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## Media Advisory

### Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station Dedication

- WHAT:** Compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station dedication by the Village of Oak Park, which boasts the region's largest municipal fleet of alternative fuel vehicles outside of Chicago.
- WHEN:** 2 p.m., Mon., April 22
- WHERE:** Public Works Service Center, 131 South Boulevard, Oak Park, (one block south of Lake Street, two blocks west of Austin Boulevard)
- WHO:** Representatives from the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Commerce & Community Affairs, Chicago Department of Environment, Clean Cities Coalition, Gas Technology Institute, South Suburban Mayors Caucus, West Central Municipal Conference and elected officials from throughout the region are expected to join local officials at the ceremony and reception.

### Background

Built with a federal grant, the Oak Park station provides clean-burning natural gas for the Village's 18-car (and growing) CNG fleet, the largest publicly owned fleet in the region outside of the City of Chicago. The Village also will be designated an Illinois Green Fleet, a program administered by the Illinois EPA that recognizes organizations for having clean, alternative fuel vehicles in their fleets. In addition to Village vehicles, neighboring municipalities can fuel their vehicles at the Oak Park station, which someday may also serve individuals who drive one of the growing number of CNG vehicles available through automakers including Chevrolet, Ford, Honda and DaimlerChrysler. The new Oak Park CNG station has earned the praise of state and federal environmental officials who see natural gas as playing a key role in efforts to reduce air pollution – especially in urban areas such as Chicago. Long recognized as an excellent fuel for generating electricity and heating homes, natural gas has only recently been applied as a transportation fuel, a development that is sure to grow since natural gas is among the cleanest burning alternative fuels available today. Municipal fleets are seen as an ideal place to begin introducing cleaner-burning vehicles in greater number. In Oak Park, for example, CNG vehicles are used by inspectors, street work crews and parking enforcement officers who often spend many hours with engines idling. By using alternate fuel vehicles, Village employees are doing their part to lower emission levels and reduce the environmental impact on the community. Fuel at the new Village station is supplied through a standard natural gas delivery line that serves local homes and businesses. The natural gas from the line is compressed in a small on-site facility, and delivered to the individual vehicles through a device very similar to a standard gasoline pump. Station patrons use a special credit card to make purchases 24-hours a day.

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