

Officials break ground for Lake & Forest redevelopment project

A crowd of about 75 business supporters, owners and residents turned out last month to watch Village officials and senior executives from the development and construction teams ceremoniously break ground for the long-awaited redevelopment of the northeast corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue.

Donning hardhats and wielding gold-painted shovels, officials turned over the first of what is sure to be many tons of earth that will be excavated to make way for a 21-story mixed-use building housing 270 rental apartments, 25,000 square feet of ground-level retail and an integrated garage with 588 parking spaces.

The project is a joint venture between affiliates of Golub & Company, a Chicago-based real estate investment and development firm, and Wood Partners LLC, a national real estate company that acquires, develops, constructs and manages high-density and mixed-use communities.

The project will feature luxury apartments, including studio, one- and two-bedrooms with sweeping views of the surrounding community and the Chicago skyline to the east. The building will include a fitness center, community room, large landscaped



Breaking ground at Lake and Forest are (from left) Gary Thalheimer, Tishman Construction; Clay Iman, Wood Partners; Michael Glazier, Golub & Co.; Village President Anan Abu-Taleb; Lee Golub, Golub & Co.; Gene Golub, Golub & Co.; and Tim McEntee, Wood Partners.

outdoor amenity deck, cybercafé and many other amenities to meet the needs of today's renters.

Designed by the Chicago office of Gensler Architects, the glass-enclosed tower will feature a podium wrapped with Roman brick and large shop windows for ground and second floor commercial users. The project is being

built by Tishman Construction to meet LEED Silver requirements.

Redevelopment of the high-profile parcel in downtown Oak Park has been in the works since October 2006, when the developer purchased the adjoining private property and contacted the

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Divvy bike-sharing coming to Oak Park

Divvy, the popular bike-sharing program that rents bicycles in neighborhoods throughout Chicago, will be coming to Oak Park next year, thanks



to a \$3 million state grant. Oak Park's share of the funds will go toward installing 12 Divvy docking stations in various locations in the Village. The state-funded grant represents about 80 percent of the cost to expand Divvy into Oak Park. The other 20 percent, some \$161,177, will be matched by local funding. Divvy will be a public-private partnership between the state, the Village and the bike-share company Alta. The program aims to offer a green transportation alternative to urban residents that meshes seamlessly

with other transit options. Bike sharing fits well with Oak Park's efforts to promote bicycling around the Village. This initiative is guided by a Bicycle Plan developed by the Transportation Commission and supported by the Village Board, community leaders and residents. An update to the study conducted this year focused on bicycle sharing and will be part of the public process to choose Oak Park's Divvy locations. Visit www.divvybikes.com for more information about Divvy.

Lake & Forest redevelopment project

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Work began in earnest with the demolition of the old garage.

aging garage had become difficult and increasingly expensive to maintain in its final years.

The Lake & Forest project is one of several planned for downtown, including a major mixed-use development on the surface parking lot on Lake Street east of Harlem Avenue. The Village also plans to extend the Marion Street palette west on South Boulevard from Marion to Harlem Avenue and negotiations are underway to redevelop the Village-owned property on South Boulevard east of Harlem Avenue.

Information on the projects, including traffic and parking updates, is posted at www.oak-park.us/projects and distributed via Village enews, www.facebook.com/vopnews and twitter.com/vopnews.

Village about incorporating the public garage into a major project.

The project represents an investment of about \$99 million that officials say will create construction jobs while it is being built and retail positions when it is completed, as well as bring in an estimated \$1.3 million in new property and sales taxes each year.

The new parking garage, which will be shared by the public and residential and retail tenants, will replace the public parking garage built in about 1974. The

Village board seeking citizen advisors

The Village Board is seeking volunteers to help inform and guide policy decisions. Oak Park's citizen boards, commissions and committees focus on a wide range of important areas and issues, often creating the public record that leads to important long-term board decisions. Most bodies meet monthly. A varied group of volunteers is sought to represent the Village's diversity, and renters as well as homeowners are encouraged to apply. Some commissions require special skills or training, while others just need citizens willing to give a little of their time to the community. The Disability Access Commission and Building Codes Advisory Commission are currently in need of volunteers, but openings occur regularly on other commissions as well. To learn more about how you can get involved, visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Mental health board needs volunteers

Applications now are being accepted for the Community Mental Health Board, whose eight volunteers decide how Oak Park Township funds will be allocated to local agencies to address mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse. Professionals, as well as citizens with an interest in mental health issues, are encouraged to apply. For more information and an application go to www.oakpark-township.org, visit the Township at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. or call 708.383.8005. The deadline to apply is Fri., Nov. 14.

Water meter upgrades underway

Property owners who receive a letter from the Village asking them to call a private vendor or visit the company's website to set up an appointment to replace a water meter are urged to respond promptly. Crews need access to the property, but the 10-minute process does not require any plumbing changes and water does not need to be turned off. The new meters allow for remote reading of usage. More than 3,200 meters have been replaced since the program began in 2010. The Village is well on its way to installing 1,500 new water meters this year. For more information on the program call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Required crime free housing training begins

A series of mandatory seminars for all rental property owners to learn more about the Village's Crime Free Housing Program is set to begin in November. The new program, which gives rental property owners and managers a powerful tool to help reduce the chances of criminal activity in individual rented units, requires all rental property owners to:

- Attend an annual Crime Free Housing Seminar
- Obtain an annual Residential Rental License for each rental property
- Include the Crime Free Lease Addendum with all rental property leases

Pre-registration is required. Visit www.oak-park.us/rentalseminar to sign up. Owners without computer access can register by calling 708.358.5410.

Public input sought on how to allocate block grant funds

The Village will host a series of meetings to gather community feedback on developing a plan for how federal funds through the Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Shelter Grant programs should be spent in the community over the next five years. The Village received more than \$1.5 million in federal funds this year from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to use for housing, public services and facilities, economic development and infrastructure — all primarily to assist low- and moderate-income persons and families. How the funds are spent is outlined in a five-year Consolidated Plan that is developed through input from the community through meetings like those planned this fall. Anyone interested in participating in the process or receiving more information on the meetings, is urged to email grants@oak-park.us.

Free weekend parking to help support shopping locally

Shoppers who come upon a bagged meter in downtown Oak Park or in the vicinity of South Oak Park Avenue are in luck. They can park free for two hours. Beginning after Thanksgiving, anyone can park free for two hours at a bagged meter, in a pay-by-space lot or a municipal garage on Saturdays before Dec. 25. Parking always is free on Sunday. The program is intended as a thank you for residents and visitors who shop locally. Retail sales benefit not only local retailers, but the entire Village since 2 percent of every retail sale comes back to municipal coffers to fund vital public services. For many retailers, the holiday season is the most important time of the year. Village officials say they hope this small gesture will increase sales as well as create goodwill among the businesses and their customers. For more information on parking in the Village, email parking@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us/parking.

Comprehensive plan offers glimpse into Oak Park's future

Residents interested in learning more about how land will be used, policies developed and capital improvements prioritized over the next decade and beyond are urged to review Envision Oak Park, the comprehensive plan recently adopted by the Village Board. Envision Oak Park, the first update since 1990, represents the culmination of two years of work through an active public process that included nearly 75 workshops, interviews and meetings with residents, neighbors, business operators, students and community leaders. The plan embraces five, key guiding principles — diversity, urban sustainability, respect for history and legacy, collaboration and cooperation, and thriving neighborhoods. Residents can review the plan at www.oak-park.us, in-person at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., and at the Main Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St.



Oak Park's School Resources Officers (from left) William Dunn, Percy Julian Middle School; Manuel Ruiz, Oak Park and River Forest High School; and Kevin Collins, Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School.

Police officers build trust within public schools

With police officers stationed at the high school and two public middle schools, the Oak Park Police Department is in a unique position to reach out to kids and teens throughout their educational career in the Village.

The School Resource Officer program dates back nearly two decades, when the Police Department first partnered with District 200 to place an officer in Oak Park and River Forest High School. The initiative expanded in 2007 to include Brooks Middle School and Julian Middle School, each of which has its own School Resource Officer.

The dual goals of the program are to maintain a safe, secure school environment and to demonstrate the department's strong interest in serving youth in Oak Park. Each officer works out of an office at the assigned school, providing a reliable, friendly presence in the hallways each day.

School Resource Officers are chosen specifically for their interests in youth culture, including contemporary issues and concerns, as well as their ability to communicate clearly with students and educators.

On the job, the officers keep the lines of communication open among students, educators, parents, school administrators and law enforcement.

They also are the first point of contact for any police investigations that might take place in the school.

In addition, the officers coordinate drills, provide input on school safety plans and speak to classes, student organizations and parent groups.

For more information on the School Resource Officer program, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Emergency preparedness guidance available

The Oak Park Health Department is seeking opportunities to help residents better prepare for unexpected emergencies. The Village's Emergency Preparedness Manager is available to address groups on a wide range of general or requested topics, such as home preparedness, general safety and communications routines in times of emergency. The talks, which generally last about a half hour, can be tailored to specific groups or organizations that may have unique needs or challenges. No special equipment is required to host a talk. For more information, call 708.358.5488 or email msnow@oak-park.us.

Garage solar array embraces innovative use of public property

The solar energy collection system on the Avenue Parking Garage, one of the largest municipal arrays in Illinois, continues to provide power to the structure and return excess green power to the grid. The modules were installed on the roof of the garage in spring 2012 using an innovative mounting system of 50 tons of galvanized steel and extruded aluminum rails that allow the array to integrate seamlessly with the garage support structure. The system is wired directly to the garage's main electrical distribution center to deliver power to the entire facility, including offices, lighting, elevators, gates and ticket-issuing machines. So far, the array has reduced CO2 emissions by almost 200 tons, the equivalent of planting nearly 5,000 trees and saving more than 22,000 gallons of gasoline. The project was funded primarily by a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. To watch the solar array in real time, look for a link at www.oak-park.us/solargarage.



On-street parking rules eased for holidays

Overnight, on-street parking restrictions are eased to accommodate visitors and guests during major holidays, including Thanksgiving and Christmas. Restrictions will be lifted from 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 26 until 2:30 a.m., Mon. Dec. 1, and from 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 20 until 2:30 a.m. Sat., Jan. 3. However, parking restrictions will remain in effect during these times in overnight permit parking zones where residents have purchased quarterly passes. Other parking regulations, such as posted daytime restrictions and those for safety also will remain in effect. Visit www.oak-park.us/parking for more information.

VOP-TV takes top programming honors

The Village of Oak Park's fresh take on television and online video programming took top honors from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors at the organization's October awards show. The Government Programming Awards honor excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. VOP-TV, the



broadcast division of the Village's Communications Department, was judged best in the programming excellence category. VOP-TV's entry was a greatest hits reel showcasing more than a dozen videos produced for television and YouTube in the last year. Content included videos that focused on public safety, local dining options, public health, Village

government, local businesses and sustainability initiatives. The Communications Department also won third place in the social media category for fostering community dialogue around the Eisenhower Expressway expansion proposals. That campaign involved public meetings, social media posts, online public commenting, YouTube videos and frequent web updates. VOP-TV programming, including live broadcasts of Village Board meetings, is available to Comcast subscribers on channel 6 and AT&T Uverse subscribers on channel 99. Nearly 250 original videos are posted on the Village YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/vopnews. For more information on VOP-TV and the Communications Department, email vopnews@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
Development Customer Services	358.5420
Business Services	358.5425
Neighborhood Services	358.5410
Housing	option 1
CDBG	option 2
Property complaints	option 3
Permits & Inspections	358.5430
Planning	358.5440
General questions	option 1
Historic Preservation	option 2
Zoning	option 3
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (nonemergency)	358.5600
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Day Parking Passes	option 3
Extended Pass	option 4
Parking Permits	option 5
Snow Hotline	option 1
Vehicle Stickers	option 5
Village Board	358.5784
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	725.2000
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015

Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	434.3107

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005
Mental Health Board	358.8855

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Plans readied for winter tree pruning cycle

Private contractors soon will be pruning trees east of East Avenue from Madison Street south to the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway. The winter pruning cycle, set for January through March, will follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines for tree care to address three key issues — tree health, resident safety and protecting property from damage. Crews will be removing dead or dying limbs as well as thinning out and raising the canopy to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic and create appropriate clearances for adjacent structures and signs. While the pruning can seem excessive during winter when no leaves are on the limbs, crews will work to ensure that pruning is just right as foliage returns in the spring. With a program that aims to prune every tree on public property once every four years, plans must consider that the medium-aged trees that compose a sizeable share of those on Oak Park parkways can grow up to two feet each year — or eight feet between pruning cycles. The Village’s pruning program has proven very successful in minimizing storm damage and reducing ongoing pruning requests. Village Forestry crews will be spot checking progress of the private contractors. Residents who have any questions or concerns about the type or quality of work being performed by contractors are urged to call 708.358.5700.

News You Can Use

Holidays affect waste collection schedule...Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed by the holidays. For Thanksgiving, Thursday’s collection will be delayed until Friday and Friday’s collection delayed until Saturday. Collection also will be pushed back one day on Christmas and New Year’s Day. Holiday tree collection begins Jan. 5. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Village Hall holiday hours...Village Hall will be closed on Nov. 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving, from noon Dec. 24 through Dec. 25, and on Jan. 1. Regular Village Hall hours are 8:30 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Parking Services Center is open until 7 p.m. on Mondays, except holidays. For more information on Village Hall hours, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Regular yard waste collection ends...After Fri., Nov. 28, yard waste will be collected only by appointment. Call Waste Management at 888.656.5350 to arrange a special pick-up.

Recycle holiday lights...Residents can recycle unwanted holiday lights and extension cords from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in December and January at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Mini, rope, LED, C7 and C9 lights will be accepted. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for details.

Winter refuse collection...Residents and building owners are reminded to clear snow away from refuse and recycling containers to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible, it will not be emptied. Call 708.358.5700 to report a missed collection.

Pay water bill online...Property owners can pay their water bills electronically, either by using a credit card online, or setting up an automatic debit from a checking, savings or credit card account. Property owners also can go paperless by signing up to receive bills via email. In addition to water, the quarterly bill includes charges for sewer, garbage disposal and recycling. For more information, call 708.358.5478 or email waterbilling@oak-park.us.

Fall leaf collection continues

The annual fall leaf collection program will continue through Dec. 4. Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Residents are urged to consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



NORTH AVE		EAST AVE	
WEDNESDAY Nov. 5 Nov. 12 Nov. 19 Nov. 26 Dec. 3		THURSDAY Nov. 6 Nov. 13 Nov. 20 Nov. 27 Dec. 4	
SOUTH BLVD		EAST AVE	
TUESDAY Nov. 4 Nov. 11 Nov. 18 Nov. 25 Dec. 2		MONDAY Nov. 3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24 Dec. 1	
HARLEM AVE		AUSTIN BLVD	
ROOSEVELT RD			

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Peter Barber
Andrea Ott
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Colette Lueck
Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Snowfall may trigger parking restrictions

After a two-inch snowfall, the Emergency Snow Removal Parking Plan goes into effect and the following parking rules are enforced seven days a week, including holidays:

- Main streets posted as snow routes must be cleared of all parked cars. These include Augusta, Austin, Chicago, Division, Garfield, Harlem, Harrison, Jackson, Lake, Madison, North Ave., Oak Park, Ridgeland, Roosevelt and Wisconsin from Madison to the emergency entrance of Oak Park Hospital.
- Non-snow route streets allow parking between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the side of the street with even numbered addresses on even days and the side of the street with odd numbered addresses on odd days.
- Designated commercial parking areas as posted follow the odd/even rule between midnight and 8 a.m.
- Snow parking rules do not override other parking regulations, such as time limitations and prohibitions.
- Vehicles parked in violation of the snow restrictions are subject to ticketing and towing.

To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 708.358.7669 for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOP-TV, available on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. Residents also can sign up for alerts at www.oak-park.us/notifyme.



Sidewalk shoveling required

Village ordinance requires snow and ice be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. Property owners are urged to comply since so many sidewalks are walking routes to neighborhood schools. For more information on the shoveling requirement or resources for those who need help shoveling, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Officials keep eye on Ike, Blue Line planning

Village officials are continuing to keep a close eye on the latest developments regarding the proposed expansion of the Eisenhower Expressway and future plans for the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line. The Illinois Department of Transportation is working toward publication of a draft Environmental Impact Statement, an important step in the effort to rebuild or expand I-290, a project that likely will include moving the Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard ramps to the right side of the expressway. CTA planners also are developing plans to modernize the entire western branch of the Blue Line to Forest Park, a project that likely would mean updated stations at Oak Park's stops. The Village remains actively engaged with IDOT and CTA on the specifics of their respective projects to ensure community priorities and concerns are addressed in any future plans. The latest information will be posted at www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to offer comments and feedback on both projects. For the I-290 plan, go to www.eisenhowerexpressway.com. For the Blue Line study, go to www.transitchicago.com/bluweststudy.