



**Date:** 12.07.05

## **News Media Advisory**

- What:** Ground breaking for the region's first municipal Public Works Building to seek a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver rating from the U.S. Green Building Council for high-performance, sustainable buildings.
- When:** 10 a.m., Sat., Dec. 10
- Where:** Site of former Public Works Facility on South Boulevard near Lombard Avenue (three blocks west of Austin Boulevard)
- Who:** State Senator Don Harmon, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Program Officer Bob Romo, Seven Generations Ahead Executive Director Gary Cuneen and Oak Park Village President David Pope will participate. Former and current Village Board members, citizen members of the Energy and Environment, Historic Preservation and Community Design commissions, and representatives of the architectural design firm and the project contractor also have been invited to attend the ceremony.
- Background:** This ground breaking is for a new environmentally friendly Public Works facility that will not only improve operations, but also reduce impact on the neighborhood and embrace an overall environmentally sustainable approach through design, materials and construction techniques. The new 150,000-square-foot facility will be the first *certified green* municipal public works building in Illinois and likely will become a model for future projects in Oak Park and the region. The environmentally friendly elements to be incorporated into the new facility earned the Village a \$100,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. Among the green features planned for the new building are a living roof, water efficient landscaping, low-emitting carpets, paints and adhesives and 5 percent recycled construction materials. The building is expected to be completed in Spring 2007.
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