

More efficient, longer-lasting streetlights may be coming to your neighborhood

As Oak Park strives for operational efficiencies within a framework of environmental sustainability, streetlights are getting some special attention.

The Public Works Department is testing new LED lamps on four blocks in the community to find the best replacements for the inefficient mercury vapor bulbs that had been the light of choice for municipal streetlight systems for decades.

Residents are invited to visit the test blocks and share their views at www.oak-park.us/streetlightsurvey.

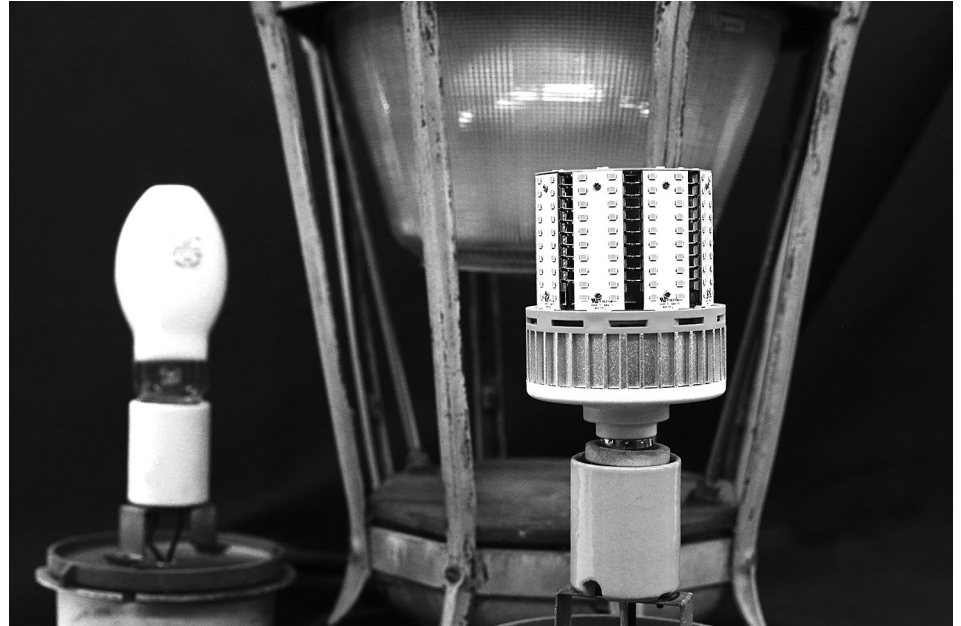
The test is underway on the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of South Taylor Avenue and the 100 block of South Humphrey Avenue. Residents are invited to visit the test blocks and share their views at www.oak-park.us/streetlightsurvey.

Oak Park has about 6,000 lights on streets and in alleys. Most have 100-watt mercury vapor lamps, which lose more than half of their output within just a few years.

The LED lamps being tested also emit the equivalent of 100 watts, but they maintain about 90 percent of their output for the life of the lamp, which also is much longer than that of a mercury vapor lamp.

The Village is doing more than just testing how well the new longer-lasting, more energy-efficient lamps work with existing equipment. The lamps on each test block also have different color ratings, which affect how well the human eye detects details.

The light colors, measured as ratings on the Kelvin scale, range from 2500K, which is similar to orange commonly seen with Chicago's sodium vapor



Oak Park is testing more efficient and longer-lasting LED lamps as replacements for the mercury vapor bulbs (left) now in most streetlights.

lighting, to 4000K, which is closer to the bright white incandescent bulbs sometimes marketed as daylight.

Oak Park's public works engineers say they prefer the 4000K lamps because the higher on the lighting scale, the better the human eye can pick up details — an important factor from a public safety perspective.

With most of the lighting to be focused downward, the harshness sometimes associated with lamps rated higher on Kelvin scale will be diminished and light pollution minimized, officials say.

Plans are to focus first on the 2,500 street lights in residential areas. The retrofits likely would be phased in over several years. The last time major improvements were made to Oak Park's streetlight system was in the 1970s.

For more information on streetlights in Oak Park, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

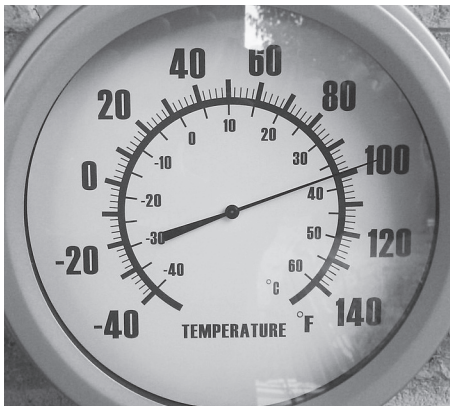
Preservation award nominations sought

Nominations for the 2018 Historic Preservation Awards will be accepted by the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission through Oct. 12. 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. Awards also are presented for stewardship, detail and design. More information, including the nomination form, submittal guidelines and lists of past winners, is posted at www.oak-park.us/historicpreservationawards.

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.



Bees at home on Village Hall balcony

The buzz of nectar-gathering activity that began nearly two years ago at the Public Works Center has come to Village Hall with two honeybee hives on the small outdoor balcony above the south entrance at 123 Madison St. The two hives at Village Hall eventually will be home to about 90,000 hard-working honeybees, each playing a crucial role as pollinators for the plants that produce a third of the American diet. If the Village Hall hives prove as successful as those on the Public Works Center roof, they could produce more than 120 pounds of honey in a season once the colony is established. Visitors should not fear the docile pollinators. Officials say the bees live only to collect pollen and make honey and aren't interested in coming inside Village Hall. Oak Park property owners can establish up to two honeybee colonies as long as the apiaries meet specific Village code requirements. For more information beekeeping in Oak Park, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Survey part of North Avenue revitalization planning

Oak Park residents are invited to explore revitalization of the North Avenue corridor by participating in a survey conducted by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) on behalf of The North Avenue District neighborhood association, the Village and City of Chicago. The revitalization plan will focus on identifying appropriate redevelopment opportunities, strategies for attracting desirable development and recommendations for streetscape improvements and corridor branding. Information from the survey also will become part of a transportation study conducted by the City of Chicago. To take the survey, just go to www.oak-park.us/northavenuesurvey.

Free youth skills workshops return

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 2 to 5:30 p.m., July 30 through Aug. 3 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 25 or call 708.358.5407.

Business News

Façade improvement grants... Applications for grants to help commercial businesses improve and restore the facades of their buildings will be available July 18. The Village will reimburse grant recipients for 50 percent of the costs of improvements up to \$5,000. The minimum private investment is \$2,500. Applicants must document that retail sales comprise at least 51 percent of the gross revenues from a first-floor business. For more information or to apply for a grant, email development@oak-park.us.

Economic development loans... The Village's federally funded Section 108 Loan Program is accepting applications from qualifying businesses. Projects must meet Community Development Block Grant eligibility criteria, as well as meet requirements related to creating and retaining full-time jobs for low- and moderate income persons. Prospective loan applicants are urged to meet with Village staff prior to applying. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/federalgrants or call 708.358.5416.

Doorstep recycling service available

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. 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. Hazardous and electronic waste disposal sites also are listed at www.epa.illinois.gov.

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. 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. Stickers are \$2.35 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.

Simplifying recycling

When it comes to recycling, trying to figure out what goes where can sometimes be confusing. Following these three simple rules can help:

- Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard
- Keep food and liquids out of the recycling
- Don't bag recyclables — empty them directly into the cart

Common contaminants... For recycling to work, limiting contaminants at the collection point is essential. The most common recycling contaminants are the following:

- Plastic bags
- Food and liquids
- Electronics and small appliances
- Textiles, bedding, rugs and carpet
- Hoses, holiday lights, hangers and extension cords
- Paper napkins, plates, cups and tissues
- Polystyrene foam (also known as Styrofoam)
- Tires, auto parts and scrap metal
- Concrete, wood and construction debris
- Yard waste
- Inflatable pools and toys

For more information on recycling, visit www.oak-park.us/recycling, call 708.358.5700 or email sustainability@oak-park.us.

Outdoor sculpture walk offers interactive experience

Residents and visitors alike are invited to get outside and enjoy public art by visiting the seventh annual Oak Park Sculpture Walk in the Southtown Business District through Labor Day. The summer-long event features 12 sculptures in an outdoor exhibit along Oak Park Avenue just north and south of the Eisenhower Expressway between Lexington and Van Buren streets. The sculptures were chosen through a juried competition and vary in materials, and this year's walk features a few interactive components. Visitors are invited to gently push Chicago area artist Zach Balousek's piece titled Monolith to set in motion liquid that flows through multiple air chambers to provide wind to 12 whistling pipes inside. The sculpture is at 828 S. Oak Park Ave. Oak Park artist Tia Etu's piece titled Butterfly at 840 S. Oak Park Ave. is another interactive sculpture, offering a ready-made photo opportunity for passersby. Visitors can download the free Otocast app on their smart phones 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. Photographs and information on each sculpture are posted at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk.

Township seeking advisory committee members

Oak Park Township is seeking three residents to help review the organization's governance, risk management and internal control practices as members of the Financial Advisory Committee. Interested residents should have knowledge of advisory roles, finance, information technology, law, risk and internal controls. The committee meets quarterly and produces an annual report. Visit oakparktownship.org/committees to view and print an application.

Farmers' Market News

Going green...The Oak Park Farmers' Market is doing its part to cut down on single-use plastic bags. While Market vendors are exempt from the Village's 10-cent fee for single-use paper or plastic bags, officials are nonetheless encouraging shoppers to bring their own reusable bags from week to week. This focus on sustainability also extends to bringing containers from home to transport small produce items like berries and bringing reusable cups for coffee and drinks. In keeping with the spirit of the ordinance, several Market vendors have decided to distribute compostable plastic bags to shoppers who don't have a reusable bag. Find more information about the Village's single-use bag initiative, including a list of 10 locations in Oak Park where free reusable bags are available, at www.oak-park.us/bringyourbag.



Village Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Agnew urges Farmers' Market shoppers to reduce waste by bringing their own reusable bags, containers and mugs.

Corn roast...The Oak Park Farmers' Market's annual Corn Roast is set for Aug. 11. Guests can enjoy fresh-picked corn from market growers sold by the ear hot off the roaster from about 9 a.m. to noon. Be sure to bring cash as credit cards are not accepted when purchasing roasted corn, which is sold for \$2 per ear.

Pie bake-off...The second annual Farmers' Market Pie Bake-Off will be held Sept. 1. The pie baking contest is open to professional and amateur bakers age 16 and older. This year's contest will be limited to 15 entries. Find the contest rules and registration form at www.oak-park.us/2018piebakeoff. Entry forms may be submitted from July 14 through Aug. 11 at the Farmers' Market information tent or by emailing farmersmarket@oak-park.us.

Week-to-week...Visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket for updated information about what's coming up from week to week at the Market, including information about guest vendors, activities for kids and cooking demonstrations. The webpage also features information about all of the Market's vendors, including links to their websites.

About the Market...The Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine every Saturday from opening day through October. The Market takes place in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot, 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Ave.

For more information, call 708.358.5780 or email farmersmarket@oak-park.us.

Park District News

Walk with a doc...Oak Parkers are invited to spend an hour walking with a doctor from 9 to 10 a.m. every third Saturday in Lindberg Park, 1151 N. Marion St. In addition to the valuable exercise, walkers can get answers to their health-related questions. Walking is a great, low-impact way to exercise. Research has shown that you could gain two hours of life for each hour of regular exercise. More information is posted at www.pdop.org.

Free telescope nights...Join a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador for a night of telescope viewing the last Thursday of each month at a different public park in Oak Park. Each session also will feature a discussion of current and upcoming NASA missions and discoveries. Feel free to bring your own telescope. Upcoming telescope nights are July 26 at Euclid Square Park, 705 W., Fillmore St., and August 30 in Taylor Park, 400 W. Division St., skies and weather permitting. For more dates and locations visit www.pdop.org.

Input needed...Residents are invited to be a part of the Park District of Oak Park's long-term strategic planning by attending a community meeting set for 7 to 8 p.m., Tues., Sept. 11 at Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave. Visit www.pdop.org for more information.

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
Transportation	383.4806

facebook.com/vopnews

instagram.com/oakparkil

pinterest.com/oakparkil

twitter.com/vopnews

youtube.com/vopnews

News You Can Use

Curfew in effect...Local law requires anyone under the age of 18 to be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or school official in Oak Park between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. weekdays and between midnight and 6 a.m. on weekends. Exceptions do apply, including attending an official supervised school, religious or other recreational or political activity, including travel to and from the event. Violations are subject to a minimum \$25 fine. For more information, contact your neighborhood beat officer at www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Holiday parking...Overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced on most residential streets during the Labor Day weekend. Restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Sept. 1 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., Sept. 5. 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.

Child safety seat inspections...The Fire Department offers child safety seat inspections. Parents of young children should email carseat@oak-park.us to schedule an inspection. 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.

Parking clearinghouse...Property owners with extra garage or off-street parking spaces can earn cash with a listing through the Village. The list is managed by the Parking & Mobility Services Division, which provides copies upon request, via email or in person at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., to those in need of a place to park. To list an available space or check for a local space to rent, call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us. Rental agreements are between the lessor and lessee.

Leash required...All dogs that use any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public area within the Village must be on a leash controlled by the owner. The leash can be no longer than eight feet. The Park District of Oak Park offers two areas where dogs can run off leash — Maple Park, located near Maple Avenue and Lexington Street, and Ridgeland Common, south of Lake Street near Scoville Avenue. For more information on the dog parks, visit www.pdop.org.



Watering restrictions...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 email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

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



Police offer tips to deter bicycle thieves

Bicycle thefts tend to increase during warmer weather. Following these steps, police say, can help deter bicycle thieves:

- Don't leave your bike unlocked or unattended.
- Lock your bike even when it is stored in a closed garage, enclosed porch or basement common area.
- Never let anyone you do not know take your bike for a ride.
- Be cautious of two people on one bike. Bicycle thieves often travel in pairs this way.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel someone is going to take your bicycle, shout for help.
- Stay in the company of friends — there usually is safety in numbers.
- Think twice about resisting — your bike can be replaced.
- Call 911 immediately if you see anyone suspicious hanging around a bike rack, in a neighbor's yard or near a garage.
- Register your bike with the Village. Should your bike be stolen and later recovered the registration provides information about its rightful owner. Police urge parents to share these tips with their children. For more information, call 708.386.3800, email police@oak-park.us or talk to your resident or neighborhood beat officer. Contact information is posted at www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Bicycles and sidewalks...Riding on a sidewalk by anyone of any age is not allowed in the business districts, including downtown. And only those under 15 years of age may ride on a sidewalk anywhere else in the community. Youngsters riding on sidewalks always must yield to pedestrians. For more information on bicycle rules and safety, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Scan with a
smartphone QR
app for more
information



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 Burton 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

West Nile Virus threat returns

As temperatures rise, so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. Illinois reported 90 human cases and eight deaths last year.

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 using insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol. 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.

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.

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. 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. 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. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. For more information call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us.

Block parties more than just fun

The Village encourages block parties as a way to build community spirit, meet neighbors and have fun. Each block may sponsor two block parties per year, but since some weekends fill quickly, plan early to get preferred dates. A petition signed by at least 10 separate addresses on the block is required to schedule a block party. Approved petitions allow the neighborhood to close off a street to vehicle traffic for the entire day. Petitions must be returned two weeks before the date of the block party. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. An information packet is posted at www.oak-park.us/blockparties.

Make it green...Oak Parkers are invited to go green at their next block party. Residents who sign up for a green block party receive a free kit that includes compostable bags and pop-up waste sorting boxes with signage indicating what waste goes where. The Village will even pick up the sorted waste the Monday following the party. Blocks hosting a green block party also can sign up for free demonstrations on butterfly gardening, organic lawn care and reducing food waste, as well as schedule guided tree walks for a fee or organize a free self-guided tree walk with supplies provided by the Village's Forestry Division. More information and an online sign-up form are posted www.oak-park.us/greenblockparties.