

Village to Study Potential of Chicago Avenue Business Corridor

As part of a community wide effort to create long-term redevelopment strategies for Oak Park's business districts, the Village will conduct a study of Chicago Avenue between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard. The study area also will include the commercial properties just west of the Ridgeland-Chicago intersection.

The objective of the study is to develop a plan that will improve the economic marketability of the Chicago/Austin business district, while enhancing the quality of life within the surrounding area.

A professional consultant will be hired through a competitive process to facilitate planning workshops, a public forum, stakeholder interviews, focus groups and conduct and analyze input from an area wide survey. The consultant will be expected to use group process techniques to generate a consensus among the values and development preferences expressed by residents and representatives of the business community who participate.

The study, which is expected to take about four months to complete, will seek to determine what residents



Chicago Avenue near Austin Boulevard

and business owners want the area to be, what they like and don't like about the environment now and what can be done to make the corridor more attractive and vibrant in the future.

The consultant also will be required to create a quantifiable method for assessing the livability, vibrancy and ambiance of the Chicago Avenue corridor as it relates to potential future development.

The planned study of the Chicago Avenue Business Corridor is part of a

long-term strategy to create redevelopment character plans for each of the Village's business districts. Studies already have been conducted for Roosevelt Road and the Harrison Street and Oak Park Avenue-Eisenhower business districts. A study also is currently underway for the greater downtown area.

For more information on the Chicago Avenue study or other Village planning studies, call 358.5418 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us.

Village Board forum to take citizen input via telephone

The Village Board will host the third of an ongoing series of open dialogues with community residents from 7 – 10 p.m., Wed., Oct. 27 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. As with past sessions, the format will be relatively informal to encourage interaction among residents and Board members. The session also will incorporate a call-in option that will allow residents watching the live VOP-TV6 broadcast of the meeting to participate via telephone. VOP-TV6 is the government access television station available to cable subscribers on channel 6. While only one caller will be able to talk at a time, up to 12 callers can be placed in a queue for their chance to participate. Topics will be considered on a first-raised, first-addressed basis, with discussion limited to 45 minutes each to ensure sufficient time to address at least four topics per session. The number to call to participate by telephone will be scrolled on the screen throughout the meeting. For more information on the board dialogue session, call 358.5770 or email board@oak-park.us.

Municipal administration stresses professionalism, performance measurement

Oak Park's municipal administration relies on trained professionals to manage and deliver public services. A strong financial position and steadily improving services with no recent significant increase in the Village's share of property taxes are indicators of the caliber of Oak Park's current municipal staff.

Oak Park's financial position has never been better, thanks to the professional management of the Village's public resources. The Village's bond rating is the highest in its history. The current financial stewardship of public funds has earned Oak Park six excellence awards from the prestigious Government

Finance Officers Association, the nation's premier public finance professional organization.

While Village services have improved steadily over the past six years with no significant property tax increase for municipal programs, more challenging times may lie ahead. In preparation for the uncertain future, Oak Park has become one of only 130 municipalities nationally to join the International City Managers Association's Center for

Performance Management. This groundbreaking effort places Oak Park among those municipalities with the foresight to train their managers to use empirical data and performance measurement techniques to identify efficiencies and sensibly manage budgets and services.

Inside Village Hall, collaboration is evident. Interdepartmental staff teams, committees and task forces are coordinating and overseeing the many critical services and processes that cross multiple lines of responsibility. The benefit of this approach is most apparent in the face of adversity. When the garbage hauler strike stopped collections in the Village, for example, staff from literally every department and from every level within the organization pitched in to collect trash, and keep this vital municipal service operating.

Major investments in technology are occurring as well. By improving information management the Village is paving the way for more accurate and efficient interaction with the public, which is increasingly looking to the World Wide Web as a convenient way to conduct business.

Municipal service management and delivery has become progressively more complex, a trend not likely to change in the future. By hiring professionals with the right training, skills and experience, and providing them with the proper tools and resources, Oak Park is prepared for the future.

For more information on municipal administration call 358.5770 or email village@oak-park.us.

Next month — Parking (watch for the video versions on VOP-TV6)



Homecoming parade links communities in support of OPRF

The homecoming parade of Oak Park-River Forest High School, scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., Sat. Oct. 9, will follow a route along Lake Street, beginning in River Forest and crossing Harlem Avenue. Lake Street will be closed to vehicles from Jackson Avenue in River Forest to Linden Avenue in Oak Park, including Oak Park Avenue. No vehicles will be allowed to cross Lake Street during the event. Harlem Avenue traffic may be temporarily disrupted at the Lake Street intersection, but efforts will be made to coordinate the parade's crossing of the busy roadway with the green lights. Parade participants will gather on Jackson Avenue, just north of Lake Street. The route will be east on Lake Street to Linden Avenue, turning north to Erie Street and then disbanding on the mall behind the high school. For more information on safety and traffic control issues related to the parade call 386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Daylight Saving Time

reverts to standard time at 2 a.m., Sun., Oct. 31. As you set your clocks back one hour, also install fresh batteries in your smoke alarms. For information on fire safety, call 445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.



Annual fall leaf collection set to begin

The annual fall leaf collection program is scheduled for Oct. 18 – Nov. 25, with six pickups planned for each section of the Village. Residents should rake their leaves into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Leaves raked into the street will be pushed into piles by Public Works crews during the night to reduce impact on traffic and parked cars. Leaves will be collected the following day. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep their leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Sweepers will be scheduled to run at the end of the collection program to clean up residue. Cooperation is essential to the success of this operation, so please follow these simple rules:

- Leaves only – do not add brush, grass clippings or yard waste.
- Do not park on or near a pile of leaves, which can hinder leaf removal operations. Heat from a car also could ignite the leaves.
- Rake leaves onto side streets whenever possible. Try to avoid major thoroughfares where piles of leaves might create traffic hazards.
- Do not rake leaves into or close to cul de sacs or traffic diverters. The equipment needs room to operate.
- Keep catch basins clear of raked leaves to avoid flooding.
- Inform landscape services of the leaf collection schedule.
- Obey all parking restrictions. Regulations will be strictly enforced.
- Dampen piles after raking to avoid leaves being blown by the wind.
- Consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking.
- Drive carefully. Leaves are slippery when wet and large piles may hinder visibility.

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

Lawnmower buy back, gas can exchange scheduled



Residents can exchange old gasoline-powered lawnmowers for a \$60 rebate toward the purchase of any new electric, battery powered or non-motorized push mower from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sat. Oct. 9 at the Public Works Center, 131 South Blvd. Residents also may exchange old gas cans for newer, environmentally friendly containers. All mowers and gas cans must be drained of fluids. For more information call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Public Health Officials Respond to Whooping Cough Outbreak

Oak Park public health officials responded aggressively to an outbreak of pertussis – or whooping cough – with an educational effort intended to ensure residents, teachers, students and doctors are on the look out for symptoms and know what to do should they encounter a case of the highly contagious, but typically not dangerous disease. Information has been sent home with students, presentations have been made to teachers and school officials, and area doctors have been alerted in a series of meetings, letters, telephone calls, emails and faxes. Information provided by the Oak Park Department of Public Health includes symptoms, treatment and instructions on what to do if one exhibits the signs or comes into contact with someone who may have the ailment. About three-dozen cases had been identified in Oak Park through September, mostly among school-age adolescents. Pertussis is spread through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. Symptoms are similar to a common cold – runny nose, low-grade fever and a mild, occasional cough that can become severe with a distinctive “whooping” sound and may progress to vomiting. Anyone exhibiting the symptoms should contact a physician for guidance. Treatment is with antibiotics. Individuals most at risk for complications include infants, the aged and those with a weakened immune system. For more information, contact the Oak Park Department of Public Health at 358.5601 or email health@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us.



NORTH AVE			
HARLEM AVE	WEDNESDAY	EAST AVE	THURSDAY
	Oct. 20		Oct. 21
	Oct. 27		Oct. 28
	Nov. 3		Nov. 4
	Nov. 10		Nov. 11
	Nov. 17		Nov. 18
	Nov. 24		Nov. 25
NORTH BLVD			
HARLEM AVE	TUESDAY	EAST AVE	MONDAY
	Oct. 19		Oct. 18
	Oct. 26		Oct. 25
	Nov. 2		Nov. 1
	Nov. 9		Nov. 8
	Nov. 16		Nov. 15
	Nov. 23		Nov. 22
ROOSEVELT RD			

2004 Fall Leaf Collection Schedule

Flu shot clinics scheduled for October and November

Following the latest recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Oak Park Department of Public Health officials are urging residents to take advantage of the Village's annual fall flu immunizations clinics. An annual flu shot is necessary because flu viruses change and a new vaccine is developed each year to protect against the particular virus that will be circulating. Because flu usually strikes from November to spring, the best protection is vaccination in the fall. An annual flu shot is recommended for all children ages six to 23 months, people age 50 and older, adults and children who have a long-term health problems of the heart, lungs or kidneys, and anyone else who wishes to reduce the risk of getting the flu. The Health Department also will provide flu vaccination to pregnant women who are at least 14 weeks pregnant. Individuals over the age of 65 and the chronically ill also can receive a pneumococcal

Mon., Oct. 4, 1-4 p.m.

Dole Center, 255 Augusta St.

Wed., Oct. 6, 1-4 p.m.

Heritage House, 201 Lake St.

Thurs., Oct. 7, 1-4p.m.

Oak Park Fire Department
100 North Euclid Ave.

Mon., Oct. 11, 3-7p.m.

Oak Park-River Forest High School
201 Scoville Ave.

Mon., Oct. 18, 1-4 p.m.

Holley Court, 1111 Ontario St.

Wed., Oct. 20, 1-4 p.m.

The Oaks, 114 S. Humphrey Ave.

Thurs., Oct. 21, 5-7p.m.

Oak Park Health Department
320 Lake St.

Monday Oct. 25, 1-4 p.m.

Oak Park Township 5th floor
408 S. Oak Park Ave.

Thurs., October 28, 1-4p.m.

Oak Park Fire Department
100 North Euclid

Mon., Nov. 1, 1-4p.m.

Oak Park Arms, 408 S. Oak Park Ave.

Wed., Nov. 3, 1-4 p.m.

Mills Park Tower, 1025 Pleasant St.

Thurs., Nov. 4, 3-7 p.m.

Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St.

(pneumonia) vaccination. The cost of both flu and pneumococcal shots are covered by Medicare B, but recipients must bring their Medicare card to the clinic to demonstrate eligibility. Medicare recipients who are part of an HMO should check with their insurer before visiting a Village clinic. The cost

of the flu shot for non-Medicare recipients will be \$20 for Village residents and \$25 for non-residents. The cost of the pneumococcal shot will be \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. For more information, contact the Health Department at 708.358.5486 or email health@oak-park.us.

Shuttle ridership grows during summer months

The Oak Park Shuttle has shown a steady growth in riders over its first six months of operations. Ridership in August topped 2,000, as both residents and visitors took advantage of the free ride. A survey of riders during the third week in August found the majority of the riders are Oak Parkers traveling to and from the major points of interest within the community connected by the circulating Oak Park Shuttle route. Of the total 477 rides that week, 340 (or 71 percent) identified themselves with Oak Park zip codes. Nearly half of the riders from outside Oak Park were from the Chicago metropolitan area, most frequently from communities adjacent to the Village. The remainder of non-Oak Parker riders were from many parts of the United States including California,



Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas. Some 16 trips (or 3 percent of the total rides) were made by foreign citizens, including visitors from Australia, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and the Virgin Islands. The Shuttle's two conversion vans, each equipped with a wheelchair lift, operate on an hour-long loop from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., seven days a week, except major holidays. The shuttle route includes 20 stops at 30-minute intervals along an eight-mile course. Among the stops are key Village shop-

ping and dining destinations including downtown, in the Lake Street-Oak Park Avenue area, the Harrison Street art district and the Oak Park-Eisenhower business district. Several shuttle stops also offer easy transfer to a host of mass transit options at points throughout the Village, including PACE and CTA buses, and the CTA's green and blue lines, and Metra's commuter rail west line. Riders can board a shuttle at any of the stops, which are marked by signs including a route map, a list of attractions near each stop, shuttle arrival times and nearby mass transit connection options. Potential riders also can call 615.1830 for the most up-to-date route information. A route map and schedule is available on the Village website, www.oak-park.us.



Trick or treat hours

Official hours for Halloween trick or treating are 3 – 7 p.m. on Sun., Oct. 31. Parents should accompany young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. Other safety tips include:

- Use make-up instead of masks
- Choose only flame-retardant costumes.
- Wear light-colored clothing at night or add reflective tape to dark colored costumes.
- Give and accept only wrapped and packaged candy.
- Go out in daylight and carry a flashlight in case of delay.
- Stay within your neighborhood and visit only homes you know.

For more information on trick-or-treating hours call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us. For safety information, call 445.3300 or 386.3800, or email fire@oak-park.us or

police@oak-park.us. For a schedule of Park District Halloween activities, visit www.oakparkparks.com or call 383.0002.

General Election deadlines approach

Residents who will not be able to vote in person in the November 2 general election can cast absentee ballots from Tues., Oct. 12 through Mon., Nov. 1, in the Office of the Village Clerk, 123 Madison St. To accommodate in-person absentee voters, the Village Clerk's Office will be open from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on three consecutive Saturdays – Oct. 16, 23 and 30, and until 7:30 p.m., Thursdays – Oct. 14, 21 and 28. Regular office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays and 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday – Friday. In-person absentee voting will close at 5 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 1. Registered voters also can request an official ballot directly from the Cook County Clerk's office by calling 312.603.0944. Oct. 28 is the last day completed applications for an absentee ballot will be accepted. Physically disabled voters requiring assistance on Election Day must contact the Cook County Clerk's office at 312.603.0929 by Mon., Oct. 25. For more information on voting, call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us. Information also is available at www.voterinfonet.com, a website operated by the Cook County Clerk.

Barrie Park grant, loan program information session scheduled

An information session for Barrie Park area residents eligible for the Village's grant and loan program is planned for 7 p.m. Mon., Oct. 11 in the lobby area of First Bank of Oak Park, 11 Madison St. Eligible property owners are continuing to apply for the \$30,000 in combined grant and loan funds at a steady rate. As of early September, 22 grant and loan applications had been received by the Village, 18 of which have been recommended for Village Board approval by the Barrie Park Investment Oversight Committee. Four applications were still being processed. Some 100 properties are eligible for the program intended to fund work such as exterior improvements, including roofs, gutters, porches, painting and landscaping. For more information on the program, call 358.5424 or email comsvcs@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us – click on the news tab, then the Barrie Park icon along the right margin.

October VOP-TV6 Programming Highlights

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

- Historical Society Cemetery Walk
- Preventing Home Burglaries
- Oak Park Avenue Construction
- Family Case Management Program
- AED's: Saving Lives

NASA Programming

Tuesday – Friday 3 – 5 p.m.

Regular Board Meetings

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



Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President

Joanne E. Trapani

Trustees

Diana Carpenter

Galen Gockel

Ray Johnson

Gus Kostopoulos

Robert Milstein

David Pope

Sandra Sokol

Village Manager

Carl Swenson

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Grant to Fund Electronics Recycling Event

A \$10,000 grant from Dell, Inc. will allow Oak Park to host an electronics collection event where residents can safely recycle their old computers, printers, monitors and related items free of charge. Oak Park received one of 20 grants awarded by computer manufacturer Dell, which chose recipients from a field of 175 applicants, including state and local governments, higher education institutions and non-profit organizations. Oak Park is the only Illinois community to earn a grant through the Dell program. Recycling companies typically charge about \$10 per computer monitor collected. The grant will allow Oak Park to offer the program free to participants by covering the costs of the equipment manufacturing process. All of the details of the recycling event have not yet been worked out, since the Village just learned of grant award. The event could be as early as mid-November,

and likely will be held at the Public Works Department Service Center, 131 South Blvd. More details

will be announced as they become available. In addition to the funds, Oak Park also will receive technical assistance and guidance from the National Recycling Coalition to help make the event successful. NRC will conduct a series of training sessions to share best practices and encourage interaction among grant recipients. Training will include strategies for developing effective partnerships for collection and selection of responsible recyclers and fund raising strategies, as well as media and community outreach. The grant review board, consisting of Dell, federal government and environmental and recycling organization representatives, based its selections on considerations of the quality of the collaborative effort, prospects for successful programs, geographic diversity, sustainability of the program beyond the grant period and the ability to leverage the local community's existing recycling infrastructure. Oak Park has considerable experience with recycling events, having hosted the Great Paint Exchange now for several years. The paint exchange allows residents to safely dispose of unwanted, but usable paint, that is then given away free to anyone in need of paint. The Village

also has an aggressive residential recycling program and works with local business to help them recycle more and toss less. In addition, the Village has helped promote regional recycling events, including for electronics, household hazardous wastes and gas lawn-mower exchanges. For more information on the electronics recycling event and other recycling programs, call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Village to auction surplus equipment on eBay

The Village will auction a limited quantity of surplus electronic equipment and computer peripherals on the Internet through eBay, www.ebay.com. To search for the Village equipment being auctioned, enter the Village's seller user ID **oakpark-it**. Items must be picked up from Village Hall between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information call 358.5450 or email infotech@oak-park.us.

