

Oak Park to become first in state to have real-time traffic management system

Oak Park is about to become the first community in the state to have a Village-wide traffic management system that links the signals and allows remote changes at most intersections to improve flow and reduce congestion.

Village engineers have been installing magnetic sensors at most signaled intersections over the past several years in anticipation of a Village-wide system to monitor traffic conditions and adjust lights to maximize progression along major streets. Now, thanks to a series of grants, the system could be operational as early as the fall.

How will it work? The sensors buried beneath the pavement will continuously measure traffic volumes and speeds. The data from the sensors are transmitted by fiber optics to a server in Village Hall where staff will be able to optimize signal timing based on the actual traffic conditions at any given time.

The system also will automatically alert Village staff when a problem occurs with a signal.



Monitoring real-time traffic flow in the Village.

Funding for the traffic management system — or TMS, as it is known in the industry — is from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant.

The Village owns and operates signals at 40 intersections and the grants have covered the cost of implementing the

system on 35 of the 40 lights. An application for additional CMAQ funds to bring the final five intersections into the system will be submitted later this year.

For more information on the traffic management system, contact the Engineering Division at publicworks@oak-park.us or call 358.5700.

Village seeking volunteers for market research



Are you a shopaholic or a convenience shopper? Do you know where to go for the hottest deals and best prices in the Chicagoland area? Is there something missing in your neighborhood or in Oak Park? If you have the scoop on shopping, the Village needs your help. Volunteers are being sought to help assess retail needs and target business recruitment efforts to better meet the desires and needs of the community. The volunteers will participate in group discussions designed to help articulate attributes of great shopping locations, define stores every community needs and identify potential additions to the Oak Park retail

community. Participation will be limited to residents 14 years old or older, and participants will be selected to provide a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. The volunteers’ work should be completed within 90 days. Any Oak Parker with an interest in participating should call 358.5642 or e-mail village@oak-park.us to obtain an application.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Electronics recycling event...Residents are invited to recycle old electronic items from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., June 15 and 16 in the northwest student parking lot at Triton College, 2000 Fifth Ave., River Grove. Acceptable items include computer equipment, printers, telephones, answering machines, cellular phones, fax machines, televisions, videocassette recorders, stereo equipment, floppy disks, compact discs and tapes. A \$5 co-pay will be charged for each computer monitor and TV set to help offset disposal costs. Call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Downtown preservation...The Historic Preservation Commission and representatives of the business community will meet at 7:30 p.m., Tues., June 19, at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. 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. For more information call 358.5417 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.

Car-free Sundays...To reduce congestion, promote healthier living and encourage family bicycling, the Environment & Energy Commission invites Oak Parkers to participate in Car-Free Sunday held the last Sunday of each month, beginning June 24. Residents are urged to leave their cars at home and walk, bike, use mass transit or take the free Oak Park Shuttle. For more information call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Wright District survey update...An update on the survey currently underway to better document the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District's extensive collection of late 19th and early 20th century residential architecture is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., June 27, at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. The program is sponsored by the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission. For more information, call 358.5417 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.



Bicycles needed...*Working Bikes*, a not-for-profit cooperative that diverts bicycles from Chicago area landfills by repairing them for sale and charity, will be collecting bicycles from 2 – 4 p.m., Sun., June 17, in the parking lot of First United Church, 848 Lake St. Last year, 5,000 donated bikes were shipped to developing countries and more than 1,000 bikes given locally to U.S. recipients. For more information call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

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:

- **Nature story time:** Nature-inspired stories, crafts and activities for ages 3 – 5 with an adult. 10:30 a.m., Fridays, June 1, 15 and 29. \$1 per child.
- **Tree walk and talk:** Stroll through Thatcher Woods, while learning to identify some trees by leaf, bark and habitat, and discussing their importance to humans and wildlife. 1 p.m., Sun., June 3. Adults only. Free. Call 366.6530 to register.
- **Parent/child fishing clinic:** Learn to bait hooks, cast and fish. No fishing license required. Equipment provided or bring your own. 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., Sat., June 9. Call 366.6530 to register.
- **Early morning fitness hike:** Brisk naturalist-led, one-hour hike. 8 a.m., Sat. June 16. Free. Meet at museum entrance.
- **Logs of life:** Parent/child off-trail walk in the woods to discover the small creatures and plants that call logs home. 1 p.m., Sun., June 17. Free.
- **Slimy world:** What do slugs, worms, fish and frogs have in common? Slime. Meet these critters and learn why they are so gooey, then make organic slime to take home. 1 p.m., Sun., June 24. Children ages 8 – 12. \$1 per child. Call 366.6530 to register.
- **Fish camp:** Over four days, children 8 – 12 will learn to identify fish, bait hooks, cast and fish. Also, learn about fishing safety and knot tying. All fishing equipment provided. Off-site fishing excursion and picnic lunch on last day. 9 – 11 a.m., June 25 – 28. \$15 per child. Call 366.6530 to register.

Need parking? Check the clearing house

If you need a place to park your car and there are no suitable public spaces, a private spot — even a garage — may be available right in your neighborhood. The Village maintains a list of private property owners who have parking spaces available for rent throughout the Village. The list may be reviewed in person from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, in the Parking Permit Office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The list cannot be reviewed via telephone or faxed. The Village does not manage the spaces or negotiate fees, but only helps private parties make contact. Anyone with a space available can contact the Village to add their property to the list. Call 358.7275 or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.

Volunteers honored



Dana Fager and Collette Lueck.

Collette Lueck, who served nearly 10 years on the Plan Commission, and Dana Fager, an Oak Park and River Forest High School student who promoted student involvement in the community, were named Oak Park's Volunteers of the Year. The award is presented each year to residents whose involvement in the community through one of the Village's boards and commissions goes above and beyond the call of duty. Lueck, a long-time resident of Oak Park, was first appointed to the Plan Commission in 1997, later becoming the commission chairperson. Fager, a graduating senior at OPRF High School who worked to get students involved in boards and commissions, was appointed to the Citizen Involvement Commission in 2005. Thirty-seven commissioners whose terms expired in 2006 also were given certificates of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. The awards were presented by the Citizen Involvement Commission whose volunteers recruit, interview and recommend individuals for the more than 25 citizen boards and commissions that advise the Village Board. For more information about opportunities to serve on a Village board or commission call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

Environmental initiatives earn accolades

Oak Park has been designated a *Platinum Community* by Clean Air Counts, a regional initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, City of Chicago and the Illinois EPA. The designation was based on Oak Park's demonstrated commitment to the environment and leadership with initiatives including:

- Creating the multi-modal station downtown that links mass transit systems
- Implementing the free Oak Park Shuttle
- Installing a compressed natural gas fueling station
- Expanding the municipal fleet of alternate fuel vehicles
- Purchasing *Energy Star* office equipment
- Conducting a gasoline-powered lawn care equipment exchange
- Maintaining natural grass plantings in commercial planters and landscaped areas
- Adopting seasonal leaf blower restrictions
- Using public education to encourage residents to reduce pollution on Ozone Action Days
- Adopting policies to use low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints and cleaning products in public buildings
- Converting traffic signals and emergency vehicle lighting systems to LEDs
- Installing energy efficient induction street lights in select areas
- Increasing bike rack installations
- Adopting the International Energy Conservation Code
- Constructing a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rated Public Works facility
- Supporting the Suburban Bike Ambassador program in partnership with the Chicago Bike Federation
- Enhancing public education efforts to promote Clean Air Counts programs



The Oak Park Shuttle

Other environmental programs cited include the paint exchange, annual family bicycling event and creating a range of educational materials such as the *Recycling Resource Guide*. For more information on the Village's recycling and environmental programs call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us. Information about Clean Air Counts is available at www.cleanaircounts.org.

Plastic bags now recyclable

In response to citizen requests, the Village's recycling program has been expanded to include plastic shopping bags. Empty bags — with no receipts or other materials — should be combined into one bag, which is tied shut and then placed in the blue cart or bin. However, residents should not put other recyclable materials into plastic bags before placing them into the recycling container. Instead, loosely combine recyclables such as glass, cans, paper and cardboard in the blue container. To reduce the number of plastic bags, consider carrying a reusable cloth bag. For more information on the Village's recycling program, visit the Public Works Department page at www.oak-park.us, call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Farmers' Market opens 32nd season



The Oak Park Farmers' Market opens for its 32nd season on Sat., June 2. The market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue and is open from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday from June through October. 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. Prepackaged frozen meat, poultry and fish are available as well. The Oak Park Farmers' Market also features unique items for sale to help support market administration. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 358.5780.

HEALTH NEWS

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

Cooling Centers open...When the heat index exceeds 100 degrees for three consecutive days or when the National Weather Center declares a heat emergency, residents can find relief at cooling centers in local hospitals. Resurrection Health Care, 3 Erie Court, opens its cooling center from 6:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., and the center at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave., is open from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. If transportation to a cooling center is needed, call the police non-emergency number 386.3800. For more information call 358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

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 are charged a nominal fee based on income. Appointments are required. Call 358.5481.

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. Screenings are offered every second Monday at Maze Library, 845 S. Gunderson and every second Saturday 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.

Free health lectures...are scheduled for June at the West Cook YMCA, 255 S. Marion St. – *Six Secrets to a Healthy Child*, 7 p.m., Thurs., June 7; *Osteoporosis and Bone Health*, 7 p.m., Thurs. June 14; *Peak Performance*, 7:30 p.m., Wed., June 20. For more information call 383.5200.

Living well with a chronic disease...A program is available to help residents with chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and arthritis learn to deal physically and emotionally with their disease, communicate effectively with family, friends and doctors, and evaluate new treatments. Classes meet weekly for six weeks. Call 358.5491 for information on the next class.

VOP-TV6 on the web

Selected original programming created for VOP-TV6, the Village's cable television station, can now be viewed on the web – including the video version of this issue of the *OP/FYI* newsletter. You will need *Windows Media Player* to view the videos. Regular Village Board meetings are broadcast live on VOP-TV6 the first and third Mondays of each month and replayed at 11 a.m., Sunday and Tuesday, and 7 p.m., Wednesday. Live broadcasts of other Village Board meetings vary, but they are replayed at 11 a.m., Thursday and Saturday, and 7 p.m., Tuesday. For more information on VOP-TV6 call 358.5770 or e-mail village@oak-park.us.

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

WEST NILE VIRUS UPDATE

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

Village to focus on prevention

With samples of mosquitoes already testing positive for West Nile Virus, the Village has launched its community education and prevention program. The focus this year will continue to be on helping residents reduce the mosquito population and the chances of being bitten, steps experts say are the best ways to control the disease. Information is being disseminated to the community through a variety of media, including the Village's cable television station VOP-TV6 and website www.oak-park.us. Staff also will participate in public forums and distribute a variety of educational materials such as brochures and posters. Anyone interested in a presentation or the materials should call the West Nile Virus Hotline, 358.5694. Meanwhile, the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District will be treating all street catch basins with larvicide every seven to 10 days during the mosquito breeding season. The abatement district also will treat catch basins on private property by request, provide information on acquiring mosquito-larvae-

eating gambusia fish for ornamental ponds and pick up old vehicle tires. Call 447.1765 or visit www.desplainsvalleymad.com for more information.

Dead bird collection suspended

While the Illinois Department of Public Health will be keeping tabs on the spread of West Nile Virus by testing dead birds, no birds are being collected in Oak Park at this time. The state limits the numbers of birds collected in specific geographic areas to create a sample that is a better statistical representation of the spread of the virus. Residents who find dead birds should place them in plastic bags and dispose of them in the garbage, taking care not to touch the carcass, since birds typically carry parasites that can be harmful to humans.

Spraying notification sign-up offered online

Residents who wish to be notified when the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District has scheduled spraying for adult mosquitoes can sign up online at www.oak-park.us. Residents who sign up will be notified by an automated tele-



phone system or e-mail as soon as possible following a decision by the mosquito abatement district to spray in Oak Park. For information on spraying visit www.desplainsvalleymad.com.

Prevention tips

- Eliminate places that might collect water where mosquitoes can lay eggs, such as weeds, tall grass and discarded tires. Even depressions in the ground or a discarded bottle cap can be a potential mosquito-breeding site.
- Regularly empty and clean containers such as birdbaths, wading pools and ceramic garden pots.
- Keep gutters clean. Clogged roof gutters can easily hold enough water to be a major mosquito larvae reservoir.
- Avoid the outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Or wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors at these times.
- Use mosquito repellents, being sure to follow manufacturer's directions. Repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m toluamide) and Picaridin (KBR 3023) are considered the most effective.

More information is posted on the Public Health pages of the Village's website, www.oak-park.us, including links to state and federal information resources.

Grant to fund programs to curb bullying

The Oak Park Police Department was one of only seven departments in the western suburbs of Chicago to receive a state grant to implement anti-bullying initiatives in schools. The \$50,000 grant will be used for programs in Oak Park's two middle schools during the next school year. A survey of middle school students will help determine exactly what the problems are and where they are occurring as a basis for the local anti-bullying initiatives. Middle school students already have named the Oak Park program *STAND*, or Students Taking Action in New Directions. A bullying hotline — 708.434.1638 — has been set up and teachers in the middle schools will have been trained by fall semester using a nationally recognized program designed to reduce bullying among children, improve the social climate of classrooms and reduce related antisocial behaviors, such as vandalism and truancy. Police expect a public launch of *STAND* in August to coincide with the beginning of the new school year. For more information on the grant or other community policing initiatives, call 386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.



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



Village President David Pope

Trustees

Jon Hale
John Hedges
Ray Johnson
Greg Marsey
Jan Pate

Village Clerk Sandra Sokol
Village Manager Thomas W. Barwin

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Volunteers needed

Time running out to be in July 4th parade

June 8 is the deadline for clubs and organizations to register to participate in the seventh annual July 4th Independence Day Parade. Registration forms are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., via e-mail to community@oak-park.us or the Village website www.oak-park.us — just mouse over the *Living* tab, click on *Forms* and look for the link. Owners of motorized vehicles must provide proof of insurance with their registration. The parade is organized by the Community Relations Commission not only to celebrate the nation’s birthday, but also to celebrate Oak Park’s — and the nation’s — diversity. Volunteers are needed to help from about 9 a.m. to noon the day of the parade. Volunteers will receive a free pass to the Lake Theater, a shirt and other items in appreciation for their help. Participants will line-up at 9 a.m. at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street. The parade will begin at 10 a.m., marching north on Ridgeland and ending in Taylor Park at Division Street. A keynote address is planned for after the parade, along with a children’s concert sponsored by the Park District of Oak Park. For information on the parade, a registration form or to volunteer, call 358.5406 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Cavalcade of Pride nominations sought

Nominations are now being sought for the annual *Cavalcade of Pride* awards, which honor property owners who have done an exceptional job of maintaining and improving the exteriors of their homes and businesses. The Community Design Commission will present awards to owners of nine single-family houses, one or two multi-unit buildings, one or more commercial buildings, two gardens, one entire block and one property in an adjoining community. Two special awards for a non-residential, noncommercial structure also will be given. Other awards include best transformed property, best new business sign and best parking lot beautification. To nominate a property, pick up a form at the customer service desk of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Deadline for nominations is July 6. For more information call 358.5644 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.

Renew online

Deadline nears for vehicle sticker renewals

June 30 is the deadline for purchasing and displaying a 2007/08 vehicle license sticker. Residents who received renewal notices in the mail can renew online with a credit/debit card at www.oak-park.us. Every vehicle in Oak Park must display a current decal by the deadline or be subject to a \$21 per ticket — plus double the vehicle sticker purchase price. The purchase of a vehicle sticker also is the first step in obtaining a Village parking permit. Vehicle owners who renew online can update most personal information, including address, telephone number and vehicle details. Residents will still have the option of mailing in their renewal payment or dropping it off at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The Office of the Village Clerk will be open for renewals in June from 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Saturdays. For more information call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.