

State moving closer to final plan for I-290's future

As the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) narrows the list of I-290 alternatives to four, an additional lane through Oak Park seems all but certain without a major shift in the planning process.

And while state officials say the added lane would not require taking any land in the Village, moving the Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard ramps to the outside lanes as proposed in all IDOT alternatives is sure to dramatically change traffic patterns along the busy corridor through Oak Park.

Local officials and dedicated I-290 process watchers have criticized the state approach that has made building a wider highway the centerpiece of plans to improve I-290 traffic flow, while alternatives like expanding the Blue Line railway westward have been dismissed in favor of buses linking to existing hubs.

Voicing their concern about the absence of alternatives to expanding the highway, Village officials say they are particularly troubled by deficiencies in the process to garner public input. When residents have submitted comments, IDOT has been slow to respond, officials say, and the state has not provided routine and timely updates via the website they promoted as the interactive portal for public collaboration.

Officials are even more disturbed by the interpretation of statistical data to demonstrate that widening the highway and moving the Harlem and Austin ramps is the only feasible approach to reducing highway congestion.

Environmental and public health considerations also are absent from the process used to study and evaluate options for achieving a long-term regional solution to the transportation challenges posed by the expressway, according to local residents who have most closely monitored the IDOT approach.

Officials insist on a 21st century solution and are unwilling to accept simply building bigger highways, rather than advocating broader transportation initiatives.

Promising to continue working with IDOT to address concerns about the turn I-290 plans have taken, Village officials also are urging residents to monitor the planning process at www.eisenhowerexpressway.com and to voice their views to state officials.



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Deadline nears to be part of July 4th Parade

June 7 is the deadline to register to be a participant, volunteer or sponsor of the annual July 4th Parade. Local organizations and businesses are invited to bring a float, march, play music, carry balloons or banners, ride decorated bicycles, skate, drive vintage cars or just dress up to commemorate the nation's birthday and to celebrate Oak Park's rich diversity. Registration and sponsorship forms are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., via e-mail to community@oak-park.us and on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/parade. Since the parade is funded by donations, contributions are needed to help the community continue to offer the event. Checks payable to the Village of Oak Park July 4 Parade Fund may be sent to the Community Relations Department, Village Hall, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302. The Community Relations Commission, which organizes the parade, also needs volunteers on the morning of July 4 to help monitor traffic crossings along the parade route. Parade participants will line up by Longfellow Center, 610 S. Ridgeland Ave. near Jackson Boulevard, at 9 a.m., Thurs., July 4. The parade will step off promptly at 10 a.m. and march north on Ridgeland Avenue to Augusta Boulevard and disperse at Whittier School. For more information, including volunteering and sponsorship opportunities, call 708.358.5407 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.



Outdoor sculpture walk returns

The outdoor sculpture walk introduced last summer returns this month, featuring new sculptures at 12 high-profile locations in and around downtown Oak Park through Sept. 2. Residents and visitors are invited to take a self-guided walking tour, with the majority of the art right along Lake Street. More information and brochures providing details on each piece and its artist are available in the Visitors Center, 1010 Lake St., as well as online at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk. The sculpture walk was organized by the Public Art Advisory Commission, citizen

volunteers who promote the acquisition and placement of public art that reflects diversity and artistic expression, and enhances the esthetic environment of the Village. For more information, e-mail sculpturewalk@oak-park.us.

News from the Village Clerk

Solicitors...Soliciting is limited to 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Soliciting on Sundays and holidays is prohibited. All solicitors must register with the Village and carry a permit for identification. Solicitors and handbill distributors are instructed not to contact homes and businesses displaying a no solicitor sticker. To report a violation or request a sticker, call 708.358.5670, e-mail clerk@oak-park.us or come to Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

Taxi rules...All taxicabs licensed in Oak Park must clearly display a photo ID, chauffeur license and no-smoking notice. No taxi driver may use a cell phone while driving a customer. For more information or to register a complaint, call 708.358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

Business licenses...All businesses operating in Oak Park must have a current business license on display. Home-based businesses, such as internet companies and professional offices, also must register with the Office of the Village Clerk in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Prohibited types of home businesses include manufacturing, animal hospitals, barbershops, beauty salons, medical clinics, repair shops and restaurants. Call 708.358.5678 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us for more information.

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 and may be subject to penalty for any violations of garage sale rules. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Block party information available via e-mail



Residents interested in receiving information about block parties are invited to join the Village Clerk's mailing list via clerk@oak-park.us. Be sure to include your name, telephone number and the block you represent. Each block may schedule two block parties per year, but since some weekends fill quickly, plan early to get preferred dates. Block party organizers are urged to remember the following rules:

- **Use a north-south block.** Due to public safety and traffic considerations, block parties are not allowed on east-west streets.
- **Ensure access by emergency vehicles.** Tables, chairs or other items should not project more than six feet from the curb. And don't stretch wires, ropes, nets, lights, banners or other items across the street.
- **Supervise children at all times.** Even though the street may be closed, accidents can happen.
- **Use only street barricades provided by the Village.** Cars parked in a street as a barricade may impede emergency vehicles, and could be ticketed.
- **Do not plan a party for an alley.** Alleys provide important access for utility companies and other services.
- **Keep sidewalks clear.** Sidewalks are public ways that may not be obstructed even during a block party.
- **Keep alcohol on private property.** Alcohol may not be sold.

For more information on the rules, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us. A block party information packet is posted online at www.oak-park.us.

Citizen volunteers needed

The Village Board is seeking volunteers to serve on the many advisory boards and commissions that help research important issues, gather public input and provide valuable perspectives on a wide range of pending policy decisions. All Oak Park residents are eligible to participate, including renters and high school students. Current needs include a structural engineer or fire safety professional for the Building Codes Advisory Commission and high school juniors or seniors to serve on the Community Relations Commission and the Public Art Advisory Commission. Positions are also available on the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, Civic Information Systems Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. For more information on the nearly 20 commissions and the application process, call 708.358.5670, e-mail clerk@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer.

Down payment assistance offered

The West Cook County Housing Collaborative — a partnership created by Bellwood, Berwyn, Forest Park, Maywood and Oak Park to address the problems of high foreclosure rates — 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.

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.

20th annual garden walk set



Eight Oak Park and River Forest gardens will be featured in the 20th annual garden walk set for 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sun., June 30. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory and the Garden Club of Oak Park and River Forest, the self-guided tour helps raise funds for the Conservatory's education programs. Tickets are \$15 before June 30 and

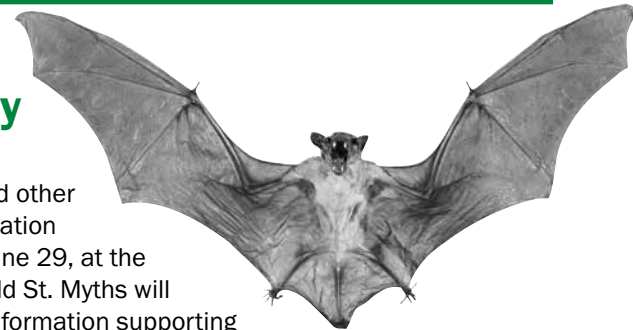
\$18 the day of the walk. Tickets are available in Oak Park at the Conservatory, 615 Garfield St.; Buzz Café, 905 S. Lombard Ave.; Visitors' Center, 1010 W. Lake St.; The Magic Tree Book Store, 141 N. Oak Park Ave.; Westgate Flower and Plant Shop, 841 S. Oak Park Ave.; and Carriage Flower Shop, 124 N. Marion St. Tickets also are available at Good Earth Greenhouse, 7900 W. Madison St., River Forest. For more information, visit www.fopcon.org or call 708.725.2400.

Owners responsible for private property storm debris disposal

When severe weather creates debris from trees on private property, owners are reminded not to bring limbs or brush to the curb, but make other arrangements for its disposal. Public Works crews only pick up debris from parkway trees. However, brush from private property will be treated as yard waste if it is tied into bundles, each tagged with a green yard waste sticker and placed in the regular refuse pick-up area. Each bundle should be no larger than two feet in diameter, four feet in length and not exceed 50 pounds. Yard waste stickers are \$2.36 each and are available at most Village grocery and hardware stores, as well as in the cashier's office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The Village's contract refuse hauler also will come to a home and estimate the cost for removing larger, unbundled quantities of yard waste — call 888.656.5350. For more information on refuse hauling, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Learn about bats at the Conservatory

Residents are invited to learn about the bats from Illinois and other parts of the world at a free presentation scheduled for 10 – 11 a.m., Sat. June 29, at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. Myths will be debunked and science-based information supporting the value of bats will be presented. Attendees also will hear a bat echolocation call, see live Egyptian bats and have an opportunity for a photo. Call 708.725.2400 or visit www.oakparkconservatory.org for more information.



Accessibility modification loans available

Forgivable loans of up to \$15,000 each to fund accessibility modifications for homes and apartments are available through the Village. Applicants must have a physical or age-related impairment that requires modifications such as ramps, lifts or handrails, including for kitchens and bathrooms. Applicants must also meet income restrictions. Loans will be forgiven over five years. Call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us for more information.

Free training for condo board members

The last in a series of free, one-hour training sessions for condominium board members who want to learn more about how to meet their responsibilities is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., June 11, at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. This final session will focus on collections and foreclosures. The seminar will be presented by the Association of Condominium, Townhouse and Homeowners Associations (ACTHA). For more information, call 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us. Pre-registration is not required.

Parking lot signage pilot project underway

New parking lot signs have gone up along South Boulevard from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue as part of a pilot program to make the information clearer and more user friendly. The new signage will remain in place through October. Feedback gathered from customers will help refine the final approach to parking signage Village wide. Comments may be sent via e-mail to parking@oak-park.us.

Parkway plantings can pose risks

Property owners who see the parkways as fertile ground for their green thumbs may actually be putting the trees at risk — not to mention themselves. Digging on parkways — the space between sidewalks and streets — can damage tree roots as well as utility lines that run from the streets into homes, including high-pressure natural gas lines. Most parkway planting rules, such as height restrictions to ensure driver and pedestrian sight lines, are linked to public safety and maintaining the health of the Village's urban forest. Raised planters and piling mulch up against the trunks of parkway trees — or volcano mulching — are prohibited because of their harmful effect on healthy tree growth. The same goes for hard surfaces, such as pavers, railroad ties, timbers, fencing or other structures that can damage tree roots, create habitat for harmful insects and restrict proper root growth. Using fertilizers and pesticides on parkway plantings is prohibited as well since pedestrians and pets abound in our walkable community. Parkway also are poor sites for anyone considering an urban vegetable garden. Given the winter road salt spray and frequent use of parkways by the Village's more than 3,000 registered dogs and cats, most experts would say a raised garden in a back yard is a better site choice — especially since it also can be fenced in to keep out the rabbits, opossums and other wild animals that share the community. Any resident who wishes to plant something other than grass on the parkway adjacent to his or her property should contact the Village for guidance prior to purchasing plants or beginning to dig. Just call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Police to host free youth basketball camp

Oak Park boys and girls ages eight – 14 are invited to participate in a free youth basketball camp sponsored by the Oak Park Police Department. The annual camp, now in its 20th year, is scheduled for Aug. 12 – 16 at the West Cook YMCA, 255 S. Marion St. Sessions will be held from 8 – 11 a.m. for ages 8 – 11, and noon to 3 p.m. for ages 12 – 14. Activities will include group instruction, team play, one-on-one, full-court games, contests and awards. Space is limited and registration is required. Applications are available at the Oak Park Police Department in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. and online at www.oak-park.us/police — just click on the basketball. For more information, call 708.358.5542 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.



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Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	www.oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
Licenses/permits	358.5433
Codes/status of plans	358.5434
Property complaints	358.5443
Inspections	358.5440
Community Planning	358.5420
Historic Preservation	358.5417
Zoning	358.5449
Business Services	358.5648
Housing	358.5410
Community Relations	358.5405
Graffiti Hotline	358.5429
Neighborhood Programs	358.5405
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (non-emergency)	445.3300
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Police (non-emergency)	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	383.0002
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.oprfs.org
Administration	434.3107

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005

Stay connected...

- www.oak-park.us
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- oak-park.us/voptv
- oak-park.us/news
- oak-park.us/managersblog
- oak-park.us/enews



Police offer tips to deter bicycle thieves

Bicycle thefts tend to increase during warmer weather. Following these steps, police say, can help deter bicycle thieves:

- Never let anyone you do not know take your bike for a ride.
- Beware of two people on one bike. Bicycle thieves often travel in pairs this way.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel someone is going to take your bicycle, shout for help.
- Stay in the company of friends — there usually is safety in numbers.
- Think twice about resisting — your bike can be replaced.
- Call the police immediately if you see anyone suspicious hanging around a bike rack, in a neighbor's yard or near a garage.
- Register your bike with the Village. Should your bike be stolen and later recovered the registration provides information about its rightful owner.
- Never leave your bike unlocked or unattended.
- Lock your bike even when it is stored in a closed garage, enclosed porch or basement common area.

Police urge parents to share these tips with their children. For more information, call 708.386.3800, e-mail police@oak-park.us or talk to your Resident Beat Officer (RBO).

Bicycles and sidewalks

Specific rules apply when it comes to riding a bicycle on a Village sidewalk. Riding on a sidewalk by anyone of any age is prohibited in the business districts. And only those under 15 years of age may ride on a sidewalk anywhere else in the community. Youngsters riding on sidewalks always must yield to pedestrians. For more information on bicycle rules and safety, call 708.386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us.

West Nile Virus threat returns

As temperatures increase so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. Illinois reported 290 human cases and 12 deaths last year, the highest since the first outbreak in 2002 and the fourth highest in the nation, according to public health officials. Illinoisans contracting the virus ranged from nine to 89 years old, with more than three-quarters of the cases among those 45 years old and older.

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 the West Nile Virus Hotline 708.358.5694, visit www.oak-park.us or e-mail 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 will treat 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 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. Registrants will be notified by an automated telephone system, e-mail 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 for information on spraying.

Register to vote at Village Hall

The Village Clerk, as the local election authority, registers voters at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Residents can register to vote in local, state and federal elections during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Voter registration requires two types of identification, at least one with the current address. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill. If a currently registered resident moves even within Oak Park, the registration information must be transferred to the new address. Under state law, a voter must be registered to vote at least one month prior to the date of the election to be eligible to participate. Call 708.358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us for more information.

Seminars target first-time homebuyers

Individuals interested in learning more about buying a first home and securing a mortgage are invited to attend a free seminar presented each month by the Oak Park Regional Housing Center. Seminars are offered at 7 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of every month in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The next seminar is June 25. For more information, call 708.771.5801.



Trustees
 Peter Barber
 Glenn Brewer
 Adam Salzman
 Ray Johnson
 Bob Tucker

Village Clerk
 Teresa Powell

Village Manager
 Cara Pavlicek

Village President Anan Abu-Taleb

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



OP/FM

Residential Customer Local
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Farmers' Market in full swing

The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open for business from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday through October. Now in its 38th season, the venerable market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses from Illinois and neighboring states, the market also offers warm donuts made on-site, juice and coffee, and live bluegrass music. Regional vendors featuring sustainable, organic and locally sourced goods are participating again this season as well, including several offering heirloom products. Non-profit bake sales are there, too, along with chefs from local restaurants cooking up demonstration dishes using fresh items purchased at the market. To help support market administration, several items are sold at the information tent, including reusable shopping bags. A majority of the vendors now accept credit/debit cards as well as Link cards.

For more information visit www.oak-park.us, e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5780.



Vehicle stickers on sale

Vehicle sticker sales are now underway. 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, rather than via mail or in person at Village Hall. Renewal forms mailed to current sticker holders include a unique web identification number that allows a vehicle owner to correct or update most data online, including address and telephone number, and add vehicle information. Anyone who loses the renewal notice can look up their web ID number using the e-mail address or telephone number included in the previous year's application.



Online payments require an e-mail address and a credit or debit card. The sticker is delivered via U.S. Mail, typically within a few days of purchase.

Residents who would like to renew online, but don't have access to a computer can come to Village Hall where a computer is available to the public for official business. Computers also are available at public library branches.

The online option is for renewals only. First-time vehicle sticker purchasers must come to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. A lease, utility bill or other government-issued proof of residency is required. A current vehicle sticker is needed to purchase a parking permit.

In-person sticker purchases and renewals are offered in the Parking Service Center at Village Hall from 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. Mondays, and 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday – Friday. The Center also will be open for vehicle sticker purchases and renewals from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Sat., July 6. Village Hall will be closed on Thurs., July 4. Individuals renewing in person are urged to bring their renewal notice to speed up processing.

The online renewal system will continue to be available through July 15, but will automatically assess the late fee after the midnight deadline. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle.

For more information, including rates for various types of vehicles, call 708.358.PARK (7275), option 5, visit www.oak-park.us or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.