

Community benefits key to I-290 reconstruction discussions

The Illinois Department of Transportation is moving closer to finalizing recommendations for rebuilding the Eisenhower Expressway from Interstate 88 on the west to Racine Avenue on the east.

Just how these proposed changes might affect the community have been the subjects of multiple public meetings. Local officials have dug deep into the details of what Oak Park might gain or lose from one of the largest construction projects here since the Ike was built in the 1950s.



Circa 1960

With actual construction still likely years away, local officials are negotiating for significant improvements with lasting community benefits. A major goal is to eliminate many of the original design flaws that complicated traffic and pedestrian movements at intersections and mass transit connections.

When the Eisenhower Expressway was designed and constructed in the mid-20th century, engineers had no noise or air quality standards to help them create a new major highway through such a densely populated area. Data on how design affected traffic and pedestrian safety also were scarce when I-290 was designed.

Limiting exhaust, protecting adjacent neighborhoods from traffic noise and the complications of having ramps in a non-standard location were not major concerns in 1950s-era highway design and construction.

But times have changed.

Now, as plans to rebuild I-290 are developed, engineers have an abundance of data to help guide design and construction — data they say are



Summary of Recommendations

- Integrate future CTA Blue Line improvements.
- Keep roadway within current, below-grade right of way.
- Move vehicle exit and entry ramps to outside lanes.
- Lower portions the highway up to nine feet and shift as much as 25 feet south.
- Widen sidewalks up to 12 feet on most bridges, and up to 16 feet by CTA access points.
- Improve vehicle drop off and transfer areas at CTA access points.
- Add safety islands between ramps for pedestrians crossing busy intersections.
- Assure ADA accessibility at all intersections.
- Create space on the bridges and near CTA stations for aesthetic features such as benches, bicycle racks and plants.

now being used extensively to plan the Eisenhower's future look and function.

The Village has compiled an extensive online repository of information related to efforts to monitor and manage the development of the state's I-290 reconstruction recommendations.

Residents who visit www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike can link to a wide range of documents, videos and presentations, as well as IDOT's official project web page. In addition, the page offers links to comments posted by residents on specific aspects of the proposals,

including air quality and noise, sidewalk and street widths, and traffic and pedestrian movements.

Presentations to the Village Board also have been video recorded and are available on the Village website. In addition, a three-dimensional model of changes proposed to the roadway is on display through Nov. 6 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.



Comprehensive zoning review underway

The first comprehensive review of Village zoning regulations since 2002 is now underway, as efforts focus on revisions to better align local laws with recommendations in Envision Oak, the community's long-range comprehensive plan adopted last year. Camiros Ltd., a Chicago-based planning and zoning firm, was selected through a competitive process earlier this year to lead the zoning project. The goal, project planners say, is to help make Oak Park a more sustainable, livable and business-friendly community. The process began with a review of the current zoning ordinance and land use patterns. In addition, interviews have been conducted with a wide range of stakeholders, including municipal staff, representatives of Village volunteer boards, commissions and committees, business interests, local activist groups, historic preservationists, real estate agents, developers, architects and neighborhood organizations. Several drafts of the recommended changes will be presented to the public through a series of Plan Commission meetings and open houses where residents can learn more about the project and provide input. A formal public hearing also will be held before any recommendations go to the Village Board for final consideration. In the meantime, property owners can learn more about the project and follow its progress via a dedicated website at www.oakparkzoning.com, where presentations and reports will be posted and public comments accepted. For more information, call 708.358.5440 or email planning@oak-park.us.

About that garage sale

A maximum of two garage sales may be held by members of one residence and/or family during any calendar year. Garage sales are intended for disposing of personal property, not for merchandise purchased for resale or on consignment. A permit is not required. However, certain rules do apply:

- Sales are limited to the daylight hours of no more than three consecutive days.
- Items must be displayed within a garage, residence, carport and/or rear yard, unless it is a neighborhood sale.
- Advertising signs may be displayed only on the property where the sale is held, and only while the sale is in progress.
- Signs may not be larger than eight square feet or displayed on public property including light poles, sign posts or on or above the public parkways or sidewalks.

Remember, the individual conducting the sale and the owner or tenant of the premises where the sale is being held is responsible for maintaining order at the sale site. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Please return those surveys

Residents selected to take a community survey who have not yet returned the document are urged to do so as soon as possible. Surveys were mailed in early September to addresses chosen randomly. About 1,200 responses are needed for a 95 percent confidence level. Respondents remain anonymous. While taking only about 15 minutes to complete, the surveys will help policy makers better understand priorities for government action and citizen opinions on quality of life and public services. Similar surveys were conducted here in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011 and 2013. Results of these past surveys are posted at www.oak-park.us/communitysurveys.

Change your clock, change your battery

Daylight saving time reverts to standard time at 2 a.m., Sun., Nov. 1. Public safety officials recommend changing smoke detector batteries when changing clocks.



Farmers' Market winding down

October is the final month for the 2015 season of Oak Park Farmers' Market, held from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday, mid-May through October. Traditional stone soup made from Farmers' Market vegetables will be ladled up from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty at the final market on Sat., Oct. 31. For more information on the Farmers' Market visit www.oak-park.us, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5780.

Last chance to recycle electronics

Sat., Oct. 31 will be the last opportunity this year for residents to safely dispose of unwanted electronic items now banned from landfills. Items will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Just about any kind of electronic item will be accepted, including computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders/players, video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. Crews will be on hand to help with the unloading. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Races to close streets

The Park District of Oak Park's annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races will bring street closures along the route from about 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sun., Oct. 18, including from Lake Street north to Division Street. Traffic on other streets within the race route also may experience delays. Residents are encouraged to review the course map at www.flwraces.com and allow for extra travel time. The event, now in its 39th year, will feature a 5K run/walk, 10K run, and youth mile for ages 7 to 14. Anyone interested in helping with this community event is invited to volunteer at www.flwraces.com/volunteering.

Fall leaf collection begins this month

The annual fall leaf collection program is scheduled for Oct. 19 through Dec. 3 with seven pickups planned for each section of the Village. 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. Leaves raked into the street are pushed into piles during the night, and then 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. Cooperation is essential to the success of the program, so please follow these simple rules:

- Consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking.
- Rake leaves out the day before the scheduled pickup date.
- 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.
- Drive carefully. Leaves are slippery when wet and large piles may hinder visibility.
- Drive cautiously — crews will create safe work zones and close intersections for a few minutes while removing large leaf piles.

For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

NORTH AVE	
WEDNESDAY Oct. 21 Oct. 28 Nov. 4 Nov. 11 Nov. 18 Nov. 25 Dec. 2	THURSDAY Oct. 22 Oct. 29 Nov. 5 Nov. 12 Nov. 19 Nov. 26 Dec. 3
EAST AVE	
SOUTH BLVD	
TUESDAY Oct. 20 Oct. 27 Nov. 3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24 Dec. 1	MONDAY Oct. 19 Oct. 26 Nov. 2 Nov. 9 Nov. 16 Nov. 23 Nov. 30
EAST AVE	
ROOSEVELT RD	

FALL LEAF COLLECTION 2015

Pet ownership comes with responsibilities

Pets are an important part of many households in Oak Park. Along with the companionship they provide come responsibilities for the owner to ensure the health and safety of the pet and the community.

Licensing – All dogs and outdoor cats in Oak Park are required to display a current animal license. New licenses must be obtained in person at Village Hall, but annual renewals can be completed online. Licensing is a vital part of the recovery process if a pet runs away from home. A telephone call from Animal Control often is all it takes to reunite lost or strayed pets with their owners — provided the pets have been licensed and are wearing tags. New residents must provide current rabies vaccination information to license their pets. Proof of spaying and neutering means a reduced license fee.

Leashes – As in most Chicago-area cities and towns, leashes are required for all dogs that use any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public area. Leashes can't be longer than eight feet. Owners who allow their dogs to run off leash may be ticketed and fined. The Park District of Oak Park offers areas where dogs can run off leash. Visit www.pdop.org for more information.

Picking Up – Responsible pet owners agree that picking up after one's dog is the right thing to do. Dog excrement is not only a nuisance, it's unhealthy and against the law.

Limitations – Village ordinance limits the number of pets on private premises, depending on the animal and household type. Don't worry — the vast majority of households will never run afoul of this ordinance, as it allows a wide variety of pet combinations. Visit www.oak-park.us and search for "animal control" for more information on keeping pets at home.

Report Violations – Anyone observing a dog not on a leash or an owner not picking up after a pet can report the violation by calling 708.358.5680 or emailing health@oak-park.us.

Licenses required for smaller rentals, too

Although larger multifamily buildings contain much of Oak Park's rental housing stock, the Village also has plenty of smaller properties that must be licensed through the Village. Landlords and managers with apartment buildings of one to three must be licensed by Dec. 31. This includes owners that rent out their condominium units. Fees are \$10 per unit. As part of the 2016 licensing process, owners and managers must participate in a management seminar, either in person or online. In-person seminars have been scheduled for October and November. Representatives will be on hand from various Village and community organizations, including Neighborhood Services, Fire, Health and Police departments. Owners and managers of larger multifamily buildings must be licensed by Oct. 31 to avoid late fees. More information is available online at www.oak-park.us/rentalseminar or via email to housing@oak-park.us.

News you can use

Overnight parking restricted... Parking is prohibited on all Village streets from 2:30 to 6 a.m., seven days a week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass. Up to 10 on-street overnight passes are allowed for each vehicle every month — the first three are free, and additional passes are \$7 each. If you have guests, consider parking in one of the Village's public garages. For more information about parking, visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Report graffiti... Graffiti can be reported online at www.oak-park.us/reportgraffiti or by calling 708.358.5429. Village staff will remove graffiti from Village-owned properties. A removal solution will be provided at no cost to private property owners. Email community@oak-park.us to learn more.

Signs prohibited... Placing any type of sign in the public right of way such as the parkway space between the sidewalk and the curb is prohibited. The prohibition includes, but is not limited to garage sale signs, political signs, open house signs and contractor signs. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Film permits required... A permit is required for any residential or commercial property to be used as a location for a television commercial or other filming. Neighbors must be notified by flyer as to when and where the shoot is to occur. If police presence is required, services of off-duty police must be paid by the film crew. For more information call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Backing into stalls prohibited... Backing a vehicle into a parking stall in a Village lot or garage is prohibited because permit decals must appear in the rear window and be visible to enforcement officers. Violators may be ticketed. Email parking@oak-park.us for more information.

Crime tips... Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activity to the Police Department's Crime Tip Hot Line at 708.434.1636. All callers remain anonymous. Anonymous tips also can be made at www.oak-park.us/police.

Avoid parking ticket paperwork and late fees... Parking citations can be appealed and paid on-line at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices. Payment may be made with Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Visit www.oak-park.us/adjudication or email adjudication@oak-park.us for more information.

No swings in trees... Tree swings in parkway trees may appear fun, but they threaten the health of the trees and safety of passersby. That's why it is illegal to attach any rope, wire, nail, sign, poster or any other manmade object to trees and shrubs located on Village property. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Dispute resolution... Free mediation services are available to help landlords and tenants resolve issues that may be disrupting quality of life. Participation is voluntary and agreements made are between the two parties and not enforced by the Village. To learn more, call 708.358.5407.

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.

Nature museum activities... Cook County's Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave., in River Forest, offers a range of programs for children and adults alike, including nature stories, fitness hikes and close-up visits with the Thatcher Woods' many inhabitants. For more information, visit the Museum or call 708.366.6530.

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
Mayor & Trustees	358.5784
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
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

Disconnecting gutters from sewer system can help reduce chances of basement flooding

Property owners who disconnect their gutter downspouts from the municipal sewer system can help reduce the chances of backups during heavy rain.

Storm water from roof gutters is not a problem during a normal rainfall. But during heavy rain events, the main sewer system can become overwhelmed with the runoff, sometimes causing sewage and storm water to back up into basements.

Simply by eliminating water flowing from gutters into the sewer system, property owners can help reduce the chances of a backup from the Village's combined sewer and storm water system.

While some communities require property owners to disconnect their gutters from the sewer system, Oak Park encourages voluntary cooperation.

Officials say they hope that when residents consider that a one-inch rainfall on a 1,000-square-foot roof can produce 600 gallons of water, they will understand how diverting storm water from downspouts away from the municipal sewer system can help reduce the chances of basement flooding.

In addition to reducing incidents of basement flooding, disconnecting gutter downspouts from the municipal sewer system also can offer a way to capture free water for plants, lawns and gardens.

Officials urge property owners to consider using rain barrels to store storm water for future use and creating rain gardens or using native plants in landscaping to help absorb runoff.

For more information on flood prevention email 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 the 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.

Free rain barrels available

Oak Park residents who disconnect downspouts from the sewer system are eligible to receive up to four rain barrels and hardware from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. With roofs representing more than 40 percent of the impervious surfaces in Cook County, diverting water for reuse rather than allowing it to flow into the sewer system can help reduce basement backups and sewer overflow. Program application forms are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. and online at www.oak-park.us/rainbarrels. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Sewer backup protection grants offered

Applications are now being accepted for the 2016 round of sewer backup protection grants, a program that provides financial assistance to install systems to protect from sewer backup during a heavy rain event. Work eligible for funding includes installing an overhead sewer system or a backflow prevention system. Homeowners may qualify for 50 percent of the total cost of sewer backup prevention improvements, up to a maximum of \$3,500. Details on the program, including the application materials, are posted at www.oak-park.us/sewergrant. For more information on the program, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

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. The 30-minute process does not require any plumbing changes although the water will be turned off during the upgrade. The new meters allow for remote reading of water usage. More than 4,100 meters have been replaced since 2010. The Village is well on its way to installing nearly 1,000 new water meters this year. For more information on the program call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Ways to save water



Because Oak Park relies on Lake Michigan water, much of the cost consumers pay is beyond the control of local government. But how much water a household uses

can be managed through conservation. Just follow these simple tips:

- Turning off the water while brushing teeth
 - Install low-flow showerheads
 - Use the dishwasher's quick-wash option
 - Set washing machine's water level to load size
 - Install rain barrels to collect free water
- More water conservation tips are posted at www.oak-park.us/conservewater.

Andersen Park site plan under review

A community meeting to review the Andersen Park site plan is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., Oct. 27 at Andersen Center, 824 N Hayes Ave. Park District officials are seeking citizen input regarding future improvements to the park located in northeast Oak Park. To view the current plan developed in 2005, visit www.pdop.org.



Trustees
 Peter Barber
 Glenn Brewer
 Adam Salzman
 Colette Lueck
 Bob Tucker

Village Clerk
 Teresa Powell
Village Manager
 Cara Pavlicek

Mayor
 Anan Abu-Taleb

Residential Customer Local
 Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
 Pre-Sort

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

OP/FYI

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



Police officer wins state education award

Police officer Kevin Collins, a school resource officer who works in Oak Park's Brooks Middle School, has been selected to receive the Award of Excellence from the Illinois State Board of Education's *Those Who Excel* recognition program.



The award will be presented at a banquet in October. Collins's nomination, in the educational service personnel category, was written and submitted by the teachers and administrators he works with every day at Brooks Middle School. The award highlights Officer Collins' passion for education, dedicated service to our school and tireless commitment to students and staff. The School Resource Officer program places police officers in Oak Park River Forest High School, Brooks Middle School and Julian Middle School. The 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. SRO 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 SRO officers keep the lines of communication open among students, educators, parents, school administrators and law enforcement. When called upon, they are the first point of contact for any police investigations that might take place in the school. They coordinate drills, provide input on the schools' 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.

Trick-or-treat hours set



Official hours for Halloween trick or treating are 3 to 7 p.m., 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 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 information on Halloween safety, call 708.445.3300 or 708.386.3800, or email fire@oak-park.us or police@oak-park.us.

Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1

Oak Park Police rely on residents taking an active role. If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 immediately. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/police.