

## Development at Lake & Forest poised to begin

With the Lake & Forest Garage scheduled to close on Aug. 4, the long-awaited redevelopment of the high-profile corner at Lake Street and Forest Avenue appears poised to begin.

The 21-story mixed-use building will include 270 rental apartments, 25,000 square feet of ground-level retail and an integrated garage with 588 parking spaces.

An investment of about \$94 million is projected to create construction jobs while it is being built, retail positions when it is completed and bring in an estimated \$1.3 million in new property and sales taxes each year.

A new, 588-space parking garage will replace the aging public parking structure built in the 1970s. Time and the elements have taken a toll on the garage, which had become difficult and increasingly expensive to maintain.

Demolition of the current garage will be the first step in the project. Crews will remove the telecommunication equipment, cameras and other salvageable materials before the arrival of the wrecking ball in September or October.

Once the site is cleared, construction is expected to take about 18 months to complete.



Village officials are working with the project's developers, Golub & Co. and Wood Partners, to minimize impact on traffic and the nearby neighborhood.

Specific routes for construction vehicles will be established, along with off-site parking for construction crews and materials staging. Even with careful planning, officials caution that traffic on Lake Street will be affected as construction gets underway.

As for parking permit holders, visitors, shoppers and employees who use the Lake & Forest Garage, they are being directed to the Holley Court Garage a few blocks to the west of the project. The Avenue Garage at Oak Park Avenue and North Boulevard also can accommodate additional vehicles. Village officials are exploring options for



a valet parking service located near the construction site.

This 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.

Information on the projects, including traffic and parking updates, will be posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) and distributed via [www.facebook.com/vopnews](https://www.facebook.com/vopnews) and [twitter.com/vopnews](https://twitter.com/vopnews).

## Village budget wins top national government award

The Village has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) for fiscal year 2014, which began Jan. 1. This is the second year in a row the budget has received the award. In a statement notifying the Village of its selection, the GFOA, a nonprofit professional association that serves more than 17,500 government finance professionals across North America,

called the award “the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.” To earn the award, the Village had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The budget was assessed as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications vehicle. GFOA judges used 14 mandatory criteria within these categories to determine those entities who would receive the award. Oak Park’s annual

municipal budget process typically begins in late summer or early fall and includes numerous reviews by the Village Board Finance Committee and public discussions led by the full Village Board. The budget is approved in late November or early December. The 2014 budget is posted online at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us). For more information on the budget or budget creation process, call 708.358.5460 or email [finance@oak-park.us](mailto:finance@oak-park.us).

## Outdoor sculpture walk comes to Hemingway District

Take a walk through the Hemingway District while enjoying 12 pieces of art from established artists and emerging newcomers. The sculptures are in pedestrian-friendly sites among restaurants and retail stores along Oak Park Avenue, beginning just north of Lake Street and continuing to about Pleasant Street. Visitors are encouraged to pick up a brochure — available online at [www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk](http://www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk) and at the Oak Park Visitors' Center, 1010 Lake St. — and explore the installations with a self-guided walking tour. Here's what you will see:



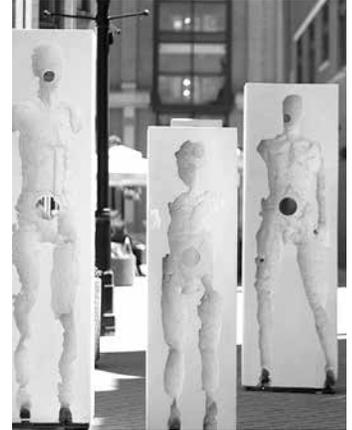
Oak Park Avenue at Lake Street –  
Scoville Park  
**Prairie Song.Q** – Guy Bellaver



137 N. Oak Park –  
Magic Tree Bookstore  
**The Schwinn Boys Choir** – Jennifer Meyer



137 N. Oak Park –  
Picazzo Fine Jewelry  
**Nest** – Vivian Visser



115-129 N. Oak Park –  
Bramble, Avenue Nail Spa  
**Points of Interest** – Darrin Hollowell



101 N. Oak Park –  
Weichert Realtors, Nickel Group  
**Spiral** – Maureen Bergquist Gray



105 S. Oak Park –  
Oak Park Township  
**Limbic No. 1** – Karen Gubitza



171 S. Oak Park –  
Law Office of Angelika Kuehn  
**Yosemite** – Brandon Davis



188 S. Oak Park Ave. –  
St. Edmund Parish  
**Torn Muse** – Jaci Willis



Oak Park Avenue at South Boulevard  
– Tree  
**Cluster** – Vivian Visser



114-116 N. Oak Park –  
Gloor Realty, il Vicolo Trattoria  
**Emergent Behavior** – Bryce Olen



711 Lake – Starbucks  
**Strands** – Bounnak Thammavong



730 Lake – Gepetto's Toy box  
**Natural Wonders** –  
Michele Moushey Dale

## Composting program offered

Aiming to decrease the amount of organic refuse sent to landfills, the Village of Oak Park offers a food scrap composting program to residents throughout the community. The cost is \$14 per month, which is about the same as recycling one bag of yard waste per week under the current Village-wide program that does not accept food scraps. Participants receive a special 96-gallon mobile cart for organics, an under-sink collection bucket and a box of compostable bags for food scraps. Subscribers who use the organics cart for their yard waste and food scraps are not required to purchase yard waste stickers for grass clippings placed into the organics cart. Residents who maintain backyard compost piles or who mulch grass clippings are urged to investigate sharing organics carts and costs with neighbors. Food scraps and food-soiled paper are the largest portion of the residential waste stream, representing about 35 percent of what residents throw away. About 700 households currently participate in the Village's composting program. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email [compostable@oak-park.us](mailto:compostable@oak-park.us).

## Help recognizing, dealing with adult abuse

Oak Park Township offers help recognizing and reporting elder abuse and abuse of an adult with a disability, terms used to describe any negligent act that causes harm or serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. Illinois's Adult Protective Services Program recognizes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, confinement, passive neglect, willful deprivation and financial exploitation. The program applies to individuals 60 or older, or 18 to 59 years old with a disability, who reside in a domestic setting, not in an institution or nursing home. Anyone suspecting abuse is urged to make a report by calling 708.383.8060 or the Adult Protective Services Hotline 1.866.800.1409.



Photo: Tim Lon

## Wright Home and Studio offers free tours

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first public tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, free tours will be offered from 5 to 8 p.m., July 17, 18 and 19 at the world-class museum in Oak Park's backyard at 951 Chicago Ave. In addition to a highlights tour, visitors will have a chance to experiment with Froebel blocks, which Wright played with as a child. The event is sponsored by the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, a Chicago-based not-for-profit organization that provides public tours and educational programs at major Wright-designed structures. The museum opened on July 17, 1974. For more information, visit [flwright.org](http://flwright.org).

## Citizen volunteers embody open government

When it comes to citizen involvement in the process of making public policy, few communities can match the number of opportunities offered by the Village of Oak Park. More than 150 volunteers serving on 19 separate boards, commissions and committees advise the Village Board on a wide range of important issues. From proposals for new developments to plans to better manage Oak Park's limited supply of parking, the residents who participate on these bodies play key roles in making sure policy enacted by the Village Board has had thorough public review and is in the best interests of the community. Boards, commissions and committees conduct in-depth studies, evaluate research and hold meetings that create the public record for citizen sentiments on possible future policies set by the Village Board. Recommendations are made to the Village Board whose members have the statutory authority to make new local laws and regulations. When vacancies occur on these advisory bodies, the Citizen Involvement Commission interviews those Villagers who have volunteered to serve. The commission then makes recommendations to the Village president, who makes the formal appointments with the consent of the Board of Trustees. 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 even include a member of high school age. For more information on volunteering to serve, call 708.358.5670 or email [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us). To review a complete list of the advisory bodies and to apply to serve, visit [www.oak-park.us/volunteer](http://www.oak-park.us/volunteer).

**Congratulations to 2014 Commission Service Award Recipients**  
**Outstanding Chairperson** - John Shuler, Civic Information Systems Commission  
**Outstanding Commission** - Plan Commission

# Disconnect downspouts to reduce chances of basement flooding

With the goal of reducing the chances of backups during heavy rain, property owners are encouraged to disconnect their gutter downspouts from the municipal sewer system. While storm water from roof gutters is not a problem under normal conditions, the main system can become overwhelmed during heavy rain events, sometimes causing sewage and storm water to back up into basements. A one-inch rainfall on a 1,000-square-foot roof can produce 600 gallons of water. Disconnecting gutter downspouts from the municipal sewer system also can offer a way to capture free water for plants, lawns and gardens. Capturing storm runoff in rain barrels or rain gardens and using native plants in landscaping to help absorb runoff are effective methods. For more information on flooding prevention email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us). Ask for a copy of the brochure and a link to the VOP-TV YouTube video for tips on how to disconnect downspouts.



## Gutter Disconnection Tips

- Extend downspouts at least three to six feet away from the building foundation wall and direct flow away from the building.
- Pick a suitable area for water to flow to such as a grassy area or rain garden. Route downspout extensions under decks or patios to reach these permeable areas.
- Use a splash block at the end of the extension to avoid soil erosion.
- Avoid placing an extension across a sidewalk so as not to create a tripping hazard.
- Avoid flowing water onto sidewalks or driveways since these may freeze during cold months.
- Remember to cap the sewer where the downspout once connected to prevent debris and animals from entering and odors from escaping.

## Housing News

**Water efficiency measures...**Residents who install low-flow toilets with the Water-Sense label may qualify for a \$100 rebate. The program is funded by the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation and administered by the Village. For details, call 708.358.5410 or email [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us).

**Sewer backup protection grants...**Homeowners may qualify for a grant of 50 percent of the total cost of installing an overhead sewer system or a backflow prevention system to protect their homes from sewer backup during a heavy rain. The maximum grant is \$3,500. Details on the program, including the application materials, are posted at [www.oak-park.us/sewergrant](http://www.oak-park.us/sewergrant). Call 708.358.5410 or email [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us) for more information.

**Down payment assistance...**The West Cook County Housing Collaborative is making homeownership more affordable with \$10,000 in down payment assistance for select updated and rehabbed homes. Financing and the supply of homes is limited. Call 708.771.5801 to set up an application appointment. An application form also is available at [www.westcookhomeownership.org](http://www.westcookhomeownership.org).

**First-time homebuyer seminars...**Individuals interested in learning more about buying a home and securing a mortgage are invited to attend free seminars offered at 7 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of every month in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The next seminars are July 22 and August 26. For more information, call 708.771.5801.

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
Night Parking Pass	option 2
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

## Stay connected...

- oak-park.us
- facebook.com/vopnews
- twitter.com/vopnews
- pinterest.com/oakparkil
- youtube.com/vopnews

## West Nile Virus threat returns

As temperatures increase so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. Illinois reported 117 human cases and 11 deaths last year. The severity of this season has not been established, but the virus has been found in several counties.

**Take precautions...** Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by wearing long sleeves and pants, limiting time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and wearing insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Residents also are urged to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, storing containers upside down and emptying birdbaths every few days. For more information, call 708.358.5694, visit [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

**Report dead birds...** If you see a dead bird call the West Nile Virus Hotline 708.358.5694. Depending on the bird's condition and species, a Health Department staff member will pick up the carcass for testing.

**Prevention efforts...** The Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District treats all street catch basins with larvicide every seven to 10 days during the mosquito-breeding season. The abatement district also will treat catch basins on private property by request and pick up old vehicle tires. Call 708.447.1765 or visit [www.desplainesvalleymad.com](http://www.desplainesvalleymad.com) for more information.

**Spraying notification...** Residents who wish to be notified when the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District has scheduled spraying for adult mosquitoes can sign up at [www.oak-park.us/notifyme](http://www.oak-park.us/notifyme). Registrants will be notified by an automated telephone system, email or text message as soon as possible following a decision to spray in Oak Park. Individuals without computer access may call 708.358.5694 to leave their phone number for telephone notification only. Visit [www.desplainesvalleymad.com](http://www.desplainesvalleymad.com) for information on spraying.



## Vietnam veterans' memorial coming

A traveling tribute to the veterans of the Vietnam War will be in Berwyn's Proksa Park, 3001 S. Wisconsin Ave., from Aug. 7 – 11. The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D.C., contains more than 58,000 names of veterans who died during the war, including eight soldiers from Oak Park. Now in its 30th year, the Moving Wall has visited more than 1,300 cities since 1984. For more information, visit [movingwall.berwynparks.org](http://movingwall.berwynparks.org).

## Youth skills workshops planned

Residents ages 14 to 17 are invited to learn skills and techniques that can help them find and keep a job at annual workshops presented by the Community Relations Department. This year's workshops are scheduled for 3 to 6 p.m., Aug. 4 – 8 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Participants learn skills such as resume writing, interviewing, career path development and interpersonal relations. Guest speakers and representatives from local businesses help participants learn to take charge of their lives by developing critical job seeking and retention skills that can be carried throughout adulthood. These local employers also offer opportunities for individuals who complete the workshop to interview for available positions. The number of participants is limited. To register, visit [www.oak-park.us/community](http://www.oak-park.us/community) or call 708.358.5407.

## Watering restrictions in effect

As part of the interstate compact for preserving the Great Lakes, summer watering restrictions are in effect May 15 through Sept. 15. Outdoor water use is limited Mondays through Fridays to even-numbered street addresses on even-numbered days, and to odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days. Newly planted grass seed, sod, trees and shrubs are exempt from the restrictions for their first 30 days of growth. Call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us) for more information.

## Nominations sought for annual Green Awards

Nominations are being sought for Green Awards, a program created by the Environment & Energy Commission to recognize specific deeds or actions that embody and advance work toward a sustainable future. Nominations may be submitted by anyone on behalf of anyone, but must be received by Aug. 29. A nomination form is posted at [www.oak-park.us/forms](http://www.oak-park.us/forms). For more information call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).



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



# OP/FYI

Village President Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees  
Peter Barber  
Glenn Brewer  
Adam Salzman  
Collette 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

## Village bids farewell to engineer of 35 years



Public Works Director John Wielebnicki (right) says farewell to retiring Village Engineer Jim Budrick.

Village Engineer Jim Budrick recently retired after 35 years. Budrick joined the Village's Public Works Department in March of 1979 as a staff engineer, rising to chief engineer eight years later. His first major assignment after taking the helm of the Engineering Division was the reopening of Lake Street east of Harlem Avenue to vehicles after several years as an open-air mall. He later managed the reopening of Marion Street south of Lake, which was the remaining segment of the downtown mall. The project won regional and national accolades while making the area a shopping, dining and gathering destination, as well as a frequent backdrop for filmmakers. The capital improvement projects Budrick managed were many and varied, as he oversaw upgrades, repairs and maintenance of

the Village's 103 miles of streets and 105 miles of water and sewer lines. Among the other major projects he oversaw were the implementation of the Village's computer-managed, interconnected traffic signal system and the construction of the 2.5-million-gallon water reservoir and pumping station near Stevenson Park at Lake Street and Lombard Avenue. Budrick also was among the first Village employees to embrace a program to use unclaimed bicycles collected by the Police Department to travel between Village facilities and around the community. A fount of institutional knowledge about everyone and every project undertaken by the Village over the past three and half decades, the void left by Budrick's absence will difficult to fill, officials say. The Public Works Director told a local reporter that he intended to keep Budrick's cell number on speed dial, an intention that the now retired former Village Engineer said was fine by him. In a resolution honoring Budrick, the Village Board offered "the warm appreciation of a grateful community."

## Vehicle Sticker deadline nears

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a vehicle is required to purchase and display a vehicle sticker annually by July 15. Anyone who misses the deadline must purchase a sticker and pay a \$20 late fee. Failure to display a valid Village sticker by the deadline also may result in a \$50 ticket. Residents whose vehicles already are registered with the Village can save 10 percent by renewing online at [www.oak-park.us/onlineservices](http://www.oak-park.us/onlineservices), rather than via mail or in person at Village Hall. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. For more information, including rates for various types of vehicles, call 708.358.7275, option 5, or email [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us).

## Recycle electronics

Residents are invited to recycle old electronics the last Saturday of the month through October. Just drop off items from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders/players, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. For more information call Public Works at 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).