

Renewals begin May 14

Vehicle sticker renewals available online through June

Beginning May 14, Oak Parkers will be able to renew their vehicle stickers online through the Village's website, www.oak-park.us. The online option will be for renewals only and available just through June. Anyone who misses the midnight June 30 deadline will have to do it the old-fashioned way with a trip to Village Hall, and be prepared to pay a penalty.

Renewal forms should be in the mail to current sticker holders on May 11, arriving just as the online payment system goes live. The renewal form will show a unique web identification number that is necessary to access the online renewal system. With this number, vehicle owners will be able to correct or update most data, including address and telephone number, as well as vehicle information, an option that should prove useful to anyone who has changed cars since their 2006 sticker was issued.



Look for this icon at www.oak-park.us.

Payment through the online system must be made with a credit/debit card. Residents will still have the option of paying by check, either via mail or in person at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

New residents and other first-time vehicle sticker purchasers will have to

come in to the Office of the Village Clerk in Village Hall and provide a lease, utility bill or other document showing they live in Oak Park. Purchases also require the vehicle identification (VIN) and license plate numbers.

Any Oak Park resident who owns a vehicle — even if kept in a garage and rarely driven — or any person who uses a vehicle owned by a Village resident is required to purchase and display a vehicle sticker annually by July 1. Failure to display a Village sticker on a resident-owned vehicle can result in a \$21 ticket.

Regular fees are \$45 for passenger vehicles, which are reduced to \$35 for persons 65 years old and older, or who have a handicapped license plate. Class B pick-up truck stickers are \$56, motorcycles \$16 and mopeds \$9. The fee for vehicle stickers for other types of trucks varies by class. The owner of any vehicle that does not display a valid Village vehicle sticker by the deadline must pay double the fee to come into compliance with the local law.

Valid vehicle stickers are required to obtain parking permits. For more information on vehicle stickers, call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.



Cicadas poised to return



Oak Parkers are about to have several hundred thousand new neighbors — at least for six weeks.

The *periodic* cicadas are expected to be back in late May, and the northern Illinois brood has a reputation for being one of the largest emergence of the insect known anywhere. Periodic cicadas — often called the 17-year locusts — pose no real threat to humans. They aren't vegetation-destroying locusts, they don't bite or sting and they don't carry any diseases transmittable to humans. The cicadas may look like a tasty treat to pets, however. While in small numbers they won't hurt animals that eat them, eating too many could lead to digestion problems. As for lawns, cicadas may give away their pending emergence by building thousands of soil chimneys or stovepipes on the ground, especially near mature trees. They emerge through these structures from underground and crawl up trees and shrubs to shed their outer shell and begin their noisy mating ritual. Mature trees will not be harmed by the cicada life cycle. However, small transplanted trees — particularly fruit trees — could sustain some damage as the female cicadas cut tiny slits into the branches for their eggs. A good way to protect small trees from serious damage is to cover the trunk and even the crown with screening or other material. For more information on cicadas, or to report a damaged parkway tree, contact the Forestry Division at 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



Fire Department to test hydrants

The Oak Park Fire Department will test fire hydrants beginning May 6 and continuing through May 25. Any cloudiness in the water should clear up if the tap is allowed to run for a few minutes. Hydrants are tested annually to ensure proper operations in the event of an emergency. For more information on the testing, call 445.3300 or e-mail fire@oak-park.us.

West Nile Virus Alert

Threat continues...As temperatures increase so does the threat of West Nile Virus. Public health officials urge residents not to become complacent and to take precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. The most effective precautions include wearing long sleeves and pants, limiting time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and wearing insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Residents also are urged to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, emptying birdbaths and storing containers upside down when not in use. For more information, call the West Nile Virus Hotline 358.5694, visit www.oak-park.us or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Report dead birds...Residents who find certain species of dead birds are urged to call the West Nile Virus Hotline 358.5694. A health staff member will pick-up the carcass for testing. Birds eligible for testing include crows, blue jays, grackles, starlings, sparrows, finches, robins, cardinals, flycatchers, swallows, catbirds, mockingbirds, warblers and wrens. Birds must be dead no more than 48 hours, not decomposed or damaged by scavenging animals, and have no obvious cause of death such as being crushed in a roadway by a motor vehicle.

Prevention efforts...The Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District will treat 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.desplainesvalleymad.com for more information.

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Call 358.5425 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us

Marion Street project gets underway...Work to open Marion Street from South Boulevard to Lake Street is now underway. Much of the early construction activity is focused on the center of the street, where utility lines are being repaired and replaced. A construction fence will separate the work area from pedestrians and allow easy access to the retail shops along the route. The downtown business association, DTOP, is planning promotions throughout the summer to keep the community actively involved in the project and shopping in the district, including special activities linked to the popular PBS children's television character *Bob the Builder*. The project, which has a late November completion target, includes brick pavers similar to the original early 20th century street, wide bluestone sidewalks and granite curbs. The street is designed to be easily closed for special events. For more information on the project, visit www.oak-park.us.

Roosevelt Road involvement sought...Roosevelt Road business operators and neighborhood citizens are being invited to take an active role the upcoming planning process for the future revitalization of the district. An agreement between the Village of Oak Park, City of Berwyn and Town of Cicero calls for the creation of the *Roosevelt Road Advisory Committee (RRAC)*. The 13 member RRAC will consist of business owners, citizens, a member of the Roosevelt Road Business Association, members of economic development corporations and municipal employees of all three communities. Each community will appoint one business owner and one citizen member. Oak Park's citizen member will be selected from those residents who live within the three blocks north of Roosevelt Road. Anyone interested in participating is asked to call 358.5796 or e-mail village@oak-park.us.

Design guidelines, sign regulations...A consultant is expected to be named this month to help create design guidelines and sign regulations for future development in the Village. The guidelines will be for both new construction and exterior renovation of existing buildings within the Village's commercial and business districts as well as larger multiple-family residential buildings. The goal is to create design guidelines that would incorporate quality architectural and site design standards, including sustainable green development requirements. The guidelines also will emphasize community culture and historic heritage, and compatible sign regulations for commercial development. The consultant will facilitate planning workshops, public forums, stakeholder interviews and focus groups, and use techniques such as electronic keypad polling to generate a consensus among residents and business operators. For more information call 358.5425 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.

Youth basketball tournament registration underway

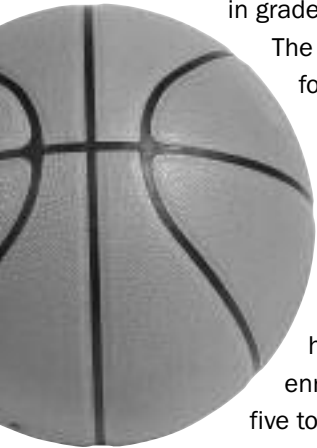
Registration is underway through May 11 for Health 'n' Hoops, the annual basketball tournament and health awareness day for students in grades six through 12.

The event is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. – 4

p.m., Sat., May 19 at Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave. In

addition to playing hoops, students enrolled in the five-on-five tournament can participate in a variety of other

events throughout the day including a poetry slam and health fair. During the health fair, students will receive valuable health information and can meet with various local organizations that offer activities and resources designed specifically for their age group. To participate in the basketball tournament, students will need to get a team of four to five players together and designate a team captain, as well as register. A team roster and registration form can be downloaded at www.oak-park.us — mouse-over the *Departments* tab, click on *Public Health* and look for the *Health & Hoop* icon along the right margin. Signature of a parent or guardian is required. Rosters and registration forms must be submitted by Fri., May 11. Forms should be mailed to *The Volunteer Center, Attn: Robert Hanserd, 1111 South Boulevard, Oak Park, IL 60302*. The event is sponsored by the Oak Park Department of Public Health, School District 97, Oak Park Township Youth Services, Fellowship Community Services and Youth Connect. For more information call 386.3393 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.



New Chief Financial Officer named



A deputy director in Chicago's Office of Budget & Management with more than 10 years experience managing large municipal operating budgets has been named Oak Park's Chief Financial Officer. Craig M. Lesner, who had been with the City of Chicago since 1995, assumed his new role as Oak Park's CFO in early April. Lesner was among a field of more than 50 applicants for the position, which had been vacant for several months. Ten applicants were interviewed by a team of Village Department heads and Finance Department

staff led by the Village Manager. As a deputy director in Chicago's Office of Budget & Management, Lesner led the city's \$5.2 billion annual appropriation process that recently helped close budgetary gaps of more than \$100 million. He also was a member of the city's Cash Management Team and developed a performance measurement operations reporting structure that was adopted citywide. Lesner joined the City of Chicago as a fiscal policy analyst, rising to the level of chief analyst before becoming deputy director. Prior to working for Chicago he was a development manager for Shorebank Corporation. He holds a master's degree from the University of Chicago's Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies and bachelor's degrees in economics and political science from the University of Illinois Chicago. As Oak Park's CFO, Lesner will oversee the Finance Department, which develops, maintains and administers all programs related to the accounting functions for the Village. In addition to ensuring accurate accounting of all municipal receipts and expenditures, the department also prepares the Village's \$140 million annual budget. For more information on Finance Department activities and responsibilities call 358.5460 or e-mail finance@oak-park.us.

Recycling Ins and Outs

Recycling reduces the waste stream and related disposal costs. Recycling also saves natural resources by reducing water and energy use, and pollution emissions associated with many remanufacturing processes. Oak Park's recycling program allows all materials to be loosely combined 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? Plastic containers labeled #1 (PET), #2 (HDPE), #3 (PVC), #4 (LDPE), #5 (PP) and #7 (Other). Look for these names or numbers surrounded by chasing arrows on or near the bottom of the container. These containers are commonly used for items such as milk, food, juice, shampoo and detergent.

What's out? Plastic bags, plastic lids, #6 (Polystyrene), other plastic items such as toys, food storage containers, shrink wrap and plastic packaging. Why? Many of these plastics contain resins that cannot be mixed with the acceptable items, or in the case of plastic bags, are difficult to process through automated sorting systems. Some plastics are not recycled because there is no demand for them to be used as remanufactured products.

For a complete list of acceptable — and unacceptable — items, visit the Public Works Department page at www.oak-park.us.

HEALTH NEWS

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



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 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 for an appointment.

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. Call 358.5490 or e-mail 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, but non-residents will be charged a nominal fee based on income. Appointments are required. Call 358.5483.

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, with a new class scheduled to begin May 23. Call 358.5491 to register.

Pet responsibilities...Dog owners are required to pick up and dispose of dog waste. Owners walking their dogs must carry a bag or other suitable means to pick up dog waste. To register a complaint about an animal, such as noise, excrement, cruelty or off leash, call 358.5679 or 358.5680.

Rodent control...Anyone observing a rat is urged to call 358.5496 or 358.5697. Callers should provide their name, telephone number and address, and location where the rat was seen.



Take me home!

Pets like one-year-old Jackson, a Golden Retriever Labrador mix, need loving homes. More than 200 dogs and cats are offered for adoption annually in Oak Park. Photos and descriptions are shown on VOP-TV6, the Village cable television station, and posted at www.oak-park.us — click on *Breaking News* and look for the link along the right margin. New pets are available daily. Call 358.5679 or 358.5680 for more information.

May 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
- Mulching Parkway Trees
- Bicycle Safety
- Oak Park Farmers Market
- Emergency Preparedness

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 & 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	358.5648
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

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Collection delayed...Refuse, recycling and yardwaste collection services will be delayed for one day during the week of Memorial Day, May 28. Friday's collection will be made on Saturday. For more information about holiday collection services, call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Alarm permits and renewals...

All residents and business owners whose properties have alarm systems must obtain an alarm permit from the Office of the Village Clerk. Permits must be renewed annually by May 31. The initial alarm permit fee is \$15 for residential and \$30 for non-residential alarms. The annual renewal fee is \$10. Alarm permit applications are available online at www.oak-park.us or at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Registered alarm permit holders should receive a bill via mail. For more information call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

Food complaints...To register a complaint regarding poor sanitation or contracting a food borne illness at an Oak Park food establishment call 358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Garage sale rules...A maximum of two garage sales may be held by members of one residence and/or family during any calendar year. Sales are limited to the daylight hours of three consecutive days. Items may be displayed only within a resident's garage and/or rear yard, except when a neighborhood block sale is held. Posting signs on public parkways is prohibited. Call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oakpark.us.

Alley clean-up...Residents are encouraged to work with friends and neighbors to organize an alley cleanup, especially during May and June to coincide with Keep America Beautiful's *Great American Clean-Up*. The Village's

alley clean-up program, developed by the Keep Oak Park Beautiful Committee, provides a kit containing plastic bags, refuse stickers, disposable rubber gloves and information on organizing a successful and safe event. For more information call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Leaf blower restrictions...Gas-powered leaf blowers emanating more than 65 decibels or failing to meet federal emission regulations are banned from June 1 – Oct. 1. The ban applies to both landscapers and homeowners. Gas-powered blowers that emanate less than 65 decibels and meet emission standards may be used during the ban if they have been tested and approved by the Village. For more information call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Planning a block party?

Call 358.5423 or e-mail community@oak-park.us

Party guidelines...A petition signed by 10 separate households on the block must be filed at Village Hall 10 days before the event to allow notification of appropriate departments and delivery of street barricades. The petition is included in a block party packet available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The packet also includes forms to request a visit from the resident beat officer, a Community Relations Department representative, the Park District's mobile playhouse and a Fire Department hook-and-ladder truck, as well as information on how to organize an alley clean up.

Nature 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 three to five with an adult. 10:30 a.m. Fridays, May 4 and 18. \$1 per child.

Go native gardening...Discussion on soil preparation, composting and best ways to plant seeds and plants. 1 p.m., Sun., May 6. Register at 366.6530. \$1 per person.

Birds of prey...Learn about the large predatory birds that patrol our skies, touch real feathers,

beaks and talons, and meet a hawk and falcon up close. 1 p.m., Sun. May 13. Register at 366.6530. Free.

Early morning fitness hike...Naturalist-led one-hour hike on scenic trails. 8 a.m., Sat., May 10. Meet at museum. Dress for the weather and for muddy ground. Free.

Return of the Cicada...Informative talk and walk to explore the large but harmless insect's strange life cycle. 1 p.m., Sun., May 20. Free.

Orienteering scavenger hunt...Nature scavenger hunt for children ages nine through 12. Learn to use a compass, orienteer and discover nature clues to find one's way. Space is limited. Register at 366.6530. 1 p.m., Sun. May 27. \$1 per child.



Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President

David Pope

Trustees

Jon Hale

Greg Marsey

John Hedges

Jan Pate

Ray Johnson

Village Clerk

Sandra Sokol

Village Manager

Thomas W. Barwin

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL

PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
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A Day in Our Village festival is June 3



Scoville Park and Rehm Park are the places to be for Oak Park's pre-eminent celebration of diversity and community involvement – *A Day in Our Village* – scheduled for Sun., June 3.

The all-inclusive, annual festival allows residents to become volunteers, join an organization, patronize a local merchant or service, meet neighbors, enjoy

special activities, make new friends, join a congregation and generally support the community spirit. Oak Park Township's mini-buses will provide free transportation between venues from 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Village's free shuttle also will offer transportation to the sites. Here's an overview of the day's activities:

- **More than 150 activity booths** representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will fill Scoville Park (Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue) from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Among the various activities will be yoga demonstrations, percussion workshop, African American history games, aikido demonstrations, Jewish trivia games, jeopardy game with prizes for adults, plant your own vegetable or flower to take home, art activities, coloring for kids and displays of Police and Fire department vehicle technology. The obligatory face painting and balloons will be there, too.
- **Local entertainers on the Scoville Park stage** will perform a mix of popular music, dancing, stage and show reviews.
- **Food court** featuring local restaurants on the Scoville Park Library plaza will sell meals, snacks, wine and beer in a picnic setting.
- **Rehm Park & Pool** (Garfield Street at East Avenue) will offer a range of activities from noon – 5 p.m., including tennis lessons, a giant inflatable slide, climbing wall, balloon artist, old fashioned penny carnival games, a dunk tank featuring park staff, model trains and hot dogs and soft drinks. Swimming will be available from 1 – 4:30 p.m. for \$3 per person.

For more information, call 358.5420 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Farmers' Market opens June 2

Oak Park Farmers' Market



The Oak Park Farmers' Market will open 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, including shirts, tank tops, coffee mugs and bags. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 358.5780.

