



For Immediate Release: 02.22.06

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Car Sharing Program Coming to Oak Park

Oak Park will soon be joining Evanston as the only suburbs in the Chicago area to participate in the not-for-profit car sharing I-GO program. Residents who pay a \$50 membership fee will have 24 hour access to two cars that will be parked in the Avenue Parking Garage on North Boulevard across from the Oak Park Avenue Green Line train stop.

"I-GO is perfect for Oak Park because many residents don't own a car, but could occasionally use one to go grocery shopping or to a doctor's appointment," said Karen Rozmus, Oak Park's waste and recycling manager. "Each environmentally friendly shared vehicle could remove eight to 12 privately owned vehicles from our streets, easing the traffic and parking congestion and improving the air quality."

Launched in 2002 as a pilot program by the *Center for Neighborhood Technology* to help alleviate traffic congestion and air pollution in Chicago and its neighboring communities, I-GO has approximately 2,000 members and adds about 100 new members a month as more neighborhoods adopt the program.

Reservations can be made online or over the telephone minutes before needing a car or days or weeks ahead without having to wait in any lines or fill out any paperwork. The Oak Park cars – a gas-electric hybrid Honda Element and Honda Civic LX – should become available in March. The hourly charge of just \$6 and \$.50 per mile covers the cost of gas, insurance, maintenance and the two reserved parking spots at the Avenue Garage.

Oak Parkers who sign up for I-GO by March 31 will receive a discounted fee of \$50, compared to the regular \$75 sign-up fee. The annual renewal fee is \$25. To sign up, go to www.igocars.org or call 773.278.4446 and use the promotion code D500AKPARK.

Users must be between the ages of 21 and 75, have had a valid U.S. driver's license for at least five years, have an acceptable driving record and have a credit or debit card.

For more information on Oak Park's role in the I-GO program, call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

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