

## A Day in Our Village Festival is June 5



**D**owntown Oak Park, Rehm Park & Pool and Scoville Park are the places to be for Oak Park's preeminent community celebration — *A Day in Our Village* — scheduled for Sun., June 5. The all-inclusive, annual festival, now in its 32nd year, allows residents to become volunteers, join an organization, register to vote, find a local merchant, meet neighbors, enjoy special bicycle activities, make new friends, join a congregation and generally support the community, all while also offering children's games and free swimming at Rehm Pool.

More than 140 activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will fill Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue, from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Among the many activities will be yoga demonstrations, blood pressure screenings, environmental and energy ideas, print-making, African American history games, chopstick making and foster care recruitment. Displays of Police Department vehicle technology, face painting and balloons will be there, too.

Oak Park Township mini-buses will provide transportation between venues from 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The free

Village shuttle also will offer access to many of the sites. Here's an overview of the day's activities:

- **Downtown Oak Park**, Lake and Marion streets (noon – 5 p.m.): Bike Day organized by the merchants of DTOP in collaboration with Wonder Works Children's Museum, the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and the Community Bank of Oak Park and River Forest. Local eateries will operate a food court and beer garden. Entertainment, demonstrations, a disc jockey, booths and displays also are planned.
- **Main Library Plaza**, 834 Lake St. (11 a.m. – 6 p.m.): Food court with spirits featuring local restaurants.
- **Scoville Park stage**, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue (until 7 p.m.): Live acts presented by local entertainers will feature Reggae, Latin jazz, folk, dance and theater.
- **Rehm Park**, Garfield Street at East Avenue (noon – 5 p.m.): Activities will include a giant inflatable slide, climbing wall, moon jump, carnival games and a dunk tank featuring

park staff. Swimming will be free beginning at 1 p.m.

- **Souvenirs** to help fund *A Day* production costs will be available, including clip-on bottle and can holders, tee shirts and collectible lapel pins. The items will feature a new logo concept created by fifth grader Joey Rumoro of Den 1, Cub Scout Pack 28, and designed by Cub Scout Leader Michael D. Stewart, a member of *A Day* Festival Committee.

For more information on the event organized by citizen volunteers and the Village, call 358.5409 or email

[comsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us).



## Ride the Free Shuttle



**V**isit shops, take visitors on a fun tour of Village attractions or easily connect to the most popular mass transit routes — all by riding the free Oak Park Shuttle. Two conversion vans, each equipped with a wheelchair lift, operate from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., seven days a week, except major holidays on an hour-long loop that includes 21 stops at 30-minute intervals along an eight-mile course that includes *A Day in Our Village* sites. Signs posted at each stop include a route map, list of nearby attractions and arrival times of each of the two vans. A map and route schedule also is posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us). For more information call 615.1830.

## Grants fund new fire department rescue equipment

Nearly half a million dollars of various Homeland Security grants recently awarded to the Oak Park Fire Department and its Division 11 partners of River Forest, Forest Park, Cicero, Berwyn, North Riverside and Stickney means new equipment will be available to deal with special emergencies. Oak Park used a \$103,000 grant from the *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program* to purchase a medium duty truck equipped for special rescues such as from confined spaces, trenches and structural collapses. The five-passenger vehicle, currently housed at the main fire station, will be used to respond to incidents throughout the seven Division 11 communities and statewide if needed. In addition to the truck, Division 11 was awarded approximately \$220,000 worth of equipment through the *Illinois Terrorism Task Force* from a grant for the division's Technical Rescue Team. Items received through the grant include search cameras, shoring equipment, a portable shelter, plasma cutting torch, generators and power saws. Division 11 was



*Battalion Chief Michael Neris inspects the equipment on board the new special rescue truck.*

one of seven new technical response teams selected statewide to receive the equipment. Twenty members of the Oak Park Fire Department are training to use the new equipment. Oak Park also recently received a \$112,600 grant through the *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program* to pur-

chase new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The grant allowed the department to replace the aging breathing apparatus firefighters had been using to enter smoke filled structures. For more information on Oak Park Fire Department operations, call 445.3300 or email [fire@oak-park.us](mailto:fire@oak-park.us).

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## Elmwood Park joins consolidated emergency dispatch center



Elmwood Park residents who dial 9-1-1 now, like their neighbors in Oak Park and River Forest, will reach a professional emergency medical dispatch telecommunicator at the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC) in the River Forest Municipal Complex, 400 Park Ave. Five telecommunicators from Elmwood Park have joined the existing WSCDC staff, which now has 27 full-time telecommunicators, five of whom are always on duty simultaneously around the clock. The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center was created in 2002

to provide emergency vehicle dispatch services to 9-1-1 callers in Oak Park and River Forest. But the long-range plan anticipated adding other nearby communities as well. Beyond the technological benefits of shared services, consolidation also offers reduced operating costs to each community through shared facilities and equipment. The WSCDC uses the latest computer-based radio consoles and control equipment available for 9-1-1 communications systems, including the ability to locate a cell phone caller within 100 meters of their location, a key tool when the caller cannot provide this critical information. Telecommunicators dispatch ambulances, fire fight-

ing equipment and police depending on the nature of the incident. But WSCDC telecommunicators do much more than dispatch emergency response vehicles. Each has been trained to provide emergency medical assistance while help is en route. Instructions telecommunicators provide may range from common sense directions to callers such as turning on a porch light and unlocking the door, to more specific medical instructions in situations such as stroke, cardiac arrest, breathing problems, bleeding, loss of consciousness or childbirth. For more information on the WSCDC, call 771.9110.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Volunteers sought to help Farmers' Market celebrate 30th anniversary

*Friends of the Oak Park Farmers' Market* will host a volunteer recruitment reception from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tues., May 17 in the Veteran's Room of the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St., as preparations continue for opening the 30th anniversary season on Sat., June 4. Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to attend the reception. The market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot on Lake Street, just west of Ridgeland Avenue and is open from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday from June through October. In addition to high-quality, locally grown produce, the market also offers 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 on the Oak Park Farmers' Market or volunteer opportunities, call 358.5780 or email [farmersmarket@oak-park.us](mailto:farmersmarket@oak-park.us).

### Child car seat checkup

A child car seat checkup is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m., Sat., June 4 in the parking lot of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Certified child passenger safety technicians will examine each child safety seat for correct installation, use and recalls. Representatives from the

Fire, Police and Health departments also will be available to answer questions and provide safety and educational materials. Attendees need to bring their vehicle owner's manual and car seat manufacturer's manual along with the seat they wish to have examined and its passenger. The event is sponsored by the Village, MABAS Division XI, Chicagoland SAFE KIDS Coalition and community partner Foley Rice Cadillac-Oldsmobile of Oak Park. For more information, call 445-3300 or email [fire@oak-park.us](mailto:fire@oak-park.us).

### Open house and fun fair

The annual Public Works Open House and Fun Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., May 21, at the Public Works Center, 131 South Blvd. Residents are invited to tour the Public Works facility, see equipment and vehicle displays and meet staff members who provide

critical public works services to the community. Free hot dogs and popcorn will be served. For more information call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

### Free walking tours offered

The Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau will celebrate National Tourism Week, May 7 – 15, by offering its *Heart of Oak Park* walking tour for free. The tour, which regularly costs \$9, uses a hand-held device that provides a multimedia audio and visual tour in a personal digital assistant (PDA) format. The device combines a detailed audio tour with current and historical images of Oak Park buildings, homes and gardens displayed in color on a small screen, as well as an electronic map. Beginning May 17, the Bureau also will offer the tour free every Tuesday. Admission to all five attractions included on the tour is available for \$20. For more information visit [www.visitoakpark.com](http://www.visitoakpark.com) or call 524.7800.

### Taking care of parkway trees

Mulch, dirt and plantings around the base of the trunk is bad for the health of the tree. As part of this year's Arbor Day celebration, the citizen volunteers on the Forestry Commission will be identifying affected parkway trees and working to spread out the mulch or dirt to make a healthier environment for the trees. The Commission also is meeting with landscape companies to advise them of the correct way to mulch around trees. If you think your landscaper has improperly mulched your tree or placed dirt around it, call the Public Works Department so the company can be contacted. Residents also are reminded that parkway plantings or placing objects such as bricks, stones or planters must be approved by the Village. For more information, call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).



## May 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*
- Spring Tree Planting
- Oral Health Coalition
- Cap the Ike Update
- Mosquito Prevention

### 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	www.oak-park.us

**POLICE/FIRE/MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

**911**

**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 – 8:30p.m., Tues., May 10 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. For more information or to register call 358.5408 or email [comsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us).

**Alarm permits renewals...**Residential and business alarm permits must be renewed by May 31. The renewal fee is \$10. Fee for a new residential permit is \$15 and \$30 for a new business permit. For more information, call 358.5670 or email [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).

**Waste collection delay...**Refuse, recycling and yardwaste collection will be delayed by one day during the week of Memorial Day, May 30. Friday's collection will take place on Saturday. For more information call 358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@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 9:40 a.m. to 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) for more information.

**Garage sales...**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).

**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 nonprofit dental lab. Call 358.5484 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) for more information.

**Affordable health insurance...**Adults and children are being enrolled in two, low- and no-cost health care plans. *KidCare* offers health care coverage to income-eligible children and pregnant women and help in paying premiums of employer-sponsored or private insurance plans. The plan covers doctor visits, hospital and clinic care, X-rays and laboratory tests and prescriptions. *Access to Care* covers doctor visits, X-rays, prescriptions and lab tests for a small fee. Call 358.5484 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) for an application.

**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).

## Vehicle sticker violations now carry 100 percent penalty

Any resident whose vehicle does not display a valid Village vehicle sticker will now have to pay double the fee to come into compliance with the local law. A recent change to the municipal ordinance replaced the graduated penalty with a charge equal to 100 percent of the original fee. For passenger and recreational vehicle owners who do not purchase a current sticker the new penalty schedule means their fee for each vehicle will be \$90 — \$45 for the sticker and a \$45 penalty. Delinquent truck owners will owe \$112 per unlicensed vehicle, motorcycle owners \$32 and moped owners \$18. Any Oak Park resident who owns a vehicle or any person who uses a vehicle owned by a Village resident is required to purchase a vehicle sticker annually by July 1. Renewal forms are mailed to current sticker holders in May. Stickers are issued by the Office of the Village Clerk from Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information on vehicle stickers, call 358.5760 or email [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).

## Health providers, exceptional food establishments recognized

Thirty-eight Oak Park residents and 12 food establishments were recently recognized for their accomplishments by the Oak Park Department of Public Health and its citizen advisory commission, the Oak Park Board of Health. The *Fitzsimmons Award*, named for local physician and humanitarian William Fitzsimmons who served as the Health Department's medical consultant from 1976 to 1992, is given annually to local health and service providers who made exceptional contributions to the health of the community. *Johnson Awards*, now in their 19th year, are given for excellence in food service sanitation based on inspections by Health Department sanitarians. The *Johnson Awards* were named for Oak Park's first lunchroom, which began operation in the early 1890s at 124 Lake St.

### Fitzsimmons Award Winners

Kathy Capone  
Colleen Donovan  
Donna LaSage  
Phyllis Magee  
Ellen Milad  
Lori Potzak  
Michael Rocha  
Sue Bridge  
David Ansell  
Dr. Jerzy Wozniak  
Jenny Fei  
Christopher Fox  
Ellen Pimentel  
Cheryl Honesty  
Janet Barnstable  
Marcie Finlayson  
Jessica Keller  
April Oh

Richard Ostrander  
Lan Liu  
Connor DeFanti  
Kira Webb  
Antoinette Evans  
Richard Gloor  
Anne August  
Jennifer Box  
Craig Burgess  
Gerald Crimmins  
Kevin Fadden  
Kenneth Harris  
Thomas Mazur  
John McDonald  
Robert Murphy  
Peter Pilafas  
Anthony Coleman  
Dave Jacobson  
Sean O'Shea  
John Rumoro

### Johnson Award Winners

Pals Childcare and Development Center  
Oak Park Hospital  
Aldi Foods Store #11  
Philander's Oak Park  
Buzz Café at Library  
Oberweis Dairy  
Subway  
Starbucks Coffee Company  
Edy's Ice Cream  
Quiznos Classic Subs  
Domino's Pizza  
Rock L's

## Financial Reporting Earns Certificate of Excellence

The Village's 2003 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) has earned a *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA), the preeminent professional association of government finance professionals. A certificate of achievement from this particular organization is considered the highest form of professional recognition governmental accounting and financial reporting methods can earn. The financial reporting achievement award was presented to the Village's Finance Department, which is primarily responsible for preparing the CAFR. The Village's 2003 CAFR was judged by the GFOA's impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate Oak Park's financial story and motivate individuals to read the report. This is the seventh consecutive year the Village has earned the honor. The 2004 CAFR will be submitted for review by the GFOA once completed in June 2005. Preparing an annual financial report that is both comprehensive and understandable to individuals who are not municipal finance experts is the goal of the Village's efforts, as municipal finances have become increasingly complex and the need has grown for facilitating citizens' understanding of how their tax dollars are managed. The basis for the annual CAFR is a comprehensive audit by an independent accounting firm. The 2003 CAFR is posted on the Village's website [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — mouse over the *Department* tab and click on *Finance*. The report also can be viewed at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information on Village finance matters call 358.5460 or email [finance@oak-park.us](mailto:finance@oak-park.us).



### Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272

# OP/FYI

### Village President

David Pope

### Trustees

Geoff Baker

Martha Brock

Robert Milstein

Greg Marsey

Ray Johnson

**Village Clerk**

Sandra Sokol

**Village Manager**

Carl Swenson

Residential Customer Local  
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier  
Pre-Sort

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

## Celebrate Bike-to-Work Week

Residents are encouraged to leave their cars at home during National Bike-to-Work Week, May 16–20, or at least Fri., May 20 which is National Bike-to-Work Day. Oak Parkers who live too far from their jobs to bike the entire route are urged to ride a bicycle to the nearest mass transit hub, most of which have bike racks installed just for this purpose. The Village has long encouraged safe cycling and promoted the community as being bicycle friendly with *Share the Road* signs at all major community entry points, written guidelines to help cyclists and motorists get along on the roadway and bike racks located throughout the community. The Village even offers fully enclosed, weatherproof bike lockers located at the intermodal CTA/Union Pacific station near the downtown mall. Bicycles also are permitted on CTA trains every day except during weekday rush hours of 7 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 6 p.m. CTA buses serving the No. 63 63rd route and No. 72 North Avenue route also have bike racks, as do all PACE buses.

### Safe Cycling Tips



- Ride on the right in the same direction as traffic.
- Act like a motorist. Use hand signals to indicate your intention to stop or turn.
- Always wear a helmet straight on your head, not tipped forward or backwards.
- Ride predictably in a straight line and never swerve between moving or parked cars.
- Be visible. Wear brightly colored clothing at all times. At night use a white front light, a red rear light and reflective tape or clothing.

### Safety/Security Tips

- Register your bike with the Police Department.
- Never leave your bike unlocked or unattended.
- Use a heavy lock, such as a case-hardened U-lock that can't easily be cut.
- Lock your bike even when it is stored in a closed garage, enclosed porch or basement common area.
- Call the police immediately if you see anyone suspicious hanging around a bike rack, in a neighbor's yard or near a garage.
- Warn children never to let anyone but a trusted friend ride their bike and not to be fooled by strangers who ask to borrow their bike.



### Who to call for bicycling information

- Grand Illinois Trail map and information – 358.5726
- Suggest a new public right of way bike rack location – 358.5726 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us)
- Bicycle registration – 386.3800 or email [police@oak-park.us](mailto:police@oak-park.us)
- Public transit services – RTA Travel Information Center 836.7000

