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From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Joe Kreml
VOP-TV6 Manager
708.358.5775

Village Cable Channel Programming Wins National Awards

Three videos produced by the Village's cable television station have won four national awards for excellence from the professional organization that represents the telecommunications interests of local governments.

The three VOP-TV6 videos were selected from nearly 1,000 entries submitted by municipalities from across the country to the non-profit National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) for its 19th Annual Government Programming Awards competition held in September.

First place in the children/young adult category was awarded to *I Know We Can*, an anti-drug video produced with the assistance of police outreach personnel. *Commitment to Community*, a profile of the Community Services Department's neighborhood programs initiative, took first place in the profile of city/county department category and third place in community awareness. *Dealing with West Nile Virus* earned a second place award in the public health category.

All three award-winning videos were produced, filmed and edited by VOP-TV6 Manager Joe Kreml, who has produced 35 - 40 videos a year since becoming station manager about four years ago. So far, Kreml's videos have won nine NATOA awards.

"VOP-TV6 has become an increasingly important public information resource since Joe joined the staff," said Village Manager Carl Swenson. "These awards recognized his skills and expertise, which have helped make our cable access television station a more effective tool for providing residents with useful information about government programs and services."

VOP-TV6 is housed in Village Hall on Madison Street and broadcasts around the clock on cable channel six. In addition to original programming created by Kreml, the station also broadcasts Village Board meetings, information on government-related services and events, and public information programs produced by other government agencies, including the Illinois Department of Public Health and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

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The station also scrolls emergency information alerts on the screen, such as when mosquito abatement action will occur or when snowfall triggers the emergency parking plan.

For more on VOP-TV6 call 708.358.5775 or email village@oak.park.us. Information also is posted on at www.oak-park.us and programming schedules are published in the OPFYI, the Village's monthly newsletter.

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