

Experienced administrator is new Village Manager



A municipal administrator with more than two decades of experience has been hired as Oak Park’s new Village Manager. Thomas W. Barwin, 52, is expected to assume his duties in Oak Park early this month.

Barwin comes to Oak Park from Ferndale, Michigan, a community of about 25,000 residents adjacent to Detroit. He was Ferndale’s manager since early 1998 and is credited with transforming the aging, inner-ring suburb into what many now call *Fashionable Ferndale*.

Village officials said Barwin’s experience and personality are a perfect match for the Village, as Oak Park and Ferndale share many attributes, including active citizen involvement and proximity to a major city. Ferndale is a diverse, predominantly residential community about the same geographic size as Oak Park, and has a mix of historic residential and retail structures and a newly revitalized downtown commercial district.

Barwin was selected after a national search that attracted a diverse group of applicants from across the country and brought the top six candidates here in May for interviews with the Village Board. Officials involved in the search said Barwin rose to the top of the list early in the process as he exhibited a deep understanding of issues facing Oak Park such as the need to balance growth with historic preservation.

He also has a strong background in financial and operational management and labor relations, and recognizes the many benefits of nurturing positive relationships with the schools and other taxing bodies, officials said.

Prior to assuming his current role in Ferndale, Barwin served in executive positions in the Michigan communities of Troy, Hazel Park, St. Charles, St. Clair Shores and Warren, as well as with the Michigan Department of Commerce.

He is a graduate of Central Michigan University, Michigan State University and Harvard University’s Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. He also served on the Brookings Institution’s Midwest leadership group which helped craft a new public policy agenda for older suburbs titled *Valuing America’s First Suburbs*.

An opportunity for residents to meet the new Village Manager is planned for 6 p.m., Tues., Sept. 5 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information, call 358.5770 or email village@oak-park.us.

Oak Park Village Managers

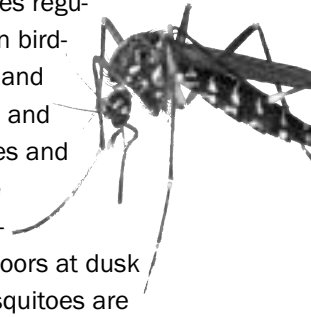
Mark Keane	1953–1962
Harris Stevens	1962–1971
Lee Ellis	1971–1976
Jack Gruber	1976–1980
Ralph DeSantis	1980–1985
J. Neil Nielsen	1986–1992
Allen Parker	1992–1995
Carl Swenson	1996–2006

E-mail information service offered

Keeping up with what’s going on at Village Hall is easy for anyone with a computer and access to the internet. The Village’s e-mail news and information service allows anyone wishing to receive information on municipal activities to sign-up at www.oak-park.us — just click on the e-news icon. No information other than an email address is collected. Unsubscribing is just as easy. News and information distributed via the e-mail service is limited to official municipal business. For more information, call 358.5770 or email village@oak-park.us.

West Nile Virus threat continues

With the threat of West Nile Virus remaining, experts say reducing the mosquito population and the chances of being bitten are the best ways to keep the virus at bay. To reduce breeding opportunities regularly empty and clean bird-baths, wading pools and ceramic garden pots and clear gutters of leaves and sticks. To reduce the chances of being bitten avoid being outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are the most active, leave as little skin exposed as possible and use mosquito repellents containing DEET or Picaridin. Remember to follow the directions on the bottle. For more information call 358.5694 or email health@oak-park.us.



New Village Manager a perfect match for our community



David Pope,
Village President

On behalf of the entire Village Board I am pleased to welcome Tom Barwin as our new Village Manager. The Board was extremely impressed with

Tom during the interview process and we believe that he brings a strong set of skills and experiences to the role of Village Manager of Oak Park.

Tom comes to Oak Park after eight years as City Manager of Ferndale, Michigan, a first-ring suburb of Detroit that is similar to Oak Park in some important respects. It is a diverse, predominantly residential community about the same geographic size as Oak Park with a mix of historic residential and retail structures, and a newly revitalized commercial and retail district. It also faces some of the same challenges that we face here in Oak Park, including the need to balance economic development with the importance of maintaining our community's character.

With more than 25 years of experience in municipal management, Tom has developed an impressive track record of successes across a broad array of roles in multiple communities. In total, he has nearly 17 years of experience as a City Manager. This was important to the Village Board, as we were interested in bringing in a person with a history of success who would not need a lot of time to climb the learning curve.

It also was important to the Board that we identify someone with strong operations experience who could help us to move to the next level of organizational performance. Tom clearly brings this ability and commitment to the job.

Tom also believes strongly in the idea of surrounding himself with very good people and then allowing them to do their jobs. He is an innovative thinker, and he emphasizes the importance of delivering exceptional levels of service. And, while he clearly requires high levels of performance from his staff colleagues, he also is more than willing to put himself on the line to serve the interests of the community.

As pleased as we are that Tom is going to be joining us, he is equally

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Although I am leaving one of Metro-Detroit's most interesting, upbeat and progressive communities, I am thrilled to be joining one of America's truly great and forward looking communities."

— Tom Barwin

appreciative to be coming to Oak Park. In a public statement, he has said, "I am really looking forward to living in and working with and for the elected officials, people and employees of Oak Park. Although I am leaving one of Metro-Detroit's most interesting, upbeat and progressive communities, I am thrilled to be joining one of America's truly great and forward looking communities. I am sincerely honored to have been selected and can't wait to get started."

My fellow Board members and I are confident Tom will find Oak Park to be an exciting and fulfilling challenge.

At the same time, also on behalf of the entire Board, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the job that M. Ray Wiggins has done as our Interim Village Manager throughout the search process. His efforts during this period of transition have been instrumental in making sure the public services upon which the community depends have remained at the high levels that residents expect and deserve. We also feel fortunate to have had the best efforts, not just of Ray, but of all of Village staff, during this time.

Our success depends on our understanding that the hierarchy that is implied in an organizational chart sometimes needs to be thought of in a different way. Ultimately, it is our job as the Village Board to ensure that we hire the best Village Manager possible and to then provide him or her with the resources and support necessary to be successful. Similarly, it is the Village Manager's job to hire and retain the very best staff and then to provide them with the resources and support that they need to be successful in meeting the needs of our community.

With the selection of Tom Barwin as our new Village Manager, my fellow Village Board members and I are confident that we are on the right path in moving toward an even more effective and efficient delivery of the public services upon which we all rely every day.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Pope', written in a cursive style.

David Pope
Village President

Meet the new Village Manager

6 p.m., Tues., Sept. 5, at Village Hall,
123 Madison St.

HEALTH NEWS

Call 358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us

Immunizations offered...Free back-to-school immunizations will be provided to uninsured and underinsured residents by appointment. Call 358.5491 to make an appointment.

Health screenings available...Blood pressure, total cholesterol, high density lipoproteins (HDL) glucose, weight and body mass index screenings are available for a \$10 fee through the *Know Your Numbers* program held from 9:40 to noon on the second Saturday of the month at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Participants should be between 30 and 64 years old. Appointments are required. To make an appointment call 358.5427 or email health@oak-park.us.

Childhood resources...Parents seeking early childhood resources may find help in a guide developed by the *Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education*. Copies are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.; Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave.; Oak Park Regional Housing Center,



1041 South Blvd.; Infant Welfare Clinic, 320 Lake St.; and the Chamber of Commerce, 1110 North Blvd. For more information call 358.5428 or email health@oak-park.us.

Cooling Centers open...When the heat index exceeds 100 degrees for three consecutive days or when a heat emergency is declared by the National Weather Service, residents can cool

down at Resurrection Health Care, 3 Erie Court, from 6:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., seven days a week and Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave., from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Anyone needing transportation may call the Oak Park Police Department non-emergency number 386.3800. For more information call 358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Living with a chronic disease...A program to help residents with chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and arthritis learn to deal physically and emotionally with their disease, communicate effectively with family, friends and doctors, and evaluate new treatments is available. Classes meet weekly for six weeks. Call 358.5492 or email health@oak-park.us.

Smoking banned...Smoking is now banned in all indoor public places and places of employment and within 15 feet of all entrances. Outdoor restaurant tables are exempt and restaurants with a smoking area on a separate floor have until March 1, 2007 to comply. For more information call 358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Oak Park walkers...Walkers meet at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. every Wednesday at the Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St. Groups walk a three-mile route to North Avenue and back. Anyone is welcome to walk any portion of the route or to form a group to walk at a different time and route from another location. For more information call 358.5484 or email health@oak-park.us.

HIV and STD testing...Confidential testing and treatment for sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV are available by appointment. Testing is free to Oak Park residents, but non-residents will be charged a nominal fee based on income. Appointments are required. Call 358.5483.

Housing News

Public comment to help prepare a 2006 update to an affordable housing report presented in 2003 will be accepted at 7 p.m., Wed., Aug. 16, in Council Chamber of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The original report can be viewed at www.oak-park.us – mouse over the *Departments* tab, click on *Community Services* and look for the link along the right margin. Copies of the original report also are available at the customer service desk in

Village Hall. Anyone unable to attend the meeting can comment via email to housing@oak-park.us. For more information, call 358.5424

First-time homebuyer's seminar...A free seminar to help prospective first-time homebuyers understand loan programs available in Oak Park is scheduled for 7 – 8:30 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 24, at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Financial assistance programs will be explained and participants will receive a free packet of helpful information. Pre-registration is required. Call 358.5408 or email housing@oak-park.us.



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Proposals sought for South Boulevard, Harlem Avenue properties

Developers are being asked to present ideas for how best to use the nearly 50,000 square feet of publicly owned property that fronts on Harlem Avenue and South Boulevard directly across from the multimodal mass transit station. A formal Request for Proposals (RFP) issued on June 28 seeks concepts for two separate parcels, both of which are now surface parking lots. Responses are due back to the Village by August 28. Respondents have been given wide latitude in use and design, but commercial uses such as retail on the first floor of any multi-level development is encouraged. The RFP requires replacing the existing 144 parking spaces, as well as adding new parking. Proposals also are expected to reflect citizen input gathered at a mid-April neighborhood participatory planning meeting and incorporate sustainable and green building practices in the design and choice of materials. Since the site is adjacent to the Ridgeland/Oak Park Historic District, the exterior design also will be an important consideration. For a copy of the RFP call 358.5640 or email planning@oak-park.us.

Planning to begin on new North Boulevard parking garage

Efforts have begun to plan and design a new parking garage for North Boulevard, as well as a street system and streetscape elements. The new 500-car garage would replace the Village surface parking lot on the north side of North Boulevard just east of Harlem Avenue and across from the main entrance of the multimodal transportation station. Opportunities for incorporating residential and commercial development into the garage also will be examined. Public participation will be encouraged. Information such as public meeting times and dates will be posted at www.oak-park.us as the process gets underway. For more information call 358.5640 or email planning@oak-park.us.



Grant sought to help fund Lake Street planning study

A \$35,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is being sought to help offset the cost of a planning study underway for Lake Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard, including the transit area at South Boulevard. The study, another step in a community wide effort to create long-term redevelopment strategies for Oak Park's business districts, began in June and is expected to be completed in November. The objective of the study is to develop a plan that will improve the economic marketability of the area, while enhancing the quality of life within the

surrounding neighborhoods. The study also will include an architectural survey of the building stock along the corridor. Opportunities for citizen input will include public forums, stakeholder interviews, focus groups and questionnaires. For more information on the Lake Street study or other Village planning activities, call 358.5418 or email planning@oak-park.us.

August VOP-TV6 Programming Highlights

Daily at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m.

- VOP-TV6 Edition of *OP/FYI*
- Public Works Facility Update
- Oak Park Farmers' Market
- Fourth of July Parade
- Commitment to Community

Regular Village Board Meetings

Live first and third Mondays

Replayed at 11 a.m. Sunday and Tuesday, and 7 p.m. Wednesday and Friday

Study Sessions

Days and times of live cablecast vary

Replayed at 11 a.m. Thursday and Saturday, and 7 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday

Who to Call at Village Hall

Main number	383.6400
Village TTY	383.0048
Info Line	445.3340
Adjudication	358.5479
Building & Property Standards	358.5430
Licenses/Permits	358.5433
Zoning	358.5449
Codes/status of plans	358.5434
Property complaints	358.5443
Inspections	358.5440
Community Services	358.5400
Community Relations	358.5423
Housing	358.5424
Community Planning/Development	358.5425
Information Technology	358.5450
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire Non-Emergency	445.3300
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Development Services	358.5640
Human Resources	358.5650
Law	358.5660
Village Clerk	358.5670
Police Non-Emergency	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	386.0740
Police/Fire TTY	848.1911
West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center	771.9110
Public Works	358.5700
Snow Hotline	358.SNOW
Parking Office	358.PARK
Night Parking Passes	358.NITE
Day Parking Passes	358.DAYS
Village Manager's Office	358.5770
Village Board	358.5784
Village Web Page	www.oak-park.us

POLICE/FIRE/MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

911

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Farmers' Market in full swing...The Oak Park Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday, June – October in the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake St. Growers from Illinois and surrounding states offer a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey, preserves, meat and cheeses. Call 358.5780 or email farmersmarket@oak-park.us.

Collection delay...Refuse, recycling and yardwaste collection services will be delayed by one day during the week of Labor Day, Sept. 4. Friday's regular collection will be on Saturday. Call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Heed weather warning signs...Sirens are activated when tornadoes or heavy wind and rainstorms threaten the Village. When you hear the siren, go to a safe place in the house, usually the basement, and stay away from windows. Turn on a battery-powered radio or television and wait for the "all clear" announcement. Oak Park's three sirens are tested at 10:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. Call 445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Leaf blower restrictions in effect...The use of gas-powered leaf blowers emanating more than 65 decibels or failing to meet federal emission regulations is banned from June 1 – Oct. 1. The ban applies to both landscapers and homeowners. Gas-powered blowers that emanate fewer than 65 decibels and meet emission standards may be used during the ban if they have been tested and approved by the Village. Call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Apartment search assistance...The Oak Park Regional Housing Center provides free referrals for tenants and



landlords in Oak Park and surrounding suburbs. The Housing Center is at 1041 South Blvd. and is open from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturdays. Call 848.7150 or visit www.apartmentsoakpark.org.

Private signs prohibited on public property...Garage sale signs, business sandwich board signs and other types of signs or obstructions in the public right-of-ways are prohibited. Call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Pet owners urged to pick up...Responsible dog owners agree that picking up after one's dog is the right thing to do. Dog excrement is not only a nuisance, it's unhealthy and against the law. Anyone observing a dog owner not picking up after his or her dog should call 358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Water use restricted...State law mandates summer watering restrictions for towns using Lake Michigan water. Through Sept. 15, outdoor water use is limited Mondays through Fridays to even-numbered street addresses on even-numbered days, and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days. Newly planted grass seed, sod, trees and shrubs are exempt during their first 30 days of growth. Call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK

Call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us

Office hours...The Office of the Village Clerk is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday through August. Hours are extended to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays beginning Sept. 11. For more information, call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Vehicle stickers required...

Any Oak Park resident who owns a vehicle or any person who uses a vehicle owned by a Village resident is required to purchase a vehicle sticker annually by July 1.

Fees for all classifications of vehicles double after the purchase deadline. The annual vehicle window sticker fee for a passenger car is \$45, but residents age 65 and older pay \$35. Residents who have a disability plate or placard also pay \$35. All trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, mopeds and buses must be licensed, too. Vehicle stickers are available in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Stop solicitors...To prevent solicitors from knocking, obtain a no-soliciting sticker to place on or near your front door. Call 358.5674 or email clerk@oak-park.us for more information.

Garage sales...A maximum of two garage sales may be held by members of one residence and/or family during any calendar year. Sales are limited to the daylight hours of three consecutive days. Items may be displayed only within a resident's garage and/or rear yard, except when a neighborhood block sale is held. Posting signs on public parkways is not allowed. Call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.





Village of Oak Park
 Village Hall
 123 Madison Street
 Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President David Pope

Trustees

Geoff Baker
 Elizabeth Brady
 Martha Brock
 Greg Marsey
 Robert Milstein
 Ray Johnson
 Sandra Sokol
 M. Ray Wiggins

Residential Customer Local
 Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
 Pre-Sort

Presort
 Standard
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 26
 Oak Park, IL

POLICE NEWS

Call 386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us

Get to know your resident beat police officer...

The Resident Beat Officer Program emphasizes the value of open communication between the Oak Park Police Department and the community by assigning sworn officers to work from their homes, which are located in their respective beats. As a neighborhood resident, each Resident Beat Officer — or RBO — works directly with his or her neighbors to identify and address local problems. All RBOs can be reached by telephone or email. For information on your neighborhood's RBO, visit www.oak-park.us — mouse over the *Departments* tab, click on police and look for the link.

Police escort...Any resident uneasy about walking to or from a public transit stop, public garage or other site in the community may contact the Police Department for an escort from dusk until dawn. Residents are asked to seek assistance from friends and family first, since officers may be needed for emergency calls. Call 386.3800 for information or an escort.

Security check-up...Owners of single-family homes can have their Resident Beat Officer assess their home securi-

ty needs. The RBO will examine the property and offer practical suggestions for improving security. Call 386.3800 to make an appointment.

Looking out for the elderly...Senior citizens living alone who do not have frequent visitors to check on their welfare are encouraged to take advantage of a program called R-U-O-K (are you okay). Persons who register for the service receive an automated call each day at the same time. If no one answers, a police car is dispatched to the home. Call 383.8060 for more information or to register for this free service.

Disabled parking patrol...Volunteers are needed for the Disabled Parking Patrol that tickets cars parked illegally in spaces reserved for the disabled.

The Police Department trains volunteers and supplies uniforms and telephones in case of emergency. Volunteers use their own cars while on patrol, but are provided with magnetic signs identifying them as part of the Oak Park Police Disabled Parking Patrol. Call 358.5514 for more information.

Basketball camp...A free basketball camp for youths ages 10–15 is scheduled for 8 – 11 a.m., Aug. 7 – 11 at Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School, 325 S. Kenilworth Ave. For more information call 358.5545 or pick up a registration form at the Police Department in Village Hall, 123 Madison St.



Information abounds at Visitors Center

The Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau offers a wealth of information for tourists and locals alike. Housed near the Forest Avenue entrance to the municipal parking garage on Lake Street, the Bureau can help find a location for a family outing, set up a conference and provide a list of upcoming area events. The Bureau also has information on shopping and dining in Oak Park and surrounding communities as well as all the latest programs and activities. For more information call 524.7800, email info@visitoakpark.com or visit www.visitoakpark.com.