



Volunteers always needed

Citizen volunteers embody long history of open government in Oak Park

When it comes to citizen involvement in the process of making public policy, few communities can match the number of opportunities offered by the Village of Oak Park where volunteers on more than 25 separate boards and commissions advise the Village Board on a wide range of important issues.

The issues dealt with by these citizen groups are many and varied. From proposals for new developments to plans to better manage Oak Park's limited supply of parking, the residents who participate on these bodies play key roles in making sure policy enacted by the Village Board has had thorough public review and is in the best interests of the community as a whole.

As issues have grown more complex, the work of these citizen groups has become more valuable to the elected members of the Village Board. As part-time lawmakers, the Village president and trustees rely on the boards and commissions to do much of the in-depth investigative work that a single board could never have the time or expertise to complete.

Boards and commissions conduct in-depth studies, evaluate research and hold meetings that create the public record for citizen sentiments on possible future actions by the Village Board. The boards and commissions then make recommendations to the Village Board whose members have the statutory responsibility to take any appropriate actions that may be needed or required.

When vacancies occur on these advisory bodies, the Citizen Involvement Commission interviews those Villagers who have volunteered to serve. Prospect meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, on an every-other-month basis. The next meeting will be held in April. The commission then makes recommendations to the Village president, who makes the formal appointments with the consent of the Board of Trustees.

A varied group of volunteers is sought to represent the Village's diversity, and renters as well as homeowners

are encouraged to apply. Areas of particular need are the Citizen Involvement Commission, Telecommunications Commission, Community Design Commission and the Community Relations Commission.

For more information on volunteering to serve on one of the commissions or boards call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us. To review a complete list of the advisory bodies, visit www.oak-park.us — mouse-over the *About Our Village* tab and click on *Citizen Boards and Commission*.

Not too late to offer input on possible changes to on-street overnight parking ban

Parking Ban Survey



If you haven't taken the online survey about the Village's overnight on-street parking ban — it's not too late. The survey is expected to remain on the Village web site, www.oak-park.us, through

mid-February. About 800 website visitors had taken the survey through late January. The survey was initiated by the Transportation Commission as part of a broader effort to investigate ways to better manage and increase the overnight on-street parking supply in the Village. After the survey results are compiled, the Transportation Commission expects to host a community meeting to discuss options for balancing parking demand with supply before making recommendations for action by the Village Board. Among the possible alternatives to the current overnight ban are eliminating it altogether, modifying it with alternate-side parking or expanding current overnight permit zones. Each option is explained in detail on the web site — just go to www.oak-park.us and click on the *Parking Ban Survey* icon. The overnight parking ban was established in the late 1920s. Over the years, the Village has modified the ban as the number of vehicles has steadily increased. For more information on the survey or other parking review efforts call 358.5750 or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.

Nominations sought for Historic Preservation Awards

Nominations for the 2007 Historic Preservation Awards Program are now being sought by the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission, citizen volunteers who advise the Village Board on historic preservation issues. April 13 is the deadline for submissions. Single-family residences, apartment buildings, commercial buildings, public/institutional buildings or religious structures may be nominated in any of four categories — restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use and additions/new construction. Projects should have been created within the past five years, and located within the boundaries of the Village. Nominations need not be in a historic district. Interior work also may be considered. Any resident, owner or tenant of eligible structures, members of local preservation and historical societies, and members of the Oak Park Community Design Commission and Historic Preservation Commission may make nominations. The judges' decisions will be based upon the Historic Preservation Commission's Architectural Review Guidelines, which are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, as well as considerations of contextual and design appropriateness. Nomination forms are available at the customer service desk in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., by contacting Community Services at 358.5400 or by e-mail at planning@oak-park.us. A nomination form also can be downloaded from the Village web site www.oak-park.us — mouse-over the *Departments* tab, click on *Historic Preservation* and look for the link along the right margin. Awards will be presented in conjunction with National Preservation Month in May. For more information call 358.5417 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.

Practice caution when using alternate heating sources

High energy costs may tempt residents to use alternate heating sources such as portable and baseboard electric heaters, fireplaces and woodstoves. But fire officials urge caution and recommend following these guidelines:

- Don't leave baseboard heaters unattended and remove nearby objects.
- Keep all furniture a safe distance away from baseboard heaters and never block the heat flow.
- Do not drape electrical cords across baseboard heaters.
- If your baseboard heater needs repair work, always hire an experienced electrician.
- When shopping for a portable heater, choose a model with temperature control, an automatic shut off device and a seal of approval from an independent testing laboratory indicating that it has met basic safety standards.
- Place portable heaters on flat surfaces and turn them off when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Do not use extension cords with portable heaters.
- Keep portable heaters three feet from anything that can burn.
- Always use a fire screen on a fireplace to contain sparks and never burn trash or paper.
- Keep anything flammable a safe distance away from a fireplace and don't leave fires unattended — especially in areas used by children or pets.
- When through with the fire, clean out the cool ashes and place in a metal container.

In addition to these guidelines, be sure to have working smoke alarms and a family escape plan in the event of a fire. For more information on home fire safety, call 445.3300, visit www.oak-park.us or e-mail fire@oak-park.us.

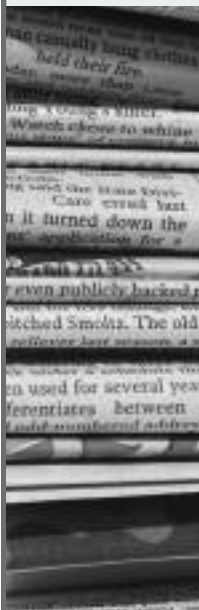
Recycling Ins and Outs

Recycling benefits the community by reducing 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 commingled into the blue recycling cart or bin. Recyclables are collected in a *single stream* in dedicated trucks and require no separation prior to pick up. Here are a few tips:

What's In? Mixed paper products including newspapers and inserts, magazines, telephone books, paperback books, chipboard (boxes from cereal, crackers and cookies, cake mixes), wet-strength cardboard (canned beverage cases), junk mail (including window envelopes), office paper, stationery, computer paper, gift wrapping paper and brown grocery bags. Corrugated cardboard boxes also are recyclable, but they must be cut and flattened into no larger than three-feet by three-feet pieces, and placed into, next to or on top of bin.

What's Out? Pizza boxes and other paper products used to wrap food. Why? Food particles are the worst contaminants for paper. Pizza boxes or sandwich wrappers with oil, cheese or other food particles should be thrown in the trash.

For more information on recycling call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



Nearby natural history museum offers range of programs



The Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave., in River Forest, offers a range of programs for children and

adults alike. Operated by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the facility was built in 1874 as a finishing school for young women. The site became the Trailside Museum in 1931, the first of its kind in the Midwest to display native flora and fauna and live animals of the Chicagoland area. The museum also houses Cook County's wildlife rehabilitation center for orphaned and injured native animals. Programs scheduled for February include the following:

Adult Craft – Bird-house Gourds: The step-by-step process of turning dried gourds into finished bird homes will be taught at 10 a.m., Sat., Feb. 10. The fee is \$10, which includes all materials. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Call 366.6530 for more information or to register.

Early Morning Fitness Hike: A one-hour hike led by a naturalist is scheduled for 8 a.m., Sat. Feb. 17. The hike is free and participants are urged to dress for the weather and rough ground. Meet at the entrance of museum. Call 366.6530 for more information.

Owl Moon: Children ages five to 10 are invited to learn all about owls at 1 p.m., Sun., Feb. 25. Activities will include a story, craft and touchable owl artifacts. The fee is \$1 per child. An adult must accompany the child. Call 366.6530 for more information.

Stop solicitors...To prevent door-to-door solicitors from knocking, obtain a *no soliciting* sticker to place on or near your front door. For more information, call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

Saving parking spaces illegal...Saving a parking space by placing items such as furniture in the street after a snowfall makes it difficult for crews to plow. Items found in the street will be removed. For more information call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Area events calendar...To keep up to date about community events visit www.visitoakpark.com. A free guide also is available from the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 158 N. Forest Ave. For more information call 524.7800 or e-mail info@visitoakpark.com.

Disabled parking patrol...Volunteers are needed to ticket cars parked illegally in spaces reserved for vehicles operated by individuals with disabilities. Volunteers use their own vehicles, but training, telephones and magnetic vehicle identification signs are provided. Call 358.5545 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.

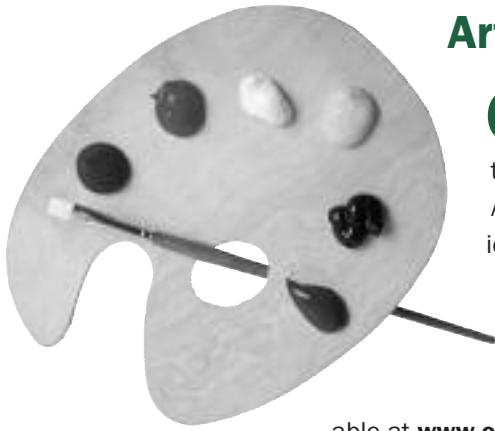
Permit fee discounts...Senior citizens and owners of historic properties may qualify for discounts in fees for construction permits and inspections. Seniors may qualify for a 10 percent discount of a permit fee and a 10 percent discount on an inspection fee associated with work on their property. Permit fees for work proposed in a Historic District may qualify for a 5 percent permit fee discount if the Historic Preservation Commission is consulted prior to applying for the permit and another 5 percent if commission advice is followed. For more information, call 358.5430 or e-mail building@oak-park.us.

Overnight parking restricted...Parking is prohibited on all Village streets from 2:30 – 6 a.m., seven days a week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass. Overnight on-street parking is allowed by permit in multifamily housing areas, except in front of churches, schools and parks and on blocks where housing is more than 50 percent single family. For more information call 358.5750 or e-mail parking@oak-park.us. This e-mail address may not be used to contest a parking ticket. To contest or pay a parking ticket on-line, visit www.oak-park.us.

Crime Tip Hot Line...Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activity to the Police Department's Crime Tip Hot Line at 386.0740. All callers will remain anonymous. In an emergency, always call 9-1-1.



Home-based businesses...Home-based businesses are permitted in any building as an accessory use within the limits of the Zoning Ordinance that allows one non-family member employee if off-street parking is provided. No home business may occupy more than 25 percent of the total floor area. Prohibited home businesses include manufacturing, animal hospitals, barbershops and beauty salons, clinics, repair shops and restaurants. The Office of the Village Clerk registers home businesses and the Zoning Officer checks for compliance. For more information on registering, call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.



Arts scholarships offered

Class of 2007 high school students involved in arts are invited to apply for the annual Oak Park Area Arts Council Fine Arts Scholarship. An applicant must be a resident of Oak Park, River Forest or Forest Park and graduating in 2007. Seven \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students who intend to major in an art-related discipline in college. Applications are avail-

able at www.oakparkareaartscouncil.org or at the Arts

Council office in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Fri., March 16. Examples of applicants' work such as slides, photographs, CDs or DVDs must be submitted with the application. For more information, call 358.5692 or e-mail info@oakparkareaartscouncil.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Call 358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us

Early childhood education symposium offered

Parents, teachers and caregivers are invited to the fourth annual Early Childhood Care and Education symposium, scheduled for 8 a.m. — 1:30 p.m., Feb. 24, at Percy Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland Ave. Following the theme *It All Adds Up: Math and Early Childhood*, the day will include speakers and two workshops. Call 802.5446 to register. Call 358.5428 for more information.

Clinic expands children's medical, dental care

The Infant Welfare Clinic, 320 Lake St., has expanded its medical and dental care for underserved children from infancy to age 19. Services are available on a sliding, income-based fee scale or payable with the *AllKids* card. For more information or to make an appointment call 848.0528, ext. 221.

HIV and STD testing available

Confidential testing and treatment for sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV are available by appointment. Testing is free to Oak Park residents. Appointments are required. Call 358.5483 to make an appointment.

Health screenings offered

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 and every second 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 may be waived if economic hardship is demonstrated. Call 358.5481 or e-mail health@oak-park.us for more information.

Stop smoking help offered

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 358.5490 or e-mail health@oak-park.us for more information.

February 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
- Oak Park Adjudication
- Mail Fraud Schemes
- Emergency Preparedness in Oak Park
- Safe Winter Driving

Regular Village Board Meetings

Live at 7:30 p.m. first and third Mondays. Replayed at 11 a.m. Sunday and Tuesday, and 7 p.m. Wednesday and Friday

Study Sessions

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

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	358.5468
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 Page	www.oak-park.us

Police, Fire and Medical EMERGENCIES

911

Parking News

Snowfall triggers emergency parking plan

After a two-inch snowfall, the Emergency Snow Removal Parking Plan goes into effect and the following parking rules are enforced seven days a week, including holidays:

- Main streets posted as snow routes must be cleared of all parked cars. Snow routes include Augusta, Austin, Chicago, Division, Garfield, Harlem, Harrison, Jackson, Lake, Madison, North Avenue, Oak Park, Ridgeland, Roosevelt and Wisconsin from Madison to the emergency entrance of Oak Park Hospital.
- Non-snow route streets allow parking between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the side of the street with even numbered addresses (east and north) on even days and the side of the street with odd numbered addresses (west and south) on odd days.
- Designated commercial parking areas follow the odd/even rule between midnight and 8 a.m.

To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 358.SNOW or tune into VOP-TV, cable channel 6. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us — mouse-over the *Departments* tab, click on *Public Works* and look for the link along the right margin.

Regulations strive to balance need with supply

Parking space is a scarce resource in the Village. Parking regulations promote safety, create an even traffic flow, keep intersections and bus stops clear, fire hydrants accessible to emergency vehicles and designate space for persons with disabilities. Parking is prohibited on all streets from 2:30 – 6 a.m., seven days a week, year round, except on certain holidays when some restrictions are temporarily lifted, and in designated permit zones. Other parking restrictions are determined by location and weather conditions. If in doubt, look for signage.

Special parking passes

Temporary parking passes that override certain posted parking restrictions provide short-term relief under specific circumstances such as during construction. Day-time, nighttime and extended passes are issued for on-street parking in areas not designated as permit zones and on streets other than major traffic arteries.

Guest parking

Guests are eligible for single, on-street and extended on-street overnight passes. Temporary overnight parking also is available in downtown parking garages for a daily fee.

Temporary overnight on-street parking

Residents may request a temporary on-street overnight parking pass up to five times per year per license plate number.

Extended temporary parking

Residents who need to park their cars overnight in a restricted area can request a special extended pass of three days to two weeks per time, up to a maximum of 30 days per year per license plate number. Permit holders who need to leave their cars parked for an extended time may request temporary parking in a downtown parking garage for a nominal daily fee.

Who to call

For extended passes, call 358.5750 from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For overnight passes call 358.NITE from 8 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. For day passes call 358.DAYS from 6 – 8 a.m. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.



Downtown historic preservation study continues

Community meetings organized to discuss creating a historic district in the heart of downtown are continuing with sessions scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 8 and Wed., Feb. 21 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Hosted by the Historic Preservation Commission, the meetings are intended to offer a forum to discuss various options for preserving the historic and architectural character of downtown Oak Park, which includes the areas south of Ontario Street, north of North Boulevard, east of Harlem Avenue and west of Forest Avenue. The Village Board will rely on feedback gathered through this process to determine what official steps, if any, should be taken to guide historic preservation in the downtown area. Anyone unable to attend a meeting, but interested in commenting, may write to the Historic Preservation Commission, Village of Oak Park, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302. Or send an e-mail to planning@oak-park.us. All information presented and gathered at the community meetings also will be posted at www.oak-park.us. For more information, call 358.5417.

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Village President David Pope
Trustees Elizabeth Brady, Ray Johnson, Greg Marsey, Robert Milstein, Galen Gockel
Village Clerk Sandra Sokol
Village Manager Thomas W. Barwin

Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Two police officers assume new neighborhood responsibilities

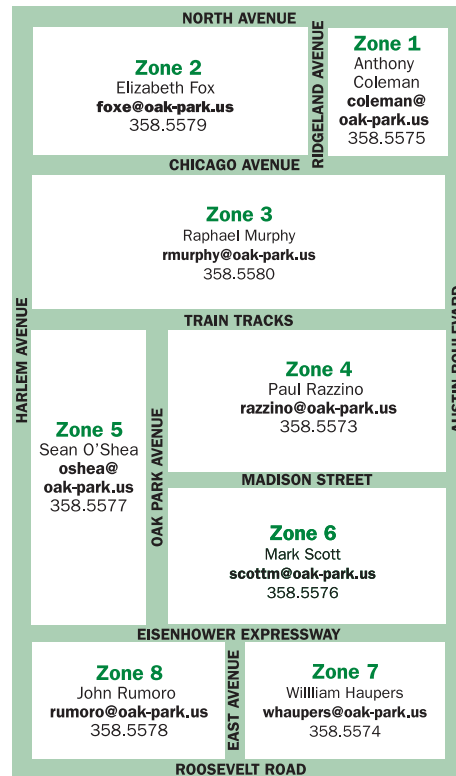


Officer Raphael Murphy



Officer William Haupers

Two experienced Oak Park Police Officers have joined the Village's community policy program as Resident Beat Officers, or RBOs. The newest RBOs are Officers Raphael Murphy and William Haupers, both of whom have been with the Oak Park Police Department for about two years. Murphy is the RBO for Zone 3, which includes the neighborhoods bounded by Chicago Avenue on the north, the Metra tracks on the south, Austin Boulevard on the east and Harlem Avenue on the west. Haupers is the RBO for Zone 7, which includes the neighborhoods between the Eisenhower Expressway, Roosevelt Road, East Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Murphy has been an Oak Park resident for six years, and Hauper has been a resident for 16 years. The Resident Beat Officer Program promotes communication at the neighborhood level by assigning officers to work from their homes, which are located in their respective beats. As a neighborhood resident, each RBO works directly with his or her neighbors to identify and address local problems. All RBOs can be reached by telephone or e-mail, and welcome questions and comments from their neighbors.



Assistance offered to first-time homebuyers

A free seminar to help prospective first-time homebuyers understand loan programs available in Oak Park is scheduled for 7 – 8:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 15 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Financial assistance programs will be explained and participants will receive a free packet of helpful information. Pre-registration is required. Call 358.5408 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.

Take me home!



Pets like one-year-old Niles need loving homes. Visit www.oak-park.us and look for the

lost and found pet icon on the *Breaking News* page to see the latest pets in need of a good home. For more information on adopting a pet, call 358.5679 or 358.5680.