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Open House to Celebrate Building Safety Week

The Building and Property Standards Department will host an open house from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Fri., April 12, in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., in celebration International Building Safety Week, an event created in 1980 to promote the use and understanding of construction and building codes, and government’s role in ensuring buildings are safe.

Attendees will have an opportunity to view first-hand some of the processes involved in permit application and plan reviews, as well as view video presentations on building safety topics. Educational materials for all ages will be available, including brochures on building codes, information on careers in codes, posters and, for the children, coloring and activity books.

The theme for this year’s international celebration, which runs from April 7-14, is “Setting the Standard for Building Safety.”

“We are looking forward to showcasing the efforts of staff who work tirelessly to protect one of the Oak Park’s most prized and important resources – its buildings and structures,” said Nicholas Gadzekpo, director of the Village’s Building & Property Standards Department, which administers the Village’s construction, property maintenance standards, and zoning regulations

Permits are critical to the building process, Gadzekpo said, because they help ensure that all work is done correctly and within safety standards. Permits also provide records that can be used by lending and financial institutions as credible proof of work and investments in specific properties.

In 2001, the Village of Oak Park issued nearly 3,000 permits, the most in the Village’s history, with a total work value of nearly \$74 million.

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