

Police offer bracelets to help address mental health communications issues

Oak Park Police believe simple silicone bracelets can help break down communication barriers during emergencies when first responders encounter individuals with autism, Alzheimer's, dementia or other mental health issues.

The bracelets — their green color universally associated with mental health — are

inscribed with *Oak Park Cares* and also serve as visual indicators of support for mental health awareness.

But the bracelets can be more than just symbolic. Bracelets also can include a metal face plate with a unique identification number and directions to contact the Oak Park Police Department should an issue arise.

The bracelets contain no personal information, but the ID number allows Police to access details about its wearer that can be shared with first responders and medical care givers in an emergency.

The ultimate goal of the program, which grew from collaboration with Elementary School District 97 and the Oak Park Township Mental Health Board, is to keep the individual safe and provide an expedient return to a parent or guardian. A grant from the Mental Health Board helped get the program started.

Police say they don't want to single out those with mental health issues. Additional bracelets without face plates also are available to family members, friends and neighbors who want to show their support for expanding mental health awareness.

For more information call 708.386.3800, email police@oak-park.us or visit the Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison Street.



Special events add spice to Farmers' Market

Good times abound at the Oak Park Farmers' Market, where every Saturday features music from the Farmers' Market Band, fresh donuts and dozens of vendors selling fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers, cheese, honey, milk and other products from across the region.

Upcoming special events...The annual corn roast is set for Aug. 12 with fresh-picked corn from market growers sold by the ear hot off the roaster from about 9 a.m. to noon. A pie bake-off is scheduled for Sept. 2 — watch for more details at the Market's on-site information booth in August.

Free for kids...The Market also hosts free activities for kids on the second Saturday of each month. On July 8, the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners will be on hand with a worm bin, seed bombs and other interesting items. On Aug. 12, Ms. Clara's Mini Musicians will offer music classes with instruments focusing on farm, food and animal songs.

Special visitors and activities...The Oak Park Library's book bike comes to the market on the fourth Saturday of the month, with visits set for July 22 and Aug. 26. The West Cook YMCA will be on hand Aug. 5, and non-profit bake sales are held every week.

About the Market...Now in its 42nd season, the Oak Park Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through October in the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake St. Most vendors accept credit, debit and LINK cards, as well as WIC and senior coupons. Special events generally take place from about 9 to 11 a.m. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

911 registry for special needs

Oak Parkers with special needs that should be considered in an emergency situation can register confidentially with the Village to ensure first responders are aware when dispatched via a 911 call. Knowing that they are being dispatched 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.

Outdoor sculpture walk on display in Arts District

Take a walk through the Oak Park Arts District while enjoying 12 pieces of original art on display as part of the sixth annual Oak Park Sculpture Walk. The sculptures are located on Harrison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Organized by the Oak Park Area Arts Council, the Sculpture Walk features the work of artists from throughout the Midwest. Visitors can download the free Otocast app onto their smartphones to access detailed information about the sculptures and hear descriptions of the work by the artists. Here are the sculptures on display:



12 Harrison Street
Geometricity – Peter Gray



Harrison & Humphrey
Succulent Bloom – Mike Sneller



Harrison & Lyman
Popsicles – Craig Gray



Harrison & Taylor
Quarry Moons – Shawn Morin



Harrison & Lombard
Ecosystem No. 1 – Margot McMahon



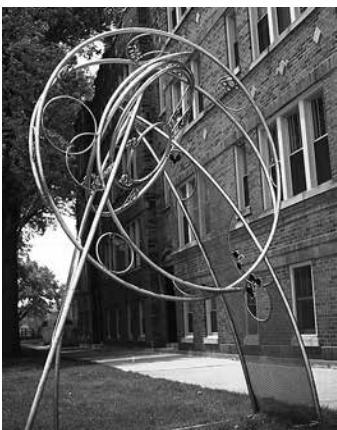
Harrison & Lombard
Catch Up – Shencheng Xu



Harrison & Harvey
Three Muses (Memory, Song and Practice) – Valerie Jean Schafer



235 Harrison Street
Nutrition Sculpture – Will Vannerson



Harrison & Highland
Blue Woman in Twilight – Jaqueline Willis



Harrison & Culyer
Box of Flowers – Jennifer Meyer



333 Harrison Street
Tread – Dusty Folwarczny



Harrison & Ridgeland
Equity – Nathan Pierce

West Nile Virus threat returns

As temperatures rise, so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. Illinois reported 152 human cases and four deaths last year. The severity of this season has not been established, but the virus has been found in numerous Illinois communities, including Oak Park.

Take precautions... Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by wearing long sleeves and pants, limiting time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and wearing insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Residents also are urged to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, storing containers upside down and emptying birdbaths every few days. For more information, call 708.358.5694, visit www.oak-park.us/fightthebite or email health@oak-park.us.

Report dead birds... If you see a dead bird call the West Nile Virus Hotline 708.358.5694. Depending on the bird's condition and species, a Health Department staff member may pick up the carcass for testing.

Prevention efforts... The Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District treats all street catch basins with larvicide every seven to 10 days during the mosquito-breeding season. The abatement district also will treat catch basins on private property by request and pick up old vehicle tires. Call 708.447.1765 or visit www.desplainesvalleymad.com for more information.

Spraying notification... Residents who wish to be notified when the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District has scheduled spraying for adult mosquitoes can sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme. Registrants will be notified by an automated telephone system, email or text message as soon as possible following a decision to spray in Oak Park. Individuals without computer access may call 708.358.5694 to leave their phone number for telephone notification only. Visit www.desplainesvalleymad.com for information on spraying.

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 Mondays through Fridays 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 email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

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 email carseat@oak-park.us to request an appointment. 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.

Don't hesitate to call 911

Oak Park Police rely on residents taking an active role. If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to call 911 immediately. Visit www.oak-park.us/police for more information on police programs and services, including how to contact the officer assigned to your neighborhood.



Vehicle sticker deadline nears

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a vehicle is required to purchase and display a vehicle sticker annually before 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 \$75 ticket. 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. In-person vehicle sticker sales are offered from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays and until 7 p.m. Mondays other than holidays. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. For more information, including rates for various types of vehicles, call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us.

Village Board meetings streamed live, archived online

Residents interested in seeing the Village Board craft public policy can view meetings live at www.oak-park.us/boardtv. Past meetings also are archived on the page, which offers keyword searches. Visitors can view the materials and documents elected officials use to make decisions, and link directly to the related video portion of the discussion. The Village Board meets in regular sessions at 7:30 p.m., the first and third Mondays of each month, as well as most other Mondays in special meetings that typically begin at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Read more about the Village Board at www.oak-park.us/villageboard.

Seek relief when temperatures soar

With the highest temperatures of the season typically coming in July and August, public health officials urge residents to protect themselves and their loved ones from the sometimes severe consequences of extreme heat. While everyone is susceptible to heat-related illnesses, the elderly and individuals with chronic diseases are at greater risk. On excessively hot days, avoid strenuous activity and stay inside whenever possible. And be sure to check on relatives, neighbors and friends. For more information on dealing with the heat, email health@oak-park.us.

Cooling centers open...Residents who don't have access to air conditioning are encouraged to take advantage of local free cooling centers at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave., and West Suburban Medical Center, 3 Erie Court. When triggered by extreme temperatures, the centers are open seven days a week — 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at West Suburban and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rush. Hours may be extended when weather conditions warrant. To find out if a cooling center is open after hours, call West Suburban Medical Center at 708.763.6747 or Rush Oak Park Hospital at 708.660.6000. If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800. Village Hall, 123 Madison St., also is a cooling center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Residents 60 years old and older also can visit Oak Park Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Ave., from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday — call 708.383.8060 if transportation is needed.

Household waste, electronics collected at doorstep

Residents of single-family homes and buildings with five or fewer units can safely dispose of common hazardous household waste and unwanted electronics without a trip to a collection site. At-Your-Door service is part of the regular weekly municipal garbage and recycling collection programs billed quarterly on water bills. At-home pickup is offered for materials such as garden chemicals, automotive fluids, paint products and household cleaners as well as electronic items like televisions, computers, fax machines, printers and cell phones. Residents can schedule the service online at www.wmatyourdoor.com, via email to atyourdoor@wm.com or with a toll-free call to 1.800.449.7587. Collection kits sent by U.S. Mail include instructions on how to package the materials and where to place them safely for pickup on the scheduled date. Residents need not be home at the pickup time. While the number of times a qualifying household can use the service is not limited, residents are discouraged from requesting collection of very small quantities such as a single can of paint. Instead, consider working with neighbors to combine items for a single pickup. Residents of multifamily buildings not served under the municipal refuse hauling program are encouraged to contact their building's refuse service provider about recycling options. For more information about the Village's refuse and recycling services — including items eligible for At-Your-Door collection — visit www.oak-park.us/recycling.

Dumping won't do...If you have unwanted furniture or other bulk items, do not place them near the curb in the Village parkway or in an alley — it's considered dumping and against the law. However, bulk items weighing less than 90 pounds such as furniture and appliances will be picked up with regular garbage collection when two pink refuse stickers are attached to each item. Stickers are \$2.25 each and available at grocery and hardware stores throughout the Village, including Village Hall, 123 Madison St. More information is posted at www.oak-park.us/refuse.



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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Free youth skills workshops planned

Residents ages 16 to 18 are invited to learn skills and techniques that can help them find and keep a job at annual workshops presented by the Community Relations Department. This year's workshops are scheduled for 1 to 6 p.m., July 31 – Aug. 4 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Participants learn skills such as resume writing, interviewing, career path development and interpersonal relations. Guest speakers and representatives from local businesses help participants learn to take charge of their lives by developing critical job seeking and retention skills that can be carried throughout adulthood. These local employers also offer opportunities for individuals who complete the workshop to interview for available positions. The number of participants is limited. Register online at www.oak-park.us/community by July 28 or call 708.358.5407.

Housing rehab loans available

Single-family emergency...No-interest loans of up to \$5,000 are available to help income-eligible owners of single family homes make emergency repairs such as replace faulty furnaces or water heaters. To qualify, homes must be owner-occupied and household income must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income – for example \$55,350 for a three-person household. Loan terms are for five years. Email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5413 for more information.

Rental properties...Owners of multi-family buildings with seven or fewer units may be eligible for forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 per unit under the Village's Small Rental Rehab Program. Owners need to contribute matching funds of at least 25 percent of the total project cost and agree to rent to income-eligible tenants for two years. Projects eligible for funding include general property repairs, unit upgrades and energy efficiency improvements. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/housing, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

Nominations sought for community awards

Nominations are being sought for awards that recognize efforts by organizations, individuals and businesses to improve the Village through property preservation, sustainability and accessibility. Here are the details:

Accessibility: Businesses, organizations and other entities that provide extraordinary accessibility for patrons with disabilities and their families may be nominated for this award. Nominations should be for efforts to provide easy access to people with disabilities, create an inviting physical space and offer a welcoming, helpful, service-oriented attitude. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 20. More details are at www.oak-park.us/accessawards.

Historic Preservation: Nomination categories include restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, additions/new construction, stewardship, detail and design. Nominations need not be in a historic district and interior work may be considered in conjunction with exterior work. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 13. More details are at www.oak-park.us/preservationawards.

Sustainability: Green Awards recognize specific deeds or actions that embody and advance work toward a sustainable future. Nominations may be submitted on behalf of any person, organization, group or business. The deadline for nominations is Sept. 22. More information and a nomination form are posted at www.oak-park.us/greenawards.



Park District News

Summer concerts...Free concerts in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue continue every Sunday through Aug. 20. These family-friendly concerts feature a wide range of music. Concerts are held from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Garden art swap meet...Local gardeners are invited to participate in a garden art swap meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Aug. 5, at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. Most garden items are acceptable, including decorative containers, pottery, signs, statues, wind chimes, stepping stones and even pink flamingoes. Items should not weigh more than 40 pounds

and should be clean and in good repair. For more information, call 708.725.2400 or visit www.oakparkconservatory.org.

Pickleball courts added...Pickleball, a fast-growing sport that uses a rectangular-shaped racquet and a shorter court, is now available at Maple Park, 1105 S Maple Ave., and Taylor Park, 400 Division St. Tennis courts at Euclid Square Park, 705 W Fillmore St., also will be striped for the sport when it reopens in early August after a six-month-long renovation project. Visit www.pdop.org for more information.

Sewer Backup Protection Grant Program accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted for a program that provides financial assistance to property owners who install an overhead sewer system or a backflow prevention system to protect their homes from sewer backup during a heavy rain event. Anyone who meets the program guidelines can apply, regardless of income. Eligible homeowners may qualify for a grant of 50 percent of the total cost of sewer backup prevention improvements, up to a maximum of \$3,500. Details on the program, including the application materials, are posted at www.oak-park.us/sewergrant. For more information on the program, call 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us.



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

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL

PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
Presort

Guiding force behind Oak Park recycling prowess retires

Karen Rozmus, the conscience, heart and hands of the Village of Oak Park's recycling programs retired on June 30 after nearly 22 years on the job. As manager of the Village's refuse and recycling programs, she touched virtually every program in Oak Park related to environmental sustainability.

Queen of green...Typically toiling behind the scenes, Rozmus, who often referred to herself as the queen of trash while others called her the queen of green, made recycling and reuse a municipal government priority long before the movement went mainstream. She was instrumental in a number of local recycling programs, including electronic equipment recycling, bulk paper shredding, the *Great Paint Exchange* and *Compostable*, one of the region's first municipal organic waste recycling programs. Rozmus also helped make Earth Day celebrations a local tradition and was instrumental in creating *Earth Fest*, Oak Park's annual celebration of green living.

Innovative thinker...Rozmus was there in the early days when recycling was first added to Oak Park's residential refuse collection program. She later championed an effort to replace Oak Park's small, curbside plastic bins with large recycling carts that fundamentally changed how residential recycling was viewed in the community. Her efforts also brought single-stream recycling to Oak Park, a step that



Karen Rozmus

eliminated the cumbersome sorting of glass, paper and metal that many still see as an impediment to wider adoption of household recycling. Most recently, she helped negotiate a new residential waste hauling contract that added at-your-door collection of most common hazardous household waste and unwanted electronics (see story on page 4).

True community resource...Introducing recycling in the local schools was among her early priorities, and included composting with worms and recycling

centers at elementary schools. She also was a reliable source of information and resources for local businesses and community not-for-profit organizations that wanted to get involved in recycling.

Delivering real results...Thanks in a large part to Rozmus' efforts, more than a third of Oak Park's total annual refuse collections are recycling, which is among the highest rates in the region. Add in household and yard waste composting — other programs she helped create and manage — and the Village diverts more than a third of its refuse collections away from landfills.

Recognized beyond Oak Park...Rozmus has long been recognized locally, regionally and even nationally as the guiding force behind the community's recognition as a pioneer of the municipal environmental sustainability movement in the Midwest. Active in a number of state and regional organizations, she was inducted into the Recycling Hall of Fame by Keep Chicago Beautiful, the regional affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.

Gone, but nearby...Officials say matching Rozmus' dedication, energy and knowledge will be difficult, if not impossible. Luckily, she lives in nearby Forest Park and will remain available for advice and guidance in the future. For more information on Oak Park's refuse and recycling programs, visit www.oak-park.us/refuse.