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*Late Fees Also Waived on Vehicle Stickers*

Parking Ticket Amnesty Offers Chance to Pay Up Without Penalties

An amnesty program approved last night by the Oak Park Village Board will give anyone with outstanding parking tickets until March 15 to pay up without late fees or penalties, as administrators move to reduce older computer files, while also collecting a share of the nearly \$4.3 million in outstanding tickets on the books since January 2000.

Collection activities including booting will be suspended during the amnesty. But once the temporary reprieve ends, any remaining parking accounts will be turned over to a collection agency to seek the full amount due, including late fees and penalties. Booting of vehicles with five or more outstanding tickets will then resume as well. Penalties for late payment can range from \$10 to \$50 per ticket.

Offering amnesty is one phase of ongoing Village efforts to improve parking administration and enforcement. Efforts also include a new computer records system and traffic court at Village Hall through an administrative adjudication program. Under the adjudication program launched in early January, administrative law judges hear parking cases at Village Hall, eliminating the need for residents to travel to the Cook County Circuit Court in Maywood to challenge parking citations.

About 139,000 tickets remain uncollected since January 1, 2000. The Village hopes the amnesty program will bring in between 10 percent and 20 percent of the \$4.3 million in unpaid tickets. These collections would be in addition to the approximately \$1.5 million the Village typically collects annually in parking fines. A similar amnesty program in 1997 netted the Village about \$235,000.

As an added incentive to participate in the amnesty program, the Village Clerk also agreed to waive late fees on vehicle stickers. The vehicle sticker fee increases \$5 per month after the June 30 purchase deadline, which is added onto the standard \$45 sticker cost when violators are ticketed.

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Parking Amnesty  
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Parking Services Manager Alva Johnson said reducing the existing backlog of outstanding parking tickets should help reduce any data compatibility issues that may occur as the Village completes the transition to a new computer system designed to better track parking enforcement activities.

“Amnesty is an effective way to eliminate older files, but it also is an excellent method of mass collection of overdue debt,” he said. “Individuals benefit, too, because they can satisfy their debt at a savings. For individuals with multiple tickets this may be their last chance to meet their responsibility to the Village before they are booted.”

For more information on the amnesty program, call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us). For information on administrative adjudication, call 358.5479 or email [village@oak.park.us](mailto:village@oak.park.us).

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