

Conference to advance eco-effective communities



Oak Park's leadership role in environmental sustainability will be showcased later

this month when the Village hosts the *GreenTown Conference*, a day of discussions and case studies on how to create eco-effective communities. Mayors and elected officials, public works directors, park district directors, planners, developers, architects, landscape architects and builders will be among the 200 participants expected to gather at Unity Temple on Sept. 19 to learn more about encouraging cost effective and ecologically sustainable development. Keynote speaker will be William McDonough, architect, author and recipient of three U.S. Presidential Awards and *Time* magazine's Hero of the Planet award. McDonough's book, *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way*

continued on next page

Pope named task force co-chair

Village President David Pope has been named co-chair of the Sustainable Development Task Force for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The task force will work to create initiatives for building better, more eco-friendly communities across the country. For more information on the task force, call 358.5796 or e-mail board@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.usmayors.org.



Workers install some of the 150,000 bricks needed to pave two blocks of South Humphrey Avenue.

Brick street paving pilot project launched

A pilot project to test the feasibility of a historic alternative to asphalt on residential streets is underway on four blocks in the Village. About 150,000 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. The Village will assess the results of this four-block pilot program before deciding if bricks should be offered elsewhere in the community. Factors to be assessed include cost, noise and permeability. Brick costs more than asphalt initially, but has a longer life. Brick streets also are considered more environmentally friendly because they are made of natural material and allow some rainwater to seep into the soil rather than running off into the sewer system. Neighborhood safety may be improved as well, since brick streets tend to slow traffic. Brick streets may even enhance property values — especially in a historic community like Oak Park. The blocks chosen for this year's pilot program were selected from streets that already were scheduled for major utility work this construction season. Residents of the test blocks were asked their preference on paving materials, with the overwhelming majority enthusiastically supporting the brick. A similar selection process likely will be followed next year if the pilot program continues. For more information or to provide feedback on brick streets, call 358.5720 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

FORESTRY NEWS

Call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us

Ash borer remains a threat... Village foresters are urging residents who purchase firewood to exercise caution to ensure the emerald ash borer's voracious larvae don't infest any of the 2,600 ash trees on public property and potentially thousands more trees on private property. The borer is believed to have arrived in the United States in south-eastern Michigan near Detroit as a stowaway in wooden packing materials from Asia, making its way to neighboring states in firewood. Oak Parkers are urged to make sure any firewood they buy does not come from Michigan, Ohio or Indiana — or to avoid ash firewood altogether. If your wood vendor is unfamiliar with the emerald ash borer issue, consider another source, officials say. Anyone with concerns about an ash tree or questions should call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. In addition to monitoring trees on public property for ash borers, Village foresters also will check firewood and trees on private property by request.



Tree preservation ordinance to be discussed... Members of the Forestry Commission have asked representatives of the Morton Arboretum and officials from the villages of Winnetka and Northbrook to come to Oak Park to discuss their experience with local ordinances that regulate tree removal on private property. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., Sept. 11, in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information call 358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Police urge drivers to take extra care now that schools are open

With the new school year now underway, Oak Park police are urging motorists to stay alert — especially when driving in school zones. Motorists need to stay focused and avoid distractions like talking on cell phones, police say, as well as come to a complete stop at intersections and not stop in crosswalks. Drivers also must obey the signals of crossing guards and should never attempt to pass a stopped school bus with lights flashing. To protect the many students who typically trek along Oak Park streets en route to their neighborhood schools, police have stepped up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. For more information on the Oak Park Police Department's school programs, call 386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.

West Nile Virus threat not over yet

While mosquitoes are likely to become less active as summer heat diminishes, the threat of West Nile Virus could continue as late as mid-October. Public Health officials urge residents not to become complacent and to continue taking 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. For more information on West Nile Virus visit www.oak-park.us/health or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Roosevelt Road Advisory Committee up and running

The Roosevelt Road Advisory Committee is now up and running, with the goal of cooperative planning by the three communities that share the important east-west commercial street. The 13 member RRAC consists of business owners, citizens, a member of the Roosevelt Road Business Association, members of economic development corporations and municipal employees of Oak Park, Berwyn and Cicero. Each community appointed one business owner and one citizen member. The committee will meet from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., the second Wednesday of each month, the site rotating between the three communities. The September meeting will be in Cicero. The committee will meet in Oak Park in November. Committee members from Oak Park are Jim Kelly, citizen representative; Rich Schuler, business owner representative; Zafar Mawani, Roosevelt Road Business Association representative; John Eckenroad, executive director of the Oak Park Development Corporation; and Craig Failor, Village planner. The committee's work plan will focus on infrastructure improvements, beautification, zoning and seeking financial assistance for public projects. For more information, call 358.5425 or e-mail planning@oak-park.us.

Eco-effective communities

Continued from page 1

We Make Things, is credited with revolutionizing thinking about sustainable development. Oak Park's commitment to environmental sustainability, including building the state's first certified green public works facility in Illinois, made the community the ideal location for the conference, organizers say. For more information on the conference, visit www.greentownconference.com.

Proper dryer maintenance essential to fire safety

While clothes dryers have long been an indispensable convenience and even a necessity, they also can pose a serious fire hazard. Every year, clothes dryers cause about 15,600 fires, resulting in hundreds of injuries and even deaths. The leading cause of dryer-related fires is a dirty venting system. If heavy clothes such as blue jeans or towels take a long time to dry, or clothes feel hotter than usual at the end of the cycle, then a clogged dryer vent exhaust is likely the problem. Disconnect, clean and inspect the dryer duct and venting every couple of years, or hire a professional company to clean the dryer components. Some dryer vents may need more frequent inspection, such as in homes with complex construction where the dryer vent is more than six feet from the outside or with smaller stacking dryers and older dryers that do not have moisture sensors or temperature safety limit controls. While outside wall dampers should have a covering that will keep out rain, snow and dirt, they should not use wire screen or cloth to protect the exhaust opening because it can collect lint and clog the dryer vent. Also make sure the damper is working properly to deter birds and small animals from nesting in the vent. Other ways to minimize the chance of a dryer fire include the following:

- Never dry synthetic materials such as rubber, plastic, foam or pieces of cloth that have been used to sponge up flammable liquids, even if previously washed.
- Clean the lint out of the exhaust pipe and the rear of the dryer regularly.
- Clean and inspect the lint filter with each dryer use, and replace immediately if any tears are noticed.
- Make the exhaust pipe as short as possible and have limited bends to allow for adequate airflow.
- Use rigid aluminum or steel duct or spiral-wound aluminum flex hose, not vinyl hose.
- Never let the dryer run while you are out of the house or asleep.
- Have gas-powered dryers inspected by a professional annually to ensure that the gas line and connection are intact.

For more information on fire safety call 445.3300 or e-mail fire@oak-park.us.

DOWNTOWN NEWS

Shopper input sought...Downtown Oak Park is asking residents to participate in an online shopper survey. All information will be kept confidential, but residents who provide contact information will be entered into a drawing for a \$250 cash prize. Downtown Oak Park includes the area bounded by Harlem Avenue on the west, Ontario Street on the north, Forest Avenue on the east and North Boulevard/train tracks on the south. To take the survey visit www.downtownoakpark.net, and look for the link. For more information, call 383.4145 or e-mail info@downtownoakpark.net.

Bike auction to benefit charity...The Oak Park Police Department will be working with the business association Downtown Oak Park to turn unclaimed bicycles into cash for local charities. An auction of some 400 recovered bicycles is scheduled for noon to 5 p.m., Sun., Sept. 9, at North Boulevard and Marion Street. The bicycles range in size, style and by manufacturer, as well as condition. More information on the auction will be posted at www.oak-park.us/police as it becomes available.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK

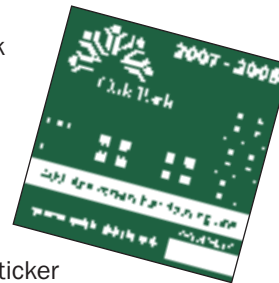
Call 358.5670 or e-mail
clerk@oak-park.us

Office hours extended...The Office of the Village Clerk is open until 7:30 p.m. on Mondays beginning Sept. 11. Regular hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

Vehicle stickers

required...Any Oak Park resident who owns a vehicle or any person who uses a vehicle owned by a Village resident is required

to purchase a vehicle sticker annually by July 1. Fees for all classifications of vehicles double after the purchase deadline. The annual vehicle window sticker fee for a passenger car is \$45, but residents age 65 and older pay \$35. Residents who have a disability plate or placard also pay \$35. All trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, mopeds and buses must be licensed, too. Vehicle stickers are available in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.



Stop solicitors...To prevent solicitors from knocking, obtain a no-soliciting sticker to place on or near your front door. Call 358.5674 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us or more information.

Garage sales...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. No permit is required, but posting signs on public parkways is not allowed. Call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

HEALTH NEWS

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

Program to teach women a heart-healthy lifestyle

Heat Smart for Women, a multi-week program designed to teach women about living a heart-healthy life, will begin its second series of classes this year on Sept. 19 and continuing through Dec. 12. Sponsored by Rush Oak Park Hospital and the Oak Park Department of Public Health, the goal of the *Heart Smart* program is to teach women the importance of a healthy lifestyle through good nutrition, exercise and stress management. The classes, which are offered at both 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., will begin with an orientation on Wed., Sept. 19 in the North Conference Room of Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave. The program is free for those who complete eight of the 12 sessions. A \$20 initial fee will be refunded after successful completion of the program. Each participant will receive two mini-cardiovascular risk assessments, including cholesterol, glucose tolerance and body mass index (BMI) readings in order to better understand the condition of her heart. Registration for *Heart Smart* is required before the Sept. 19 start date. Call 358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us to register or for more information.

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 358.5487 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 358.5481.

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? Aluminum cans, formed aluminum food containers and aluminum foil. Rinse items to avoid odors and pest problems. Aluminum items are remanufactured into new items. An aluminum can that is recycled today could be back on the grocery store shelf in as little as 60 days. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television or operate a computer for three hours.

What's Out? Aluminum siding, gutters and non-food items. The Material Recovery Facility, where Oak Park recyclables are sorted, is not set up to reclaim these materials. However, these materials can be taken to United Scrap Metal, 1545 S. Cicero Ave., Cicero, for cash. Call 780.6800 for more information.



September VOP-TV6 Programming Highlights

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

- Oak Park Invades Hollywood
- Historical Society's Cemetery Walk
- 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

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

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 for an appointment.

First-time homebuyer's seminar...A free seminar to help prospective first-time homebuyers understand loan programs available in Oak Park is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., Sept. 25 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 358.5412 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us.

Overnight parking restricted...If you have visitors please remember parking is prohibited on all Village streets from 2:30 – 6 a.m., seven days a week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass. Overnight on-street parking is allowed by permit in multifamily housing areas, except in front of churches, schools and parks and on blocks where housing is more than 50 percent single family. For more information about parking in Oak Park call 358.5750 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us. This e-mail address may not be used to contest a parking ticket. To contest or pay a parking ticket on-line, visit www.oak-park.us.

Home-based businesses...Home-based businesses are permitted in any building as an accessory use within the limits of the Zoning Ordinance that allows one non-family member employee if off-street parking is provided. No home business can occupy more than 25 percent of the total floor area. Prohibited home businesses include manufacturing, animal hospitals, barbershops, beauty salons, clinics, repair shops and restaurants. The Office of the Village Clerk registers home businesses and the Zoning Officer checks for compliance. For more information on registering, call 358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.



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Job postings on-line...Selected Village municipal job openings are now posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/jobs. Future postings will include directors for Housing and Economic Development. For more information, call 358.5650 or e-mail hr@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. Police would much rather respond to a call and discover it was nothing than get the call after a crime was committed. 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.



Sign up for official news from the Village via e-mail...visit www.oak-park.us and click on the e-news icon.

PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Visit www.oakparkparks.com

Maple Park site plan meeting...

Oak Park residents are invited to attend a public meeting to review and discuss a draft concept for Maple Park, on the Village's southwest side. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Mon., Sept. 10, at Carroll Park, 1125 S. Kenilworth Ave. The meeting is the fourth held to develop a site plan for Maple Park. For more information e-mail dianes@oakparkparks.com.

Register online...Online registration for most park programs is now available at www.oakparkparks.com. Skating rink and pool passes must be purchased in person at Ridgeland Common, 415 W. Lake St. (corner of Ridgeland and Lake).



Designer showcase house...Cheney Mansion, one of three historical Park District properties, will be the site of the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society's Designer Showcase House. The longest running designer show house program in Chicagoland, the event attracts the talents of some of the region's finest, most prestigious professional interior designers. The house will be open to the public September 9 through 30. For more information, call 383.0002.



Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President

David Pope

Trustees

Jon Hale

John Hedges

Ray Johnson

Greg Marsey

Ernest Moore

Jan Pate

Village Clerk

Sandra Sokol

Village Manager

Thomas W. Barwin

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Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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Oak Park, IL

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Fourth annual bike event set

The Oak Park Environment and Energy Commission's fourth annual bicycling event is scheduled for 1 – 4 p.m., Sun., Sept. 30 as a part of the new *Children's Day at Pleasant Home*. Participants are invited to leave their cars at home and bike, walk or skate to the corner of Pleasant Street and Home Avenue for the afternoon. The event will offer lanes for riding laps, a repair workshop and safety information from the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation. Other activities will include tours of Pleasant Home, photo exhibits, old-fashioned games and chores, turn-of-the-century music and children's Victorian dress-up clothing. For more information, call 848.6755 or 383.2654.

FARMERS' MARKET NEWS

Visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket



Cooking demonstration planned...A cooking demonstration by *Flavor Cooking School* owner and Oak Parker Denise Norton will highlight the Farmer's Market on Sat., Sept. 8. Denise will choose fresh fruit and vegetables early that morning and begin the demonstration at about 9 a.m. Free samples of her surprise dish will be available. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday through October. Now in its 32nd season,

the market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses from Illinois and neighboring states, the market also offers warm donuts made on-site, juice and coffee, and live bluegrass music. Prepackaged frozen meat, poultry and fish are available as well. The Oak Park Farmers' Market also features unique items for sale to help support market administration. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 358.5780.

Child safety seat inspection offered



Oak Parkers with small children are urged to take advantage of a free child car seat installation checkup from 9 a.m. – noon, Sat., Sept. 15 at the Oak Park Fire Department,

100 N. Euclid Ave. Certified child passenger safety technicians will examine each child safety seat for correct use, installation and recalls. Representatives from the Fire, Police and Health departments also will be available to answer questions and provide safety and educational materials. Anyone wishing to have a child vehicle seat checked for proper installation needs to bring their vehicle owner's manual and car seat manufacturer's manual, along with the seat they wish to have examined and its passenger. The event is sponsored by the Village of Oak Park, SAFE KIDS Chicago, and community partner Loro Auto Works Collision Repair Center, Inc. For more information, call 445.3300 or e-mail fire@oak-park.us.