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Village to give away Marion Street pavers

Anyone who would like a piece of the former Marion Street mall can take home granite paving stones that are being removed as part of the restreeting project. The pavers, roughly six-inches square and of various depths, will be given to any resident willing to do the heavy lifting and hauling.

A Village representative will be near the south end of the construction site mall near North Boulevard from 7:30 a.m. to noon, Fri., May 25, to oversee the giveaway. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license, will be required to claim any stones. Anyone who wishes to send a third party, such as a landscaper, should call 358.5648 to make arrangements in advance.

The pavers, estimated to be a few hundred in number, are not pristine, officials say, but they could be a nice addition to a garden or an interesting outdoor conversation piece. The pavers will be given away on a first-come basis.

Meanwhile, construction on Marion Street is moving ahead rapidly toward a November completion. The project includes opening the street to two-way traffic, but maintaining a pedestrian friendliness in keeping with the historic character of the downtown. The street will be brick and wide sidewalks will create opportunities for outdoor dining, benches and bicycle parking. Extensive landscaping, including trees and planters, will provide shade, color and visual interest.

For more information on the Marion Street project, call 358.5648. A video overview is available at www.oak-park.us – mouse over the *Departments* tab, click on *VOP-TV6* and look for the link to videos along the right margin.

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