

## Selling prices reflect community's continued strong housing market

The average selling price of both single-family homes and condominiums in the Village have increased dramatically over the past decade, according to statistics compiled by the Oak Park Board of Realtors, a trend that appears to be continuing through the early part of this year.

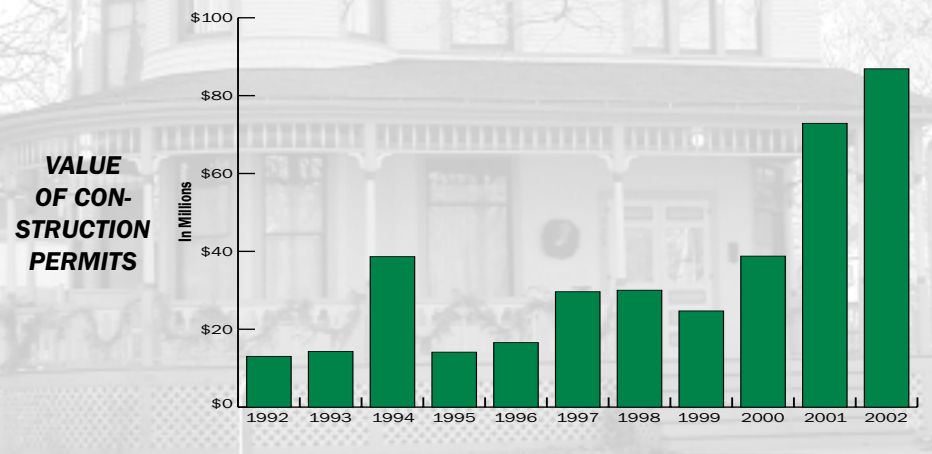
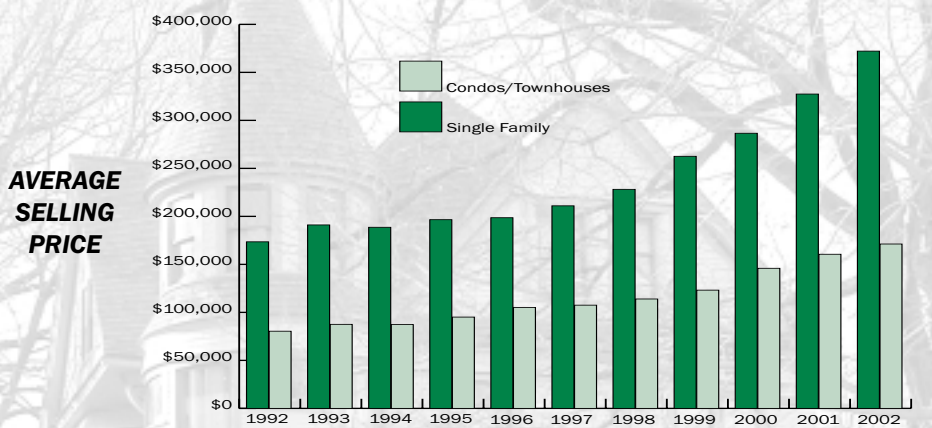
Data compiled by Board of Realtors ([www.oakparkrealtors.org](http://www.oakparkrealtors.org)) shows the average selling price of single-family homes in Oak Park grew to more than \$372,100 in 2002, up from about \$173,500 in 1992. The average selling price of condominiums in Oak Park also has grown significantly over the past 10 years, reaching \$171,200 in 2002, as compared to about \$80,400 a decade earlier.

January 2003 data from the Board listed the average selling price of single-family homes in the Village at about \$398,100, up from \$350,100 for the same period last year. Condominium selling prices were up slightly for January as well, reaching \$180,600 compared to \$180,500 for the same period last year.

The number of single-family homes sold each year over the past decade has remained relatively constant, ranging from a high of 598 properties sold in 1992, to a low of 464 properties sold in 1995. Some 489 single-family homes were sold in Oak Park in 2002.

However, the number of condominium units sold each year has grown dramatically over the past decade, likely reflecting the market appeal of the many vintage buildings that have been

### SINGLE FAMILY & CONDOS/TOWNHOMES SOLD 1992-2002



converted from rental properties in recent years. A record 543 condominium units were sold in 2002, up from 178 units sold in 1992.

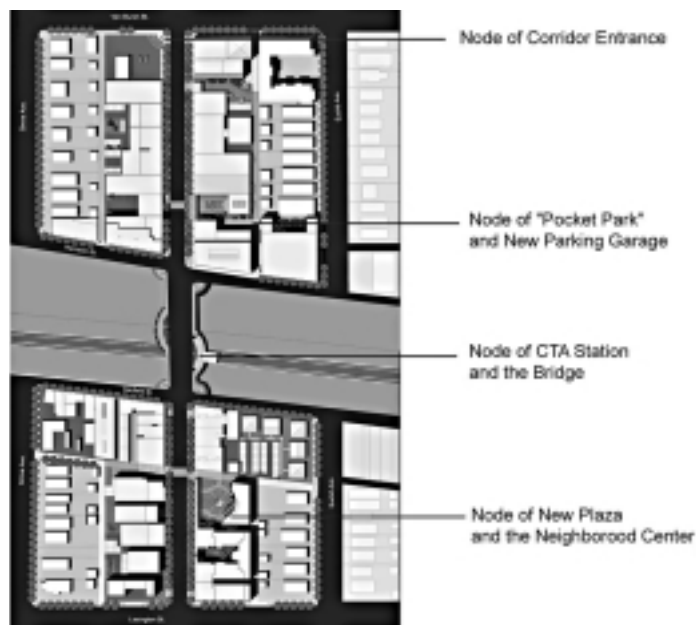
Meanwhile, property owners have continued to invest record sums in upgrading and remodeling their Oak Park homes. In 2002, the construction value of building permits reached a decade record high at nearly \$87 million. Last year's record level of improvement investments represented a 19

percent increase over 2001 and more than six times the \$13 million in construction value of building permits in 1992.

For more information on home selling prices, call the Oak Park Board of Realtors at 386.0150 or e-mail [info@oakparkrealtors.org](mailto:info@oakparkrealtors.org). For information on building permits call the Building & Property Standards Department at 358.5430 or email [building@oak-park.us](mailto:building@oak-park.us).

## UIC team seeks public input on development concepts

Progress of a comprehensive study by the University of Illinois at Chicago to help shape the future look of the Harrison Street and Oak Park Avenue/Eisenhower business districts will be showcased at a community meeting from 7 – 10 p.m., Thurs., April 3, in Percy Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland Ave. This public meeting will be a “charrette” design presentation where citizens can voice their opinions about proposed concepts developed over the past few months. The charette is one of the final phases of the program that began last August when the Village launched the cooperative agreement with the UIC’s prestigious Urban Planning Program to create visions for future development in the community. During the fall, faculty and graduate students studied transportation, traffic and land use trends in Oak Park and other similar communities, and gathered public input on what residents and business operators’ think should be done to improve the vitality of the two business districts. The information then was refined into specific development concepts, including streetscape designs. The final phase of the program is intended to allow the community to help further refine the concepts into workable programs. The joint endeavor has brought together UIC students and faculty, Village officials, members of the local business community and civic-minded Oak Park residents, but more public input is needed to ensure the best possible results. For more information on the program or the charette, call 358.5418, visit [www.oakparkinfo.lib.uic.edu](http://www.oakparkinfo.lib.uic.edu) or email [lib-docs@uic.edu](mailto:lib-docs@uic.edu). Residents also can visit the local project design studio at 828 S. Oak Park Ave. from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturdays.



*Providing parking for both residents and business patrons, such as with a garage at Harrison Street and Euclid Avenue (top), are among the concepts that will be presented by UIC planners for the Oak Park Avenue/Eisenhower Business District. Concepts also have been developed for the Harrison Street Business District and will be presented to the public for discussion April 3.*

## Comments Sought on Proposed Arboricultural Standards

Public input is now being sought into new arboricultural standards proposed by the Forestry Commission, citizen volunteers who review and make recommendations to the Village Board about tree care and plantings on public property. A copy of the Village’s proposed *Arboricultural Specifications and Standards Manual* can be downloaded from the Village website [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us). Click on news, then the “arboricultural standards” button to the right. After reviewing the draft manual, residents are invited to share their comments at a special Forestry Commission meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Tues., March 11, in Room 101 of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Comments also can be made via email to [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us). Due to copyright restrictions, some referenced materials are not available in the draft posted on the Village website. A complete draft manual can be reviewed in the Office of the Village Clerk at Village Hall. The culmination of nearly two years of study and research by the Forestry Commission, the proposed new Village guidelines are based upon American National Standards Institute (ANSI) principles for tree care.

## Yardwaste Pick-Up Begins

Collection of bundled brush and yardwaste will begin the week of April 7. Bundled brush no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and yardwaste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs and vines will be picked up on regular collection days. A green yardwaste sticker must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container filled with yardwaste. Stickers are available for \$1.80 each from Oak Park grocery and hardware stores and the Cashier’s Office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Any yardwaste mixed with trash will not be collected. Residents are urged to look for alternatives to bagging yardwaste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or backyard compost piles.

## Meet Your Village People



### Community Services Director Rogene E. Hill

Rogene Hill joined the Oak Park management team as Director of Human Resources in 1997, becoming Community Services Director in 1999. Hill has more than 19 years of management experience having worked in a variety of analyst and management staff positions before

becoming director of Human Resources and Labor Relations for Denver Water, the American Water Works Association and the City of Bellevue. Hill holds a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Colorado, with emphasis in organizational development, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Denver. She has participated in numerous postgraduate programs including the Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Development certificate program with the Asset Based Community Development Institute. Hill is an Oak Park resident and homeowner.



### Finance Director Gregory J. Peters

Greg Peters became Director of Finance in November 1996. Prior to joining the Oak Park municipal staff, he served as finance director in Des Plaines and Wheeling. Peters holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Loyola University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Syracuse

University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Peters is a past president of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association and the Chicago Metropolitan Government Finance Officers Association. He also has participated in numerous training courses and workshops including the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Government Performance Program. Peters has been an Oak Park resident since 1977.

*Watch for profiles of other key Village staff in future issues of OP/FYI.*

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWS

*Call 358.5417 or email [comsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us)*

**Nominations Sought for 2003 Historic Preservation Awards...**The Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission is now seeking nominations for the 2003 Historic Preservation Awards Program. Nominations must be submitted by April 4. Awards will be presented in May in conjunction with National Preservation Week. Nomination forms are available at the customer service desk in Village Hall, 123 Madison Street, by contacting Community Services at 358.5400 or by e-mail at [comsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us). A nomination form also can be downloaded from on the Village website [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — click on news, then the historic preservation button along the right margin. Any resident, owner or tenant of eligible structures, members of local preservation and historical societies, and members of the Oak Park Community Design Commission and Historic Preservation Commission may make nominations. Nominations are sought in four categories — restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use and additions. The building need not be in an historic district, and may be a single-family residence, apartment building, commercial building, public/institutional building, religious structure or manufacturing facility. Projects should have been created within the past five years, and located within the boundaries of the Village. The judges' decisions will be based upon the Historic Preservation Commission's Architectural Review Guidelines, which are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, as well as considerations of contextual and design appropriateness.



*Oak Park & River Forest Day Nursery, 1139 Randolph St., designed by Charles E. White in 1927.*

**New local landmarks approved...**Five local buildings have been designated as Oak Park Landmarks, bringing the total to 14. Oak Park's newest landmarks are George Furbeck House, 223 N. Euclid Ave. (Frank Lloyd Wright 1897); Oak Park & River Forest Day Nursery, 1139 Randolph St. (Charles E. White 1927); Thomas Gale House, 1027 Chicago Ave. (Frank Lloyd Wright, 1892); Charles Roberts House, 321 N. Euclid Ave. (Burnham & Root c. 1883/1895, remodeled by Frank Lloyd Wright); and Roberts Building, 300-304 N. Grove Ave./818 Erie St. (E.E. Roberts and Elmer Roberts 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.

# April 1 election deadlines

- **March 4** — Last day to register, including transferring registration information to a new address. Voters can register at the Office of the Village Clerk in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., and Oak Park Township Office, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. Two forms of identification are required, including a photo ID and one item with the registration address.
- **March 10 – 31** — absentee voting underway. Cast an in-person absentee vote in the Office of the Village Clerk. To vote by mail request an application for an official ballot directly from the Cook County Clerk, 69 W. Washington, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL, 60602. The County Clerk must receive absentee ballot applications by March 27.
- **March 25** — Last day to file a notarized declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate. Write-in declarations must be made before 5 p.m. at the Cook County Clerk’s office, 69 W. Washington, 5th Floor, Chicago.
- **March 31** — Last day physically disabled voters can request voting assistance on election day. Contact the Cook County Clerk’s office at 312.603.0929 to arrange for assistance.

The Village Clerk’s office will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays March 15, 22 and 29, and from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 13, 20 and 27. Regular hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information call 358.5670 or e-mail [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).

## Who to Call at Village Hall

Main number	383.6400
Village TTY	383.0048
Info Line	445.3340
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
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**

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

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

**Art and Public Health...**Artists are invited to participate in an exhibit during National Public Health Week April 7-13. Artwork can be any medium and should include a short statement on how the piece expresses the theme of “Getting in Shape for the Future.” Call 358.5487.

**Free Spring Exercise Sampler...**Sample one of the many workouts during the spring “Tone-Up” from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Sat., March 15, at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Among the workouts are Pilates for women and kids (5th – 8th graders), Yoga for adults and kids, Hip Hop, Salsa and Chair Dancing. Call 358.5484.

**Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers Sought...**Volunteers are needed to form a local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to prepare for the possibility of a public health emergency. Responsibilities will include logistical planning, records keeping and assisting with public health awareness campaigns. The Oak Park Health Department was one of only 42 community-based organizations awarded a grant to begin building a local MRC unit. Call 358.5490.

**Immunization Clinic...**Immunization services are available from 3 – 6 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Health Department Clinic, 320 Lake St. The next immunizations will be given March 12. A parent or guardian must accompany children under 18. No appointment is necessary. Call 358.5491.

**Help Shape Tobacco Policy...**The Stop Tobacco Oak Park (STOP) Coalition’s mission is to ensure community input into smoking prevention and cessation intervention for adolescents and adults to reduce smoking related diseases. STOP has been involved with several advocacy campaigns such as encouraging restaurants and businesses to become 100 percent smoke-free, reducing environmental tobacco smoke, developing counter-advertising campaigns and offering free smoking cessation classes. The STOP Coalition is interested in more community input into tobacco policy in Oak Park. Call 358.5487 to get involved.

**Smoking Cessation Support Group...**A support group for smokers who have recently quit is held from 7 – 8 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The group shares tips on sticking to the resolve to quit and new ideas on coping with the urge to smoke. Call 358.5484.

**Parking Office extends hours...**The Parking Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sat., March 29 and from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Mon., March 31 for permit renewals. For more information call 358.5756 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Free surplus computers...**and electronic equipment, including systems, monitors, printers, peripherals and mobile data terminals are available to not-for-profit and tax-exempt organizations on a first-come, first served basis. For a copy of the required standard agreement, a list of available equipment or more information, call 358.5450 or email [infotech@oak-park.us](mailto:infotech@oak-park.us).

**Dedicated bicyclists sought...**weatherproof bike lockers at the intermodal transportation station near the Marion Street mall are available for an annual fee of \$75 and a refundable key deposit of \$25. Call 358.5726 or e-mail [bikelocker@oak-park.us](mailto:bikelocker@oak-park.us).

**Wildlife trapping to resume...**Wildlife traps will be available beginning April 1 to residents bothered by nuisance animals such as opossums, raccoons and squirrels. Traps are available for one week intervals and can be picked up at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Animal Control personnel will provide instructions on how to set the trap and will pick up the trap once the animal has been caught. For information call 358.5680 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

**Regional Housing Center...**The Oak Park Regional Housing Center, 1042 South Blvd., offers a free referral service to anyone seeking an apartment in Oak Park and surrounding suburbs. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Visit the Center's website [www.apartmentsoakpark.org](http://www.apartmentsoakpark.org) or call 848.7150.



*Weatherproof bike locker at the intermodal transportation station*

**Day In Our Village...**is seeking volunteers to help organize the 30th annual Day In Our Village celebration, a community-wide festival scheduled for Sun., June 1. Applications are due April 1. To volunteer or to request an application to participate call 358.5409 or e-mail [comsvcs@oak-park.us](mailto:comsvcs@oak-park.us). Local entertainers are also needed — call 524.4821.

**Learn how to restore your old house...**with advice from an expert at the Third Annual "How to Restore Your Old House Without Going Crazy" seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat., April 12. This daylong event will feature Bob Yapp, PBS television host, nationally known preservation consultant and old house lover. Morning session will include a tour of a house in need of restoration and a walk to examine exterior restoration issues. An afternoon workshop will demonstrate cost effective ways to practice preservation techniques. Cost is \$75 for the full day or \$45 for just the afternoon workshop. For reservations call the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest 848.6755.

**Purchase Park District Youth License Plates...**through the Secretary of State's Office and generate \$25 for park district youth programming in Illinois. For information call 1.800.252.8980.

**Percy Julian and Gwendolyn Brooks Middle Schools...**are welcoming Police Officer Mani Adams as their new on-site Resource Officer. Sgt. Jacques Conway will temporarily assume Adams' Resident Beat Officer role in Zone 4 bounded by the Union Pacific tracks, Madison Street, Oak Park Avenue and Austin Boulevard until a permanent replacement is named. Sgt. Conway can be reached at 358.5546. For more information, call 358.5509 or email [police@oak-park.us](mailto:police@oak-park.us).

**Oak Park Residence Corporation...**has approved a five-year, \$2-million capital improvement program for its 15 vintage multi-family buildings. The program will include improvements such as roofs and furnaces, as well as individual apartment upgrades. Work will be financed through a variety of sources, including bond proceeds, corporate reserves and cash flow from the buildings. The Residence Corporation is a 37-year-old, community-based, not-for-profit housing development corporation that specializes in mixed-income and mixed-use, affordable housing. For more information, visit [www.oakparkrc.com](http://www.oakparkrc.com) or call 386.6061.

**Conservatory Spring Open House...**is scheduled for noon – 4 p.m., Sun., March 9, at 615 Garfield St. This free event will feature music, refreshments, floral surprises and special children's activities.

**Daddy Daughter Sweetheart Dance...**is set for Thurs., March 5 and Fri., March 6 at Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave., with a formal evening of dining and dancing. Call 725.2110 for more details.

**Buy a summer pool pass...**before May 3 and save. Passes can be purchased at the Park District Administration Center, 218 Madison St. or at Ridge-land Common, 415 W. Lake St.



Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President Joanne E. Trapani

Trustees

Barbara Ebner Diana Carpenter

Gus Kostopoulos William Turner

Galen Gockel Carolyn Hodge-West

Village Clerk Sandra Sokol

Village Manager Carl Swenson

Residential Customer Local  
Oak Park, Illinois

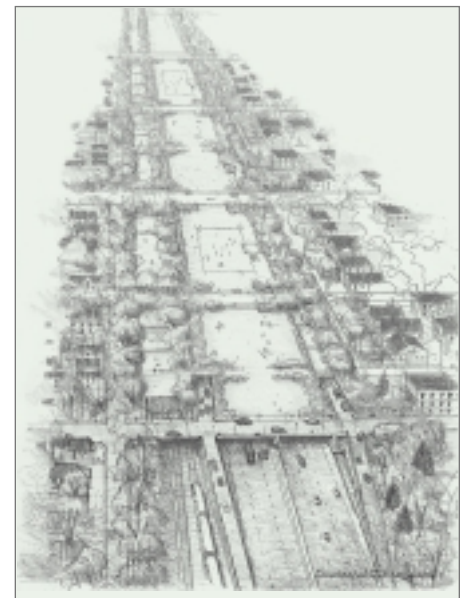
Postal Carrier  
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Oak Park, IL

## Village Presses Ike Case with Governor

Village President Joanne E. Trapani and Trustee Diana Carpenter took the community’s ideas for the Eisenhower Expressway directly to the Governor’s Office in late February, urging the staff of the state’s chief executive to make sure all alternatives and impacts are carefully studied before any highway expansion plans are finalized. Village officials asked the Governor to intervene in the planning process with IDOT and help craft improvements for how major transportation corridor projects are planned and executed. A more progressive approach to highway planning than that typically taken by Illinois Department of Transportation is critical if the region is going to meet the future transportation needs and congestion challenges, Village officials stressed in their meeting. Such an approach would incorporate objective analyses of transit alternatives to highway expansion not just for Oak Park, but also for the entire I-290/I-88 corridor from Chicago to Lisle, instead of just between Mannheim Road and Central Avenue as IDOT has proposed. Village officials supported their call for a more comprehensive approach to transportation planning with a list of some 20 alterna-

tives to highway expansion developed in concert with Oak Park’s Eisenhower Citizen Advisory Committee. Transportation planning also needs to incorporate community needs, including livability and quality of life issues, as well as allow greater citizen input into the planning process, Village officials told the Governor’s staff. Creative thinking, such as covering portions of expressways with green space, as has been done in many communities across the country, needs to become an integral part of IDOT transportation planning, Village officials said as they delivered a report on highway caps recently completed by a subcommittee of the citizen volunteer Ike advisory group. The report demonstrates that not only is a cap over the expressway feasible, but desirable and achievable. For more information on the Village’s activities regarding the Eisenhower, including the



A concept of how the view west from Austin Boulevard could look with a “cap” over the expressway. No actual plan for a cap has been developed.

list of expansion alternatives and the “Cap the Ike” working group’s report, visit [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) — click on news, then the I-290 icon.

### MARCH VOP-TV6 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

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

Cap the Ike Update  
Preserving Oak Park’s Urban Forest  
Family Case Management Program  
Gunderson Historic District  
Preventing Garage Burglaries

Monday – Friday 4 – 5 p.m.

NASA Programming

Live at 7:30 p.m. Mondays, rebroadcast Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meetings & Study Sessions