

## Redesigned Marion Street to anchor downtown redevelopment

Courtesy of the OPRF Historical Society



*The mid-1920's view north on Marion Street.*

Everything old is new again — including Marion Street come Thanksgiving 2007. That's the target date for transforming the mall back into a street that offers a unique, vibrant pedestrian environment that complements the retail nature of the area.

When first constructed in 1974, the mall included Lake Street from Forest Avenue to Harlem Avenue, and stretched north on Marion to Holley Court, a street that once ran east-west near where the parking garage now stands.

The Lake Street and north Marion portions of the mall were reopened to traffic in 1988, partly in response to business operators who said the difficulty of getting to their stores had not been good for businesses. Many of the merchants on the current mall have encountered similar issues, and hope reopening the mall will help revitalize the area.

Although plans for the mall will allow two-way traffic and parking on Marion

between North Boulevard and Lake Street, the goal is to use materials and streetscape design that enhance the shopping and dining experience, while fitting in with the historic character of the downtown area.

Driving lanes will be narrow to slow traffic and parking will be limited. Sidewalks will be wide enough to create

opportunities for pedestrian activities as well as outdoor dining. Details such as materials and landscaping are still being finalized with the help of representatives from the Village Board, downtown businesses, citizen commissions, Village staff and professional consultants.

Reopening the mall is part of a larger plan that also will reconnect Westgate Street to Marion Street, and eventually could include a new parking garage on North Boulevard across from the multi-modal transportation station. In addition, proposals to redevelop or restore the Colt Building, which fronts on both Lake and Westgate, are currently being sought through a formal bid process.

The restreeting and redesign of the block-long portion of Marion Street and Westgate Street are expected to be completed in November. More specific design details should be available by mid-February when the Village Board is scheduled to approve the final plan.

For more information on the Marion Street project, call 358.5648 or e-mail [village@oak-park.us](mailto:village@oak-park.us). Information on other redevelopment programs throughout the Village is posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — just mouse-over the *Departments* tab and click on *Planning*.

### Downtown historic preservation to be studied

A series of four meetings is planned for early 2007 to discuss creating a historic district in the heart of downtown. The community meetings, organized by the Historic Preservation Commission, 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. Meetings are scheduled for 7 – 9 p.m., Tues., Jan. 23 and 30, in the Veterans' Room of the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St., and 7:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 8 and Wed., Feb. 21 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Following all four meetings, a final report on the favored option will be presented to the Village Board, most likely in March. All information presented and gathered at the community meetings will be posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us). Send comments and questions to [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us) or call 358.5417.

## Village budget holds line on spending, but some fees to rise



Police to get Segways.

The Village begins 2007 with a budget up only about 2 percent over 2006, as efforts focused on keeping costs in check while also maintaining essential services. Total spending in 2007 will be about \$133 million, an increase of \$2.76 million over 2006. The general operating fund, which supports most day-to-day municipal operations, will be about \$47.1 million, up about 3.9 percent from last year. Residents will see some modest rate and fee increases in the year ahead. Water and sewer rates will rise 16 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used, to \$3.27 from \$3.11. Due to a contractual increase from the Village's waste hauler, refuse collection fees also will increase in 2007. Residences with one 96-gallon refuse cart will now pay \$48.75 per quarter, an increase of \$1.35, while those with one 64-gallon cart will pay \$41.10, up \$1.20. Other fee increases include animal licenses, which will rise to \$10 for spayed and neutered pets and \$13 for intact pets, an increase of \$3 over 2006. Notarized copies of birth and death certificates will now cost \$10 for the first copy and \$4 for each additional copy. Building permit fees will shift from a pre-set fee based on a detailed assessment of construction components to a percentage rate calculated from the total value of construction. Capital improvements in 2007 will include opening and revamping the Marion Street Mall, a key component of plans to revitalize the downtown business district. Other major capital improvement projects will include repaving the entire length of Division Street from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue, a project that will be funded primarily by federal dollars. Some 4.75 miles — or 47 blocks — of local roadways also are scheduled to be repaved this year, and another 4.5 miles microsurfaced. Sewer improvements are planned for six blocks and water mains will be replaced on seven blocks. Nearly two miles of alleys will be reconstructed as well. The 2007 budget also will support continued community planning, including activities underway for Madison and Harrison streets. A highlight of public safety initiatives for 2007 is the purchase of four Segways for police patrols during special events and in the business districts. The two-wheeled *personal transportation devices*, which are becoming increasingly popular for law enforcement efforts in congested and limited vehicle access areas, will be paid for with federal funds. Property taxes will remain the single largest source of Village revenue, representing about 13 percent of anticipated revenues. The Village's share of each property tax dollar Oak Parkers pay will remain about 12 cents. For more information on the budget, call 358.5460 or e-mail [finance@oak-park.us](mailto:finance@oak-park.us).

## Tree pruning begins

Tree pruning is scheduled from early-January to mid-March, weather permitting. The 2007 trim area is Garfield Avenue to Roosevelt Road from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue, and from Madison Street to Harrison Street between Austin Boulevard and East Avenue. Forestry Division employees will prune parkway trees under 10 inches in diameter and a contractor will prune all trees over 10 inches in diameter. More than 1,800 trees will be trimmed by Village crews and nearly 2,700 trees will be trimmed by the contractor. For more information about tree pruning, replacement and removal, or questions about general tree health, call 358.5700 or e-mail [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

## Life-saving CPR/AED classes offered



The Oak Park Fire Department offers life-saving CPR classes in its certified American Heart Association Community Training Center at 100 N. Euclid Ave. CPR courses available through the Fire Department include infant/child CPR, Heartsaver/AED and CPR/AED for health care providers. Course material is presented by an AHA Certified Instructor. Classes are from 6 – 10 p.m. Registration is free for Oak Park residents, but a \$10 textbook fee payable by check or money order is required. In-person registration at least two weeks prior to the date of the desired course is recommended. For more information, call 445.3300 or e-mail [fire@oak-park.us](mailto:fire@oak-park.us).

<b>Heartsaver/AED</b>	May 15
<b>— Wednesdays</b>	June 5
January 3 & 17	August 7
February 7 & 21	September 18
March 7 & 21	<b>Healthcare</b>
April 4 & 18	<b>Provider/AED —</b>
May 2 & 16	<b>Wednesdays</b>
June 6 & 20	January 24
July 11	February 28
August 1 & 15	March 28
September 5 & 19	April 25
October 3 & 17	May 23
November 7 & 21	June 27
December 5 & 19	July 25
<b>Infant/Child —</b>	August 22
<b>Tuesdays</b>	September 26
February 20	October 24
March 3	November 28
April 24	December 26

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Grants help nine businesses remodel and expand

Nine Oak Park businesses in six of the community's 12 business districts were able to remodel and expand thanks to the Village Retail Support Grant Program, which encourages investment in commercial building stock with the added benefits of increased sales tax revenue and an improved quality of life for residents. Four retailers and five restaurants received some \$423,000 in 2006, grants that leveraged more than \$2 million in private investments.

Grants awarded last year boosted total Village investments in the business community through the program to more than \$6 million since 1991. Grant recipients are required to match the public investment to be eligible for funding for renovation expenses, which may include repairing floors, walls and ceilings, upgrading mechanical systems, demolition and finishing work such as painting and coverings for ceilings, walls and floors. To be eligible for the program, any new or existing Oak Park business must earn at least 51 percent of its gross income from taxable sales, complement the established retail mix in the area, hold an active membership with the local business association and maintain compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information on the Retail Support Grant Program and other business improvement and development programs call 358.5648 or e-mail [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us).



*LaBella, 2006  
grant recipient*



### Holiday tree collections scheduled

**H**oliday trees will be picked up for recycling on regular collection days from January 8 through January 19.

Please follow these instructions:

- Place tree in regular collection area next to refuse cart — only residents with no alley should put trees at the curb
- Remove all tinsel, decorations and stands
- Do not put tree in plastic disposal bag
- Place wreaths and garlands in the refuse cart. They are held together by wire, so are not recyclable

For more information call 358.5700 or e-mail [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

### First-time homebuyer's seminar offered

**A** free seminar to help prospective first-time homebuyers understand loan programs available in Oak Park is scheduled for 7 – 8:30p.m., Tues., Jan. 25 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 [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us).



### Volvo lights up Oak Park

When Volvo of Oak Park lit up its unique vertical glass tower last month to showcase its cars, it also showcased how a community and a long-time private business can work together for mutual benefit. Originally Shepherd Motors, the dealership had long outgrown its former site on Madison Street where it had been since 1966 and its owners were facing the tough choice of giving up the Volvo franchise or leaving Oak Park, prospects that would have had a dramatic negative impact on local sales and property tax revenue. Working together, Volvo, the neighborhood and the Village were able to transform a former railroad trash dump and road salt storage site at Harlem Avenue and Garfield Street into a state-of-the-art automobile dealership. The Volvo facility, perched high above the Eisenhower Expressway, was designed with input from the neighborhood to minimize local impact from traffic, lighting and noise. For more information on the project, call 358.5644 or e-mail [devsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:devsvcs@oak-park.us).

### Take me home!

**P**ets like seven-month-old Grady need loving homes. Visit [www.oak-park.us](http://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.



Register before Jan. 10

## Women's health program to teach heart-healthy lifestyle

With more than eight million American women living with some form of heart disease, public health officials say it is imperative that women of all ages learn how to live heart-healthy lives. The Oak Park Department of Public Health and Rush Oak Park Hospital have joined together to do just that with their *Heart Smart for Women* program. A series of 12 classes, *Heart Smart* is designed to teach women the importance of a healthy lifestyle through good nutrition, exercise and stress management. The classes begin with orientation sessions at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Wed., Jan. 10 in the North Conference Room of Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave. Classes are offered at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Rush on the following 12 Wednesdays, with the two separate class times intended to accommodate a variety of work schedules. The \$20 participation fee will be refunded to those who complete the program. *Heart Smart for Women* is considered an innovative, evidence-based program that uses behavioral modification techniques to help women attain healthier lifestyles. Classes are designed to be fun and relevant to participants' lives. In addition to the knowledge and techniques to live heart healthy, the program also offers group support to help participants achieve their goals. All participants will receive two mini-cardiovascular risk assessments, including cholesterol, glucose tolerance and body mass index (BMI) readings, in order to better understand the present condition of their heart, and gauge improvement through the program. Registration for *Heart Smart* is required before the Jan. 10 program orientation sessions. To register, or for more information, call 358.5490 or e-mail [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us). Funding is provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Rush Oak Park Hospital and the Oak Park Department of Public Health.

## HEALTH NEWS

Call 358.5480 or e-mail [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us)

**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 the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. and every second Saturday of the month at Maze Library, 845 S. Gunderson. Participants should be between 30 and 64 years old. Appointments are required. Call 358.5481 or e-mail [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

**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.

**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](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

**Flu shots still available...**Flu vaccine is still available, and a shot may still be beneficial since most influenza activity occurs in January or later, and can last through the end of April. Shots are available by appointment by calling 358.5601.

## January 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*
- Emergency Preparedness in Oak Park
- Make Your Move
- Prevent Identity Theft
- Snow Parking Plan

### Regular Village Board Meetings

Live 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	<a href="http://www.oak-park.us">www.oak-park.us</a>

**Police, Fire and Medical EMERGENCIES**

**911**

## PARKING NEWS

Call 358.5750 or e-mail [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us)

**Overnight parking ban survey now on-line...** Residents who wish to provide input on possible changes to the current on-street overnight parking ban are invited to take an on-line survey at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us). The brief survey is one tool the Transportation Commission is using to gather community input on ways to increase the availability of overnight parking. Among the possible alternatives to the overnight parking ban are eliminating it altogether, modifying it with alternate-side parking and expanding current overnight permit zones. Each option is explained in greater detail on the web site. The Commission expects to also host a community meeting to discuss the options. For more information on the survey or other parking review efforts call 358.5750 or e-mail [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us).



### 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 Blvd., Austin Blvd., Chicago Ave., Division St., Garfield St., Harlem Ave., Harrison St., Jackson Blvd., Lake St., Madison St., North

Ave., Oak Park Ave., Ridgeland Ave., Roosevelt Rd. and Wisconsin Ave. from Madison Street 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 are posted and 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 for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOP-TV, cable channel 6. For more information on the emergency snow parking program, call 358.5700 or e-mail [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

## Approval sought for Roosevelt Road townhomes

**A** Planned Development Application for a three-story, twelve-unit townhome development proposed for 6830 Roosevelt Road at Grove Avenue will be reviewed by the Plan Commission at 7 p.m., Thurs., Jan 18, in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The developer is seeking seven zoning variances, including reduced front, rear and side yard setbacks, greater lot coverage and approval to build attached-single family dwellings in the B-1/B-2 General Business Zoning District. This is the second meeting to review the project. For more information call 358.5418 or e-mail [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us). Information on the Garden Grove Townhome project also is posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — mouse over the *Departments* tab, click on *Planning* and look for the *Planned Development* link at the top of the page.

## More restrictive residential zoning under consideration

**W**ith the goal of preserving neighborhood character, the Village Board is investigating reclassifying areas of the community zoned multiple-family residential to reduce the chances of single and two-family-style homes being torn down and replaced with larger apartment or condominium developments that could dramatically change the character of the neighborhoods. A review of the R-6 and R-7 Multiple-Family District properties began with Village Planning staff traversing about 28 miles, cataloging information on some 1,500 buildings, including verifying land uses and ensuring accuracy of addressees. More than 500 single-family style homes also were photographed. The information gathered manually was then entered into the Geographical Information System (GIS), creating a new database that can sort information to generate a wide range of comparisons, such as identifying how many single-family style residences are located within a historic district. The Plan Commission is reviewing the data in phases because of the sheer volume of area involved — about 12.5 percent of the community. As each phase is completed, recommendations will be made to the Village Board. Among the possible recommendations are rezoning specific areas or blocks, amending the current zoning ordinance governing rebuilding non-conforming structures and making changes to historic district boundaries to include these areas. For more information on the multiple-family residential zoning review or redevelopment in the Village, call 358.5418 or e-mail [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us). Information also is posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — mouse over the *Departments* tab, click on *Planning* and look for the link along the right margin.



Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272

OP/FM

Village President

David Pope

Trustees

Elizabeth Brady

Ray Johnson

Martha Brock

Greg Marsey

Galen Gockel

Robert Milstein

Village Clerk

Sandra Sokol

Village Manager

Thomas W. Barwin

Residential Customer Local  
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier  
Pre-Sort

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Arts Council hosts hero workshop

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Oak Park Area Arts Council, School District 97 and the Oak Park Education Foundation's Art Start Program is inviting kindergarten to fifth graders to the annual *What Makes A Hero?* workshop on Mon., Jan. 15, at Beye Elementary School, 230 N. Cuyler Ave. The interactive workshop offers children the opportunity to work with a professional artist and make a creative take-home project, while having an energetic discussion about heroes. The workshop will culminate with a performance by Walter King Jr. who will present *Legacy of Black Magicians*, a look at African-American magicians today. The workshop is scheduled from 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., with check-in beginning at 9:30 a.m. The \$5 per-child fee includes a light snack. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call 358.5693.

### Public invited to participate in Longfellow Park planning

The fourth community meeting to discuss development of a site master plan for Longfellow Park is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues, Jan. 23 at Longfellow Center, 610 S. Ridgeland Ave. The



plan will be used as a blueprint for future park renovation. Information regarding the planning process, including various concepts presented at previous community meetings, is available at [www.oakparkparks.com](http://www.oakparkparks.com) under *Future Plans*.

### Event to honor Drs. Percy and Anna Julian

An event to celebrate the release of the new PBS *Nova* documentary on scientist and Oak Parker Dr. Percy Julian and his wife Anna is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Tues., Jan. 30 at Percy Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland Ave. The event will include a 30-minute preview of the documentary entitled *Forgotten Genius*, as well as a panel discussion and a speech from honorary event chairwoman Faith Julian,

daughter of Percy and Anna Julian. The full-length, two-hour program is scheduled to premier on local PBS stations at 8 p.m., Feb. 6, including WTTW, Channel 11. Dr. Julian, who made Oak Park his home for more than 25 years, achieved worldwide notoriety for his work as a chemist. His major breakthroughs in soybean research ultimately led to the development of affordable synthetic steroids and hormones used

in a variety of applications, including birth control pills and medications to combat glaucoma and rheumatoid arthritis. This event is co-sponsored by the Institute for Science



Dr. Percy Julian

Education and Technology, the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest, the Village of Oak Park Community Relations Commission and Oak Park Elementary School District 97. For more information call 848.6755.