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From: David Powers  
Communications Director  
708.358.5781

Contact: Stephen R. Witt  
Director, Building & Property Standards Department  
708.358.5430

### **Building Safety Week to highlight Village programs, services**

To help raise awareness of building safety, the Village's [Building & Property Standards Department](#) is celebrating *Building Safety Week*, May 5 through 11, with seminars for contractors and an art contest for students.

Building Safety Week, first observed in 1980, is a time set aside across the nation to promote understanding of the building safety and fire prevention codes that protect lives and property.

“The important work we do is often overlooked until a tragedy occurs,” said Stephen R. Witt, director of the Building & Property Standards Department. “By inspecting buildings during and after construction, building safety and fire prevention experts help ensure the places where we live, learn, work and play are safe.”

Building safety and fire prevention codes address all aspects of construction, such as structural soundness of buildings, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. To ensure buildings are safe requires the active participation of building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers, and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners, according to Witt.

“Public safety is our number one concern,” he said. “During Building Safety Week and all year long, building safety and fire prevention officials are here to help protect the community.”

The theme of this year's Building Safety Week is *Building Safety: Where You Live, Work and Play*. Local events to celebrate Building Safety Week include instant residential plan reviews for walk-ins to Village Hall, safety presentations at area schools and safety seminars for contractors.

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to submit artwork using the *Building Safety: Where You Live* theme. Entries may be brought to the Customer Service Center at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Each entry must be no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches and must include the printed name of the contestant, school and grade, and home telephone number on the back. The deadline for entries is 5 p.m., Fri., May 9.

Building Safety Week is sponsored by the [International Code Council](#), a membership organization dedicated to building safety and fire prevention. The International Code Council develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools.

For more information on Building Safety Week, call 358.5430 or e-mail [building@oak-park.us](mailto:building@oak-park.us).

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