



**For Immediate Release:** 02.27.04

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**Free shuttle service now linking popular community sites**

Visit shops in a business district you may not frequent, take visitors on a fun tour of Village attractions, conduct business at Village Hall or easily connect to the most popular mass transit routes – all without driving your car and adding to traffic or parking congestion.

That's the goal of a new Village-sponsored free transit service that is now operating along a convenient route designed to offer access to a range of important sites and mass transit connections. The *Oak Park Shuttle* is operated by the Village in vans owned and leased from PACE Suburban Bus system.

Starting March 1, two conversion vans, each equipped with a wheelchair lift, will operate from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., seven days a week, except major holidays on an hour-long loop that includes 20 stops at 30-minute intervals along an eight-mile course. The route allows riders to reduce travel time by transferring between the two shuttles at the top and bottom of the hour at Oak Park Avenue and South Boulevard. By transferring to the other shuttle, riders can loop around just the greater downtown area, or just the southern portion of the route in only half an hour.

Among the 20 stops are Village Hall, the Conservatory and the downtown intermodal transportation station, which links Metra commuter rail and CTA trains and buses at a central location near the Marion Street Mall. Several of the stops offer easy transfer to mass transit options at other points throughout the Village as well, including PACE and CTA buses, and the CTA's green and blue el lines.

Signs posted at each stop along the route include a route map, a list of attractions near each stop and the arrival time of each of the two vans. In addition to times and stops, the maps note nearby mass transit connection options. Route maps also will be available at throughout the Village, including the Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Oak Park Library. Potential riders also can call 615.1830 for the most up-to-date route information, to seek assistance, ask questions or make comments.

Riders can board a shuttle at any of the stops. However, an adult must accompany anyone under 14 years of age.

For more information about the shuttle service, call 358.5778 or email [village@oak-park.us](mailto:village@oak-park.us).

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