



Looking north at Rehm Park expanded over the Eisenhower Expressway.

Citizens help refine vision for capping expressway through Oak Park

An urban arboretum and gardens near the Conservatory, a new west-side park near Home Avenue, a Prairie Path connector, an expanded Barrie Park and a youth sports center at a larger Rehm Park are among the features of the proposed cap over the Eisenhower Expressway unveiled for public comment last month.

Such a project also would establish Oak Park as a model for how to make a community friendlier to public transportation, including reconstructing all of Oak Park's CTA Blue Line stations, while creatively reclaiming open space lost to highways and railroads. As an added benefit, the concept would establish Oak Park as an environmental leader by becoming the first known community in the United States to actually pilot a project to filter and clean automobile exhaust in a tunnel.

The concept was developed from citizen input during an intensive year-long study of the feasibility of covering the Ike's route through the Village as a way to reconnect the community, improve mobility and access to public

transit and enhance overall quality of life. Efforts began by collecting data at public meetings, from a community survey, stakeholder interviews and visioning workshops where expectations and concerns about the cap and area land uses were expressed.

This information was used to create six preliminary concept drawings, which were then refined through public input into three concepts. Public input on the three alternatives, and a comprehensive assessment of community issues and technical constraints, led to the concept that now is on display for citizen review and comment.

By including three variations based on cost, the concept under review can accommodate various levels of potential funding that may be available by the time the Eisenhower Expressway is reconstructed. All three variations incorporate features found most appealing by the community as expressed throughout the study process.

No homes or businesses would need to be purchased to make the concept a reality, and the concept

Farmers' Market seeks memorabilia

The Oak Park Farmers' Market is hoping enthusiasts who may have kept memorabilia from the market's first 29 years will share it with the community as part of the market's 30th anniversary this year. Items such as t-shirts, flyers, cookbooks and photographs will help the Farmers' Market Commission and its volunteers create displays and other tools for celebrating this important community tradition. Photographs also may be used in a documentary video produced by VOP-TV6, the Village's cable television station. All items will be treated with care and returned at the end of the season. For more information, call 358.5780 or email farmersmarket@oak-park.us.

does not assume an expansion of the expressway. Its goal is to mitigate long-standing impacts created when the Ike was built by making the cap part of the expressway's eventual reconstruction, now estimated by the Illinois Department of Transportation to be in seven to 10 years.

The proposed concept can be viewed at www.captheikestudy.com and Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Public comment will be taken through February 15 via email through the project web site or on forms available by the Village Hall display.

For more information, including on the complete *Cap the Ike Study* process, visit www.captheikestudy.com or call 358.5778.

Barrie Park Update

Grants, loans remain available

Owners of about 40 of the 100 properties near Barrie Park eligible for grants and no-interest loans so far have taken advantage of the program created to help homeowners most affected by the multiyear construction project to clean up the nearby former manufactured gas plant site. The program offers a \$15,000 grant that does not have to be repaid and a \$15,000 interest-free loan that does not have to be repaid until ownership of the property is transferred. The funds are intended for property improvements, both interior and exterior. For information on eligibility and the application process, call 358.5424 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us — click on the news tab and look for the Barrie Park icon along the right margin. The program is scheduled to end Dec. 31, 2005.

New local landmarks approved

Four local buildings have been designated as Oak Park Landmarks, bringing the community's total to 25. Oak Park's newest landmarks are George and James Tough House, 1045 Wesley Ave. (Joseph Bristow, Jr. 1913); Harold C. Lewis House, 950 Columbian Ave. (Kenneth T. White 1928); Andreas Brisch House, 701 S. East Ave. (Andreas Brisch 1919); and Poley Building (Charles A. Kristen 1928). Historic landmark status is awarded to a property that meets certain architectural or historic standards. Designation recognizes that the property is significant to Oak Park and that its historic character and architecture should be preserved for future generations. Landmark status also brings eligibility for tax incentives, as well as technical assistance and architectural advice from the Historic Preservation Commission. For more information call 358.5417 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us.



Andreas Brisch House, 701 S. East Ave.

Grant helps pay for new breathing gear

The Oak Park Fire Department has received a grant to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), a device that provides fresh air for firefighters entering smoke-filled buildings or environments of reduced oxygen levels. The 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, provides funds to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs and fire prevention and safety programs. Oak Park's new SCBA will replace equipment that has been in service for 10 years. This is the fourth year the department has received the grant. Past purchases have included new protective equipment, turnout gear, a public education life safety trailer and a special rescue truck shared by River Forest, Forest Park, Cicero, Berwyn, North Riverside and Stickney, Oak Park's regional mutual protection partners. The cost of the new SCBA is projected to be \$160,941 — 70 percent of which is paid by the grant and the remaining share funded by the Village. For more information, call 445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Shuttle to continue service in year ahead

Funding has been approved to take the free Oak Park Shuttle from a test project to a full-fledged community service. The program was launched last March using conversion vans equipped with



wheelchair lifts leased from the PACE Suburban Bus System to link popular Village sites and many key mass transit stops. Operating on an hour-long loop from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., seven days a week, except major holidays, the shuttle route includes 21 stops at 30-minute intervals along an eight-mile course. Several shuttle stops offer easy transfer to a host of mass transit options at points throughout the Village, including PACE and CTA buses, and the CTA's green and blue lines, and Metra's commuter rail west line. Riders can board a shuttle at any of the stops, which are marked by signs including a route map, a list of attractions near each stop, shuttle arrival times and nearby mass transit connection options. Future plans for the shuttle include working with PACE to secure vehicles that are not only larger, more attractive and more easily accessible, but are also environmentally friendly. The goal is to eventually secure grant funding for a vehicle that uses natural gas, has a more historic appearance and offer easy side access. For more information on the Shuttle program, call 358.5778 or email village@oak-park.us. For route and schedule information, call 615.1830. A route map and schedule is available on the Village website, www.oak-park.us.

HEALTH NEWS

Call 358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us

Nurses help older adults stay healthy

Public health nurses provide blood pressure screening, individualized health education and counseling about medications and other issues important to older adults from 9 – 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at Heritage House, 201 Lake St., and on the fourth Wednesday at the Oak Park Township Senior Lunch Program, 408 S. Oak Park Avenue, 5th floor. No appointment is necessary. A public health nurse also will visit the homebound to help them find care resources and learn to manage safely on their own. In addition, public health nurses are available by telephone to assist any resident with locating resources for health care or to provide health information. For more information on these free services or general health questions, call 358.5492 or email health@oak-park.us.

Volunteers sought

Professionals are now being recruited to become members of the local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), volunteers who would help in the event of a public health emergency.



Practicing, inactive or retired nurses, physicians, dentists, emergency medical technicians, pharmacists, veterinarians, teachers, medical technicians or aides, psychologists, social workers, clergy, biologists, information technology/administrative staff, construction and many others are encouraged to volunteer for this important community preparedness initiative. Orientation is scheduled for the spring. For more information or to apply, call 358.5488 or email health@oak-park.us.

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. The program has reduced lab costs through a non-profit dental lab. For more information call 358.5484 or email health@oak-park.us.

Affordable health insurance available

Adults and children who meet financial eligibility guidelines are now being enrolled in low-cost/no-cost health care plans. *KidCare* covers doctor visits, hospital and clinic care, X-rays, lab tests and prescriptions for children and pregnant women, and helps pay premiums of employer-sponsored or private insurance plans. *Access to Care* also covers doctor visits, lab tests, X-rays and prescriptions, but participants are responsible for a nominal co-pay for each service. To learn more call 358.5484 or email health@oak-park.us.

Check out a book, check out your health

Know Your Numbers program offers screenings of blood pressure, total cholesterol, high density lipoproteins (HDL), glucose, weight and body mass index (or BMI, a measure of body fat based on height and weight) for a \$10 fee from 9:40 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of the month at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Participants must be at least 18 years old and younger than 64. Appointments are required. Call 358.5486 or email health@oak-park.us for more information.

Free HIV testing available

Free anonymous testing is offered by appointment from 5 – 7 p.m. Thursdays. Individuals at highest risk for infection include men who have sex with other men, persons sharing needles for drugs and the sex partners of persons who are HIV positive. Call 358.5486 to make an appointment.

Practice heater safety

People are burned every year by electric space heaters. But by following these simple safety tips, you can avoid becoming a burn victim:

- Place heaters at least three feet away from upholstered furniture, drapes, bedding and other combustible materials.
- Do not use the heater if the cord is frayed, splitting or the plug is broken.
- Buy an approved heater that has been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Turn the heater off when family members leave the room and never leave a heater of any kind unattended.
- Never use heaters to dry clothing or shoes.
- Never leave children unattended while using a heater.
- Make sure the heater is placed securely on the floor.

Portable kerosene heaters are illegal heating devices inside a home because they pose carbon monoxide hazards. For more information call 358.5605 or email fire@oak-park.us.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Voter registration deadline

nears... Voters have until March 8 to register to vote in the April 5 election for Village President, Village Trustee, Village Clerk, Park District Commissioner, Library Trustee and school district board member. Two types of identification are required, at least one with a current address. For more information call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us. For a complete list of important deadlines and voting information visit www.elections.state.il.us.



Public hearing set for proposed smoking ban... A public hearing to take testimony both for and against a proposal to ban smoking in all work and public places, including restaurants, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Tues., Feb. 15, in the Council Chamber of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The Oak Park Board of Health, citizen volunteers who advise the Village Board on health-related issues, will hold the hearing. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker. Written testimony also will be accepted at the meeting or may be submitted directly to Board of Health, Oak Park Department of Public Health, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302. Testimony may be submitted via email to health@oak-park.us.

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., Tues., Feb. 15 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 comsvcs@oak-park.us.

Warming centers open... Residents in need of a place to beat the cold can visit one of two warming centers now open in the Village. Warming centers are open from 6:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. at West Suburban Hospital, Erie Street at Austin Boulevard, and from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 500 S. Maple Ave. Hours may be extended when weather conditions warrant. To find out if the warming center is open after hours, call West Suburban Hospital at 763.6747 or Rush Oak Park Hospital at 660.6000. If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 386.3800. For more information call 358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Security deposit interest rates... Renters in apartment buildings containing four or more units should be paid interest on their security deposits or have the interest applied as a credit toward rent within 30 days of the expiration of each 12-month period. The security deposit has to have been held for at least six months and the rent must be current. The rate is .45 percent in 2004, .30 percent in 2005 and .35 percent in 2006. For more information call 358.5409 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us.

Volunteers needed... Two new sub-committee chairpersons are still needed to help plan and execute a *Day in our Village*, Oak Park's annual community-wide festival that showcases the community's many organizations. This year's event is scheduled for Sun., June 15. To volunteer or for participation information, call 358.5409 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us.

February VOP-TV6 Programming Highlights

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

- Celebrating Black History Month
- Investment In Oak Park
- Preventing Garage Burglaries
- Snow Parking Regulations

NASA Programming

3 – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Friday

Regular Village Board Meetings

Live at 7:30 p.m. first and third Mondays, rebroadcast at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 11 a.m. Saturdays.

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
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

New police officers sought

The Oak Park Police Department will test for entry-level officers on Sat., Feb. 12, at Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave. A mandatory orientation session will begin promptly at 9 a.m., with the test to immediately follow. A valid driver's license and a birth certificate or proof of U.S. citizenship must be presented in order to take the exam, which is expected to conclude by noon. Applications will be distributed immediately following the written exam and must be returned to the Village of Oak Park by Wed., Feb. 16 along with a \$10 application fee. To qualify as an Oak Park police officer, a candidate must be a U.S. citizen at least 21 years old before Feb. 12, speak and understand English and have at least 60 hours of college credit from an accredited college or university with a grade average of "C" or better. Certified grade transcripts must be provided by March 14. The entry-level salary is \$47,700. For more information call 358.5656 or email hr@oak-park.us. The Village of Oak Park is an equal opportunity employer.



Get to know your neighborhood police officer

The Resident Beat Officer Program promotes communication at the neighborhood level by assigning 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, and welcome questions and comments from their neighbors.



Zone 4 RBO Razzino heading out into the neighborhood.

NORTH AVENUE		RIDGELAND AVENUE	Zone 2 Michael Kelly kelly@oak-park.us 358.5579	Zone 1 Anthony Coleman Coleman@oak-park.us 358.5575
CHICAGO AVENUE			Zone 3 Eric Locke locke@oak-park.us 358.5580	
HARLEM AVENUE	TRAIN TRACKS		OAK PARK AVENUE	AUSTIN BOULEVARD
	Zone 5 Sean O'Shea Oshea@oak-park.us 358.5577	Zone 4 A. Paul Razzino Razzino@oak-park.us 358.5573		
MADISON STREET		Zone 6 Dave Jacobson Jacobson@oak-park.us 358.5576		
EISENHOWER EXPRESSWAY		Zone 7 John Rumoro Rumoro@oak-park.us 358.5578		
ROOSEVELT ROAD				



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
 Carl Swenson

Residential Customer Local
 Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
 Pre-Sort

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

PARKING NEWS

Call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us

Parking ticket late fees to double

Vehicle owners who fail to pay their parking tickets on time will face stiffer penalties on March 1 when late fees are set to double, a step intended to encourage on-time payment. A motorist whose vehicle is ticketed for a parking violation has 14 days to pay or formally contest the citation and avoid late fees. Under the new late fee structure, a late \$10 parking ticket will cost \$30 – the cost of the ticket plus a \$20 late fee. A \$20 late fee also will be added to \$20 and \$30 tickets and a \$70 late fee added to certain \$100 tickets. A \$100 late fee now will be added to the \$100 fine for illegally parking in a designated handicap space. In addition to fines and late fees, failure to pay a parking citation also can result in driver's license suspension or vehicle immobilization with a wheel-locking device. Parking tickets may be paid by mail, through a night deposit box at Village Hall or at the Cashier's Office in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card. Using a check or credit



card is recommended if paying by mail or the night deposit box. When payment is received by the Village – not when it is mailed – determines payment date. A vehicle owner who believes a parking citation was issued in error can contest the ticket in writing. The appeal must be received no later than 14 days after the date the ticket was issued and should include all evidence the vehicle owner wishes to be considered, such as pictures and documents. Notification of the judgment should come within three weeks. Additional fees will be incurred if payment is not received within 14 days of the judgment. Written appeals also can be made on-line at www.oak-park.us, as well as in person through the Village's Office of Adjudication, which uses law judges to hear appeals at Village Hall. For more information on the adjudication process, visit

www.oak-park.us – mouse over the Departments tab and click on the Adjudication link.

Parking ticket reviews, appeals available on line

Anyone wondering if they have an outstanding Oak Park parking ticket can now find out with a click of a mouse and a few strokes on a computer keyboard. And if they discover they do have a ticket, they can contest it in the same way. A new interactive communications method through the Village's official website allows individuals to type their license plate number into an on-line form to determine if they have outstanding tickets, review details about any unpaid citations and then register to file a written appeal. Citations issued after Jan. 1, 2004, are available through the on-line system. To access the new service, visit www.oak-park.us and look for the *interactive parking citations* button for a direct link to getting started. A ticket must be appealed within 14 days from the date of issuance. For more information, call 358.5479 or email adjudication@oak-park.us.