keep furniture a safe distance away, do not block the heat flow and never use an extension cord. Working carbon monoxide detectors, smoke alarms and a family escape plan also are essential. Call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us for more information.

Winter refuse collection...Residents and building owners are reminded to clear snow away from refuse and recycling containers to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible, it will not be emptied. Call 708.358.5700 to report a missed collection.

Pay water bill online...Property owners can pay their water bills electronically, either by using a credit card online, or setting up an automatic debit from a checking, savings or credit card account. Property owners also can go paperless by signing up to receive bills via email. In addition to water, the quarterly bill includes charges for sewer, garbage disposal and recycling. For more information, call 708.358.5460 or email finance@oak-park.us.

Avoid frozen pipes...When the temperature dips below freezing, let your water trickle from faucets, especially those connected to pipes near or on outside walls. If you are having water problems, call 708.358.5700 before calling a plumber.

Pet responsibilities...Dog owners are required to pick up and dispose of dog waste. Owners walking their dogs must carry a bag or other suitable means to pick up dog waste. Call 708.358.5680 to register a complaint about an animal, such as noise, excrement, cruelty or off leash.

Recycle holiday lights...Residents can recycle unwanted holiday lights and extension cords from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in December and January at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Mini, rope, LED, C7 and C9 lights will be accepted. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for details.

Stop solicitors...To prevent door-to-door solicitors from knocking on your door, obtain a *No Soliciting* sticker from the Office of the Village Clerk, 123 Madison St. Place the sticker on or near your front door. For more information, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us for more information.



Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
Schedule an inspection	option 1
Review status check	option 2
Report property condition	option 3
Speak with an inspector	option 4
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)	358.5600
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.oprfs.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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-  youtube.com/vopnews

Snowfall triggers emergency parking restrictions

After a two-inch snowfall, the Emergency Snow Removal Parking Plan goes into effect and the following parking rules are enforced seven days a week, including holidays:

- Main streets posted as snow routes must be cleared of all parked cars. These include Augusta, Austin, Chicago, Division, Garfield, Harlem, Harrison, Jackson, Lake, Madison, North Ave., Oak Park, Ridgeland, Roosevelt and Wisconsin from Madison to the emergency entrance of Oak Park Hospital.
- Non-snow route streets allow parking between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the side of the street with even numbered addresses on even days and the side of the street with odd numbered addresses on odd days.
- Designated commercial parking areas as posted follow the odd/even rule between midnight and 8 a.m.
- Snow parking rules do not override other parking regulations, such as time limitations and prohibitions.
- Vehicles parked in violation of the snow restrictions are subject to ticketing and towing.

To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 708.358.7669 for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOP-TV, available on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. Residents also can sign up for alerts at www.oak-park.us — just look under the online services tab.

Sidewalk shoveling required

Village ordinance requires snow and ice be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help resources, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

News for seniors

Money management program...A free program to help individuals on limited incomes manage their finances is available to Oak Park and River Forest seniors. A trained volunteer will help with bill sorting, budgeting and check writing. The program, offered through the Oak Park Township Senior Services, is sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging and the AARP. Call 708.383.8060 for more information.

Health insurance counseling...Free insurance counseling is available to help Medicare recipients with their claims, supplemental insurance and drug plans, as well as applying for other state and federal benefits. Just call 708.383.8060 to schedule a session.

Transportation service...Curb-to-curb transportation service is available for Oak Park and River Forest residents age 60 and older, and for individuals of any age with disabilities. Regularly scheduled service is offered to area grocery stores and malls. Buses run from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Suggested donation is \$1 for one-way or \$13 for 14 rides. Reservations must be made a day in advance. Call 708.383.4806 for more information.

Youth services program can help with substance abuse issues

FACE-IT (Families Acting Collaboratively to Educate and Involve Teens) is a family oriented program offered through Youth Services of Oak Park Township to help families deal with issues around alcohol and substance abuse. The program uses an evidence-based educational approach to prevention and early intervention for teen drug and alcohol use. FACE-IT teaches and encourages skills for goal setting, communication and healthy relationships. Now in its fourth year, the program has proven to be a helpful family and community resource, opening doors having difficult conversations and work through many of the challenges of today's youth. For more information visit oakparktownship.org/services/face-it or call 708.445.2727, ext. 220.

Police News

Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1...Oak Park's community policing approach relies on residents taking an active role. If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately. For more information on the Community Policing Program, or to contact your Resident Beat Officer, call 708.386.3800 or visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Non-emergency calls...Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents can call the Police Department nonemergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance. For more information on the Community Policing Program, or to contact your Resident Beat Officer, call 708.386.3800 or visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Get to know your RBO...Oak Park's Resident Beat Officers hold monthly neighborhood meetings to discuss issues and crime trends, and answer questions. For more details, including dates, times and locations, call 708.386.3800.

Property stewardship awards ceremony set

The Historic Preservation, Environment & Energy and Community Design commissions will present their 2013 awards at a combined ceremony set for 7 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 21, at the Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Ave. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will include presentations of the historic preservation awards, green awards and Cavalcade of Pride awards, honors that recognize extraordinary commitment to protecting the community's heritage. For more information, email historicpreservation@oak-park.us.





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



OP/FM

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

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

Village's video, social media initiatives win national awards

Original video programming from the Village of Oak Park, as well as its ongoing social media efforts, won top awards from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) in September.

The *Government Programming Awards* presented by the not-for-profit professional association honor excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by government agencies.

The Communications Department swept the field, winning first place in all three categories entered, including an award for overall excellence.

In the *Programming Excellence* category, VOP-TV highlighted more than a dozen videos produced for television and YouTube focusing on public safety, dining, public health, Village government, sustainability initiatives, outdoor festivals and other related topics.

In the *Public Information Series* category, VOP-TV submitted a new dining series co-produced with a local newspaper columnist. Each episode of *You Really Should Eat This* features columnist David Hammond introducing viewers to a specialty dish at a local Oak Park restaurant.

Two episodes from the series also were selected to screen at the Chicago International Food Film Festival in November.

In addition, the Village took first place in a new award category, *Use of Social Media*. The Village's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube presence have proven especially effective in communicating with the growing tech-savvy population of residents who are ready to dive into the digital online conversation.

Park District schedules holiday events

The Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St., will host a holiday open house and craft fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun., Dec.

1. Visitors can shop for unique gifts, including forced paper white narcissus and door swags, visit Santa or just enjoy the Conservatory. Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave., will host an open house from 1 to 7 p.m., Dec. 11 and 12. Visitors who come to view the holiday decorations are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry. For more information on these and other events, visit www.pdop.org.

Please, no swings or decorations on trees



Tree swings and holiday decorations on parkway trees may appear fun and festive, but they threaten the health of the trees and safety of passersby.

That's why it

is illegal to attach any rope, wire, nail, sign, poster or any other manmade object to trees and shrubs located on Village property. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Budget public hearing scheduled

The Village Board has scheduled the formal public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014, which begins Jan. 1. The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m., Mon., Nov. 18, at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Residents are invited to comment on the proposed budget, which is posted online at www.oak-park.us — just search *budget summaries*. The meeting will be broadcast live on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T Uverse channel 99, as well as streamed live and archived at www.oak-park.us/boardtv.

