

Lake & Forest project promises new parking, economic benefits



A development proposed for the northeast corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue could be one of the single most important community development ventures proposed for Oak Park in years.

The project is a mixed-use development that would transform the site of an aging, out-dated public parking garage into a new, modern enclosed

parking structure surrounded by 28,000 square feet of retail space, 85 condominiums and a quality name-brand, 140-room hotel. The fixed investment by the Village is for the construction of the public portion of the new parking garage — a prospect the community is facing with or without the adjoining development.

The project began as a public discussion of great architecture in the spring of 2007. Now, after nearly three years, 17 public meetings and many hours of public debate, the Village has a redevelopment agreement that embodies the community's vision first articulated in 2007.

Here are the details:

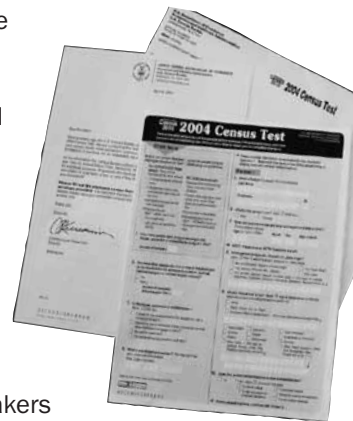
- The Village needs to replace the outdated, deteriorating 340-space Lake & Forest Parking Garage. The plan under consideration would build a new public parking facility surrounded by a private development that will generate substantial new property and sales tax revenue.
- The Village would pay to build 300 spaces in the new 510-space parking garage at an estimated cost not to exceed \$9.8 million. Since the money to rebuild the garage will need to be spent anyway, this is an opportunity to partner with the adjacent property owner for a project that will not just provide parking, but also produce substantial new property and sales tax dollars, and create jobs. Upon completion of the new development, the Village will continue to own the public parking garage and the land upon which it sits.
- The proposed new garage will have 510 parking spaces, an increase of 170 spaces over the current garage. Of these total spaces, 425 would be dedicated to general public parking and 85 to the condominium owners. The Village would

continued on page 2

United States[®] Census 2010

Oak Parkers who take a few minutes to answer 10 simple questions will be helping to make sure the community gets its fair share of the billions of dollars in federal funds distributed each year to various governments. Forms for the 2010 Census soon will arrive in mailboxes for the April 1 official population count day. Residents who do not return the questionnaire by the end of April can expect a visit from a census taker in May through July, as efforts focus on making sure the constitutionally mandated count is as accurate as possible. All information provided to the Census Bureau is used for statistical purposes only, and is strictly confidential. With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home. The questions are intended to gather information

about how we live as a nation, our diversity, education, housing and jobs. In addition to grant funding, accurate census data also helps determine congressional representation and guides local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, housing, schools, places of worship and more. For more information, visit 2010census.gov or contact the Office of the Village Clerk at 708.358.5670 or clerk@oak-park.us.



Nominations sought for public health awards

Nominations now are being accepted for those who made exceptional contributions to improving the health of Oak Parkers in 2009. The Oak Park Department of Public Health will honor those individuals and organizations with the William Fitzsimmons Award during 2010 Public Health Week, April 5 - 11. The nomination deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, March 26. A nomination form may be downloaded at www.oak-park.us/health — look for the link along the right margin. Nomination forms also are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Completed forms should be mailed to or dropped off at the Oak Park Department of Public Health, Village Hall, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302, Attn: Public Health Awards. Nominations also may be sent via e-mail to health@oak-park.us. Nominations submitted via e-mail should include responses to all fields listed in the original nomination form. The Fitzsimmons Award is named for local physician and humanitarian William Fitzsimmons who served as the Health Department's medical consultant from 1976 to 1992. For more information on the awards program, call 708.358.5487 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

HOUSING NEWS

www.oak-park.us/housing

Condo management training...The Village has partnered with the Association of Condominium, Townhouse and Homeowners Associations (ACTHA) to sponsor a training program to help associations increase their knowledge of proven practices of successful associations. The curriculum is designed for individuals who currently are on an association board, thinking of joining a board or want to understand how an association should operate. All sessions are from 7 - 9 p.m., at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. No advance registration or fee is required unless an attendee is interested in pursuing certification. The curriculum consists of the following course modules:

- **April 21:** Governance of the Association
- **May 19:** Administration of the Association
- **June 9:** Meetings/ Elections of an Association
- **June 16:** Physical Aspects of the Building
- **June 30:** Financial Aspects of an Association
- **July 14:** Risk Management of an Association

For more information, call 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us. Individuals interested in certification should call 312.987.1906 or e-mail gael@actha.org.

Annual manager seminar...The annual multi-family building management seminar will be held on March 10. Two sessions will be offered — a morning session from 10 a.m. - noon and an evening session from 7 - 9 p.m., at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Among the topics will be fair housing including new protections for persons with an order of protection, new lead-based paint rules, how the Village and the Housing Authority work together to coordinate apartment inspections, and how to work with the Village to ensure residents are counted in the 2010 census. For details, e-mail housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.



Single-family rehab loans...No interest loans of up to \$25,000 for owners of single-family houses are available to correct health and safety issues and building code violations. Loans are repayable after 20 years or when the property is transferred. The loan is placed as a junior mortgage against the property. Income guidelines apply. For details, e-mail housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.

Lake & Forest proposal

continued from page 1

pay for only 300 of the public spaces, while the developer would pay for all remaining spaces.

- No property tax dollars have been offered or would be paid to a new hotel operator. The Village has agreed to rebate a portion of the hotel/motel taxes collected by the new hotel, the actual amount of rebate based on occupancy. The maximum rebate would be \$250,000 a year for the first two years. The hotel/motel tax is paid by guests at the hotel, not by residents of the community.

Even though the development proposed for Lake & Forest has been thoroughly vetted in the public arena, the project still is a long way from a reality. As a privately financed, multimillion-dollar project, economic factors beyond Village control will determine if — and when — actual construction begins. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/planning.



Smart meters for all

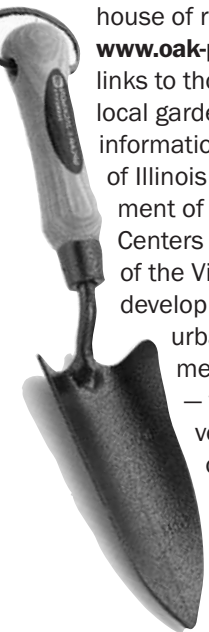
Most of the 27,500 new smart electric meters earmarked for Oak Park should now be in place, giving consumers a tool to monitor their electricity use. Every home and business in Oak Park is included in the ComEd pilot program of more than 100,000 locations in the Chicagoland area. The new meters will provide information consumers can use to reduce energy costs by choosing to use electricity at times when demand — and rates — decrease. A share of regional pilot building sites also will test various enhanced versions of the new meters, including ones connected to in-home readers that provide real-time use information on a digital screen. If you are interested in acquiring an in-home device, call 888.456.1020.

Farmers' Market seeking volunteers

Volunteers are now being sought to become Friends of the Oak Park Farmers' Market, with plans well underway for the May 22 opening of the 35th season. Friends of the Market become part of this quintessential Village summer experience by helping out at the Commissioners' Booth on Saturday mornings, volunteering at special events and contributing to the smooth running of the market. The annual Friends' Recruitment Night is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., May 4 at the Main Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. The market is open from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m., every Saturday morning, from opening day through October, in the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake St. For information on volunteering, e-mail melissawittenberg@sbcglobal.net, call 708.358.5780 or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Gardening initiative continues

Since the Village, in cooperation with the local gardening community, began an effort last year to spread the word about how urban gardening can work here, suggestions from residents who have long grown vegetables in their yards have poured in to the Health Department, which is overseeing the program. The volume of information available to would-be home gardeners helped define the initial role of the Village as one of providing a clearing-house of resources. Visitors who go to www.oak-park.us/gardening will find links to those entities most cited by local gardeners as the best sources of information, including the University of Illinois Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and even the Centers for Disease Control. The goal of the Village's grow-local effort is to develop ways to educate and promote urban agriculture as an environmentally friendlier – and tastier – way to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to the dining tables of Oak Parkers. For more information on urban gardening in Oak Park, e-mail health@oak-park.us.



Green News

www.oak-park.us/environment

Earth Fest...In honor of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, the Village is encouraging activities throughout the community on Sat., April 24. The Village's first Earth Fest is intended to spread awareness about environmental issues, support environmental initiatives, highlight Oak Park's dedication to sustainability and build momentum for the environmental movement. A kid-friendly indoor festival featuring eco-related activities will be held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Oak Park Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Local businesses and organizations are encouraged to purchase booth space to sell their wares or distribute information. In addition, local businesses are invited to host their own Earth Day sales, activities or events. For example, local restaurants may offer a sustainable/local menu on this day, or a retail store may offer a discount on recycled wares. For more information on participating, call 708.358.5778 or e-mail village@oak-park.us.



Great Paint Exchange...On Sat., April 17, residents may safely dispose of unwanted, but useable paint at The Great Paint Exchange. Half-to-full cans of paint will be accepted from 9 – 11 a.m. at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Anyone in need of paint may pick it up from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



Unneeded medication disposal...Residents can drop off unneeded medications from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., Sat., April 10 at the Public Works Center at 201 South Blvd. This one-day collection event is sponsored by the Environment & Energy Commission, the Cook County Department of Environmental Control and the Oak Park Board of Health. For more information, call 708.358-5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Earth Hour...Oak Parkers are invited to turn off their lights for one hour beginning at 8 p.m., Sat., March 27, to stand up, take responsibility for and get involved in working toward a sustainable future. When Earth Hour was launched in 2007, 2.2 million people took part in Sydney, Australia. Last year, nearly one billion people in 4,100 cities in 87 countries on seven continents participated. In the U.S. alone, 80 million Americans and 318 cities officially voted for action with their light switch. For more information visit www.earthhour.org.

Green Tuesdays...The Environment & Energy Commission has partnered with local organizations to present a series of lectures focusing on environmental issues. Speakers will provide regional, local and operational insights on each topic. Lectures will be held from 7 – 9 p.m., at the Oak Park Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us. Scheduled sessions are:

- **April 6 – Our Community Garden:** Understanding the benefits of creating a community garden to support locally grown vegetables, container gardening and composting.
- **April 13 – Energy Conservation:** Learn about the ComEd Challenge, smart meters and incentives available for energy efficient initiatives.
- **April 20 – OPRF Community Foundation Sustainability Vision Planning:** General overview of the planning process, baseline indicator measurements and outreach efforts for community input.
- **April 27 – What's New in Waste:** Current recycling and waste diversion efforts, new programs and future projects.

POLICE NEWS

www.oak-park.us/police



Enforcing cell phone use regulations...

Police are aggressively enforcing new state guidelines on texting and calling from a cell phone while driving, distractions that put everyone at risk. Under the new state regulations that went into effect on January 1, motorists are prohibited from using cell or smart phones to compose, send or read electronic messages while driving. Talking

on a cell phone while driving through a school or construction speed zone also is a violation. The new law does not apply to using a cell phone that is in hands-free or voice-activated mode.

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 the R-U-O-K (are you okay) program. 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 708.383.8060 for more information or to register for this free service.

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 consider seeking assistance from friends and family first, since officers may be needed for emergency calls. Call 708.386.3800 for information or an escort.

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 in the community. 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.

Ask for identification...Should an individual come to your home claiming to be a representative of a public utility or the Village, be sure to ask for identification. All Village employees, including building inspectors, as well as employees of all public utilities, carry official identification and display it. If you have doubt about the identity of an individual knocking on your door, call 9-1-1.



Crime Tip Hot Line...Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activity to the Police Department's Crime Tip Hot Line at 708.434.1636. All callers will remain anonymous. Anonymous tips also can be made at www.oak-park.us/police. In an emergency, always call 9-1-1.

Crime maps online...Crimes reported by location are listed on maps posted daily on the Police Department section of the Village web site, www.oak-park.us/police. Residents are urged to direct any questions and tips to their RBO — either by telephone, e-mail or at the regular neighborhood meeting.



Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1...Oak Park's community policing approach relies on residents taking an active role. If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 immediately. For more information on the Community Policing Program,

or to contact your Resident Beat Officer, call 708.386.3800 or visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Parking survey coming

Residents within the area bounded by Chicago Avenue, North Boulevard, Linden Street and Forest Avenue will soon have an opportunity to participate in a survey to help the Village assess the impacts of recent changes to overnight on-street parking rules. The mail survey should be returned to the Village by March 26. For more information, call 708.358.7275 or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.



Clip and Save

Who to Call at Village Hall

Dial Direct (area code 708)

TTY	711
Automated 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	358.5420
Business Services	358.5648
Housing	358.5410
Historic Preservation	358.5417
Zoning	358.5449
Community Relations	358.5405
Graffiti Hotline	358.5429
Neighborhood Programs	358.5405
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (non-emergency)	445.3300
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Police (non-emergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	
Day Parking Passes	358.DAYS
Night Parking Passes	358.NITE
Parking Office	358.PARK
Snow Hotline	358.SNOW
Extended Passes	358.5750
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770
Village Web Site	www.oak-park.us
Police, Fire and Medical	
EMERGENCIES	911

Local groups, volunteers needed for A Day in Our Village



Planning is well underway for the 37th annual A Day in Our Village, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement, scheduled for Sun., June 6. Local groups wishing to attract volunteers, clients or new members, and civic-minded volunteers are invited to participate. Last year more than 150 Oak Park organizations set up activity and information booths in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue, local restaurants

sold food nearby and the Park District of Oak Park sponsored activities in Rehm Park. In addition to participants, volunteers are needed to donate an hour or two of time well before the event, distributing promotional literature and hanging posters around the community. Volunteers also are needed to help on the day of the event. For more information on participating or volunteering to help with the 2010 A Day in Our Village celebration, call 708.358.5420 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Bike lanes planned

Plans now are underway to install Oak Park's first bike lanes on Chicago Avenue and Division Street. Plans also call for shared bike lanes on Augusta Boulevard along with bicycling wayfinding signs throughout the Village. These bike improvements are part of a 10-year plan approved in September 2008 that calls for bike-related features on nearly 30 percent of Oak Park roads. Work on the first bike lanes is expected to occur during the spring and summer. The bikeways are funded through the federal Congestions Mitigation and Air Quality program. The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program is funding the wayfinding project. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Pet owners urged to renew licenses online

Oak Park pet owners who receive an animal license renewal application in the mail are encouraged to renew online at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices. Pet owners also can delete pets they no longer own and add new ones. Payment is made with a credit card, a receipt sent via e-mail and the actual tag delivered in the U.S. Mail. Pet owners still will have the option of mailing in their payment or coming to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. All dogs and outdoor cats are required to display a current animal license by May 1. The license fee is \$10 for a neutered/spayed dog and all cats, and \$13 for any non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Proof of a current rabies inoculation and spaying/neutering is required for licensing. For more information call 708.358.5680 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.



Stop smoking help available

Free smoking cessation patches and counseling are available 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 708.358.5491 or e-mail health@oak-park.us for more information.

CPR classes offered

The Oak Park Fire Department offers a variety of life-saving classes including CPR and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Four different classes are offered – Infant/Child CPR, Heartsaver/First Aid, Heartsaver/AED and CPR/AED training for health care providers. Classes are held from 6 – 10 p.m. at the Department's certified American Heart Association community training center in the main fire station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. All courses are taught by an AHA-certified instructor. Classes are free for Oak Park residents, but a \$12 CPR or \$8.50 first aid textbook fee payable by check or money order is required. The non-resident class fee is \$50. In-person registration is recommended at least two weeks prior to the date of the desired course. For more details or to register for any of the offered courses, contact the Fire Department at 708.445.3300 or e-mail fire@oak-park.us.



2010 Course Schedule

Infant/Child Mondays

March 15
April 5
May 17
June 7
July 19
August 30
September 20
October 11
November 1
December 13

Heartsaver/AED Wednesdays

March 3 & 17
April 7 & 21
May 5 & 19
June 2 & 16
July 7 & 21
August 4 & 18
September 1 & 15
October 6 & 20
November 3 & 17
December 1 & 15

Heartsaver/First Aid Tuesdays

March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14

Healthcare Provider/AED Wednesdays

March 24
April 28
May 26
June 23
July 28
August 25
September 22
October 27
November 24
December 2



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



OP/FM

Village President David Pope

Trustees

Glenn Brewer
Jon Hale
John Hedges
Ray Johnson
Colette Lueck
Jan Pate

Village Clerk Teresa Powell
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

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

www.oak-park.us



Acting fire chief named

Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Ebsen was named acting fire chief to succeed Chief William Bell who retired recently after nearly 30 years of service to the community. Ebsen, who began his career with the Oak Park Fire Department in 1980, has served in numerous capacities including firefighter, fire inspector and paramedic. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1989 and then battalion chief in 1994, a position he held until he became deputy chief in 2005. Ebsen holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Elmhurst College and in 2009 completed the Executive Fire Officer

Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Ebsen also has completed numerous courses on fire protection systems and fire investigation. The son of an Oak Park firefighter, Ebsen was born and raised in the Village. For more information on the Oak Park Fire Department, visit www.oak-park.us/fire.



New adjudication director selected

An administrative law judge with extensive experience as an arbitrator and attorney has been selected to manage the Village of Oak Park's Office of Administrative Adjudication. Robert H. Anderson of Chicago was chosen from more than 30 applicants to head the Village's in-house program that hears civil cases related to a wide range of local ordinance violations, including parking tickets and building and health code citations. Anderson, formerly an administrative law judge with Oak Park, has served as an arbitrator for the

Better Business Bureau in Chicago and a hearing officer for the Chicago Public Schools. He also was an arbitrator with Cook County. He succeeds Wayne Moran who left Oak Park to set up a Cook County program for adjudicating misdemeanors and code violations. Anderson has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Roosevelt University and a Juris Doctor degree from the DePaul University College of Law. For more information on Oak Park's adjudication program, including a list of the types of violations heard, visit www.oak-park.us/adjudication.

New lead paint rules adopted



Oak Parkers planning on a renovation, repair or painting project should be aware of new lead paint rules that go into affect in April. Under the new rules, contractors performing work that may disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities and schools built before 1978 – about 80 percent of Oak park – must be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. All contractors also must provide homeowners with information regarding lead-based paint and include appropriate disclosures. Homeowners should ask contractors for proof of registration and certification prior to hiring. Common activities like sanding, cutting and demolition can create lead hazards that can be harmful to children and adults. In 2008, more than 5,000 Illinois children had elevated blood lead levels. This new federal law has the potential to significantly decrease childhood lead poisoning. For more information, call 217.782.3517 or visit www.epa.gov/lead.