



For Immediate Release: 11.12.09

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Saturday parking to be free in Oak Park for holiday shoppers

Shoppers who come to Oak Park on any weekend from Nov. 28 through December 19 will get an early holiday present – free parking.

Free Saturday parking in Oak Park actually will begin during the Thanksgiving holiday, when parking will be free on Thurs., Nov. 26, Fri., Nov. 27 and Sat., Nov. 28. Free Saturday parking also will be offered on Saturdays Dec. 5, 12 and 19. Parking in Oak Park always is free on Sundays.

With more than 4,000 public parking spaces free on weekends from Thanksgiving through Dec. 19, residents and visitors alike should find it easier than ever to take advantage of the abundance of shopping and dining choices in Oak Park.

Among its nearly 1,000 retail businesses, Oak Park boasts more than 90 restaurants, a multi-screen theater, many specialty shops and art galleries, and a mix of both national chains and local stores. A searchable database of Oak Park businesses, including details about their goods and services, as well as directions and contact information, is posted online at www.greatneighborhoodsoakpark.com.

Getting to Oak Park is easy, too. The Village is accessible from all points via public transportation and private vehicles. Two Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) elevated rail lines (Blue and Green), the Metra (Union Pacific West Line) train, 10 PACE bus lines and eight CTA bus lines serve Oak Park.

Those who choose to come by automobile will find easy access from all directions, as well, including via the Austin Boulevard and Harlem Avenue exits from the Eisenhower Expressway, I-290. And once here, parking is available at meters along most streets in the business districts, pay-by-space lots and public garages on Lake Street and Oak Park Avenues – all free on weekends beginning with the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Business districts in Oak Park where metered parking will be free on Saturdays include The Avenue (Lake Street/Oak Park Avenue), South Marion (South Boulevard), Arts District (Harrison Street), Chicago Avenue (Ridgeland to Austin), South Oak Park Avenue (near the Eisenhower Expressway) and Lake Street from Ridgeland Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

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Free parking in Oak Park
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Metered parking also will be free on the designated Saturdays along the entire length of North Avenue and Roosevelt Road, from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. In addition, shoppers can take advantage of free parking on the designated weekends in all Village garages, including the Holley Court and Lake & Forest garages downtown, and the Avenue Garage just east of Oak Park Avenue on North Boulevard.

For more information about shopping and dining in Oak Park, e-mail business@oak-park.us. For more information on parking in Oak Park, e-mail parking@oak-park.us.

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