

Village working to make the community more bicycle friendly

Using a bicycle for transportation in Oak Park has gotten a lot easier over the past few years, as efforts to make the Village more bicycle friendly have raised awareness of riders' needs and dramatically increased places to safely park and secure a bike.

Over the past year alone, the Village has installed more than 60 new bike racks, with special attention given to mass transit nodes. New bike racks have been installed near the CTA Green Line at Austin Boulevard and Oak Park Avenue, the Blue Line at Austin and East Avenue, and the CTA/Union Pacific intermodal station. Other key bike rack locations include public parking lots and garages, and key shopping areas.

To help find a place to park, the Village has installed more than 50 signs directing bicyclists to the nearest rack.

Fully enclosed, weatherproof bike lockers also are being tested to gauge the demand by commuters who bicycle to mass transit nodes year round. The five lockers were installed last year on North Boulevard by the intermodal station near the downtown mall. So far, four of the five have been rented for an



Getting ready for a ride to see first hand how programs are helping to make Oak Park more bicycle friendly are (from left) Parking & Traffic Commissioner Paul Aeschleman, Village Manager Carl Swenson, Parking Development Manager Adolfo Benages, Business Development Manager Loretta Daly, Village Engineer Jim Budrick, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation Planning Director Nick Jackson, Public Works Director John Wielebnicki, Deputy Police Chief Frank Kennedy, Park District Executive Director Gary Balling and Village Civil Engineer Ellen McKenna. Environmental & Energy Advisory Commissioner Ilhan Avcioglu and resident Roger Thompson also were along for the ride.

annual fee of \$75 each and a refundable key deposit of \$25.

Other efforts to encourage safe cycling and promote the community as being bicycle friendly include "Share

the Road" signs at all major community entry points. Augusta Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard also was officially designated a part of the Grand Illinois Trail, a 475-mile loop between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River.

Based on input from citizens and bicycling enthusiasts, the Village also has made consideration of the needs of bicyclists a top priority when implementing traffic control and calming measures, such as parking lanes, curb bump outs and cul de sacs.

For more information on the Village's efforts to promote bicycling, or to suggest locations for bicycle racks, call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Residents asked to help support public art

The Village's newly created Public Art Advisory Commission (PAAC) has begun to build a fund to purchase and commission art for permanent installation throughout the community. The first in a series of fall fundraising events will be a Founder's Opening, scheduled for 6 - 11 p.m., Fri., Sept. 5, in Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave. Tickets to the special founder's event, which will include dinner, an outdoor exhibit of works by area artists and music by noted Oak Park jazz pianist Jeremy Kahn, are \$175 each. Only 100 tickets are available, and those who participate will have their names engraved on a bronze plaque that will be displayed in a prominent location in the Village. For more information on the event or the PAAC, call 358.5770 or email village@oak-park.us.

Sophisticated tree inventory to enhance forestry management



Expertise, information and technology are giving Oak Park a powerful new tool to better manage the community's urban forest. When internationally recognized tree expert Mark Duntemann finishes walking every street in the Village — probably by late October — he will have identified by species, measured, assessed the health and noted the location of every single one of Oak Park's some 20,000 parkway trees.

But the Village walkabout is just the beginning. The information Duntemann will have entered into his handheld computer tablet will be combined with

five years of existing in-house data on pruning, plantings and removals, creating a comprehensive historical computer database that will guide future care and renewal of the Village's trees.

The data will be managed through a computer software program called *Canopy*, a sophisticated tree management system that can maintain information and maintenance records on an unlimited number of trees. *Canopy* can apply the latest International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Appraisal Formula to calculate the value of individual trees should they be damaged by construction or weather; allow for easy updates of maintenance records; automatically create lists for replacements following removals; analyze up to 25 different factors affecting specific trees; and more easily monitor problem trees and species.

Purchased with a state grant, the software program also will interface with most standard Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which create sophisticated data management

tools from sources such as maps, aerial photos, satellites and surveys.

As the inventory is being completed, Duntemann, who heads the Worchester, Vermont-based forestry consulting firm of Natural Path Urban Forestry, will train the Village's own arborists to maintain and update the database.

The Village expects to see the first practical application of the new system in its budget for next year's tree trimming contracts. When contracts are let for trimming, the Forestry Division will know exactly what the costs should be since fees are based on tree measurements, data that already will be contained in the inventory system. Another application with near immediate value will be the information to select trees for future planting based on the existing species mix and site conditions.

For more information on the new tree inventory management system, contact the Forestry Division of the Public Works Department at 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us

Employees prepare for emergencies

Public Works Department employees participated in a two-day training course last month to learn how to prepare for and respond to terrorism acts. Offered by the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) of Texas A&M University, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, the curriculum, entitled "Public Works: Preparing for and Responding to Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction," focused on the challenges Public Works staff and other emergency responders could face in a terrorist event. For information on the Village emergency preparedness planning, visit www.oak-park.us. Click on news, then the "emergency preparedness" icon along the right-hand column.

Instant rebate available on energy efficient products

Residents who purchase selected energy efficient products from selected local merchants may be eligible for a \$10 in-store instant rebate. Products eligible for the rebate include compact fluorescent light bulbs, winter window cover kits, gas water heater blankets, heavy duty timers for air conditioners, heaters and appliances, outdoor motion sensor lights and programmable thermostats. For more information on this program call 358.5707.

New Lighting Expanded

A test of new lighting technology that uses in-ground induction lamp studs to illuminate crosswalks has been expanded to Grove Avenue between Harrison Street and Jackson Boulevard. The lights, which use hermetically sealed studs that are impervious to road salt and vehicle traffic, have been in use at the intersection of Harvard and Oak Park avenues for several months. The low power consumption technology transfers electrical power from one device to another without the need for any physical connection and has a life expectancy of 100,000 hours. To learn more call 358.5720.

Take precautions against West Nile Virus

With cases of West Nile Virus now confirmed this year in Illinois, it is important to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites and eliminate breeding opportunities. The risk of contracting a serious illness from the virus is small, so rather than limiting outdoor activities, take these precautions:

- Avoid the outdoors at dusk or dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Take steps to prevent mosquito bites, such as wearing shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors.
- Use mosquito repellents. Repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m toluamide) are considered the most effective. Be sure to follow manufacturer's directions
- Regularly empty and clean containers such as birdbaths, wading pools and ceramic garden pots.
- Eliminate places that might collect water where mosquitoes can lay their eggs, such as weeds, tall grass and old tires. Even depressions in the ground or a discarded bottle cap can be a potential mosquito-breeding site.
- Keep gutters clean. Clogged roof gutters can easily hold enough water to be a major mosquito larvae incubator.

For more information, call the Oak Park Department of Public Health at 358.5694 or email health@oak-park.us.

Smoke-free restaurant wallet card available

The Department of Public Health has published a wallet-sized listing of the Village's smoke-free eating establishments. These restaurants represent more than 68 percent of Oak Park restaurants — those that have volunteered to provide a healthy environment for both patrons and employees. To receive a free wallet card, or for information on how your favorite restaurant can join the program, call 358.5487.

Sign up for a walking club

Lack of physical activity increases the risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and other health problems. But it takes just 30 minutes of daily moderate-to-vigorous physical activity to reduce that risk. Sign up with a walking group in your neighborhood and improve your health. Walkers can choose to join a casual or fitness-oriented group. For more information call 358.5484.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Maintaining high immunization rates protects the entire community by interrupting the transmission of disease-causing bacteria or viruses. Immunizations are required for any child entering pre-school or kindergarten and are available at no charge from 3 – 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Health Department Clinic, 320 Lake Street. A parent or guardian must accompany children under 18. No appointment is necessary. In addition to immunizations, children entering pre-school or kindergarten also must be assessed by a physician for exposure to lead. For information about immunizations and lead testing call 358.5494.

Cooling centers open

Villagers seeking relief from high temperatures can cool off at both Rush Oak Park Hospital and West Suburban Hospital on days when the heat index exceeds 100 for three days, 105 for two days or when a heat emergency is declared by the National Weather Service. Centers are open from 6 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. Transportation is available by calling 386.3800, the Police non-emergency number.

Report dead birds

The Oak Park Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Public Health are assessing the prevalence of West Nile Virus through dead bird counts. To report a dead bird, call the Village's Dead Bird Reporting Hotline at 358.5694. For questions about the virus call 358.5487.

New program to urge drivers to obey speed limits

Hoping to persuade drivers to observe the speed limit, the Village has joined a national education movement called Keep Kids Alive Drive 25™. Oak Park, like most municipalities across the country, has a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on the majority of its streets. The Village just recently lowered the speed limit on Harrison Street to 25 mph from 30 mph, and that is one of the first areas signs bearing the program's message will soon be going up. Jackson Boulevard also is expected to be among the Oak Park streets where signage will soon be installed. To further spread the word about the importance of obeying the speed limit as a way to reduce accidents, the Village also expects to work with schools, community groups and other organizations that can help get the message across to local drivers. In addition, Oak Park Police officers will be paying special attention to areas where the program is most visible. For information on the Keep Kids Alive Drive 25™ program, call 358.5732 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Meet Your Village People

Assistant Village Manager M. Ray Wiggins



Ray Wiggins became Assistant Village Manager in 1997, after two and a half years as an assistant to Oak Park's Village Manager. Prior to coming to Oak Park, Wiggins served seven and a half years in various analyst positions in the City Manager's Office of the City of San Antonio, Texas. Wiggins earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies and Community Affairs from Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N.C. He also has completed graduate course work in Urban Studies at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, and has completed the National

Forum for Black Public Administrators Executive Leadership Institute, studying at Howard University, San Jose State University, University of Louisville, Clark Atlanta University, Syracuse University and the University of Minnesota. He also mentors African American males at the East Aurora High School in Aurora, Illinois, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Oak Park Education Foundation.

Human Resources Director Frank Spataro



Frank Spataro became the Village's Human Resources Director in February 2002. Prior to coming to Oak Park, he worked for 22 years in the Human Resources Department of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, including nine years as the Assistant Human Resources Director. Spataro holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Cincinnati with an emphasis on public policy and quantitative analysis, and a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the Illinois State University. Spataro is certified by the American

Compensation Association as compensation professional and a Senior Human Resources Professional by the Society for Human Resources Management.

Volvo to build new facility

An agreement has been reached to keep Volvo in the Village by relocating the Madison Street dealership to the long-undeveloped property at Harlem Avenue and Garfield Street, adjacent to the Eisenhower Expressway. Construction could begin in September. Keeping the dealership in Oak Park

will preserve sales tax revenues expected to grow to more than \$100,000 a year and generate new property tax revenues estimated at \$585,000 in its first full year of operations. The new dealership, which will invest \$6 million to develop the site, will be renamed Volvo of Oak Park. The Oak Park Volvo dealership, operated as Shepherd Motors, is owned by West Suburban Automotive Corp., which expects to use the Madison Street property to lease high-end automobile brands and sell Vespa Scooters and associated clothing and accessories. For more information, call 358.5640 or email devsvcs@oak-park.us.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Learn to save a life...CPR/AED classes are held from 6 – 10 p.m., four times a month at the main fire station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. Classes are free to Oak Park residents, but a \$10 deposit for the loan of a text is required. Pre-registration also is required. For more information call 445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Stop solicitors...To prevent solicitors from knocking on your door, obtain a "no-soliciting" sticker from the Village Clerk to place on or near your front door. Call 358.5674 or email clerk@oak-park.us for more information. To report an unauthorized solicitation call 358.5411 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us.

Parking office extends hours...

The Parking Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Mon., Aug. 25 for permit renewals. For more information call 358.5700 or email public-works@oak-park.us.

Plan your next block party...Packets with information on services available for your next block party are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. These packets include a petition that must be signed by 10 separate households on the block and returned 10 days before the event so the appropriate departments can be notified and street barricades delivered. For more information call 358.5406 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us.

Community profile available...

Updated information on the community, including demographics, is now available. A copy of the four-page Community Profile, prepared by the Community Services Department, is available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more details, call 358.5409 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us.

Public input sought on parks, recreation comprehensive plan



The first in a series of public forums to gather citizen input to help create a comprehensive management plan for the community's park and recreational resources are scheduled for September. Forums will be held at 7 p.m. Tues., Sept. 9 in Stevenson Center, 49 Lake St., and Wed., Sept. 10 in Longfellow Center, 610 S. Ridgeland Ave. The Village and Park District have joined forces with citizens to draft the master plan, which will set priorities and determine future program and capital needs. The plan, to be prepared by a consortium of national and local design firms, is expected to take about a year to complete. For more information, call 725.2020 or 358.5425 or email DianeS@oakparkparks.com or comsvcs@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.

Interview with Oak Park's First Village Manager
Oak Park Oral Health Coalition
Euclid/Lake Transformation
Celebrating 50 Years of Council-Manager Government
Family Case Management Program
Dealing With West Nile Virus

Monday – Friday 4 – 5 p.m.

NASA Programming

Live at 7:30 p.m. Mondays, rebroadcast Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meetings
& Study Sessions

POLICE NEWS

Call 386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us

Explorers to host basketball camp

The Oak Park Police Explorers 11th Annual Hoop Skills Basketball Camp will be held Aug. 11 – 15 at Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave. Boys and girls entering grades four through six in September will attend Session I from 8 – 11 a.m., and junior high boys and girls will attend Session II from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Cost of the one-week camp, which is sponsored by the Oak Park Police Department, Youth Services of Oak Park Township and the Cook County Board, is \$30 and includes two T-shirts, one-on-one and group instruction, team play, full court games, contests and awards. Applications are available at the Oak Park Police Department in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information call 386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Cell phones aid seniors in emergencies

Cell phones programmed to just dial 9-1-1 have been distributed to residents of Mills Tower as a test of a new program to provide seniors with easy access to emergency services. The trial program is expected to eventually be expanded to provide a programmed cell phone to any senior citizen in the community who needs one. To learn more about the program, or how you can donate a cell phone, contact the Police Department.

Park patrols underway

The Oak Park Police have stepped up summer patrols at all Village parks thanks to a BADGE grant from Cook County Board President John H. Stroger, Jr. The special patrols begin each afternoon and continue until the parks close at 11 p.m.

Free bicycle registration helps deter thieves

Residents who take advantage of the Village's free registration service receive a difficult-to-remove decal that will allow easy identification should the bike be stolen and later recovered. The decal also serves as a deterrent against theft. Registration forms are available at the Police Department or Office of the Village Clerk in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The bike's serial number is needed to complete this form. For more information 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

Joanne E. Trapani

Trustees

Diana Carpenter

Galen Gockel

Ray Johnson

Gus Kostopoulos

Robert Milstein

David Pope

Sandra Sokol

Village Clerk

Carl Swenson

Village Manager

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL

PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
Presort

IKE UPDATE

For more information on Ike issues, call 358.5770, email village@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us – click on news, then the I-290 icon.



Only one more chance to comment on transportation plan

Oak Parkers will get only one more chance to comment locally on the long-range plan that will shape transportation policy and projects in the Chicago area through 2030, including the proposed expansion of the Eisenhower Expressway. A meeting hosted by the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) and the Northeastern Illinois

Planning Commission (NIPC) is scheduled for 4 – 7:30 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 28, in Council Chambers at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Known as Shared Path 2030, the regional transportation plan (RTP) has been under development since last year and is expected to be finalized this year. Residents are urged to attend the meeting and share their thoughts on the proposal to add high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to I-290. Other topics for comment are Village-supported alternatives to expanding the Ike, including extending the CTA Blue Line El westward, expanding capacity of the Metra Union Pacific-West line, adding new bus rapid transit lines and making much needed improvements to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

State legislators voice support for Oak Park initiatives

The Illinois Senate has approved a resolution supporting Oak Park's positions on the proposed expansion of the Eisenhower Expressway. Senate Resolution 173, sponsored by Senators Kimberly Lightford and Don Harmon, urges the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to complete a full Environmental Impact Statement to properly assess all impacts of an Ike expansion and to conduct a full and objective study of transit alternatives to highway expansion. The resolution also advocates federal funding for transit alternatives in the Ike corridor and capping the expressway in Oak Park as part of pending federal legislation.

Who to Call at Village Hall

Main number	383.6400
Village TTY	383.0048
Info Line	445.3340
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
Planning/Community 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