

*LEED certification process underway***Workers move into green-designed Public Works Center**

Oak Park's commitment to environmental sustainability now has a tangible touchstone — the new Public Works Center on South Boulevard near Lombard Avenue. The new facility contains 155,000 square feet of space meticulously designed to be energy efficient, environmentally friendly and at home in its predominantly residential neighborhood.

What sets the new building apart from other public works facilities is the many environmentally friendly elements purposely incorporated into the design and construction, including a green roof, high efficiency heating, cooling and lighting, and the use of recycled materials throughout. Even the demolition of the old structure considered environmental impacts, with 85 percent of the waste diverted to recycling facilities, rather than landfills.

The design and construction approach has the building poised to earn a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver rating from the U.S. Green Building Council for high-performance, sustainable buildings. Certification would make the building

Illinois' first municipal public works facility to earn the coveted rating.

The 80-plus public works staffers who had spent the previous 20 months scattered among four sites — including one on the west side of

Chicago — moved into the new building last month. They brought along the more than 100 vehicles and tons of tools, equipment and materials needed to maintain the Village's critical infrastructure. Everything, including winter road salt, is housed on the three floors of space inside the building, which covers about two acres.

Streetscaping with water efficient plantings along the north façade, and the removal of all overhead utility wires, visually minimize the building's size and footprint along the street. With only the top two floors visible above ground, the design actually fits within existing zoning height regulations.

The design considered workers, too. Low-emission paints, adhesives, coatings, sealants and carpeting were used throughout, and large windows take advantage of natural light. Efficient mechanical equipment optimize air supplied to work areas and, in the winter, will recover heat from the building's exhaust air.

The community is expected to get its first look at the new green building at an open house in late October or early

November. Specific information will be posted at www.oak-park.us, broadcast on VOP-TV6, the Village's cable television station, and distributed to local newspapers.

For more information on the new building, call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

**Online utility payments begin**

Beginning Oct. 1, customers can review and pay their utility bills online at www.oak-park.us. Individuals will first need to set up an online account, a simple process that requires basic information found on a current utility bill. Once the account is established, payment may be made with a Visa, MasterCard or through an automatic direct electronic withdrawal from a bank account. Debit cards that function as credit cards may be used as well. Residents who currently participate in the Village's automatic electronic account withdrawal payment program can continue to pay as they do now, or set up a new online account and gain access to their use and payment history. For more information on the new online payment system, call 358.5460 or e-mail finance@oak-park.us.



Sustainability's hero...Time magazine's *Hero of the Planet*, William McDonough, headlined a gathering of nearly 300 mayors, elected officials, public works directors, park district directors, planners, developers, architects and builders who were in Oak Park's Unity Temple last month to learn how to create sustainable communities. McDonough, an architect and author of

Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things, is credited with revolutionizing thinking about sustainable development. Using examples of real projects and experiences in presentations and workshops, McDonough and sustainability experts from both the private and public sectors offered ideas and advice to help local officials incorporate greener practices into their daily business and buildings. The GreenTown conference was organized by local officials from Seven Generations Ahead, an Oak Park sustainability advocacy organization, and co-sponsored by the Village. DVDs of the conference will be broadcast on VOP-TV6 and available at the Public Library. For more information call 358.5770 or e-mail village@oak-park.us.

Opening the brick street...

Younger representatives of the neighborhood moved in for a closer look as members of the Village Board snipped a ribbon officially reopening the new brick street. Brick pavers were installed on the 700 and 800 blocks of South Humphrey Avenue, before workers moved to the 900 and 1000 blocks of South Wenonah Avenue, as part of a pilot project to test the feasibility of a historic alternative to asphalt on residential streets. For more information, call 358.5720 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



International visitors...Village Hall hosted a delegation of 18 master's degree candidates from Germany's University of Erlangen-Nuerberg last month. The students were in the U.S. on a nationwide, three-week field trip as a part of their graduate coursework. They stopped in Oak Park to learn about the Village's role in social and cultural diversity, as well as learn about urban development and planning efforts here. They also were to make

stops in Denver and Salt Lake City before heading back to Germany. Community Relations Director Cedric Melton (standing) and Village Planner Craig Failor responded to questions from the students regarding the Village's ongoing work to promote diversity through fair housing and development. For more information on the visit, call 358.5400 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

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 386.3800 or visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Agreement reached on South and Harlem development

An agreement has been reached with Morningside Equities Group, Inc. on the terms for a new \$30-million mixed-use project at South Boulevard and Harlem Avenue. The eight-story development will contain 96 condominium units, 12,500 square feet of new retail space and a parking garage in the heart of the downtown shopping area. The current site's 143 parking lot spaces will be replaced with 245 public parking spaces in the new public garage. The public spaces are in addition to dedicated on-site parking for the condominium owners. The building will be designed and constructed to achieve certification through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system. A formal redevelopment agreement between the Village and Morningside is expected to be signed before the end of the year. The project then will enter the planned development process, which includes opportunities for public comment. For more information on the project or process, call 358.5644 or e-mail devsvcs@oak-park.us.

Last month for the Farmers' Market

October is the final month for the 2007 season of Oak Park Farmers' Market, held from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday, June through October. Free soup and a raffle are planned for the final market, Sat., Oct. 27. Traditional *stone soup* made from Farmers' Market vegetables will be ladled up from 9 a.m. until the pot is empty, and a raffle is planned featuring a *Stone Soup* book provided by the Magic Tree Bookstore and a Farmers' Market apron. The final market of the season also will feature *Homegrown Art*, with local artists displaying original ceramic pieces suitable for serving and displaying fruits, vegetables and flowers purchased at the Farmers' Market. Unique jewelry and textile pieces also will be available for purchase. Artists donate 15 percent of all sales to the Oak Park Area Arts Council to help support the summer teen arts employment program *Off the Wall*. For more information on *Homegrown Art*, call the Arts Council at 358.5690, or visit www.OakParkAreaArtsCouncil.org. For more information on the Farmers' Market visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 358.5780.



Ladling up traditional stone soup.

Annual fall leaf collection begins

Oak Parkers who choose to rake their leaves rather than compost them can take advantage of the Village's annual fall leaf collection program scheduled for Oct. 15 – Nov. 29. Residents will have seven opportunities to have their leaves picked up. Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Public Works crews then will push the leaves into piles during the night to reduce impact on traffic and parked cars. Leaves will be collected the following day. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Cooperation is essential to the success of the program, so please follow these simple rules:

- Leaves only – do not add brush, grass clippings or yard waste.
 - Do not park on or near a pile of leaves, which can hinder leaf removal. Heat from a car also could ignite the leaves.
 - Rake leaves onto side streets whenever possible, avoiding major thoroughfares where piles of leaves might create traffic hazards.
 - Do not rake leaves into or close to cul de sacs or traffic diverters. The equipment needs room to operate.
 - Keep catch basins clear of raked leaves to avoid flooding.
 - Inform landscape services of the leaf collection schedule.
 - Obey all parking restrictions. Regulations will be strictly enforced.
 - Dampen piles after raking to avoid leaves being blown by the wind.
 - Consider alternatives to raking such as composting or using the leaves as garden mulch.
 - Drive carefully. Leaves are slippery when wet and large piles may hinder visibility.
- For more information on the leaf collection program call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

NORTH AVE		SOUTH BLVD	
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY
Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 16	Oct. 15
Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 23	Oct. 22
Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Oct. 30	Oct. 29
Nov. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 6	Nov. 5
Nov. 14	Nov. 15	Nov. 13	Nov. 12
Nov. 21	Nov. 22	Nov. 20	Nov. 19
Nov. 28	Nov. 29	Nov. 27	Nov. 26
Roosevelt Rd			

2007 Fall Leaf Collection Schedule

Residents invited to support local artists

The Oak Park Area Arts Council will present *Artful Object 2007, Detour, Art Ahead!*, from 6 – 10 p.m., Sat., Nov. 10, at the new Oak Park Public Works facility, 201 South Blvd., where a portion of the garage will be turned into an art gallery for the evening. The best work of some of the area's finest artists will be on exhibit and part of a silent auction, with proceeds helping fund OPAAC's grant and scholarship programs for artists who live in Oak Park, Forest Park and River Forest. Advance tickets are \$60 for OPAAC members and \$75 for non-members. Tickets purchased after Nov. 5 or at the door will be \$80. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 358.5690 or visit www.OakParkAreaArtsCouncil.org.

Flu and pneumonia shots available by appointment

The Oak Park Department of Public Health will begin scheduling appointments for flu shots on Oct. 1. Annual vaccination against influenza is recommended for all persons, including school-aged children, who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with the flu or of spreading flu to others. Residents over age 65 and the chronically ill are strongly encouraged to have a pneumonia vaccination as well. Flu shots are \$20 and pneumococcal shots are \$30. Shots are free for residents under 18 years of age and Medicare B recipients who demonstrate eligibility. Medicare HMO recipients should check with their insurer before scheduling an appointment. Call 358.5601 for more information or to make 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. Meanwhile, the next *Freedom from Smoking* class is scheduled to begin Oct. 30. This six-week program offers the information and motivation needed to quit smoking. Registration is required. Call 358.5487 or e-mail health@oak-park.us for more information.

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.

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 residents to loosely combine all materials into the blue recycling cart or bin without sorting for *single stream* collection by dedicated trucks. Here's what you should — and should not — put in the recycling container:



What's in? Steel and bi-metal cans. Rinse to avoid odor and pest problems. Steel scrap is one of the most successful materials recycled and is remanufactured into things like cars, appliances and steel beams. Every item made of steel has a recycled content, sometimes up to 50 percent. Every ton of steel recycled saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone.

What's out? Non-food steel items such as car parts, hangers, appliances and tools. The material recovery facility where Oak Park recyclables are sorted is not set up to reclaim these materials. However, steel is readily recyclable and has value. Take these items to United Scrap Metal, 1545 S. Cicero Ave., Cicero, for cash. Call 780.6800 for more information.



Daily at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m.

- VOP-TV edition of the OP/FYI
- Big Read
- GreenTown Conference
- Fighting Influenza
- Prevent Identity Theft

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

Selected original programming can be viewed at www.oak-park.us — including the video version of this issue of the OP/FYI newsletter. Just click on the camera icon.

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



Trick-or-treat hours...Official hours for Halloween trick or treating are 3 – 7 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 31. Parents should accompany young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. For more information on trick-or-treating hours call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us. For safety information, call 445.3300 or 386.3800, or e-mail fire@oak-park.us or police@oak-park.us.

Local historic sites competing for rehab funds...Two Oak Park properties are among the 25 historic sites in the region competing for a share of \$1 million in rehab funds through an online competition sponsored by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Unity Temple, 875 Lake St., and Pleasant Home, 217 South Home Ave., which is owned by the Park District of Oak Park, are among the sites competing as part of the American Express Partners in Preservation program. Voters are required to register with a valid e-mail address. Individuals can vote once a day through Oct. 10. Go to www.partnersinpreservation.com to register and vote.


Keep public right of way clear...Waste from trees, bushes and hedges should not be placed on the parkway. Instead, use green yardwaste stickers to have them removed through the residential collection program or by special pick up from a private hauler or landscaper. For more information, call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Tree swings, decorations harmful and dangerous...Tree swings and holiday decorations on parkway trees threaten the health of a tree and may pose a hazard to passing cars, pedestrians and bicyclists. That's why it is illegal to attach any rope, wire, nail, sign, poster or other manmade object to trees and shrubs on Village property. For more information, call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.


Get involved...Residents interested in helping shape Village policy are invited to participate on one of more than 25 volunteer citizen boards, commissions and committees that advise the Board of Trustees. A description of each board, commission and committee is posted at www.oak-park.us — mouse over the *About Our Village* tab and click on the link. To receive an application form, call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

Job postings online...Selected Village municipal job openings are posted on the Village web site at www.oak-park.us/jobs. Call 358.5650 or e-mail hr@oak-park.us for more information.

Household hazardous waste collection set



Get rid of household hazardous materials from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sat., Oct. 20, in the northwest parking lot of Triton College, 2000 Fifth Ave., River Grove. Acceptable materials are oil-based paint, paint thinner, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, gasoline, pool chemicals, mercury, household and auto batteries, motor oil, drain cleaners, solvents, cleaning products, antifreeze, old medicines, fluorescent bulbs, propane tanks, eye glasses and cell phones. Latex paint will not be accepted. For more information, call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



Change smoke detector batteries when changing clocks as Daylight Saving Time reverts to standard time at 2 a.m., Sun., Nov. 4.

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., Thursdays, October 4 and 18. \$1 per child.
 - **Parent/child autumn hike and craft:** Take a short autumn hike through the woods and make a wearable fall craft to take home. Children eight or older, each accompanied by an adult. 1 p.m., Sun., Oct. 7. \$10 material fee per each parent/child combo. Call 366.6530 to register in advance.
 - **Tree color walk:** Autumn walk on museum trails to admire colorful leaves, while learning to identify trees by leaf, bark and bud. For adults. 1 p.m., Sun., Oct. 14. Free. Call 366.6530 to register in advance.
 - **Morning fitness hike:** Brisk naturalist-led, two-mile hike on museum trails. For adults. 9 a.m., Sat., Oct. 20. Meet at museum entrance of Trailside Museum.
 - **Ghosts of River Forest:** Stories, legends and history of the Native Americans and early European settlers of the Des Plaines River valley, followed by a walk to see signs of their presence that still exist. 1 p.m., Sun., Oct. 28. Free family program.
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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

Ernest Moore

Ray Johnson

Jan Pate

Village Clerk

Sandra Sokol

Village Manager

Thomas W. Barwin

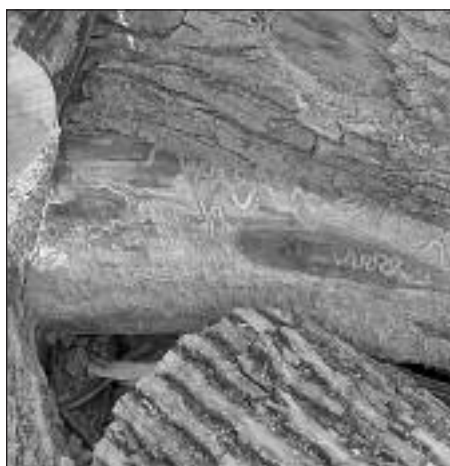
Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL

PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
Presort

Firewood could bring ash borer to Oak Park



With the emerald ash borer known to hitch rides on firewood, Village foresters are urging residents to exercise caution to ensure the insect's voracious larvae don't infest any of the 2,600 ash trees on public property and potentially hundreds more trees on private property. The borer is believed to have made its way to Illinois in firewood from neighboring states where infestations have led to the destruction of millions of ash trees. Removal of infested trees has been the only successful

management strategy. If your firewood vendor doesn't know about the borer, consider another source, officials say. Anyone with concerns about an ash tree or questions should call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us. Village foresters will check firewood and trees on private property by request.

Study finds rapid police response



Any Oak Parker who calls 9-1-1 for help is likely to get a patrol car on the scene in a matter of

moments, according to a recent independent study of Oak Park Police Department call response records. An analysis of data from more than 80,000 calls revealed that dispatchers probably would have a car on its way in less than a minute in a high priority situation, and the officer likely would be on the scene in less than another two and a half minutes. And if the call was urgent, the officer likely would be on the scene even quicker — in less than one and a half minutes. Response time estimates were calculated using detailed police records, including uniform crime reporting codes that categorize crimes for analyses by the Illinois State Police and other law enforcement agencies. Oak Park Police response times were among the best in the country, according to the International City Management Association's Center for Performance Measurement, which compiles a wide range of comparative municipal data. For more information call 386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.

Fire Department to host open house

An open house marking the close of *Fire Prevention Week* is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., Oct. 13 at the Main Fire Station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. Residents are invited to participate in a range of family-friendly activities, such as demonstrations of how to use a fire extinguisher, how to escape from a fire and how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Firefighters will give station tours, demonstrate vehicle extrication and let visitors see what it is like to squirt a real fire hose. Children also will be allowed to explore the fire trucks and other emergency response vehicles. The Division XI Fire Safety House will be on site along with information booths from Oak Park Police and Health departments. For more information on the open house or *Fire Prevention Week*, call the Oak Park Fire Department at 445.3300 or e-mail fire@oak-park.us.