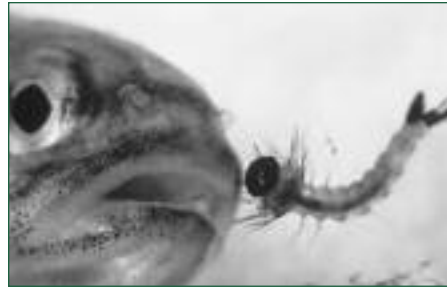


## Village gearing up for possible West Nile Virus challenge

**A**nticipating the likely return of the West Nile Virus as the weather warms, the Village has renewed its community education and prevention program focusing on helping residents reduce the mosquito population and the chances of being bitten, steps experts say are the best ways to control the disease.

Information is being disseminated to the community through a variety of media, including the Village's cable television station VOP-TV6 and website [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us). Health Department staff also will participate in public forums and distribute a variety of education materials such as brochures and posters. Anyone interested in a presentation or the materials should call the *West Nile Virus Hotline*, 358.5694.

In addition to public education efforts, the Oak Park Department of Public Health will again be working with the Illinois Department of Public Health to keep tabs on the virus through testing dead crows and blue



*Mosquito control the natural way.*

jays, the birds most likely affected by West Nile. Dead crows or blue jays should be reported by calling 358.5694. Only birds that have been dead less than 48 hours and appear to have died from a natural cause, and not such as being hit by a car, will be collected.

Meanwhile, the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District will be treating all street catch basins with larvicide every seven to 10 days during the mosquito breeding season. The abatement district also will treat catch basins on private property on request, provide information on acquiring mosquito-larvae-eating *gambusia* fish for ornamental ponds and pick up old

vehicle tires. Call 447.1765 for more information.

The chance of being infected with the West Nile Virus actually is very small. Less than 1 percent of mosquitoes are infected, and less than 1 percent of the people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will become severely ill. Persons 50 years old or older, and those with compromised immune systems, are most susceptible. Last year 60 cases were reported in Illinois, including four deaths.

For more information, call 358.5480 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

### Prevention tips

- Eliminate places that might collect water where mosquitoes can lay eggs, such as weeds, tall grass and discarded tires. Even depressions in the ground or a discarded bottle cap can be a potential mosquito-breeding site.
- Regularly empty and clean containers such as birdbaths, wading pools and ceramic garden pots.
- Keep gutters clean. Clogged roof gutters can easily hold enough water to be a major mosquito larvae reservoir.
- Avoid the outdoors at dusk or dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Or wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors at these times.
- Use mosquito repellents, being sure to follow manufacturer's directions. Repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m toluamide) and Picaridin (KBR 3023) are considered the most effective.

### Farmers' Market begins 30th season

**T**he Oak Park Farmers' Market will be celebrating 30 years of offering high quality, locally grown produce when it opens for the season on Sat., June 4. The market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue and is open from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday from June through October. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses from Illinois and neighboring states, the market also offers warm donuts made on-site, juice and coffee, and live bluegrass music. New this year, two licensed vendors will be allowed to sell prepackaged frozen meat, poultry and fish. The Oak Park Farmers' Market also features unique items for sale to help support market administration, including T-shirts, tank tops, coffee mugs and bags. For more information visit [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us), email [farmersmarket@oak-park.us](mailto:farmersmarket@oak-park.us) or call 358.5780.

## Firefighters take training on the road to elementary schools

The Oak Park Fire Department recently took its demonstration trailer on a two-week road trip to elementary schools throughout the Village, giving hands-on fire safety training to second graders at all eight District 97 elementary schools, six parochial schools and one private school — meeting with 35 classes in all. The trailer is set up to simulate situations the students may encounter in



their own homes. Training is divided into three areas — household hazards, what to do when there is a fire and how to call for emergency help. Household hazards demonstrations include leaving flammable items too close to a hot stove or using electrical appliances near water sources. Students also are taught how to recognize a smoke alarm and what to do if they hear it in the middle of the night. Teaching students what to do if they are in a fire includes a review of *stop, drop and roll*, reinforcing the lesson taught to them as first graders. Students also learn about crawling under smoke and how a purposefully lit fire can turn into something unexpected if people are careless. The final session is on using the telephone to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Students call 9-1-1 from the trailer and are connected to a firefighter who responds just as a dispatcher would in a real emergency. This exercise is intended to give students a sense of what to expect if they should



ever have to call 9-1-1 in a real emergency. They also are taught how to dial 9-1-1 from both rotary and cell phones. For more information on fire safety or the mobile trailer, call 445.3300 or email [fire@oak-park.us](mailto:fire@oak-park.us).

## HEALTH NEWS

Call 358.5480 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us)

**Spikin' for Health...**Spikin' for Health Volleyball Camp and Health Fair for youth ages 9 – 13 will be held from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Sat., June 25 at Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave. Registration is free, but space is limited. Call 358.5499 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

**HIV testing...**Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted disease as well as anonymous HIV testing is offered free to Oak Park residents. Appointments are necessary. Call 358.5483 to make a confidential appointment.

**Stop smoking help...**Free smoking cessation information is available on a

one-to-one basis or in a group. Programs can be brought to the worksite or to your organization. Call 358.5484 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

**Health screenings...***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 10:40 a.m. – noon on the second Saturday of the month at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Participants must be at least 18 and younger than 64. Appointments are required. Call 358.5427 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto: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 predetermined 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 nonprofit dental lab. Call 358.5484 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) for more information.

**Walkers wanted...**Volunteers are needed to help organize a free community-wide walking club. Call 358.5484 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) for more information.



*Volunteer of the Year,  
William "Max" Dieber*

### **Volunteer of the Year Honored**

William "Max" Dieber, who has served nine years on the Housing Programs Advisory Committee, has been named *Volunteer of the Year*. The award was presented by the Village Board and Citizen Involvement Commission (CIC) at the *Evening of Appreciation*, a special night set aside each year to recognize residents who volunteer to serve on one or more of the Village's 25-plus boards and commissions. Forty-five commissioners whose terms expired in 2004 also were given certificates of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. For more information about opportunities to serve on a Village board or commission call 358.5670 or email [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).

### **Arts Council awards scholarships**

Eleven Oak Park and River Forest High School seniors are the recipients of the 2005 Oak Park Area Arts Council Fine Arts Scholarship Program. Each will receive \$1,000 to assist with their college freshman year tuition and fees. Since the program

began in 1997, 48 area high school seniors planning to major in the arts have received scholarships. This year's recipients are Aaron Berger, Peter Boyer, Keith Brooks, Cole DeGenova, Meaghan Garvey, Mark Jirik, Jeffrey Kmiec, Katherine Robinson, Geryn Roche, Gina Hoch-Stall and Tiffany Young. For more information, call 358.5690, visit [www.oakparkareaartscouncil.org](http://www.oakparkareaartscouncil.org) or email [info@oakparkareaartscouncil.org](mailto:info@oakparkareaartscouncil.org).

### **Children offered a passport to adventure**

Museums, nature centers, historic houses and societies throughout Cook, McHenry and Lake counties once again have joined forces to provide family oriented summer activities through the *Passport to Adventure* program, which runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Local sites include the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St., the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest, 217 Home Ave., the Ernest Hemingway Birth House, 200 N. Oak Park Ave., and the Wonderworks Children's Museum, 6445 North Ave. The Conservatory, Historical Society and Hemingway Birth House can be reached by riding the free Oak Park

Shuttle. Participating children, ages four to 12, each receive a passport that is stamped at each site they visit. A visit to all four Village sites earns a certificate of achievement and small prize. For more information, call 524.7800.

### **Garden walk planned**

Tickets are now available for the annual Garden Walk sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory and the Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest. This year's walk, which includes interesting water features, innovative vegetable gardens and creative container combinations, is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Sat., June 25. Tickets for the self-guided tour are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the walk. Tickets can be purchased at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield Ave., the Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 158 Forest Ave., and various merchants throughout the community. Tickets also may be purchased by mail. For more information call 725.2460 or email [fopcon@earthlink.net](mailto:fopcon@earthlink.net). Volunteers also are needed. Call 383.5546 or email [tallabastro@comcast.net](mailto:tallabastro@comcast.net).

## **Nominations Sought for Cavalcade of Pride Awards**

**N**ominations are now being sought for the annual *Cavalcade of Pride* awards, which honor property owners who have done an exceptional job of maintaining and improving the exteriors of their homes and businesses. The Community Design Commission will present awards to owners of nine single-family houses, one or two multi-unit buildings, one or more commercial buildings, two gardens, one entire block and one property in an adjoining community. Two special awards for a nonresidential, noncommercial structure also will be given. Three new categories added in the last two years include best transformed property, best new business sign and best parking lot beautification. To nominate a property, pick up a form at the customer service desk of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Deadline for nominations is July 8. For more information call 358.5644 or email [devsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:devsvcs@oak-park.us).

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**First Time Homebuyer's seminar...**A free seminar to help prospective first-time homebuyers understand loan programs available in Oak Park is scheduled for 7 – 8:30 p.m., Thurs., June 16 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](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us).

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

**Ask for identification...**If you receive an unexpected visit from someone claiming to be an employee or contractor working on behalf of Nicor Gas who wants to enter your home, ask to see their company-issued photo identification badge. The ID card features the employee's photo, name and the Nicor Gas logo on the front, and the company's address and toll-free customer service telephone number, 1.888.Nicor4u, on the back.

**Summer watering restrictions...**State law mandates summer watering restrictions for towns using Lake Michigan water. Outdoor water use is limited Mondays through Fridays to even-numbered street addresses on even-numbered days, and to odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days through September 15. Watering restrictions apply to any hose connected to the Village's water supply for sprinkling lawns and plants, and washing vehicles. Newly planted grass seed, sod, trees and shrubs are exempt from the restrictions during their first 30 days of growth. Call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

## Planning a block party or sale?

### Party guidelines

A petition signed by 10 separate households on the block must be filed at Village Hall 10 days before the event to allow notification of appropriate departments and delivery of street barricades. The petition is included in a block party packet available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The packet also includes forms to request a visit from your resident beat officer, the Park District's mobile playhouse and a Fire Department hook-and-ladder truck, as well as information on how to organize an alley clean up. Call 358.5423 or email [comsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us).

### Invite a firefighter

The Fire Department will bring a hook-

and-ladder truck to two block parties per weekend. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Appearances will be between 10 a.m. – noon and 1 – 4 p.m. A Block Party Appearance Form must be filed at Fire Headquarters, 100 N. Euclid Ave. Call 445.3300 or email [fire@oak-park.us](mailto:fire@oak-park.us) for more information.

### Block sale rules

Street must be closed with removable barriers provided by the Public Works Department. The Police and Fire departments also must be notified that the street will be closed in advance of the sale. For more information call 358.5670 or email [comsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us).

## June VOP-TV6 Programming Highlights

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

- VOP-TV6 Edition of *OP/FYI*
- Volunteer of the Year
- Commitment to Community
- Preventing Garage Burglaries
- Free Oak Park Shuttle

### Regular Village Board Meetings

Live at 7:30 p.m. first and third Mondays, rebroadcast at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 11 a.m. Thursdays and 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	<a href="http://www.oak-park.us">www.oak-park.us</a>

**POLICE/FIRE/MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

**911**

## Online parking ticket payment offers convenience

The online parking ticket payment feature added to the Village website in March had attracted more than 1,000 customers through April, a number parking administrators predict will grow as more people recognize the convenience of payment via the Internet. In the first two months of the program nearly 1,400 parking tickets were paid

through the official Village website, [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).

Nearly half of the transactions were made during non-business hours, a testament to the convenience of online payment available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Online payment eliminates the need to come to Village Hall during business hours or pay for postage and an envelope, but it also means data from the online payments do not require input into the system, allowing staff to focus on in-person customer service. The program also allows vehi-



cle owners to review and contest citations online. Directions for contesting and paying online are printed on the ticket as well as on the website. Web users can access the online feature from several points within the Village website, including the main page, which has a special flashing icon labeled *interactive parking citations*. Anyone can check for outstanding tickets by entering a license plate number, but visitors must register for a secure account to view details of their tickets, file an appeal or make a payment. The vehicle's license plate number, a parking citation issued since Jan. 1, 2004 and a valid e-mail address are required to set up an account. Once a secure account has been registered, all citations issued for the vehicle are listed. A *pay me* button appears next to any that have not been paid. Payment may be made with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover card. After the credit card payment has been authorized, a receipt is emailed to the user.

Customers may also make *boot release* payments via this system if their vehicle has been immobilized for multiple unpaid citations. While the online payment service is fast and convenient, individuals are urged not to wait until the payment deadline is upon them before acting because they are responsible for ensuring payment or an appeal is received by the Village before the deadline listed on the ticket. Parking ticket payments via the Internet are expected to be only the first program for allowing secure online payments of municipal fees. Plans also are in the works to eventually accept payment of water bills, parking permits and vehicle stickers. For more information on online parking ticket payments, call 358.5750 or email [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us). For information on contesting a ticket, call 358.5479 or email [adjudication@oak-park.us](mailto:adjudication@oak-park.us).

## Oak Park to feel CTA service reductions, fare increases

The CTA Board has approved system wide service reductions and fare increases that will go in effect in July if the state legislature does not approve additional funds for operating this critical public transportation service. Every bus and both the Green and Blue Line el trains would be affected by a reduction in the frequency of service and the CTA Ridgeland Avenue bus route would be eliminated. Residents are invited to join the Village in urging state lawmakers to find a solution to the CTA's budget crisis before the legislature adjourns. Go to [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov) to find the legislators who represent your part of Oak Park, contact them and share your views on the importance of supporting public transportation. For more information, call 358.5770 or email [village@oak-park.us](mailto:village@oak-park.us).

## Deadline nears for vehicle sticker renewals

The deadline for purchasing and displaying a 2005–2006 vehicle license sticker is June 30. Every vehicle in Oak Park must display a current decal, which is available through the Office of the Village Clerk in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The Clerk's Office will be open for renewals from 8 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, and from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturdays throughout June. Regular hours will be 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Licenses also can be renewed by mail. The annual vehicle window sticker fee for a passenger car is \$45, but residents age 65 and older pay \$35. Residents who have a disability plate or placard pay \$35. All trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, mopeds and buses must be licensed, too. Fees for all classifications of vehicles double after the purchase deadline. Vehicles not displaying a current vehicle sticker are subject to the fine plus the purchase price of a vehicle sticker. For more information call 358.5670 or email [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).



Residential Customer Local  
Oak Park, Illinois

**Village Manager** Carl Swenson  
**Village Clerk** Sandra Sokol  
Ray Johnson  
Martha Brock  
Greg Marsey  
Robert Milstein

**Trustees**

**Village President** David Pope



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



Postal Carrier  
Pre-Sort

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

## PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us)

**Electronic recycling...**is scheduled from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Fri. and Sat., June 17 and 18, at West Leyden High School, 1000 Wolf Road, Northlake. Acceptable items include fax machines, hard drives, laptops, mainframe computer equipment, modems, personal computers components, printers, printed circuit boards, scanners, televisions, testing equipment, transparency makers, uninterrupted power supply (UPS) systems and VCRs. For more information call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Household hazardous waste collection...**is scheduled for 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sat., June 25, in the south parking lot of Triton College, 2000 Fifth Ave., River Grove. Acceptable materials include oil-based paint, paint thinner, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, gasoline, pool chemicals, mercury, household batteries, motor oil, drain cleaners, solvents, cleaning products, antifreeze, fluorescent bulbs and propane tanks. Latex paint will not be accepted. For more information call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Car-free Sunday...**In an effort to reduce congestion, promote healthier living and encourage family bicycling, the Environment & Energy Commission invites residents to leave their cars at home on Sun., June 26, and walk, bike, use mass transit or take the free Oak Park Shuttle. For more information call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Elm removals, treatment...**The Village will once again pay for removal of diseased elm trees on private property. Anyone suspecting a tree on his/her property is infected with Dutch elm disease should call the Village for an inspection. If infected, the tree will be tagged and a *DED Alert* information notice placed on the front door prior to removal. Diseased elms must be removed within 30 days of the notification. The Village bids removals with qualified contractors who are paid directly by the Village. Stump removal is not required or included in the removal price. DED prevention injections will be available to residents who wish to purchase the service for parkway trees. Injections are a preventive



measure that guard only against the spread of DED by insects, not root graft. Injections will not help a tree once it is infected. A Village-approved contractor must perform all parkway tree injections, and homeowners are responsible for paying the contractor directly. No tree already infected with DED will be treated. Treatment cost is estimated to be \$10.48 per diameter inch. Manufacturers recommend injections once every three years. For more information, call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).