



For Immediate Release: 07.08.05

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Shuttle Route to Accommodate Harry Potter Event

The regular route of the free Oak Park Shuttle will be modified slightly and hours extended to provide convenient transportation to *Countdown to Midnight*, Oak Park's *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince* book release festival scheduled for 2 p.m. – midnight, Fri., July 15.

A Shuttle stop will be added from 2 – 4 p.m. at historic Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave., where the living room and hearth will be transformed into a Hogwarts-esque classroom for students to learn to make edible potions. In addition to the special stop, Shuttle 1 will operate until 11 p.m. and Shuttle 2 until 10:30 pm. that evening. The regular shuttle route includes stops close to many of the festival activities, including near Oak Park Avenue, the main public library, Marion Street Mall and Pleasant Home. A shuttle route map is posted on the Village website, www.oak-park.us.

Marking its one-year anniversary in March, the Oak Park Shuttle uses conversion vans equipped with wheelchair lifts leased from the PACE Suburban Bus System to link popular Village sites and many key mass transit routes. The Shuttle regularly operates on an hour-long loop from 10 a.m. - 5: 30 p.m., seven days a week except major holidays, making 21 stops at 30-minute intervals along an eight-mile course. Hours are extended to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

The Harry Potter Book release festival will be a day-long celebration around the theme of Harry Potter. Events will start early in the afternoon and continue through the midnight release of the book. Activities will be distributed among several locations in central Oak Park, giving visitors an opportunity to explore a number of shops, restaurants and attractions, which will feature special wizard-themed wares, menus and performances.

For information on the Harry Potter book release festival, contact the Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at 708.524.7800, info@visitoakpark.com or visit www.visitoakpark.com.

Shuttle route and schedule information is available by calling 708.615.1830.

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