



For Immediate Release: 05.28.04

From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Michael Chen
Development Services Director
708.358.5640

Whiteco to Discuss Harlem-Ontario Plans with Neighbors

Keeping an April promise to seek community input into the design of any new development proposed for property at Harlem Avenue and Ontario Street, the Village, in cooperation with Whiteco LLC, has scheduled a series of meetings with neighborhood and business groups.

The first four of seven public meetings have been scheduled beginning June 9, with the final three expected to be confirmed within another week.

“The Village has worked diligently with the various stakeholders to identify the groups that are likely to be able to encourage attendance and participation through this very public, very open planning process,” said Development Services Director Michael Chen. “These meeting are being scheduled at times and places to make them convenient and conducive to broad public participation.”

Village staff is facilitating the meetings at the direction of the Village Board, but Whiteco will conduct them, according to Chen, who said Whiteco officials are committed to working with the community to come up with a design that will enhance the neighborhood and the entire Village.

In an April public meeting, Whiteco introduced a new team, several of whom are Oak Park residents, including the architect. The team unveiled drawings that showed how they see the property being used, but did not show a finished design. Company officials assured residents at the meeting, that the design would evolve from the series of public meetings that have since been scheduled.

The meetings are being scheduled at times and places to provide citizens with ample and convenient opportunities to offer input into the project design before final plans are made and submitted to the Village under the Planned Development Ordinance. The confirmed meeting schedule to date is as follows:

- **June 9** – 5 p.m., Carleton Hotel, 1110 Pleasant St., Village-wide business associations, including the Oak Park and River Forest Chamber of Commerce and Oak Park Development Corporation

-more-

Whiteco public meetings

2-2-2

- **June 16** – 7 p.m., Holley Court Terraces, 1111 Ontario St., neighbors, including Harlem-Ontario Citizens Association and Holley Court residents
- **June 18** – 9 a.m., Lake Theater, 1020 Lake St., greater downtown business associations
- **July 14** – 7 p.m., Holley Court Terraces, 1111 Ontario St., neighbors, including Harlem-Ontario Citizens Association and Holley Court residents

Meetings also are being scheduled for June 24 and 29, and July 7. Times and locations for these final three meetings have yet to be confirmed. For more information, contact the Development Services Department at 708.358.5640 or via email at devsvcs@oak-park.us. Meeting times and dates also will be posted on the Village's official website, www.oak-park.us.

###