

Challenging a ticket about to become even more convenient

Plans to add evening hours and expand the Village's administrative hearings program to violations beyond just parking should make it even more convenient for residents to challenge or pay a ticket.

Through the current adjudication program, residents can present testimony and evidence related to parking tickets at administrative hearings held at Village Hall, avoiding the inconvenience and expense of traveling to the county court in Maywood as was necessary in the past.

Plans to expand the adjudication program will offer the same convenience to individuals who wish to challenge citations related to health, building and animal control violations. Certain citations issued by the Police Department for local code violations, such as drinking on a public walkway, curfew violations and graffiti tickets also eventually will be handled through the adjudication process.

Parking cases currently are heard at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m., and at 1 and 2:30 p.m., every Tuesday in Village Hall Council Chambers, 123 Madison St. By



Administrative Law Judge Carrie Washington swears in a resident who is challenging a parking ticket through the Village's adjudication process. Seated with Judge Washington is Office of Adjudication Administrative Secretary Lina Corapi. Audio and video recordings are made of all hearings.

spring of this year, the Village hopes to add at least one evening to the court schedule, a step intended to benefit those individuals who work during the day but who want to appear in person rather than contest a citation on line or in writing.

Cases are heard by administrative law judges who have specific credentials spelled out in state law. They rule strictly on the facts of the case.

Anyone ticketed for a parking violation also can file an appeal on line through the Village's website, **www.oak-park.us**, eliminating the need to even appear in person. Individuals can pay parking tickets on line as well. The on-line payment feature eventually will be available for other violations as the adjudication process expands later this year.

While a trip to circuit court for a parking ticket — and soon, other citations — is no longer necessary, it remains an option to anyone not satisfied with the adjudication process. Since parking adjudication came to Village Hall in January 2004 more than 18,000 cases have been heard, including in-person, through the Village website and through the mail. Only 13 have been appealed to the circuit court, and only one adjudication ruling has been overturned.

Over the past year collections of parking fines have increased even though the number of parking tickets issued has not. Officials say the increase in payments of parking fines is most likely because of the very clear-cut set of appeal guidelines given with the citation, and the ease of appeal and payment, which have virtually eliminated confusion about rights or the process. Bringing the same level of clarity and simplicity to the citations to be adjudicated at Village Hall through the expanded adjudication process is a key goal of the program in the year ahead.

For more information on the Village's adjudication program, call 358.5479 or email **adjudication@oak-park.us**.

Holiday tree collections scheduled

Holiday trees will be picked up for recycling on regular collection days from January 9 through January 20. Please follow these instructions:

- Place tree in regular collection area next to refuse cart — only residents with no alley should put trees at the curb
- Remove all tinsel, decorations and stands
- Do not put tree in plastic disposal bag
- Place wreaths and garlands in the refuse cart. They are held together by wire, which makes them not recyclable

For more information call 358.5700 or email **publicworks@oak-park.us**.

Message from the Manager

Oak Park Governance is a Collaborative Effort

The essence of local government is the support and cooperation of many people working together for the common goal of the well-being of the community.

As Oak Park's Village Manager, virtually everything I have done has been with the support and collaboration of many others.

Village Trustees, as the elected representatives of the residents, set goals and objectives, and allocate the financial resources of the community to achieve them. It is their leadership that gives form to the collective vision of the residents whose day-to-day lives are directly affected by what Village government does or doesn't do.

To implement the Board's directions I turn to the Village's well trained and experienced staff to work out the strategies and methods to implement the programs and services the Village Board has set out. From emergency medical assistance and law enforcement to the engineering intricacies of road building and the science of arboriculture, the complexities of so many of today's municipal services require skills and knowledge that only individuals with specialized training can effectively and efficiently deliver.

But it doesn't stop there. Strong cooperative relationships with Oak Park citizens, community organizations and other governments are essential, too.

The Village Board's nearly 30 citizen advisory bodies, school districts 97 and 200, our special purpose governments of the Township, Library and the Park District, and a host of business and community organizations are all involved in how we deliver services.

Our partner agencies like the Arts Council, Housing Center, Residence Corporation, Development Corporation and Convention & Visitors Bureau also

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have important roles in our community.

Beyond the 4.5 square miles that is Oak Park proper, is the larger region of which we also are a part. What happens in adjacent communities affects us, too. So maintaining strong relationships and partnerships with our neighbors also is an essential part of my role as Village manager as well.

Working together with all of these other governments, organizations and communities — and weighing their interests and perspectives — is essential to the economic well being, spirit and ultimate success of our community.

So as I prepare to leave Oak Park in April for a new post in Arizona and I look back over the past decade at my many experiences in a community that I dare say is unlike any other in the country, the theme of "many people working together toward the common goal of making the community the best it can be" runs through every experience I have had as Village manager in Oak Park.

I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with many dedicated, caring people during my 10 years in Oak Park. During this time, I have worked for 21 Village Trustees and four Village Presidents, and worked alongside one Village Clerk. While

these leaders had different styles and approaches, and at times decidedly varying priorities, they have been to a person committed to doing what they believed was in the best interest of the community and citizens of Oak Park.

I also have been very fortunate to have been given the resources by all of the trustees and presidents I served to retain and recruit the staff professionals who have elevated municipal services Oak Parkers enjoy to some of their highest levels in the history of the Village. The expertise and professional qualifications of Village staff are second to none, and it shows in the quality of programs and services they deliver.

Oak Park also has provided an opportunity for my family and me to become part of a dynamic community that truly respects and values human diversity. I believe that the experiences my daughter has gained in Oak Park will have lasting benefits throughout her life, and the wonderful friendships we have made here as a family will reach across the years and the miles.

As I assume my new post this spring, I will do so with the benefit of experiences and knowledge gained from working with so many truly remarkable people in Oak Park.

I can't imagine a more stimulating experience than I have enjoyed here. As I have often said there literally is "never a dull moment" in Oak Park. I have enjoyed that dynamism, I have loved the spirit of the Village and I am honored to have served as your manager.

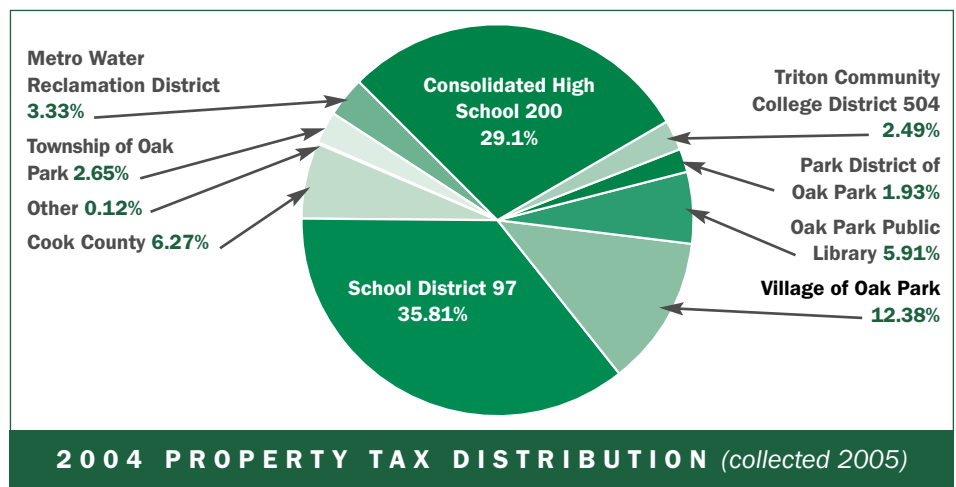
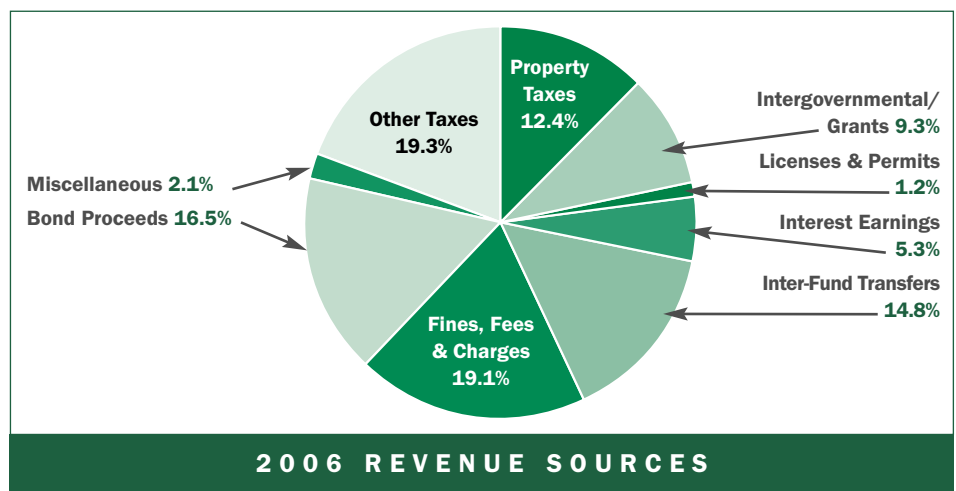
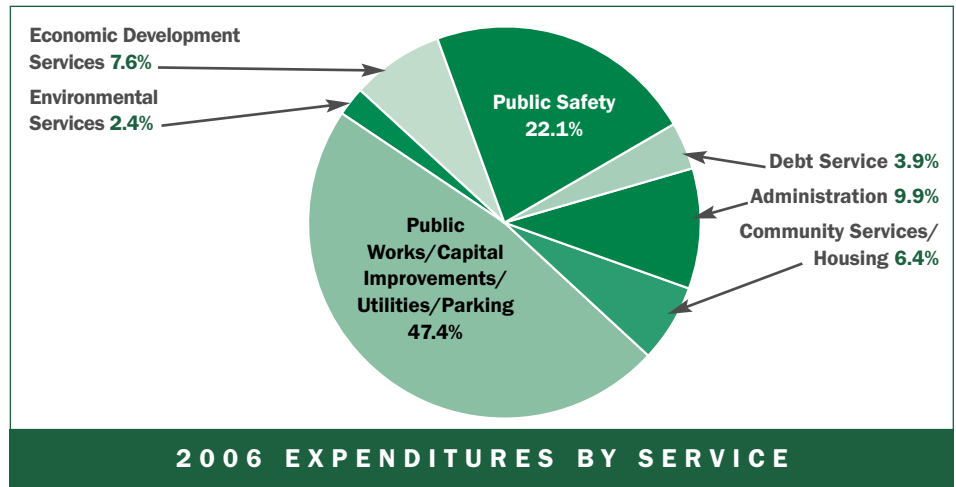
Best wishes for 2006 and beyond!



Carl Swenson
Village Manager

Capital improvements highlight 2006 budget

Funding for a new environmentally friendly Public Works facility, catalyst streetscape improvement projects along Harrison Street, Roosevelt Road, Chicago Avenue and North Avenue, additional police officers and expansion of the adjudication program highlight the Village's 2006 Budget. The Village Board has budgeted about \$129.5 million in 2006 for all programs supported by local revenue sources, state funds and federal dollars. The general fund, which supports most Village operations, is set at about \$45 million in 2006, up about \$2 million from 2005. About 47 percent of all general revenue expenditures have been allocated to capital improvements, including construction of a new 150,000-square-foot Public Works facility that will be the first certified environmentally sustainable municipal public works building in Illinois. Other construction projects funded by the 2006 budget include \$1.9 million for local street improvements, \$1.1 million for alley improvements and \$1.2 million for streetscape improvements designed to be catalysts for private investments on Harrison, Roosevelt, Chicago and North Avenue. Some \$500,000 also is budgeted for a new animal shelter. About 22 percent of the 2006 budget will go to public safety programs provided by the Police, Fire and Health departments, including funding three new police officer positions. Property taxes will remain the single largest source of Village revenue, representing about 12.4 percent anticipated income. The Village's share of each property tax dollar Oak Parker's pay will be about 12 cents. For more information on the budget, call the Finance Department at 358.5460 or email finance@oak-park.us. A copy of the budget can be reviewed in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., or online at www.oak-park.us.



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New initiative to promote shopping in Oak Park

A homegrown initiative created through a partnership between the Village, the community's 12 business areas, the Oak Park Development Corporation, Oak Park Area Visitors Bureau and the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce hopes to convince residents to spend their dollars near home. *Greatneighborhoods Oak Park* was formed to promote the community's wide range of retail businesses, restaurants and professional services offering unique shopping and dining experiences, while providing tax dollars that help fund a wide range of public services. The organization's first initiative is the website www.greatneighborhoodsoakpark.com. The new website will provide information on each of the business areas, including names, telephone numbers, websites and email addresses to help residents find the products and services they need right here in the Village, while supporting local merchants and professionals. For more information, call 358.5648 or email village@oak-park.us.



Practice caution when using alternate heating sources

High energy costs may tempt residents to use alternate heating sources such as portable and baseboard heaters, fireplaces and woodstoves. But fire officials urge caution and recommend following these guidelines:



- Don't leave baseboard heaters unattended and remove nearby objects.
- Keep all furniture a safe distance away from baseboard heaters and never block the heat flow.
- Do not drape electrical cords across baseboard heaters.
- If your baseboard heater needs repair work, always hire an experienced electrician.
- When shopping for a portable heater, choose a model with temperature control, an automatic shut off device and a seal of approval from an independent testing laboratory indicating that it has met basic safety standards.
- Place portable heaters on flat surfaces and turn them off when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Do not use extension cords with portable heaters.
- Keep portable heaters three feet from anything that can burn.
- Always use a fire screen on a fireplace to contain sparks and never burn trash or paper.
- Keep anything flammable a safe distance away from a fireplace and don't leave fires unattended — especially in areas used by children or pets.
- When through with the fire, clean out the cool ashes and place in a metal container.

In addition to these guidelines, be sure to have working smoke alarms and a family escape plan in the event of a fire. For more information on home fire safety, call 445.3300, visit www.oak-park.us or email fire@oak-park.us.

January VOP-TV6 Programming Highlights

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

- VOP-TV6 FYI Edition
- New Public Works Facility Update
- Snow Parking Regulations
- OPRC: Renewing Housing Stock
- Fighting the Flu

Regular Village Board Meetings

Live at 7:30 p.m., first & third Mondays. Replayed at 11 a.m., Sunday and Tuesday, and 7 p.m., Wednesday and Friday.

Village Board 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
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



Breaking ground for the new Public Works facility

are (from left) Village Manager Carl Swenson, Seven Generations Ahead Executive Director Gary Cuneen, Village Trustee Elizabeth Brady, Village Trustee Ray Johnson, State Senator Don Harmon, Village President David Pope, Village Trustee Martha Brock, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Program Officer Bob Romo, Village Clerk Sandra Sokol and Village Trustee Greg Marsey. The new 150,000-square-foot facility will be the first certified environmentally sustainable municipal public works building in Illinois and likely will become a model for future projects in Oak Park and the region. The building is expected to be completed in Spring 2007. For more information call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. Project updates also will be posted at www.oak-park.us.

Free women's wellness program

Heart disease is the number one killer of American women. Find out the connection between risk factors such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol through the free 12-week wellness *Heart Smart for Women* program designed to help women develop healthier lifestyles within busy schedules. Orientation and risk assessment including a lipid profile, blood pressure and body mass index is scheduled for 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Jan. 4, at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 500 S. Maple Ave. The program begins Jan. 11. Call 358.5484 or email health@oak-park.us.



First-time homebuyer's seminar set

A free seminar to help prospective first-time homebuyers understand loan programs available in Oak Park is scheduled for 7 – 8:30 p.m., Wed., Jan. 25 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.

Life-saving CPR/AED classes offered

The Oak Park Fire Department offers life-saving CPR classes in its certified American Heart Association Community Training Center at 100 N. Euclid Ave. CPR courses available through the Fire Department include infant/child CPR, Heartsaver/AED and CPR/AED for health care providers. Course material is presented by an AHA Certified Instructor. Classes are from 6 – 10 p.m. Registration is free for Oak Park residents, but a \$10 text book fee payable by check or money order is required. In-person registration at least two weeks prior to the date of the desired course also is required. For more information, call 445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Heartsaver/AED Wednesdays

January 18
February 1
March 1
March 15
April 5
April 19
May 3
May 17
June 7
June 21
July 5
July 19
August 2
August 16
September 6
September 20
October 4
October 18
November 1
November 15
December 6
December 20

Infant/Child Tuesdays

January 24
February 21
March 21
April 18
May 23
June 27
July 25
August 22
September 19
October 24
November 21
December 12

Healthcare Provider/AED Wednesdays

January 25
February 22
March 22
April 26
May 24
June 28
July 26
August 23
September 27
October 25
November 22
December 27



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

Village Clerk

Sandra Sokol

Village Manager

Carl Swenson

Ray Johnson

Robert Milstein

Greg Marsey

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL

PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
Presort

PARKING IN OAK PARK

Parking space is a scarce resource in the Village. To balance need with supply, parking must be managed through regulations. Parking regulations also promote safety, create an even traffic flow, keep intersections and bus stops clear, fire hydrants accessible to emergency vehicles and designate space for persons with disabilities. Parking is prohibited on all streets from 2:30 – 6 a.m., seven days a week, year round, except on certain holidays when some restrictions are temporarily lifted, and in designated permit zones. Other parking restrictions are determined by location and weather conditions. If in doubt, look for signage.

Special parking passes

Temporary parking passes that override certain posted parking restrictions are issued to provide short-term relief under specific circumstances such as during construction. Daytime, nighttime and extended passes are issued for on-street parking in areas not designated as permit zones and on streets other than major traffic arteries.

Guest parking

Guests are eligible for single, on-street and extended on-street overnight passes. Temporary overnight parking

for guests also is available in downtown parking garages for a daily fee.

Temporary overnight on-street parking

Residents may request a temporary on-street overnight parking pass up to five times per year per license plate number.

Extended temporary parking

Residents who need to park their cars overnight in a restricted area can request a special extended pass of three days to two weeks per time, up to a maximum of 30 days per year per license plate number. Permit holders who need to leave their cars parked for an extended time may request temporary parking in a downtown parking garage for a nominal daily fee.

Who to call

For extended passes, call 358.5750 from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For overnight passes call 358.NITE from 8 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. For day passes call 358.DAYS from 6 – 8 a.m. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

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. Snow routes include Augusta Blvd., Austin Blvd., Chicago Ave., Division St., Garfield St., Harlem Ave., Harrison St., Jackson Blvd., Lake St., Madison St., North Ave., Oak Park Ave., Ridgeland Ave., Roosevelt Rd. and Wisconsin Ave. from Madison Street to the emergency entrance of Oak Park Hospital.
- Non-snow route streets allow parking between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the side of the street with even numbered addresses on even days and the side of the street with odd numbered addresses on odd days.
- Designated commercial parking areas are posted and 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.