

New members always needed

Citizen volunteers embody long history of open government in Oak Park

When it comes to citizen involvement in the process of making public policy, few communities can match the number of opportunities offered by the Village of Oak Park where volunteers on more than 25 separate boards and commissions advise the Village Board on a wide range of important issues.

The issues dealt with by these citizen groups are many and varied. From proposals for new developments to plans to better manage Oak Park's limited supply of parking, the residents who participate on these bodies play key roles in making sure policy enacted by the Village Board has had thorough public review and is in the best interests of the community as a whole.

As issues have grown more complex, the work of these citizen groups has become more valuable to the elected members of the Village Board. As part time lawmakers, the Village president and trustees rely on the boards and commissions to do much of the in-depth investigative work that a single board could never have the time or expertise to complete.

In the area of economic development, for example, the Plan Commission typically reviews proposals from developers in an open forum designed to allow for maximum input by residents who have an interest in, or will be the most affected by, any new structure. Long established to provide the primary forum for public discussion on



Members of the Citizens Involvement Commission discuss applicants for the Village's more than 25 volunteer boards and commissions.

proposed major development projects, the Plan Commission's charge is to ensure that developers have prepared specific, detailed plans that preserve and enhance the character of the neighborhood and the community, and to encourage citizen input and participation throughout the review and approval process.

Other boards and commissions operate in a similar fashion. They conduct in-depth studies, evaluate research and hold meetings that create the public record for citizen sentiments on possible future actions by the Village Board. The boards and commissions then make recommendations to the Village Board whose members have the statutory responsibility to take any appropriate actions that may be needed or required.

When vacancies occur on these advisory bodies, the Citizen Involvement Commission interviews those Villagers who have volunteered to serve. The commission then makes recommendations to the Village president, who makes the formal appointments with the consent of the Board of Trustees.

For more information on volunteering to serve on one of the commissions or boards call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us. To review a complete list of the advisory bodies, visit www.oak-park.us.

Look inside for new program

Residents who toss less and recycle more will qualify for a reduced refuse hauling fee. Be sure to check out the insert in this issue for more details on the new pay-for-use refuse program. To participate in the program, complete and return the enclosed postage-paid card, call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. If you use email, be sure to include all of the information requested on the enclosed card.



Call 358.5480 or
email health@oak-park.us



Winter tree pruning underway

Tree pruning is scheduled to begin the first week of January between Madison Street and the Eisenhower Expressway from East Avenue to Harlem Avenue and from Madison Street to the Lake Street train tracks between Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard. This pruning season represents the second year of a four-year trim cycle now established for the Village's urban forest of some 20,000 trees. Forestry Division employees will prune parkway trees under eight inches in diameter and private contractors will prune all trees over eight inches in diameter. Motorists should observe "No Parking" signs posted near trees so crews will have easy access. For more information about tree pruning, replacement and removal call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

New program brings court to Village Hall

A new administrative adjudication program will soon eliminate the need for residents challenging a ticket to travel to Maywood for a hearing in the Cook County Circuit Court.

The new program, set to begin in January, allows administrative law judges — all of whom are experienced attorneys who meet strict state qualifications — to hear a wide range of cases involving violations of municipal ordinances.

Initially only cases involving parking tickets will be heard, but the adjudication process eventually may be expanded to address other violations such as police tickets, graffiti and health violations. As an administrative hearing, the new program is a civil, not a criminal proceeding. Cases filed in the adjudication program are punishable by fines and a variety of other penalties, but not jail time.

Under the adjudication program, parking tickets also may be contested by mail. Written appeals should include all evidence the vehicle owner wishes to be considered. The appeal must be received no later than 14 days after the date the ticket was issued. Notification of the judgment typically will come within three weeks.

However, anyone wishing to contest a violation in person should appear at the hearing on the date and time specified on the ticket. Anyone choosing not to contest a ticket must pay the specified amount within 14 days of its issuance to avoid a penalty being added to the fine. In vehicle boot or impoundment hearings, the registered owner of the vehicle must appear, unless a notarized affidavit permitting a representative to appear is submitted.

All cases will be heard in Village Hall Council Chambers, 123 Madison St. For more information about the adjudication program call 358.5479 or email village@oak-park.us.

Risk assessment screenings

A screening program designed to help 30 – 50 year old residents better understand risk factors associated with coronary artery disease, diabetes and hypertension will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of each month beginning Dec. 13. The program, to be held at Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St., will offer screenings for blood pressure, total cholesterol, random blood glucose, body mass index, height and weight. Requiring only 20 minutes, the procedure involves a finger stick to obtain a blood sample. Participants will receive a brief counseling session with a registered nurse who will answer questions and provide referrals if necessary. Fee for the screening is \$5 for just total cholesterol and glucose, or \$10 for all tests. For more information call 358.5486.

January workout

Sample a variety of exercise classes before committing to class at a free workout from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Sat., Jan. 10, at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Classes include hip hop for adults and kids, belly dancing, tai chi and body sculpting. For more information call 358.5484.

Dentists needed

Volunteer dentists are needed to treat low-income residents at a reduced cost. The Oak Park Oral Health Referral Program matches financially eligible residents with practitioners who agree to accept a pre-determined fee for services. Referred patients have been pre-screened and have a treatment plan and x-rays. Practitioners select the patients they wish to treat. For more information call 358.5484.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Holiday hours...The Office of the Village Clerk will be open from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wed., Dec. 24 and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 31. For more information call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Childcare center information...The Village maintains current information on licensed childcare centers in Oak Park. To obtain a list of centers, call 383.5491 or email health@oak-park.us. To learn more about licensing requirements, call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Parking office extends hours...The Parking Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 20 and from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 29 for permit renewals. Regular office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fourth quarter parking permits expire at midnight Dec. 31. Renewal letters are sent as a convenience, but are not a guarantee of a parking permit. Permits can be renewed in person or by mail addressed to Parking Permit Office, Village Hall, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302. Payment can be made with check, cash or credit card, but please do not mail cash. All outstanding parking citations must be settled. For more information, call 358.5750 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Business licenses...2004 business licenses must be renewed by Jan. 1, 2004. All businesses operating in commercial space in Oak Park (excluding state-licensed businesses) are required to have a Village-issued license. Fees vary by type of business. For more information call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Saving parking spaces illegal...Saving a parking space in front of your home with items such as furniture or garbage cans is illegal. The obstruction makes it difficult for crews to plow the street and will be removed. For more information call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Stop solicitors...To prevent door-to-door solicitors from knocking on your door, you can obtain a "No Soliciting" sticker from the Village Clerk's office to place on or near your front door. Call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Post address...Numerical street addresses must be posted in the rear of the house, either on their garage or the residence, as well as in the front to aid emergency vehicles. For more information call 358.5430 or email building@oak-park.us.

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**

911

Police substations increase neighborhood visibility

Oak Park police currently use 10 substations located throughout the Village as part of the Resident Beat Officer program. A new substation is now open near the intersection of Harrison Street and Austin Boulevard and a substation is scheduled to open in January at Dole Library, 255 Augusta Ave. Police substations also are located at 4 Chicago Ave.; the Metra/CTA station, 119 North Blvd.; near Bank One on Marion Street just north of Lake Street; in the Avenue Parking Garage, 710 North Blvd.; in Mills Tower, 1025 Pleasant Place. In the Ryan-Farrell Building, 435 S. Humphrey Ave.; at Ridgeland Common, 415 Lake St.; in the Field Center, 935 Woodbine Ave; and in the Carroll Center, 1125 S. Kenilworth Ave. For more information call 358.5509 or email police@oak-park.us.



The Police Substation at Ridgeland Common

Property owners honored

Every year the Community Design Commission presents Cavalcade of Pride awards to property owners whose homes and businesses stand out as models of maintenance and improvement. The 2003 winners are as follows:

Single-family property

Tom Sundling & Nancy Greer,
608 N. Marion St.

Tom & Julie Keegan, 726 Augusta Ave.

John W. Lee III, 800 N. Lombard Ave.

Mary Ann & Dennis Marks,
235 S. Grove Ave.

Thomas & Susan McDonough,
311 S. Elmwood Ave.

J. Rutili & J. Puente,
200 S. Humphrey Ave.

Matthew & Jennifer Zarosl,
1101 S. Home Ave.

Mike & Liz Sheridan,
603 S. Scoville Ave.

Charles R. & Paola Ribauda Pickrell,
800 S. Lombard Ave.

Multi-family property

Betty & Don Peaslee/Ruth Peaslee,
220-222 S. Clinton Ave.

Martin Milkovic,
1019-1023 S. Oak Park Ave.

Commercial property

Oak Park Bath & Kitchen,
132 N. Ridgeland Ave.

First Bank of Oak Park,
6011 North Ave.

For more information on the Cavalcade of Pride awards, call 358.5640 or email devsvcs@oak-park.us.

Block award

The homes of 300 N. Elmwood Ave.

Special award

St. Edmund Catholic Church,
188 S. Oak Park Ave.

New Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St.

Garden award

Richard & Patricia Spangler,
170 N. Scoville Ave.

Joyce Pontius, 928 N. Ridgeland Ave.

Best transformed property

Chipolte Grill, 1132 Lake St.

Diane & Glover Johnson,
901 N. Elmwood Ave.

Best sign

Kate's Garden, 730 Lake St.
(owner Lisa Stern)

Roaring Belly Glass Werks,
334A Harrison St. (owners David
King & Laura Henderson)

Best parking lot beautification

Avenue Parking Garage, North Blvd.
(owner Village of Oak Park)

Good neighbor

Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Road

New sensors to help clear route for emergency vehicles

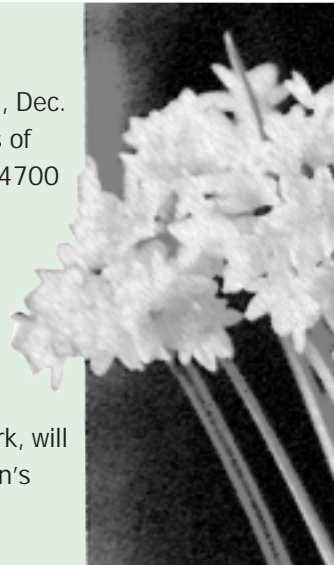
Oak Park Fire Department emergency vehicles soon will have more than their flashing lights and sirens to warn other drivers of their approach. Equipment now being installed at 40 major intersections in the community will allow fire department vehicles to change traffic lights to green as they travel to and from an emergency scene. Equipment also is being installed along perimeter streets such as Harlem Avenue, which is shared by neighboring communities who participate in mutual aid agreements with Oak Park. The Village is part of a larger program that includes 12 surrounding communities that are equipping some 163 area intersections, including those in Oak Park. Transmitters installed in the emergency vehicles will trigger the light changes, making it safer for emergency vehicles to travel busy routes as they rush to provide aid and transport victims to area hospitals. More than two-thirds of the cost of the equipment and its installation was funded by a federal grant. The system should be fully operational in early 2004. For more information call the Fire Department at 445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Holiday Open Houses

The Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St., will hold a Winter Open House from noon to 4 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 7. Seasonal floral displays, Santa Claus, craft fair, music and refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory. Forced Paper White Narcissus will be on sale. For more information, call 386.4700 or visit www.oakparkparks.com.

The Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest and Pleasant Home Foundation will host an Open House at Pleasant Home, 217 S. Home Ave. from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 7. For more information call 848.6755

Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave., will host a Holiday Open House from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, Dec. 8 – 11. The mansion, which is owned and operated by the Park District of Oak Park, will be decorated for the holiday. Light refreshments will be served and the Oak Park and River Forest Children's Chorus will perform each evening. For more information call 383.2612.



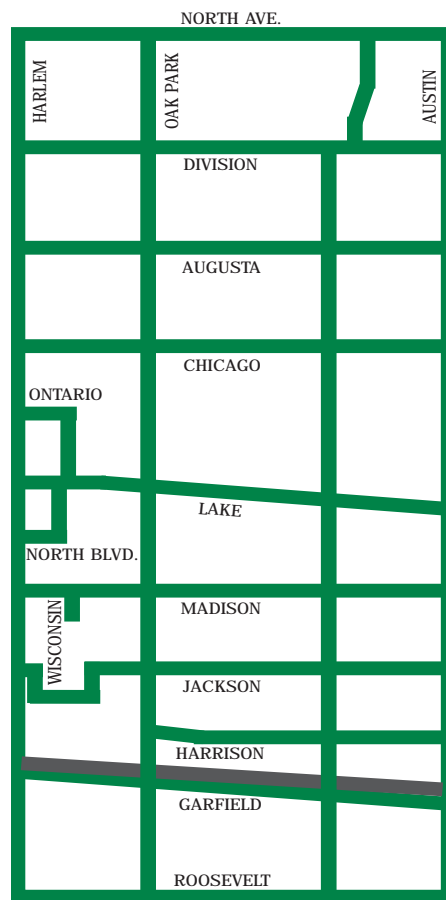
Snowfall triggers emergency parking plan

After a two-inch snowfall, the Emergency Snow Removal Parking Plan goes into effect and the following parking rules are enforced seven days a week, including holidays:

- Main streets posted as “snow routes” must be cleared of all parked cars
- Non-snow route streets allow parking between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the EVEN side on EVEN days and ODD side on ODD days.
- Designated Commercial Parking areas as posted follow the odd/even rule between midnight and 8 a.m.

To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 358.SNOW for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOPTV, cable channel 6. For more information on the emergency snow parking program, call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

After a two-inch snowfall, all snow routes must be completely cleared of parked cars on both sides of streets.



Snow Route Map

Free metered parking during holiday season



In what is becoming a holiday tradition, the Village will bag parking meters in the business districts on Saturdays in December. Free metered parking will be offered on Dec. 6, 13 and 20 to encourage shopping in the Village’s 12 business districts. Free parking is limited to three hours, and does not include 2:30 – 6 a.m. when on-street parking is banned except in designated areas. For more information, call 358.5750 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. Happy holidays!

Community telephone notification system to be tested

The Village will test a new telephone notification system in December with a brief message urging residents to read this issue of the OP/FYI newsletter for information on a new residential refuse handling program. The auto dialing system uses geographic information system (GIS) technology in selecting telephone numbers within a specific area such as by quadrants or blocks, or, in an emergency, Villagewide. Future possible applications of the system could include notifying residents of mosquito abatement efforts, missing persons or emergency situations. Residents who receive a call from the automatic system are asked to listen to the entire message to provide accurate data for the test. For more information on the emergency notification system, call the Health Department at 358.5488 or email health@oak-park.us.

Call for new police candidates attracts many applicants

When the call went out for candidates for future openings in the Oak Park Police Department the response was loud and clear – some 241 candidates showed up for a November orientation session and 189 of those returned to take the required written exam. The candidates, all of whom had to meet a range of strict qualifications just to take the exam, were vying for a slot on a list from which new recruits are selected as vacancies on the police force occur. Currently, the Village is seeking to fill seven immediate vacancies. However, candidates who make the grade, including passing tough psychological and physical exams, are eligible for selection for up to two years. Among the qualifications to be considered for a spot on the force, candidates have to be 21 prior to the date of the written exam, speak and understand English, and have at least 60 hours of college credit from an accredited institution with at least a “C” grade average. A range of other factors, including no criminal record or other history that reflects poorly on the candidate’s character, also are considered. New officers are required to serve a one-year probationary period on the force. For more information on the police officer testing and selection process, or information on other employment opportunities with the Village, contact the Human Resources Department at 358.5650 or email hr@oak-park.us. Municipal job openings also are posted in Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Village Manager Carl Swenson
Village Clerk Sandra Sokol
Robert Milstein
David Pope
Ray Johnson
Gus Kostopoulos
Diana Carpenter
Galen Gockel
Trustees
Village President Joanne E. Trapani

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

OP/FYI

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



Technology enhances visitors' experiences

New technology at the Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau is taking self-guided tours of the community's historical sites to an entirely new level. The local Bureau has become one of the country's first to offer visitors hand-held devices that provide a multi-media audio and visual tour in a personal digital assistant (PDA) format. Unlike the wands that offered only sound, the new devices combine a detailed audio tour with current and historical images of Oak Park's buildings, homes and gardens displayed in color on a small screen. The new device also provides an electronic map. Visitors can take the new PDA tour for \$9 or for \$20 combine the tour with tickets to Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple, Ernest Hemingway Birthplace and Museum, the Oak Park & River Forest Historical Society and Pleasant Home. For more information, call 708.524.7800 or visit www.visitoakpark.com.



Pleasant Home viewed from Mills Park



The Percy Julian Memorial Bust, recently unveiled in Scoville Park, celebrates the life and contributions of one of the community's most accomplished residents. The bronze bust of the world-renowned chemist, humanitarian, long-time Oak Park resident and middle school namesake, was purchased with private donations. Its sculptor, Erik Blome, also created the statue of civil rights activist Rosa Parks now on display in Julian's boyhood home of Montgomery, Alabama.

DECEMBER VOP-TV6 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

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

1100 Lake Street RFP
Downtown Oak Park Holiday Celebration
Making More Smiles: Oral Health Coalition
Historic Gunderson District
Garage Burglary Prevention

NASA Programming
Tuesday – Friday 4 – 5 p.m.

Regular Board Meetings
Live at 7:30 p.m. first & third Mondays, rebroadcast Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.



Choose Your Cart – Choose Your Rate



New carts offer residents
opportunity to recycle more, pay less

New 64-gallon recycling containers will begin replacing blue bins in February, as the Village prepares to launch a new program to encourage more recycling and tie monthly residential refuse hauling rates to the amount of garbage set out for pickup.

All homeowners will receive the new larger, recycling carts, but only those who take advantage of a new garbage-reduction program will receive a smaller garbage cart, and can take advantage of a lower hauling rate. The new garbage cart, available only upon request, will hold the same 64 gallons as the new recycling cart, which is about one-third less than the current 96-gallon garbage containers.

The new pay-for-use program was created as a new contract with the Village's private refuse hauler, set to go into effect in January, will require the first residential refuse hauling rate adjustment in three years. While the new contract would require an across-the-board increase of \$4 per month for residential properties of five or fewer units, under this new Village recycling initiative, property owners who are willing to increase recycling and opt for the smaller garbage cans will see their rates increase only by \$1.50 per month. The new rates are scheduled to go into effect in March.

Property owners who toss less and recycle more will pay lower fees because they will be helping to reduce costs associated with landfills, which are among the most costly factors in municipal refuse hauling programs. As landfill space continues to shrink, disposal costs will naturally increase as companies must pay more and travel further to disposal sites. By encouraging property owners to reduce their garbage through more aggressive recycling, the Village hopes to keep costs associated with refuse hauling services as low as possible.

To request a new, smaller garbage cart, clip and return the postcard below, call 358.5700 or email the information on the card below to publicworks@oak-park.us. Only owners of single-family homes and multifamily residential buildings of five or fewer units qualify for the new program.

YES! I want to have the new, smaller 64-gallon garbage cart.
Please exchange my large cart when you deliver the new recycling cart.

Homeowner _____

Address _____

Water Billing Account Number _____ No. of Units _____

Regular refuse pick-up day (circle one)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Return this card ONLY if you would like the new, smaller 64-gallon refuse cart.



Return the reply card to request
your new 64-gallon refuse cart.

To receive your cart in the first
round of deliveries, your request
should reach us by January 16.

RECYCLE RIGHT!

Clip and Save

- **Glass** bottles and jars (all colors)
- **Steel, aluminum and bi-metal cans**
- **Plastics** – check for these numbers on or near the bottom of the container:
 - #1 **PETE** (plastic soft drink bottles)
 - #2 **HDPE** (milk or water jugs, detergent bottles)
 - #3 **PVC** narrow neck containers like household cleaners, health and beauty products
 - #4 **LDPE** (margarine tubs and plastic rings from beverage cans)
 - #5 **PP** (yogurt cups, narrow neck syrup and ketchup bottles)
 - #7 **OTHER** (plastic resin grocery narrow neck containers)
- **Aluminum foil** and formed containers
- **Empty paint cans**
- **Empty aerosol cans**
- **Newspapers and inserts**
- **Magazines**
- **Telephone books**
- **Paperback books**
- **Chipboard** (cereal and cracker boxes)
- **Wet-strength cardboard** (beverage cartons)
- **Junk mail**
- **Office paper**
- **Gift wrapping paper**
- **Brown paper grocery bags**
- **Corrugated cardboard** (place small pieces in the cart; cut and flatten larger pieces into three-foot-square pieces and place next to cart)

Prepare jars & containers for collection by rinsing and discarding all lids.

For more information on the recycling program call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Large recycling carts offer range of benefits

As the familiar blue recycling bins are replaced beginning in February with new, larger carts with wheels and lids, residents will be better able to take full advantage of the latest “single-stream” collection approach that eliminates the need to separate recyclables. Single-stream programs allow all recyclable materials, whether paper, glass, plastic, aluminum or most metal containers, to be tossed into the same collection vessel, with separation occurring at the recycling sorting center.

The Village’s move to larger recycling bins coincides with modest, but steady, increases in the amount of recyclables collected in Oak Park over the past five years. The range of containers that can be recycled has grown, too, and now includes containers such as those from household cleaners, beauty products and grocery items. The growing amount and expanding range of recyclables, coupled with greater consumer awareness, has led to an increasing number of requests from residents for more than one blue bin as well, a step that will no longer be necessary once the new, larger bins are distributed.

In addition to providing more space for recyclables, the new carts have wheels, which will make it easier for residents to get their recyclables to the collection point. The new carts also will have lids that should help reduce litter by keeping out animals and eliminating wind-blown paper. In addition, the new carts will allow haulers to use automatic lifts for quicker and more efficient collections.

For more information on the Village’s recycling and refuse recycling programs call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

See reverse side for how to qualify for a reduced refuse hauling rate.



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 2073 OAK PARK IL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
123 MADISON STREET
OAK PARK, IL 60302-9955

