

Cable competition coming to Oak Park

A new Illinois law shifting cable television franchising responsibility to the state level is expected to mean Oak Park consumers may soon have another choice in video providers — perhaps as soon as the first quarter of next year.

AT&T's video product — called *U-Verse* — offers Internet Protocol-based video via its existing telephone lines into homes. The product uses technology similar to the Digital Subscriber Line, or DSL, Internet connections now available throughout the community.

Just what the new video service will mean for Oak Parkers in terms of program choices and prices, is not yet known. However, industry observers say the arrival of a heavyweight competitor to current cable provider Comcast could mean lower prices and improved customer service — at least in the short term — as the two corporate titans face off in the marketplace.

Customer service

The new law, called the *Cable and Video Competition Law of 2007*, has several consumer-friendly aspects that were critical to the overwhelming support the legislation received in Springfield. Among these is a requirement that cable operators give customers a \$25 account credit if a technician does not show up within a four-hour appointment window.

Other service quality standards include hooking up new customers within a week of ordering, completing repairs within 48 hours and providing at least 30 days notice of rate hikes or

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Continued customer support vital

Lake, Marion intersection construction begins

As construction in downtown Oak Park continues, retailers are hoping their customers will not be reluctant to keep braving the dust and traffic. Retailers along Marion Street have been fronting a major construction zone since early summer, as work is well underway on reopening the former mall to traffic. Now work is expanding into the intersection of Lake and Marion streets, where workers are creating new dedicated turn lanes to improve traffic flow along the busy downtown roadway. Lake Street traffic flow is

expected to be limited to westbound only between Forest and Harlem avenues for eight weeks. Once the new lanes are installed, vehicles traveling both east and west on Lake, and south on Marion north of Lake, will be able to make left turns without impeding the flow of other traffic traveling through the intersection. The turn lane construction zone will be about 150 feet in each direction from the Lake and Marion intersection. East bound Lake Street traffic will be diverted south on Harlem to east-bound North Boulevard, then north on Forest back to Lake. Two-way traffic should be restored by early October. Nearby on-street parking will be disrupted. However, both the businesses and the sidewalks in the area will remain open. Customer parking along North Boulevard will not be affected by the work. Parking in the Holley Court and Lake & Forest parking garages also will continue to be free for the first two hours. Meanwhile, much of the underground work on Marion Street has been completed, including installing and upgrading water and sewer lines. Once all underground work is completed, the new brick street will be installed and pedestrian traffic will be diverted onto the street itself, as new bluestone sidewalks are installed. Construction remains on schedule for a late November completion. For more information, call 358.5648 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.



How user-friendly is Village Hall?

Visitors to Village Hall have started seeing something new at the service counters — customer surveys. The survey is intended to advance the Village Board's goal of creating a more user-friendly Village Hall. The eight questions on the survey can be answered with a simple check mark. All completed surveys are delivered directly to the Village Manager's Office and the information used to improve customer service. Respondents may leave contact information if they choose. For more information, call 358.5770 or e-mail village@oak-park.us.



International Visitors

A group of about 30 Chinese delegates came to Village Hall in July to meet with several municipal administrators, including Village Manager Tom Barwin and Village Clerk Sandra

Sokol. Members of the Chinese delegation were here to learn about the administration of public services at the municipal level. The delegation was led by Oak Parker and University of Illinois Chicago Professor of Urban Planning Tingwei Zhang. Staff members who met with the Chinese included Deputy Village Manager Lisa Shelley, Chief Financial Officer Craig Lesner, Village Planner Craig Failor and Acting Development Services Director Bob Clements. For more information on the visit, call 358.5770 or e-mail village@oak-park.us.

Video competition coming to Oak Park

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plans to eliminate programs. The law also requires companies to have toll-free lines and answer 90 percent of calls within 30 seconds. The new standards for existing cable companies will begin Jan. 1.

The law also requires support for public, educational and government access channels, including VOP-TV6, the Village's in-house television station.

Neighborhood impact

Offering the new AT&T video service in Oak Park will require an upgrade to equipment that has long been a fixture in and near many Oak Park alleys. The mostly green metal cabinets can range in size of up to five feet tall, by four feet wide by two feet deep, although many much smaller boxes are now mounted on telephone poles.

AT&T officials estimate they will need to install about 70 new cabinets in close proximity to the existing ones to provide the video service to most of Oak Park.

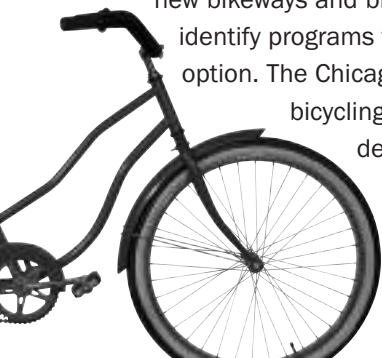
While state law essentially guarantees a video provider access to a community, it does not override a local government's power to ensure equipment placement does not conflict with zoning ordinances or pose any safety hazards. Each new box installation in Oak Park will require a Village-issued permit. Village inspectors will use the permit process to ensure box placement has the least visual impact.

For more information on the new video law, call 358.5770 or e-mail village@oak-park.us. For issues concerning equipment installation, call 358.5720 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

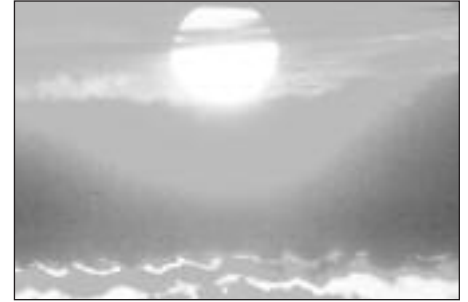
Public invited to help create bicycling plan

The first public discussion of a proposed bicycling plan for the Village is scheduled for 7 - 8:30 p.m., Wed., Aug. 8, at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. The purpose of the bike plan is to expand residents' transportation options with new bikeways and bike parking near local businesses. The plan also will help identify programs to promote bicycling as a safe, comfortable transportation option. The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, a non-profit, volunteer-based

bicycling advocacy organization, is working with the Village to develop the plan. For more information on the process, or to confirm participation in the meeting, call 358.5726, e-mail BikePlan@oak-park.us.



Protection from heat is vital



Public health officials are advising residents to protect themselves and their loved ones from the sometimes severe consequences of extreme heat. While everyone is susceptible to heat-related illnesses, certain people are at greater risk, especially the elderly or individuals with chronic diseases. On excessively hot days, health officials recommend avoiding strenuous activity and staying inside whenever possible. Other suggestions for dealing with the heat include wearing lightweight, light-colored clothing and hats, drinking lots of water and taking regular breaks if involved in physical activity. And be sure to check on relatives, friends and neighbors — especially the elderly — when temperatures rise.

Find relief

Residents who don't have access to air conditioning are encouraged to take advantage of Oak Park's free cooling centers at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave., and Resurrection West Suburban Hospital, 3 Erie Court. Free transportation is available by calling the Police Department's non-emergency telephone number, 386-3800. Relief from the heat also can be found at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. and Oak Park Township Senior Services, 418 S. Oak Park Ave. Seniors can call the Township at 383.8060 for a free ride.

For more information on heat-related issues, contact the Oak Park Department of Public Health at 358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

POLICE NEWS

Call 386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us

Contacting police...In an emergency, always call 9-1-1. However, if you would like to have an officer come to your home or business in a non-emergency situation,



call 386.2131, which connects to the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center. The center dispatches all police and fire units for Oak Park, River Forest and Elmwood Park. If you need to talk to an Oak Park Police officer on the telephone or need information from the Police Records Division, call 386.3800, which rings in Village Hall. To provide anonymous information on a crime, call

434.1636, the Crime Tip Hotline. For more information on Police programs and services, e-mail police@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Open windows may invite burglars...Residents who leave their windows and patio doors open overnight to catch a summer evening breeze could unwittingly become targets of burglars who cruise neighborhoods looking for just such an opportunity. Oak Park Police are urging residents who want to leave windows and outside doors open to use devices that prevent entry by limiting travel of the sash or door. Making sure patio furniture cannot be used as a makeshift ladder to reach higher windows also is important, police say. For more security tips and even an assessment of one's home, residents should contact their Resident Beat Officer, who will examine the property and offer practical suggestions for improving security. To contact your RBO, visit www.oak-park.us/police where detailed information is posted. Residents also can call 386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us for more information.



Get to know your resident beat police officer...The Resident Beat Officer Program emphasizes the value of open communication between the Oak Park Police Department and the community by assigning sworn officers to work from their homes, which are located in their respective beats. As a neighborhood resident, each Resident Beat Officer — or RBO — works directly with his or her neighbors to identify and address local problems. All RBOs can be reached by telephone or e-mail. For information on your neighborhood's RBO, visit www.oak-park.us/police and look for the link.

Police escort...Any resident uneasy about walking to or from a public transit stop, public garage or other site in the community may contact the Police Department for an escort from dusk until dawn. Residents are asked to seek assistance from friends and family first, since officers may be needed for emergency calls. Call 386.3800 for information or an escort.

Looking out for the elderly...Senior citizens living alone who do not have frequent visitors to check on their welfare are encouraged to take advantage of a program called R-U-O-K (are you okay). Persons who register for the service receive an automated call each day at the same time. If no one answers, a police car is dispatched to the home. Call 383.8060 for more information or to register for this free service.

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:

- **Meet the Beavers:** Children ages six through eight are invited to learn about beavers through fun activities and a hike to find evidence of these gnawing neighbors. 1 p.m., Sun., Aug. 5. \$1 per child. Register in advance by calling 366.6530.
- **Hidden world of bats:** Families will learn about these mysterious flying mammals, and then find them outside using special equipment. 7:30 p.m., Sat., Aug. 11. Free. Register in advance by calling 366.6530.
- **The ever-changing Des Plaines River:** Adults and interested older children will discover the ongoing geological history of the Des Plaines River through a discussion using maps and photos, and a short hike to explore features such as oxbows, meanders and floodplains. 1 p.m., Sat., Aug. 18. Free. Register in advance by calling 366.6530.
- **Global warming:** Adults will learn what global warming is, why it is happening and what can be done about it. This presentation is an updated slide program featured in the film *An Inconvenient Truth*. 1 p.m., Sat., Aug. 25. Free. Seating is limited. Register in advance by calling 366.6530.



Historic preservation awards presented

Owners of 14 Oak Park homes and businesses were honored with 2007 Historic Preservation Awards, an annual recognition program sponsored by the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission. Award winners were selected by a panel of preservation professionals from other communities.



1116 S. Humphrey Avenue

- **1116 S. Humphrey Avenue** — restoration of a 1922 bungalow — property owners John Ferguson and David Matuszko.
- **946 Wenonah Avenue** — rear addition — property owners Mike and Karen Baldwin, architect Katherine Coffey and contractor Fidelity Construction Co.
- **7128 Roosevelt Road** — sensitive rehabilitation of a vacant commercial building — property owner Salerno's Pizza & Pasta Restaurant and contractor MFC Builders.
- **215 & 217 N. Grove Avenue** — adaptive use of two historic homes into a successful condominium project — property owners Grove Court Condominium Association, architect Errol J. Kirsch and contractor Donal Hughes.
- **313 Forest Avenue** — restoration of the 1906 Hills-De Caro House designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright — property owners Mark and Sallie Smylie, and contractor Von Dreele-Freerksen Construction Co.
- **509 N. Grove Avenue** — restoration of Queen Anne style home — property owners Thomas and Mary Ann Rezek, architect David Muriello and contractor D.K. Construction.
- **612 N. Kenilworth Avenue** — sensitive design of new garage — property owners Jerry and Cam Neiderman, and contractor Butler Construction.
- **507 N. Euclid Avenue** — restoration of property by removing 1950's ranch style home constructed in the front yard of the historic 1903 home designed by Henry Fiddelke — property owners Roderick and Lynne Palmore.
- **827 Fair Oaks Avenue** — restoration of the 1912 home designed by architect Charles White — property owners David and Jean Radford, and contractor Von Dreele-Freerksen Construction Co.
- **301 S. Lombard Avenue** — restoration of windows and other features on the 1922 bungalow — property owners Bill Syniar and Barbara Weigand, and contractor Tim Murphy Carpentry.
- **619 Fair Oaks Avenue** — sensitive stewardship of the front porch of the 1906 E. E. Roberts house — property owners Brian Fletcher and Robert Hickok, architect Brian Vitale and contractor Butler Construction.
- **241 Home Avenue** — sensitive stewardship of the front porch of the mid-19th century house — property owners Michael and Laura Thompson, architect Simmons Design and contractor Von Dreele-Freerksen Construction Co.
- **250 Forest Avenue** — sensitive care to restore the intricate details of the front porch — property owners Marc and Sarah Chodera, architect Scott Stack and contractor Von Dreele-Freerksen Construction Co.
- **234 Home Avenue** — care in creating a sensitive design for the new front porch — property owners Douglas and Melanie Scofield, architect DMA Architects and contractor Fox Design and Construction.

August VOP-TV6 Programming Highlights

Daily at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m.

- VOP-TV6 edition of OP/FYI
- Safe Biking
- Preventing Identity Theft
- Emergency Preparedness in Oak Park
- Recognizing Signs of Stroke

Regular Village Board Meetings

Live first and third Mondays. Replayed at 11 a.m., Sunday and Tuesday, and 7 p.m., Wednesday

Study Sessions

Days and times of live cablecast vary. Replayed at 11 a.m., Thursday and Saturday, and 7 p.m., Tuesday

Selected original programming can be viewed at www.oak-park.us — including the video version of this issue of the OP/FYI newsletter. Just click on the camera icon.

Who to Call at Village Hall

Main Number	383.6400
Village TTY	383.0048
Police/Fire TTY	848.1911
Info Line	445.3340
Adjudication	358.5479
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
Licenses/permits	358.5433
Codes/status of plans	358.5434
Property complaints	358.5443
Inspections	358.5440
Community Planning/Development	358.5425
Business Services	358.5648
Development Services	358.5644
Housing	358.5411
Historic Preservation	358.5417
Zoning	358.5449
Community Relations	358.5400
Graffiti Hotline	358.5429
Neighborhood Programs	358.5423
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (non-emergency)	445.3300
Human Resources	358.5650
Police (non-emergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	386.0740
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Vital Records	358.5495
Public Works	358.5700
Day Parking Passes	358.DAYS
Night Parking Passes	358.NITE
Parking Office	358.PARK
Snow Hotline	358.SNOW
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770
Village Web Site	www.oak-park.us

Police, Fire and Medical EMERGENCIES

911

Collection delay...Refuse, recycling and yardwaste collection services will be delayed by one day during the week of Labor Day, Sept. 3. Friday's regular collection will be on Saturday. Call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Curfew in effect...Persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult when on public property, including streets and sidewalks, after 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and midnight Fridays and Saturdays. The curfew is not intended to prohibit attending an official school, religious or other recreational activity supervised by adults. For more information, call 386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.

Health screenings...Blood pressure, total cholesterol, high density lipoproteins (HDL), glucose, weight and body mass index screenings are available for a \$20 fee through the *Know Your Numbers* program on every second Monday of the month at Maze Library, 845 S. Gunderson Ave., and every sec-



ond Saturday of the month at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Participants should be between 30 and 64 years old. Appointments are required. Fee waived if economic hardship demonstrated. Call 358.5481 or e-mail health@oak-park.us for an appointment.

Leaf blower restrictions in effect...

The use of gas-powered leaf blowers emanating more than 65 decibels or failing to meet federal emission regulations is banned from June 1 – Oct. 1. The ban applies to both landscapers and homeowners. Gas-powered blowers that emanate fewer than 65 decibels and meet emission standards may be used during the ban if they have been tested and approved by the Village. Call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Pet owners urged to pick up...

Responsible pet owners agree that picking up after one's dog is the right thing to do. Dog excrement is not only a nuisance, it's unhealthy and against the law. Anyone observing a dog owner not picking up after his or her dog should call 358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Stop smoking help...Free smoking cessation patches and counseling are available at no charge to residents who register through the toll-free Illinois Tobacco Quitline, 866.784.8937, and mention that they are part of the Oak Park Department of Public Health's *Break the Habit* program. Call 358.5487 or e-mail health@oak-park.us for more information.

HIV and STD testing...Confidential testing and treatment for sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV are available by appointment. Testing is free to Oak Park residents, but non-residents will be charged a nominal fee based on income. Appointments are required. Call 358.5481.

Private signs prohibited on public property...Garage sale signs, business sandwich board signs and other types of signs or obstructions in the public right-of-ways are prohibited. Call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Water use restricted...State law mandates summer watering restrictions for towns using Lake Michigan water. Through Sept. 15, outdoor water use is limited Mondays through Fridays to even-numbered street addresses on even-numbered days, and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days. Newly planted grass seed, sod, trees and shrubs are exempt during their first 30 days of growth. Call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



Recycling Ins and Outs

Recycling reduces the waste stream and related disposal costs. Recycling also saves natural resources by reducing water and energy use, and pollution emissions associated with many remanufacturing processes. Oak Park's recycling program allows all materials to be loosely combined into the blue recycling cart or bin for single stream collection by dedicated trucks. Here's what you should put – and not put – in the recycling container:

What's in? Glass bottles and jars – all colors. Discard lids and caps, and rinse. Removing labels is good, but not necessary. Glass bottles and jars are remanufactured into new bottles and jars. Broken glass – called cullet – is used in paving and composite materials such as concrete. A new line of countertop also is made with recycled glass pieces.

What's out? Windows, mirrors, light bulbs, ceramics, vases and glass tableware such as drinking glasses, plates or baking pans. Why? These items usually have a high lead content. They are not hazardous to use, but will contaminate recyclable glass containers.



Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President

David Pope

Trustees

Jon Hale

Greg Marsey

John Hedges

Ernest Moore

Ray Johnson

Jan Pate

Village Clerk

Sandra Sokol

Village Manager

Thomas W. Barwin

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

FARMERS' MARKET NEWS

Call 358.5780 or e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us

Corn roast...The annual corn roast is scheduled for Sat., Aug. 18, as the fresh-picked corn from market growers is sold by the ear hot off the roaster. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday through October.

Now in its 32nd season, the market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses from Illinois and neighboring states, the market also offers warm donuts made on-site, juice and coffee, and live bluegrass music.

For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 358.5780.



Homegrown art...Homegrown art will be in season August 11 and October 27, when local artists display original pottery suitable to serve summer vegetables and fruits purchased at the Farmers' Market. Unique jewelry made with metals, stones and beads also will be featured. Artists donate 15 percent of all sales to the Oak Park Area Arts Council to help support the summer teen arts employment program *Off the Wall*. For more information, call the Arts Council at 358.5690, or visit www.OakParkAreaArtsCouncil.org.

Latest news available via e-mail

Keeping up with what's going on at Village Hall is easy for anyone with a computer and access to the internet. The Village's e-mail news and information service allows anyone wishing to receive information on municipal activities to sign-up at www.oak-park.us — just click on the e-news icon at the top of the page. No information other than an e-mail address is collected. Unsubscribing is just as easy. News and information distributed via the e-mail service is limited to official municipal business. For more information, call 358.5770 or e-mail village@oak-park.us.

West Nile Virus threat continues



With the threat of West Nile Virus remaining, experts say reducing the mosquito population and the

chances of being bitten are the best ways to keep the virus at bay. To reduce breeding opportunities regularly empty and clean birdbaths, wading pools and ceramic garden pots and clear gutters of leaves and sticks. To reduce the chances of being bitten avoid being outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are the most active, leave as little skin exposed as possible and use mosquito repellents containing DEET or Picaridin. Remember to follow the directions on the bottle. Residents also can sign up to be notified should the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District schedule spraying for adult mosquitoes. Sign up online at www.oak-park.us or call 358.5694. Those who sign up will be notified by an automated telephone system or e-mail as soon as possible following a decision by the mosquito abatement district to spray in Oak Park. For more information call 358.5694 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.