



The future view north along Marion Street from North Boulevard. To see this artist's rendition in color, visit [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).

## Marion Street renaissance about to begin

**A**fter months of study and public input, a creative combination of the best of the past and a vision for the future has a single block of Marion Street poised to create a renaissance in the heart of downtown Oak Park.

The concept, created by representatives from the Village Board, downtown businesses, citizen commissions, Village staff and professional consultants, is set to begin the transformation from idea to reality beginning next month. And if all goes according to plans, the new Marion Street should be finished before Thanksgiving.

This portion of Marion Street from North Boulevard to Lake Street is the last remnant of a pedestrian-only mall created in 1974. The mall portions that included Lake Street from Forest Avenue to Harlem Avenue, and a half block of Marion north of Lake, were reopened to traffic in 1988. According to both outside experts and downtown merchants, eliminating this last section of the mall is critical to the economic future of the area.

But the plans for Marion Street are much grander than just reopening the street. High-quality materials have been carefully incorporated into a streetscape design that is rooted in the past, but meets modern demands for access, lighting and maintenance. Brick pavers will provide a road surface similar to the original early 20th century street, while bluestone sidewalks and granite curbs will lend a simple, yet timeless quality in keeping with the historic character of the downtown area.

Two-way traffic will be allowed on Marion, but narrow driving lanes and rough brick surface are designed to work together to reduce vehicle speed and remind drivers that while their vehicles are allowed, the space is primarily for pedestrians.

Limited on-street parking will be accommodated, and a new pocket lot is planned for the empty lot just south of Cold Stone Creamery. The discrete, land-

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## Public invited to help pursue great architecture downtown

**H**ow can Oak Park pursue great architecture downtown? That's the question residents and business owners may help answer for the northeast corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue, a site slated for redevelopment by its private owner. A request to consider incorporating an expanded public parking garage in the project has given the community a role in helping shape the design for the corner. A public meeting to discuss the process is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wed., March 14, at the 19th Century Club, 178 Forest Ave. Participants will revisit the Greater Downtown Master Plan, review current zoning regulations and discuss potential uses for site. But the most important role residents may play is helping create a strategy for making sure whatever is ultimately built at this key downtown location will enhance Oak Park's reputation for architectural significance. Among the possible approaches to creating a memorable building is a design competition. Architects from the Midwest and possibly beyond could be invited to offer ideas for the site, which, because of its proximity to the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District, may be an incentive to participate. The need to quickly bring the community into the process became evident when the owner of the site expressed a desire to incorporate the Forest & Lake Garage property into a redevelopment design. The downtown master plan had envisioned an expanded parking garage in future redevelopment of the site. For more information, call 358.5648 or e-mail [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us).

## Marion Street renaissance

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scaped lot will provide about two-dozen new parking spaces, and can easily be transformed to additional green space or developed as future needs dictate.

Sidewalks will range from about 10 feet to 18 feet wide, creating opportunities for outdoor dining, benches and bicycle parking. Trees and moveable planters will provide shade, color and visual interest.

The redesign contemplates closing Marion Street for special events and street festivals, while maintaining year-round economic viability.

Lighting fixtures will create the gateways to the new Marion Street space. The round globes are modern reproductions of the fixtures that lined the street in the 1920s.

A portion of Westgate Street is part of the plan, too, but traffic will be limited to one-way west bound. Westgate will join Marion at a raised speed table intended to physically announce the pedestrian crossing as well as be an ideal central location for street festivals. Slim metal arches will cross from each corner of the Marion and Westgate intersection to form a canopy with a hanging lighting fixture at its center.

Other features under consideration include a system to capture storm run off for watering the trees and plantings, and an under-surface electric or geothermal system to melt snow from the sidewalks.

Enhancements to the intersection of Lake and Marion are planned as well, including dedicated left turn lanes for eastbound traffic on Lake Street and southbound Marion Street traffic at Lake.

For more information on the Marion Street project, call 358.5648 or e-mail [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us). Information and progress reports also will be posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).



Looking east along Westgate Street. See it in color at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).

### Marion Street Design Team

Tom Barwin, *Village Manager*

Greg Beard, *Community Design Commission*

Jim Budrick, *Village Engineer*

Loretta Daly, *Business Services Manager*

Robert DuBoe, *Metro Transportation*

Craig Failor, *Village Planner*

Scott Freres, *The Lakota Group*

Sonny Ginsberg, *Transportation Commission*

Daniel Grove, *The Lakota Group*

Frank Heitzman, *Oak Park Architectural League*

Willis Johnson, *downtown merchant (Lake Theater)*

Eric Larson, *downtown merchant*

(*Marion Street Cheese Market*)

Bob Lempera, *Historic Preservation Commission*

Frank Lipo, *Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest*

Ed Malone, *Environmental & Energy Commission*

Greg Marsey, *Village Trustee*

Justin Miller, *Strand Associates*

David Pope, *Village President*

Steve Saraceno, *South Marion Business Association (Purple Monkey Studios)*

Carol Yetkin, *landscape architect*

Pat Zubak, *Downtown Oak Park*

## Police, Library to teach skills to avoid web surfing dangers

Oak Park Police have joined forces with the Oak Park

Public Library to give parents and guardians hands-on experience with the Internet, while teaching the skills to protect themselves and their children from the dangers they may encounter surfing the web. The next class is scheduled for 7 – 9 p.m., Tues., March 20 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Space is available to 14 individuals or couples, but additional classes could be added, depending on interest in the class. Topics to be covered include identity theft, *phishing* e-mails, *you-just-won* scams, *blog* sites and cyber bullying. Participants will learn to recognize common Internet dangers, as well how best to deal with them. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 452.3467 or e-mail [police@oak-park.us](mailto:police@oak-park.us).



## Parking survey results to be discussed

The Transportation Commission is expected to schedule a public meeting this month to discuss options for creating more on-street, overnight parking. Results of a survey via the Village web site likely will be part of the discussion. More than 2,100 surveys were completed from mid-December through mid-February. The time, date and location of the meeting had not been determined when the *OP/FYI* went to press. Details will be posted on the *Breaking News* page at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) as they become available. For more information on parking call 358.5750 or e-mail [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us).

## Nominations sought for a range of awards

**Human Relations...**Nominations are being sought for the Oak Park Human Relations Awards, which recognize individuals, non-profit organizations and businesses that have worked toward equality, justice and human rights for all citizens of the Village. The awards highlight outstanding voluntary contributions through areas such as encouraging diversity in the workforce, organizing, promoting and participating in community activities related to human relations issues and demonstrating positive leadership in human relations. Nomination forms are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison and at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — mouse over the *Living in Oak Park* tab, click on *Forms* and look for the link. Deadline for nominations, which may be submitted in person, by mail or e-mail, is 5 p.m., April 30. For more information call 358.5406, or e-mail [community@oak-park.us](mailto:community@oak-park.us).

**Public Health...**Nominations are being sought for 2007 Public Health Awards, which honor individuals and organizations for their exceptional contribution to the health of Oak Parkers. Examples of areas of involvement include environmental health, emergency preparedness, older adult health, maternal and child health, and injury prevention. A nomination form may be downloaded at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — just mouse over the *Departments* tab, click on *Public Health* and look for the link along the right margin. Completed forms should be mailed to or dropped off at the Oak Park Department of Public Health, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302. Nominations sent via e-mail to [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) should include the name, address, telephone number and a brief description of the nominee. Deadline for nominations is March 23. Award recipients will be recognized during public health week, April 2 – 8. For more information call 358.5490 or e-mail [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

**Historic Preservation...**April 13 is the deadline to nominate an Oak Park property for a 2007 Historic Preservation Award. Single-family residences, apartment buildings, commercial buildings, public/institutional buildings and 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. Nomination forms are available at the customer service desk in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., or by e-mail at [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us). A nomination form also can be downloaded from the Village web site [www.oak-park.us](http://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](mailto:planning@oak-park.us).

## Voter registration deadline nears



**V**oters have until Tues., March 20 to register to vote in the April 17 Consolidated Election. Seats up for election include various Village, Township, Park District, Library and school districts 97 and 200 board positions. The deadline also applies to residents who wish to transfer their registration information to a new address in Oak Park. Voters can register at the Office of the Village Clerk, 123 Madison St., or at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. Two types of identification are required to register to vote, at least one with a current address. For more information call 358-5670 or e-mail [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us). For a complete list of important deadlines and voting information visit [www.elections.state.il.us](http://www.elections.state.il.us).

## HEALTH NEWS

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



### Stop smoking help

Free smoking cessation patches and counseling are available at no charge to residents who register through the toll-free *Illinois Tobacco Quitline*, 866.784.8937, and mention that they are part of the Oak Park Department of Public Health's *Break the Habit* program. Meanwhile, the next *Freedom from Smoking* class is scheduled to begin April 17. This six-week program offers the information and motivation needed to quit smoking. Call 358.5490 or e-mail [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) for more information.

### HIV and STD testing

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

### Health screenings

Blood pressure, total cholesterol, high density lipoproteins (HDL), glucose, weight and body mass index screenings are available for a \$20 fee through the *Know Your Numbers* program on every second Monday of the month at Maze Library, 845 S. Gunderson 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 waived if economic hardship demonstrated. Call 358.5481 or e-mail [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) for an appointment.

## Businesses to play key role in downtown historic preservations discussions

The Historic Preservation Commission and representatives of the downtown business community have joined forces to discuss how best to balance the need for economic development with preserving the historic character of the Village's central business district. An advisory committee made up of members from the Historic Preservation Commission and downtown property owners has been formed to review the process to date and determine how to proceed, including fostering broader public participation. The need for the new committee grew from the HPC's recent efforts to foster public discussion of 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. Public input will continue to be a key component of the new committee's approach. Announcements of future meetings will be posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) and broadcast on VOP-TV6, the Village's cable television station. For more information call 358.5417 or e-mail [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us).



Lake Street east from Marion, 1948.

## Mandatory seminar for rental property owners, managers set

The annual mandatory seminar for representatives of multi-family rental property in Oak Park is scheduled for Wed., March 14, in Council Chambers of Village Hall, 123 Madison Street. Owners, managers, janitors and others involved in the rental process of buildings with four or more units are required by Village code to attend one of the two sessions offered by the Community Relations Department. Identical sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The seminar is designed to keep managers informed of Village programs and activities that may affect apartment building operations. A property management resource panel at each session will make presentations on regulations and programs, and a variety of useful materials will be available. While not mandated for owners or managers of rental buildings of three or fewer units, landlords of these smaller properties also are welcome to attend a session. For more information, call 358.5407 or e-mail [community@oak-park.us](mailto:community@oak-park.us).

## 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., March 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 [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us).

## March 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: World's Largest Village
- Recognizing Signs of Stroke
- School Pedestrian Safety
- Oak Park Adjudication

### Regular Village Board Meetings

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

### Study Sessions

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

## 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**

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Graffiti hotline...**Call the 358.5429 to report incidents of graffiti. Village staff will remove graffiti from Village-owned properties. A removal solution will be provided at no cost to private property owners. Call 358.5420 or e-mail [community@oak-park.us](mailto:community@oak-park.us) to learn more.



**Summer workers sought...**Employment interest forms for the 2007 summer season are now being accepted for positions such as lifeguards, camp counselors and park maintenance workers. A full listing of job opportunities will be posted at [www.oakparkparks.com](http://www.oakparkparks.com). The Park District has more than 200 summer seasonal employees and part-time year-round employees at various facilities throughout the community.

**Signs prohibited...**Placing any type of sign in the public right of way such as the parkway space between the sidewalk and the curb is prohibited. The prohibition includes, but is not limited to garage sale signs, political signs, open house signs and contractor signs. For more information call 358.5430 or e-mail [building@oak-park.us](mailto:building@oak-park.us).

**Film permits required...**A permit is required for any residential or commercial property to be used as a location for a television commercial or other filming. Neighbors must be notified by flyer as to when and where the shoot is to occur. If police presence is required, services of off-duty police must be paid by the film crew. For more information call 358.5409 or e-mail [community@oak-park.us](mailto:community@oak-park.us).

**Backing into stalls prohibited...**Backing a vehicle into a parking stall in a Village lot or garage is prohibited because permit decals must appear in the rear window and be visible to enforcement officers. Violators are subject to a \$20 ticket. For more information call 358.PARK or e-mail [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us).

**Get involved...**Residents interested in helping shape Village policy are invited to participate in one of the many volunteer citizen boards, commissions and committees that advise the Board of Trustees. To receive an application form, contact the Village Clerk at 358.5670 or e-mail [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).

**Cable television or modem service problem...**Residents unable to resolve a problem directly with the cable company at 630.716.2000 may contact the Village where a dispute resolution procedure is in place to help. The Village also records and tracks all problems or complaints for cable franchise performance review. For assistance or to register a complaint, contact the Village Manager's Office at 358.5770 or e-mail [village@oak-park.us](mailto:village@oak-park.us).

**Stop solicitors...**To discourage door-to-door solicitors, obtain a no soliciting sticker from the Village Clerk's office, 123 Madison St., to place on or near the front door. Call 358.5670 or e-mail [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).

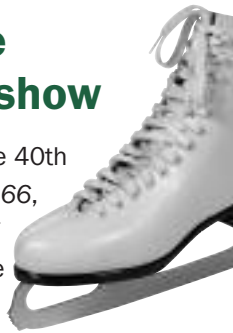
**Avoid paperwork and late fees...**Parking tickets and written appeals can be filed on-line at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — just click on the *Parking Citation* button. Payment may be made with Visa, MasterCard and Discover. For more information call 358.5479 or e-mail [adjudication@oak-park.us](mailto:adjudication@oak-park.us).

## Daylight Savings Time begins earlier this year

**D**aylight Saving Time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sun., March 11, some two weeks earlier than in previous years. Standard Time will return the first Sunday in November, rather than the last Sunday in October. The Oak Park Fire Department recommends that along with springing ahead in March, also taking an extra moment to check the batteries in all smoke detectors. Smoke detectors may be purchased at the Main Fire Station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. For more information, call 445.3300 or e-mail [fire@oak-park.us](mailto:fire@oak-park.us).

## Tickets on sale for annual ice show

**T**ickets are on sale for the 40th Annual Ice Show, Route 66, scheduled for March 16, 17 and 18. Advance tickets are available at Ridgeland Common, 415 W. Lake St. For more information, call 848.9661 or visit [www.oakparkparks.com](http://www.oakparkparks.com).



## Renovations can create health hazard

**R**enovations in buildings with lead-based paint can create serious health hazards by releasing large amounts of lead dust and debris. That's why the Environmental Protection Agency requires paint and other contractors to distribute a lead hazard information pamphlet to housing owners and occupants before conducting renovations in homes built before 1978. For more information call the National Lead Information Center at 800.424.5223 or visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead). For specific local information call 358.5480 or e-mail [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).





Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272

OP/FM

Village President

David Pope

Trustees

Elizabeth Brady

Greg Marsey

Galen Gockel

Robert Milstein

Ray Johnson

Village Clerk

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Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier  
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## Recycling efforts earn Rozmus professional award

Oak Park's long-time champion of recycling, Solid Waste Manager Karen Rozmus, has received a *Professional Manager of the Year* award from the American Public Works Association, Chicago Metro Chapter, and is in the running for national recognition. Recycling-related events Rozmus coordinates, such as the bi-annual paint exchange, which offers a creative mechanism for residents to share and safely recycle usable paint, were key points in her nomination for the award. Rozmus also created a program to provide periodic shredding services to help residents safely recycle unneeded paper containing personal information, and has managed several electronic recycling events. Among Rozmus' more ambitious recycling efforts in Oak Park was her key role in creating a program that replaced the small blue bins with much larger carts. With a tool to recycle more, residents could then opt for a smaller garbage cart and pay a lower collection fee. Rozmus also championed the concept of *single-stream* recycling, which eliminated the need to separate cans, glass and paper, an approach that makes recycling much easier for con-

## 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, as well as pollution emissions, associated with many remanufacturing processes. Oak Park's recycling program allows all materials to be loosely commingled into the blue recycling cart or bin for *single stream* collection by dedicated trucks. Here's what you should put — and not put — in the recycling container:

**What's In?** Glass bottles and jars (all colors). Discard lids and caps. Rinse thoroughly.

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

sumers. Working with others in the community on recycling programs also is a role Rozmus relishes. Her work with Oak Park elementary schools on a worm-composting project helped earn the Governor's *Green Youth Award* for Brooks Middle School students. She also has worked with School District 200 and various business districts to come up with ways to reduce their garbage by recycling more. Among her official duties with the Village, Rozmus is the *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) coordinator for the new Oak Park Public Works Facility, the first municipal public works building in Illinois to meet the national organiza-

tions' tough design standards. She also is the staff liaison to the Village's Environmental and Energy Advisory Commission, citizen volunteers who work to develop sustainable planning standards throughout the community. As a member of American Public Works Association, Rozmus has been actively involved in and held positions with the Solid Waste Agency of North America, Keep Illinois Beautiful, West Cook County Solid Waste Agency, Illinois Recycling Association and, recently, with the Chicago Wilderness Association. For more information on recycling efforts in the Village, call 358.5700 or e-mail [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).