

Development projects energizing downtown Oak Park

From the new building at the corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue to the giant construction cranes a few blocks to the west, it's hard to miss the development in downtown Oak Park that is bringing new energy to the heart of the community.

Four major construction projects either nearing completion, well underway or soon to begin within blocks of Lake Street are adding new residential units, retail space and public parking to the market mix of Oak Park's central business districts.

Even as contractors are putting the finishing touches on *Vantage Oak Park* at Lake Street and Forest Avenue, residents already are moving into the property's 270 rental apartments, and *Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant* and *Edward-Elmhurst Health* have signed leases to occupy the building's 25,000 square feet of retail space next year.

Rising 21 stories, *Vantage* now is the tallest building in Oak Park and also includes 300 dedicated public spaces within an integrated 588-car parking garage.

Meanwhile, work is progressing steadily at a development site on the south side of Lake Street just east of Harlem Avenue. Currently called *Elevate Oak Park*, the project rises five stories



on Lake Street, then steps back into a 20-story structure on North Boulevard.

In addition to 270 apartments and 26,000 square feet of retail space, the project includes a new block of Maple Street on the site's western edge and 400-space-plus parking garage.

Construction also is expected to begin on a 12-story mixed-use development at Harlem Avenue and South

Boulevard and the five-story *District House* condominium development at Lake Street and Euclid Avenue.

When the dust from construction settles, these four projects will add more than 830 residential units, 65,000 square feet of retail space and 1,400 new parking spaces from \$242 million in private investment.

For more information on development in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/development.

Free weekend parking to help support shopping locally

Shoppers who come upon an official bagged meter this holiday season 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 or in a pay-by-space lot on Saturdays before Dec. 25. Parking also is free all day Saturdays in the public garages during the period and always is free on Sundays. 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.oakpark.us/parking.



An evening with the Chief

Oak Park residents are invited to join new Police Chief Anthony Ambrose as he discusses the department's community-oriented approach from 6 to 8 p.m., Wed., Nov. 9 in Council Chamber of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The event, which is sponsored by the Community Relations Commission, will focus on four main topics:

- Chief Ambrose's vision of policing
- What to do if stopped by the police
- Police training process and certifications
- Positive community collaboration

Email police@oak-park.us or community@oak-park.us for more information.

Carbon monoxide detectors save lives

An investment of about \$30 for a detector can be the difference in life and death when it comes to deadly carbon monoxide, an odorless and tasteless gas that can leak into one's home from a malfunctioning gas appliance, such as a furnace or water heater. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. That's why state law requires homeowners and landlords to install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping. Alarms can be battery powered, plug-in with battery backup or wired into the AC power line with a secondary battery backup. The alarm also can be combined with a smoke detector if the unit complies with established standards and the alarm differentiates the hazard. The property owner must supply and install all required alarms. Landlords must ensure that alarms are operable on the date a lease is initiated. While tenants are responsible for testing and maintaining the alarm after the lease commences, landlords must provide written instructions. Carbon monoxide detectors are not substitutes for smoke detectors, Fire Department officials caution, so both devices are essential. For more information, call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Not too late for a flu shot

Getting vaccinated against the flu in November or even December is not too late. Public health officials recommend that everyone older than 6 months get vaccinated every year. Flu vaccine is offered at numerous commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area. Most of these sites accept private insurances and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Many sites will vaccinate children as young as 18 months. Help finding a flu shot provider is available at www.flushot.healthmap.org. Residents also can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5483 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

Vaccination not the only defense...In addition to getting vaccinated, individuals also can help protect themselves from the flu by following these simple actions to help prevent the spread of germs:

- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.** When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.
- **Stay home when you are sick** to help prevent others from catching your illness.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- **Wash your hands often**, and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Get plenty of sleep**, engage in physical activity, manage stress, drink water and eat right.



Licenses required for smaller rentals, too

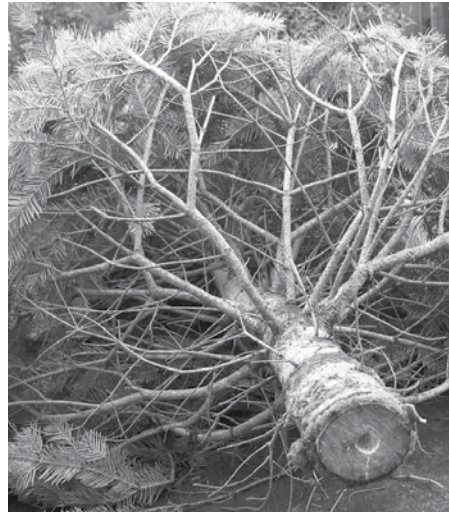
Although larger multifamily buildings contain much of Oak Park's rental housing stock, the community also has plenty of smaller properties that must be licensed through the Village, too. Landlords and managers with apartment buildings of one to three units must be licensed by Dec. 31. This includes owners that rent their condominium units to tenants. Fees are \$10 per unit. Owners and managers of larger multifamily buildings must be licensed by Oct. 31 to avoid late fees. The residential rental license application is posted online at www.oak-park.us/forms. Email housing@oak-park.us for more information.

Rehab loans available

Rental properties – Owners of multifamily buildings with seven or fewer units may be eligible for forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 per unit under the Village's Small Rental Rehab Program. Owners need to contribute matching funds of at least 25 percent of the total project cost and agree to rent to income-eligible tenants for two years. Projects eligible for funding include general property repairs, unit upgrades and energy efficiency improvements. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/housing, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

Single-family emergency – No-interest loans of up to \$5,000 are available to help income-eligible owners of single family homes make emergency repairs such as replace faulty furnaces or water heaters before the winter weather returns. To qualify, homes must be owner-occupied and household income must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income – for example \$55,350 for a three-person household. Loan terms are for five years. Email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5413 for more information.

News you can use



Holiday affects waste collection schedule...Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed one day by the holidays. Thanksgiving Thursday's collection will be delayed until Friday and Friday's collection delayed until Saturday. Collections for Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 also will be delayed by one day, pushing the Friday collection for these two weeks until Saturday.

Holiday tree collection...Holiday tree collection begins Jan. 9. Be sure to remove all decorations and stands, and place the tree in the regular collection area. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Village Hall holiday hours...Village Hall will be closed all day Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving, from noon, Fri., Dec. 23 through Mon., Dec. 26, and on Mon., Jan. 2. 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 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Regular yard waste collection ends...After Sat., Nov. 26, 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 and extension cords will be accepted. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for details.

Avoid missed collections...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.

Pet responsibilities...Dog owners are required to pick up and dispose of dog waste. Owners walking their dogs must carry a bag or other suitable means to pick up dog waste. Call 708.358.5680 to register a complaint about an animal, such as noise, excrement, cruelty or off leash.

Be cautious with alternate heat sources...When using heat sources such as portable and baseboard electric heaters, fireplaces and woodstoves, remove nearby objects, keep furniture a safe distance away, do not block the heat flow and never use an extension cord. Working carbon monoxide detectors, smoke alarms and a family escape plan also are essential. Call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us for more information.

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.

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 Street, Austin Boulevard, Chicago Avenue, Division Street, Garfield Street, Harlem Avenue, Harrison Street, Jackson Boulevard, Lake Street, Madison Street, North Avenue, Oak Park Avenue, Ridgeland Avenue, Roosevelt Road and Wisconsin Avenue from Madison Street to the emergency entrance of Rush 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

Residents and businesses are urged to help improve walking conditions and public safety by removing snow and ice from sidewalks after a storm. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. If the snow or ice has become so hard that it cannot be removed without damaging the sidewalk, then sand, salt or other abrasive material may be used to make pedestrian travel reasonably safe. Failure to clear a sidewalk fronting or abutting one's property could lead to a ticket and fine. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help finding resources, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Public hearing set for proposed zoning ordinance

The draft zoning ordinance and map for the Village of Oak Park will be reviewed by the Plan Commission at a public hearing at 7 p.m., Wed., Nov. 16, in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Residents, business operators and property owners are invited to make comments to the Plan Commission by either attending or providing written comments to planning@oak-park.us. Anyone interested in learning more before the public hearing or unable to attend is urged to visit www.oakparkzoning.com, where the proposed draft is posted. Public comments also may be posted on this project website. The goal of the initiative is to better align local laws with recommendations in *Envision Oak Park*, the community's long-range comprehensive plan adopted in late 2014. For more information, call 708.358.5440 or email planning@oak-park.us.

Free sign consultations offered

Business operators considering seeking variances from the Village sign code can get free guidance from the Community Design Commission before submitting a request for formal review. The commission will review and comment on drawings, sketches or photographic examples and materials as well as offer guidance and suggestions on meeting the code requirements and overcoming challenges that would require a variance. Reviews are given during the commission's regular meeting at 7:15 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. To arrange a conversation with the commission, call 708.358.5440 or email planning@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5630
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.oprfs.org
Administration	383.0700

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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Public health contributors honored

Two individuals, two local non-profit organizations and two Oak Park businesses have been honored with the Dr. William Fitzsimmons Public Health Award for their contributions to the health and well-being of Oak Parkers. The Fitzsimmons Award for Excellence in Public Health is named in honor of the Oak Park Health Department's Medical Consultant from 1976-1992. Dr. Fitzsimmons was an Oak Park physician and humanitarian who volunteered his services to the Village for many years. The annual awards are presented by the Oak Park Board of Health and the Oak Park Department of Public Health. This year's winners are, in the words of their nominations...



- **Ryan Bradley**, who has helped reduce the amount of nitrogen oxide emitted by diesel engines in construction and agriculture equipment used by his employer, Case New Holland. The vehicles Bradley, an Oak Park resident, has helped put into production emit just 7 percent of the nitrogen oxide emissions compared to vehicles made 12 years ago.
- **Lively Athletics**, a fitness and lifestyle apparel store for women owned by Oak Park natives Anne Pezalla and Kate Pezalla Martin. In addition to hosting workshops for girls and women of all fitness levels, Lively Athletics helps support several causes and donates running shoes to children in need.
- **Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society**, an important provider of medical, dental and behavioral services for low-income children from Oak Park and the surrounding area. Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2016, the IWS is made up of Chicago-area women who support the non-profit charitable organization's mission of providing all children with access to quality health care.
- **Enso Oak Park**, a martial arts school owned by Oak Park residents Denise and Jay Nacu. In addition to teaching the art of Shotokan karate, Enso Oak Park also supports a strong sense of community and respect for others while promoting the physical fitness and emotional health of Oak Parkers young and old.
- **Rachel Moore**, who served as a crossing guard at Oak Park and Chicago avenues for more than a decade before passing away in 2015. Ms. Rachel as she was known throughout neighborhood is fondly remembered for cheerfully manning her post and watching over school children as if they were her own.
- **Shawnash Institute**, a non-profit charitable organization that focuses on providing regular access to fresh produce for economically-stressed community members. With board members Warren Bakker and John Owens leading the way, the Shawnash Institute supports the Oak Park Farmers' Market's Double Value Coupon Program, which allows customers who qualify for SNAP benefits — commonly known as food stamps — to double the value of their purchase of fruits and vegetables up to \$20.

For more information on the annual Fitzsimmons Awards, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Medicare enrollment help offered

Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities can get assistance enrolling in Medicare Part D prescription plan through the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) administered by the Oak Park Township. Counselors are available by appointment to help recipients review existing coverage and select a drug plan that meets their individual needs. During the enrollment period, which lasts until Dec. 7, Medicare recipients can:

- Change from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan
- Change from a Medicare Advantage plan to original Medicare
- Join, drop or switch Medicare Part D drug plans
- Switch Medicare Advantage plans

To schedule an appointment for Medicare enrollment assistance, call 708.383.8060. Information on Township Senior Services programs is posted online at www.oakparktownship.org/departments/seniors.

911 registry available for citizens with special needs

Oak Parkers with special needs that should be considered in an emergency situation can register with the Village to ensure first responders are aware when dispatched via a 911 call. Knowing that they are being dispatched to a home where someone may have a hearing or visual impairment, mobility limitation, cognitive impairment or uses an electrically powered medical device could prove vital to emergency medical personnel. Residents or their caregivers can register online at www.oak-park.us/911registry. A form also is available via email to prepare@oak-park.us or by calling 708.358.5488. All information will be kept confidential and should be updated annually.

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. 23 until 2:30 a.m., Mon. Nov. 28, and from 2:30 a.m., Wed., Dec. 21 until 2:30 a.m. Wed., Jan. 4. 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 and safety restrictions, will remain in effect. Visit www.oak-park.us/parking for more information.

Scan with a smartphone
QR code for more
information



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



OP/FYI

Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

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

Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL

U.S. Postage
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PAID

Police equipped to address drug overdoses



The Oak Park Police Department is more prepared than ever to assist anyone experiencing an overdose caused by heroin or prescription pain relievers classified as opioids. Officers and sergeants assigned to field duties now carry automated external defibrillator (AED) cases equipped with doses of Naloxone, a fast-acting drug that can save the life of an overdose victim by blocking the effect of opioids in the brain. Oak Park firefighter/paramedics have been equipped with Naloxone since the 1980s and will continue to carry the drug for emergency situations. But police often are first on the scene and equipping them with the drug may mean the difference in life and death when seconds count, officials say. Equipping officers with Naloxone also brings the Oak Park Police Department into compliance with a new state law that requires all police departments in Illinois to carry what experts call an opioid antagonist in an effort to reduce overdose deaths. While opioid overdoses are not common in Oak Park, they do occur. Oak Park firefighter/paramedics administered Naloxone 43 times in 2015 and 46 times in 2014. Officials say heroin users that purchase the drug in Chicago often seek a safe place to consume the drug in suburban communities such as Oak Park. The Oak Park Police Department acquired the doses of Naloxone, often sold under the brand name Narcan, at no cost through a grant from the Cook County Overdose Prevention Program. For more information on Oak Park's community policing approach, visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Fall leaf collection continues

The annual fall leaf collection program will continue through Dec. 1. 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	SOUTH BLVD	
WEDNESDAY Nov. 2 Nov. 9 Nov. 16 Nov. 23 Nov. 30	THURSDAY Nov. 3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24 Dec. 1		TUESDAY Nov. 1 Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 22 Nov. 29	MONDAY Nov. 7 Nov. 14 Nov. 21 Nov. 28

HARLEM AVE (left), AUSTIN BLVD (right), ROOSEVELT RD (bottom)