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From: David Powers  
Communications Director  
708.358.5781

Contact: Karen Rozmus  
Waste Reduction Manager  
708.358.5707

**Waste hauler employee volunteers to help Oak Park clean-up for special event**

Oak Park's residential waste hauler will bring its new employees to Oak Park Friday to do what the company does best – clean up. A new [Waste Management](#) employee-training program includes a community services facet, and senior company officials chose downtown Oak Park as the site for its first test.

The trial run could not have come at a better time, according to Oak Park's Waste Reduction Manager Karen Rozmus, since the downtown area is preparing to host a special *eco-friendly* event Saturday on Marion Street, with microbrews and food pairings, live music and entertainment.

Co-sponsored by the Public Works Department and Keep Oak Park Beautiful, the cleanup will be followed by a tour of Oak Park's green [Public Works Center](#), the first in Illinois to seek certification for its environmentally conscious design. Waste Management employees will be cleaning up the downtown area beginning at 10 a.m., Friday.

"This event is an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of partnerships and people working together to make a difference," Rozmus said. "Waste Management's new employees will experience first hand the rewards of volunteering and the downtown area will get a special sprucing up just in time for a major special event."

The Oak Park cleanup is an opportunity for newly hired Waste Management employees to actively participate in community betterment, according to company officials. The community relations component of the *Green Week* orientation program is intended to establish volunteerism as a corporate ethic, helping new employees understand how their contributions as individuals and through teamwork are tied to the future success of the company and the communities it serves.

Rozmus said Saturday's special event is billed as one with zero waste. It is produced by the [Downtown Oak Park business association](#) and [Seven Generations Ahead](#), an Oak Park-based non-profit organization whose mission is to build ecologically sustainable and healthy communities. The event, scheduled for 3 - 7:00 p.m., Sat., on Marion Street, will feature tastings of 50 craft beers from 15 microbreweries from across Illinois, and organic food from Oak Park restaurateurs and local farmers. More information on the event and purchasing tickets is posted at [www.sevengenerationsahead.org](http://www.sevengenerationsahead.org).

For more information on the special cleanup program, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

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