

Bee hives create a buzz at Public Works Center

The Public Works Center is always abuzz with activity, but it was not just the human workers making the noise this summer. The real buzz was coming from the 90,000 or so honeybees that are at home on the roof of the sprawling structure on South Boulevard at Lombard Avenue.

Seen as an extension of the Public Works Center's green roof initiative, proponents have long stressed the benefits bees bring to the local ecosystem. But taking the step from idea to implementation required some professional skills beyond those typically found in municipal government.

The Village is working with the Westside Bee Boyz, a Chicago company that manages hives at more than 250 sites across the Chicagoland area, including downtown skyscrapers and notable destinations like Shedd Aquarium and Lincoln Park Zoo.

A representative from Westside Bee Boyz visits about every two weeks to play the part of both doctor and landlord, making sure the bees in the hives are healthy and have enough space to go about their honey making business. In between visits, Village Forester Rob Sproule keeps an eye on the hives and makes sure the bees have access to fresh water, a key element in the production of a hive.



Officials estimate more than 120 pounds of honey will be produced by the hives this season, with half of the yield going to the Westside Bee Boyz and the other half going to the Village. Where the Village's share of the honey will go is yet to be determined.

Honey bees play a crucial role as pollinators for flowering plants, but recent declines in the honey bee population is causing alarm given that a third of the American diet is in some way a product of pollination by bees and other insects.

According to the USDA, last year beekeepers in the United States reported honey bee colony loss that is nearly three times higher than the acceptable winter loss rate of 15 percent. This continues a trend over the past decade of increasing decline in bee colonies attributed to pesticides, loss of habitat, climate change and disease.

While the two hives on the roof of the Public Works Center won't solve the wider problem, the Village's program does promote a healthy environment for bees. It also assists the West Side Bee Boyz in their mission of strengthening the local honey bee populations by broadening genetic diversification in hopes of developing a bee population that can withstand the climate in the Chicago area.

In Oak Park, a property owner can establish up to two honeybee colonies. For more information on specific Village requirements to set up an apiary, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Drivers urged to take extra care

With the new school year now underway, Oak Park police are urging motorists to stay alert — especially when driving in school zones. Motorists need to be focused and avoid distractions like talking on cell phones, police say, as well as come to a complete stop at intersections and not block crosswalks. Drivers also must obey the signals of crossing guards and should never attempt to pass a stopped school bus with lights flashing. To protect the many students who typically trek along Oak Park streets to their neighborhood schools, police have stepped up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. For more information on the Oak Park Police Department's school programs, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Township News

Activities planned for Township Day

Oak Park will join townships across the state in celebrating *Illinois Township Day* on Wed., Sept. 21 with family friendly events designed to spread the word about the many community services offered by these local resources. Residents are invited to visit the Oak Park Township offices at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. and 130 S. Oak Park Ave. from 2 to 4 p.m. for an open house where representatives from the Assessor, Senior Services, Youth Services and General Assistance programs will be on hand to distribute information and answer questions. For information, call 708.383.8005 or visit www.oakparktownship.org.

Youth substance abuse assistance...Parents and guardians of middle school or high school aged youth are invited to enroll in FACE-IT (Families Acting Collaboratively to Educate and Involve Teens), a program that provides a confidential group setting to learn about and discuss the legal and health effects of substance abuse. Topics covered include communication, handling stress and underage drinking. Two-hour weekly sessions are held from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursdays. Enrollment typically is for five to 12 sessions. For more information, call 708.445.2727 or visit www.oakparktownship.org/services/face-it.

Recycling opportunities ahead

Paper shredding...Help prevent identity theft by shredding documents containing personal information at a free recycling event scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 10, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes. Only items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information will be accepted. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted.

Old clothing...The Public Works Department has partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation to collect clothing and apparel of all types and in any condition from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 10, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Items, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels, will be sent to developing nations to repurpose. The Epilepsy Foundation also offers residential pickup — visit www.epilepsy.org or www.donateillinois.org for more information.

Paint exchange...Safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint or get free paint at the Great Paint Exchange, scheduled for Sat., Sept. 17, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Half-to-full cans of latex paint will be accepted from 9 to 11 a.m. Anyone in need of paint may pick from the morning collection from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

High school welcomes interim superintendent



Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 has hired Joylynn Pruitt, Ed.D., as interim superintendent for the 2016/2017 school year. Dr. Pruitt fills the position vacated by Steven Isoye, now superintendent of Niles Township High School District 219. Prior to relocating to Oak Park, Dr. Pruitt served nine years as superintendent of the University City school district in Missouri. She also was an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. Previous positions have included assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, elementary school principal and 11 years as a special education teacher. She earned her doctorate in educational policy and leadership from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in May 2015. Dr. Pruitt's contract is for 200 days over the course of the current school year. The Board of Education is working with educational leadership search consultant BWP & Associates to hire a permanent superintendent for the 2017/2018 school year. More information on the search process is posted at www.oprfhs.org.

Oak Park needs a plumber

A licensed plumber who lives in Oak Park is needed to serve on the Building Codes Advisory Commission, nine citizen volunteers who work with the Village Chief Building Official and advise the Village Board on code amendments and interpretations, and serve as the Building Codes Board of Appeals. Candidates must be residents who are willing to serve for three years. Call 708.358.5670 or visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer for more details on the commission and the application process.

Park District News

Volunteers needed...Oak Parkers can participate in the annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races without breaking a sweat and still get a race t-shirt by volunteering to help out at the popular event. Volunteers are needed for packet pick-up, gear check and course security for the Oct. 23 races. To volunteer, visit www.flwrraces.com or call 708.725.2119.

Rehm Park planning...Help the Park District plan for the future of Rehm Park by attending a community meeting at 7 p.m., Wed., Sept. 21 at Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. The site plan for the park developed in 2008 will be reviewed and updates discussed for future improvements. Visit www.pdop.org for more details.

Free fall fest...The Park District of Oak Park's annual Fall Fest will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun., Sept. 25 at Rehm Park, 515 Garfield St., and the Oak Park Conservatory next door at 615 Garfield. This free event will include horse-drawn hayrides, a pumpkin patch, games and inflatables. For more details, visit www.pdop.org.

Final movie in the park...The 3D computer-animated buddy cop comedy mystery adventure *Zootopia* will be on the big screen in Scoville Park Sat., Sept. 17, the final movie in the Park District of Oak Park's free summer movie series. The film rolls at dusk.

Fire Department open house set

Oak Parkers of all ages can get up close to the equipment and talk to the firefighter/paramedics that help keep the community safe at an open house scheduled for Sat., Oct. 8. The main fire station at 100 N. Euclid Ave. will be open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. for tours, fire



safety presentations and informational handouts. For more information on the Oak Park Fire Department, visit www.oak-park.us/fire.

Volunteers needed for architectural tours



Oak Park ambassadors are needed to help with *Open House Chicago*, the Chicago Architecture Foundation's annual free, behind-the-scenes look at many of the city's great places and spaces that are rarely, if ever, open to the public. Some 200-plus locations are officially signed up for the sixth-annual event on Oct. 15 and 16, including in Oak Park. Volunteer greeters are stationed at the entrance to all sites, welcoming guests, answering questions and tracking visitor attendance. Greeters typically work one four-hour shift, which leaves plenty of time to explore all the sites the remainder of the weekend. Volunteer greeters are required to attend one 40-minute training session in September. Volunteers receive a variety of benefits, including souvenirs and priority access to all sites. Visit www.openhousechicago.org/volunteer for more information or to volunteer.

Construction Update

Chicago Avenue improvements begin final phase...With the sewer main replacement project in the books, construction along Chicago Avenue has shifted to repaving the street the entire width of the Village from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Unlike the sewer main improvements that caused road closures along much of Chicago Avenue from about Ridgeland Avenue to Forest Avenue, the east-west thoroughfare should be open to traffic during resurfacing. However, motorists can expect traffic disruptions and loss of on-street parking at times during resurfacing, which is expected to last at least three months. The project also includes new curbs, gutters and accessible sidewalk ramps, work that will be completed before street grinding, paving and striping. Plans call for crews to work generally from west to east, starting at Harlem and progressing toward Austin. The federally funded resurfacing project also includes installing new lighting, decorative sidewalks and street furnishings in the business district from Harlem to Belleforte avenues, but these streetscape initiatives likely will not be completed until spring. As for parking, signs will be posted along Chicago Avenue indicating the dates and times of restrictions as construction progresses. Vehicle owners who have purchased overnight parking permits along Chicago Avenue will be provided passes to allow parking on adjacent side streets during construction. Residents can follow the progress and get updates on the resurfacing project at www.oak-park.us/chicagoaveconstruction.

Street crossing goes hi-tech...Motorists and pedestrians on Chicago Avenue will soon notice a new type of street crossing signal at Harvey Avenue. The high-intensity activated crosswalk beacon, or HAWK, will give Chicago Avenue motorists a red light when activated by a pedestrian button or electronic detection of a bicycle. In addition to the red signal for motorists, walk indicators will be displayed for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing Chicago Avenue. The signal heads facing traffic on Chicago will remain dark unless the signal is activated. The system is expected to be fully operational by the end of October.

Village Hall work underway...While hardhats aren't required, entering and exiting Village Hall through the south entrance from the parking lot requires venturing into a construction zone with repairs underway to the Police Department's underground garage. Much of the work is below ground level, but replacing the at-grade driveway along the south entrance to Village Hall between Lombard and Taylor avenues also is part of the construction activity. The project is scheduled to be completed by November. Until then, visitors to Village Hall should expect disruption to street parking on the east and west sides of the building and pedestrian access to



the south entrance. Access to Village Hall via the south doorway will be maintained throughout the project by using a golf-course style temporary bridge erected across the gap created by the removal of the drive. Portions of the sidewalks adjacent to the current driveways will be removed as well, so all pedestrian traffic to and from the south entrance will be confined to the temporary bridge. The Lombard Avenue entrance that offers access to the elevator for persons with disabilities will remain open throughout the project. The north public entrance on Madison Street through the Village Hall courtyard will also be unaffected and the Village Hall parking lot will remain open throughout construction. The garage reconstruction is part of a larger Village Hall capital improvement project that includes repaving the parking lot and installing new lighting in 2017. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Election information is online

Oak Parkers planning to vote in the 2016 Presidential Election on Nov. 8 are invited to browse the links at www.cookcountyclerk.com for a wide range of useful information. Web-browsing visitors can register to vote, change their address, find their polling place and see a sample ballot specific to their jurisdiction. New voters or those who have moved have until Oct. 23 to register or update their information. An Illinois driver's license or state ID is required to register online. The website is managed by the Cook County Clerk's Office, which is the election authority for the county's more than 120 suburban towns and villages.

Farmers' Market season winding down

A changing array of produce appears at the Oak Park Farmers' Market as the season winds down toward Oct. 31, when stone soup announces the last market of the year. Most vendors now accept credit cards, as well as supplemental food assistance Link cards. Many vendors also accept the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons — inquire with the vendor directly. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from mid-May through October. Now in its 41st season, the market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5780.

Planning a project? Go online

Oak Park property owners planning a fall project can get the permitting process underway online at www.oak-park.us/villageview. The online system offers users an intuitive, widget-driven website portal for conducting a wide range of property related Village business via a computer, tablet or mobile telephone. The software solution links multiple Village databases and streamlines and automates information processing. A key user-friendly aspect of the system is its ability to provide real-time information as a permit submittal moves through the review and approval processes. The system also allows contractors and DIY property owners to register with the Village and update permit submittal materials. And when fees are due, payment will be accepted via credit card through the VillageView portal. The range of services offered by VillageView is expected to grow as more databases are created in the effort to offer citizens a 24-hour Village Hall. For more information, email development@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/villageview.



VillageView Services

- Apply for permits
- Check the status of permit applications
- Schedule inspections
- Register as a contractor
- Check a contractor's license status
- Submit property complaints
- Check on planning applications
- Apply for a business license
- Apply for a multifamily rental license
- Search for property 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.oprhfs.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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Signs declare pesticide-free lawns

Property owners who sign a pledge to adopt natural lawn care practices can request a special yard sign to let the community know about their commitment to eliminating synthetic chemicals from the environment. Pledge forms and signs are available from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. The pledge and signs are part of an educational program created by the volunteers of the Environment & Energy Commission to reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides that may harm beneficial plants and insects, and affect neighbors who may be sensitive to such products. For more information on the pledge program, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. Visit www.oak-park.us/gonatural for tips and information on how to have an all-natural lawn.



Vaccination urged as flu season approaches

As the flu season approaches, local public health officials are reminding residents that shots are recommended for everyone older than 6 months.

Flu vaccine is offered at numerous

commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area. Most of these sites accept private insurances and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Many sites will vaccinate children as young as 18 months. Help finding a flu shot provider is available at flushot.healthmap.org. Residents also can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5483 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

Village budget wins award

The Village has received the *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* for the 2016 budget from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award, which the Village has won multiple times, is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by the organization. In the words of the letter from the GFOA, this award “reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.” To receive the budget award, Finance Department staff had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that required our budget to be not only a policy document and financial plan, but also an operations guide and communications device. The current and past budgets are posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/budget-summaries.

West Nile Virus threat continues

While mosquitoes are likely to become less active as summer heat diminishes, the threat of West Nile Virus could continue as late as mid-October. Public health officials urge residents not to become complacent and to continue taking precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. The most effective precautions include 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. Visit www.oak-park.us/fightthebite or email health@oak-park.us for more information.

Drop boxes accept payments 24/7

Payments for many municipal services and fines may be made by check or money order at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., anytime via drop boxes — one outside by the parking lot and one just inside the south entrance by the stairway to the Police Department. Checks should be accompanied by any support materials required to make sure the payment is properly applied, including writing the account number on the check memo line. Payments for some services may be made online at www.oak-park/onlineservices, including water bills and parking tickets. Standard mail payments also are accepted. Cash should never be used for drop-box or mail payments. In-person cash or credit card payments are accepted during regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and until 7 p.m. on Mondays. For more information, call 708.358.5460 or email finance@oak-park.us.

Tune in to Village TV on cable and online

Cable television subscribers can learn about Village government and life in the community by tuning in to VOP-TV. Oak

Park’s municipal television station is available to Comcast

subscribers on channel six and AT&T subscribers on channel 99.

Regular Village Board meetings are broadcast live at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Mondays, and replayed at 11 a.m., Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Village Board meetings also are streamed live and archived at www.oak-park.us/boardtv. VOP-TV broadcasts original programming around the clock. A wide range of original programming created by VOP-TV also can be viewed online at www.youtube.com/vopnews.





Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb
Trustees Peter Barber
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Colette Lueck
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 of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Veteran named new Chief of Police



Oak Park veteran Anthony Ambrose has been named the new Chief of Police. Ambrose, who has served as Deputy Police Chief since 2005, succeeds Rick C.

Tanksley who retired Sept. 1 after more than 32 years on the force.

In appointing Ambrose to the post, Village Manager Cara Pavlicek cited his experience in Oak Park and well-established working relationship with community groups and citizens as key factors in her decision. Ambrose's promotion also means additional senior command opportunities within the organization, which will advance long-term succession plans in the department.

Calling his appointment the pinnacle of his law enforcement career, Ambrose said, "I have dedicated my professional life to the Village of Oak Park. The opportunity to become Chief of Police here is one I have worked toward and am excited to take on. Oak Park is a special community. I am looking forward to continuing our approach to policing that has created a true partnership between Oak Park residents and the officers who serve and protect them."

Ambrose, who joined the Oak Park Police Department in April 1984 as a patrol officer, has experience in all aspects of department operations. As

deputy chief, his responsibilities have focused on administration, including budgeting and training, while also providing highly complex administrative support to Chief Tanksley and Manager Pavlicek.

Prior to his role in administration, Ambrose oversaw the Department's community policing operations, including the residential beat officer program that includes assigning officers to specific neighborhoods, stationing resource officers in the middle and high schools,

and co-sponsoring safety programs through neighborhood meetings.

Ambrose holds a master's degree in criminal justice from Lewis University in Lockport and a bachelor's degree in political science from DePaul University in Chicago. He also has certificates from a wide range of specialized training, including through the FBI and various police-related and professional management organizations. In addition, he is certified by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

Tanksley says farewell



In announcing his decision to retire after more than 32 years on the force, former Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley said, "Choosing to retire from the Oak Park Police Department was one of the toughest decisions of my career. Working for the Village is so much more than a job. Oak Park is my hometown and the character of the community is part of who I am. I will miss the job. I will miss my colleagues, both in the Police Department and the Village. Most of all, I will miss the people of Oak Park with whom I have had so many rewarding interactions. I know I will never be able to recreate such a unique experience, but I am content to leave that opportunity to those who follow me in pursuing a career with the Oak Park Police Department."

As for what he will do after retiring, Tanksley said he still is weighing his options. "I hope to have an opportunity to take what I have learned during a long and rewarding career in Oak Park and share it with other law enforcement agencies that may be struggling with many of the same challenges that shaped our community's reputation for tolerance and acceptance and the police department's reputation of treating people with dignity and respect," he said. "The factors that made Oak Park different in many ways did not happen by accident. Perhaps, I can find a way for others to benefit from the Oak Park perspective."