

Village considers linking neighborhoods via bicycle routes



With headlines focusing on Chicago's Divvy bike sharing program expanding into Oak Park, a less heralded portion of the same study on potential docking sites outlines how to transform the community into a mecca for bicyclists by linking neighborhoods via a network of routes that prioritize two-wheeled travel.

The study, conducted by the Active Transportation Alliance and recently approved by the Village Board, drilled into a broad, visionary bicycle plan created in 2008 to flesh out specific strategies for implementing two components of the original plan — a bike-sharing program and a bicycle boulevard system connecting a grid of low-traffic, low-speed routes on residential streets.

Neighborhood greenways, as the study calls the bicycling routes, use infrastructure features that calm and reduce vehicle traffic on neighborhood streets, and improve safety at busy intersections. The goal, the study says, is an attractive, safe and comfortable environment for bicyclists of all ages, and more peaceful residential streets.

The study recommends all or parts of 10 streets be included initially in what eventually would become a 17-mile greenway network connecting bicyclists to schools, parks and businesses throughout the community.

Kenilworth and Home avenues, Scoville and Fair Oaks avenues, and Lombard and Harvey avenues are recommended for the north-south routes. Parts of Le Moyne Parkway, Thomas, Pleasant, Harvard, Van Buren, Adams and Harrison streets were recommended for the east-west routes.

Route features would include green painted lanes at intersections of high-volume streets to indicate to drivers where cyclists would be traveling. Other features would include greenway pavement markings throughout the network, dedicated bicycle left turn lanes, stop and yield signs, bicycle signal detectors and posted speed limits for motorists.

Implementing the greenway plan would be a long-term commitment, officials say, depending on the extent to which the wide range of recommendations in the study are adopted. Portions of the plan likely will be incorporated into the Village's long-range capital improvement program, allowing for a phased-in implementation of the various recommendations as funds allow.

The Village of Oak Park has a long tradition of encouraging safe cycling with bicycle friendly *Share the Road* signs at all major community entry points, dedicated and shared bicycle lanes on numerous streets and bike racks located throughout the community.

For more information on bicycling in Oak Park and to read the 2008 Bicycle Plan and the new 2014 addendum, visit www.oak-park.us/bicycling.

Bike-sharing sites under review

A study intended to help Oak Park implement a bike-sharing program recommended 13 potential locations for docking stations, as preparations continue for the expansion of Chicago's Divvy program into the Village next spring. The study by the Village and Active Transportation Alliance recommends focusing on transit stations by placing the majority of the Divvy stations near Lake Street, the Eisenhower Expressway and Madison Street, with one station on Chicago Avenue. Site recommendations are not final, officials say, as more public input will be gathered and additional analysis done before any final decisions are made. A share of the funding for the Divvy expansion into Oak Park would come from a \$3 million state grant, which also designated funds to expand the system into Evanston and Chicago's Austin and Rogers Park neighborhoods. The Village's share to implement the program will be about \$160,000 or 20 percent of the total cost. A portion of the investment would be recouped from rental fees. Each docking station typically houses a collection of bikes, along with an automated pay station that allows cyclists to rent out bikes at an hourly rate, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. Details on how the recommended sites were selected are included in the study, which is posted at www.oak-park.us/bicycling.



Award nomination deadlines extended

The nomination deadline has been extended to Sept. 30 for both *Green Awards* and *Historic Preservation Awards*.

Green Awards... Presented annually by Environment & Energy Commission, the annual awards recognize individuals, groups and organizations that have demonstrated leadership as stewards of the Oak Park environment. Past awards have included zero waste practices at a local elementary school, a greywater recycling system at a single-family home and a vegetable garden built atop a residential garage. Nominations may be made online at www.oak-park.us/greenawards. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Preservation Awards... Each year, the Historic Preservation Commission recognizes projects that demonstrate commitment to protecting and advancing the community's architectural heritage. Single-family homes, apartment buildings, commercial buildings, public/institutional buildings and religious structures may be nominated in the categories of restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use and additions/new construction. Additional awards are presented for stewardship, detail and design. Nominations may be submitted online at www.oak-park.us/preservationawards, in person, by U.S. Mail or via email. Nomination forms are available in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., by calling 708.358.5417 or by email to historicpreservation@oak-park.us. For more information, call 708.358.5417 or email historicpreservation@oak-park.us.

Commission volunteers needed

Residents are being sought to serve on the Village Board's many volunteer advisory boards, commissions and committees. These citizen volunteers conduct in-depth studies, evaluate research and hold meetings that create the public record critical to Village Board actions. A varied group of volunteers is sought to represent the Village's diversity, and renters as well as homeowners are encouraged to apply. Openings are available now on the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, Community Relations Commission, Farmers' Market Commission, Housing Programs Advisory Committee, Historic Preservation Commission and Civic Information Systems Commission. For more information on volunteering, including descriptions of each of the volunteer bodies, visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer. Information also is available by telephone at 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

County offers online voter registration

An Illinois driver's license or state identification card is all it takes to register to vote or change a voting address online at www.cookcountyclerk.com. Individuals submitting an online application receive an email confirmation followed by a voter registration card via the U.S. Mail within a few weeks. In addition to having a driver's license or state ID card, online applicants must be U.S. citizens and be 18 years old on or before the Nov. 8, 2016 general election. The deadline to register to vote in the March 15, 2016 presidential primary election is Feb. 16, 2016.

Activities celebrate Forest Preserve centennial



The Forest Preserves of Cook County will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a week-long centennial celebration Sept. 20 – 27. Area residents are invited to venture into the wilderness throughout Cook County, where activities are planned for all ages and interests, including canoeing, kayaking, archery, nature hikes, bird watching and bike riding. The week's events will culminate in a grand finale – the county's largest tree-hug, where participants will be joining hands to hug one of the trees in Caldwell Woods near 6100 W. Devon Ave. in Chicago. For more detailed information and to find a nearby event, visit www.fpdcc.com/100events.



New history museum moving toward opening

After more than 100 years, Oak Park's oldest public building has revealed much of its 1898 roots as work continues to transform the two-story structure at Lake Street and Lombard Avenue into the new home for the Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest. The 7,500-square-foot facility at 129 Lake St. was built in 1898 and once housed the old Cicero Fire Co. No. 2 station. Extensive renovations are well underway toward creating a modern flexible, open-floor-plan space for exhibits and programs for a hometown museum that will feature original surfaces and spaces wherever possible. The project includes removing interior walls, installing new plumbing, sprinkler and electrical systems as well as a geothermal heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system. Once completed, the new facility will include a research center offering access to many of the Historical Society's unique photos, documents and other materials sought by researchers and homeowners. The Historical Society has been housed for many years on the upper floor of the landmark Pleasant Home, 217 Home Ave., space it has long since outgrown. The new museum building is owned by the Village and is adjacent to a pumping station for the municipal water reservoir under Stevenson Park. The Village leased the facility to the Historical Society for 30 years at \$1 per year. The project is being funded by contributions and pro bono expertise from a wide range of engineering and design professionals. For more information on the project – or to make a donation to this important community undertaking – visit www.oprfhistory.org.

YouTube puts Village on world stage

With more than 300 videos and nearly 150,000 views to date, the Village's official YouTube channel puts the sights and sounds of Oak Park on display for the world to see. The YouTube channel is an extension of VOP-TV, the Village's municipal television station. Videos are produced by VOP-TV Manager Joe Kreml,



VOP-TV Manager Joe Kreml at work.

who serves as videographer, audio engineer, lighting specialist, director and film editor. The topics are as diverse as Oak Park's tree-lined neighborhoods and its many residents. Recent segments have focused on public safety, local dining, arts, entertainment and transportation, as well as profiles of the colorful people who make Oak Park such a great place to live. Kreml's eye for visual storytelling has won a multitude of awards for VOP-TV over the years — and has

earned him the appreciation of local businesses, government officials, nonprofit agencies and everyday residents in Oak Park. Videos are shared regularly on the Village's Facebook and Twitter pages, and they also air on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T Uverse channel 99. To browse the videos on the Village's YouTube channel, go to www.youtube.com/vopnews.

Pesticide-free lawn signs available

Property owners who sign a pledge to adopt natural lawn care practices can request a special yard sign to let the community know about their commitment to eliminating synthetic chemicals from the environment. Pledge forms and signs are available from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. The pledge and signs are part of an educational program created by the volunteers of the Environment & Energy Commission to reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides that may harm beneficial plants and insects, and affect neighbors who may be sensitive to such products. For more information on the pledge program, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. Visit www.oak-park.us/gonatural for tips and information on how to have an all-natural lawn.

News for Renters



Discrimination complaints... Village Code defends the rights of individuals within the protected classes of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status or disability in the purchasing, leasing, securing a loan, renting or occupying housing or other real estate. Any person otherwise qualified who is denied or discriminated against in these processes should call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us for more information, conciliation or to file a formal, written complaint.

Interest rates on security deposits...

Tenants of apartment buildings containing four or more units are entitled to interest on their security deposits. Interest must be paid or applied toward rent within 30 days of the expiration of each 12-month period. The security deposit must have been held for at least six months and the rent must be current to be eligible for interest. Call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us for more information.

Tenant handbook... A free handbook outlining rights, responsibilities and regulations is available online at www.oak-park.us/community or from the Community Relations Department in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The handbook does not offer legal advice, but does contain helpful tips for positive landlord/tenant relationships. For more information call 708.358.5407 or email community@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 or email community@oak-park.us.

Farmers' Market season winding down



A changing array of produce appears at the Oak Park Farmers' Market as the season winds down toward Oct. 31, when stone soup announces the last market of the year. Most vendors now accept credit cards, as well as supplemental food assistance Link cards. Many vendors also accept the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons — inquire with the vendor directly. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from mid-

May through October. Now in its 40th season, the market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5780.

Paint exchange is coming

Residents are invited to safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint — or pick up free paint — at *The Great Paint Exchange*, scheduled for Sat., Sept. 19 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Half-to-full cans of paint can be dropped off from 9 to 11 a.m., and anyone in need of paint can choose from the paint collected from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Only latex paint will be accepted. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Village facilities go tobacco-free

The Village of Oak Park became the first municipality in the state to go tobacco-free after implementing new policies prohibiting the use of tobacco products on all Village-owned properties. The initiative codifies the Village's intention to provide a healthy environment for employees, customers and visitors to its many facilities and properties in Oak Park. Tobacco use — including smoking, chewing tobacco and using electronic cigarettes or vaporizers — is prohibited on all Village properties. This includes Village Hall, Public Works Center, police stations, fire stations and municipal parking garages. The new policy pre-empts the traditional clause that prohibits smoking within 15 feet of a building entrance. Signs have been posted on all Village properties reflecting the new policy. The new policy went into effect this summer, following a recommendation from the Board of Health and subsequent approval by the Village Board. Funding for the new signs was provided by a grant from the Illinois Tobacco-Free Communities program, part of the Illinois Department of Public Health. As a Village ordinance, the tobacco-free policy is now part of official Village Code. Enforcement will begin in October and will focus primarily on education and connecting tobacco users with smoking cessation resources. For more information about the Health Department, call 708.358.5480, email health@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/health.

West Nile Virus threat continues

While mosquitoes are likely to become less active as summer heat diminishes, the threat of West Nile Virus could continue as late as mid-October. Public health officials urge residents not to become complacent and to continue taking precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. The most effective precautions include 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. Visit www.oak-park.us/fightthebite or email health@oak-park.us for more information.

Township program can help with youth substance abuse

Parents and guardians of middle school or high school aged youth are invited to enroll in *FACE-IT* (Families Acting Collaboratively to Educate and Involve Teens), a program that provides a confidential group setting to learn about and discuss the legal and health effects of substance abuse. Topics covered include communication, handling stress and underage drinking. Two-hour weekly sessions are held from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursdays. Enrollment typically is for five to 12 sessions. For more information, call 708.445.2727 or visit www.oakparktownship.org/services/face-it.

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
Village President & 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

What participants say

Parents:

- I liked sharing with other families...
- My son and I have better communication...
- I learned alcohol and drug awareness and positive ways to deal with stress...

Youth:

- I learned how to stay calm in bad situations...
- I became a lot more honest and open with my family...
- I learned a lot and will keep it in my heart...

Stay connected...

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-  youtube.com/vopnews

Shred sensitive paper, recycle old clothing

The Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., will be a busy site from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 12, as vendors will be on hand shredding documents and recycling old clothing that otherwise might end up in a landfill. Residents are invited to bring up to two bags or small boxes of documents containing personal information such as canceled checks, credit card or social security numbers, or medical information. Since the idea is to help residents prevent identity theft, materials such as newspapers, magazines, chipboard or junk mail will not be accepted — just place them in the recycling cart or bin. Representatives of Epilepsy Foundation also will be on site collecting apparel of all types in any condition for recycling, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Park District News

Free fall festival...Enjoy family fun time at the Park District of Oak Park's Fall Fest, scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun. Sept. 27 at the Oak Park Conservatory and Rehm Park on Garfield Street just west of East Avenue. All activities are free, including horse-drawn hayrides, inflatable entertainment, a pumpkin patch where each family gets a free pumpkin and a range of crafts. The Rehm trains also will be chugging along the track. Local vendors also will be selling refreshments. For more details visit www.pdop.org.



Fall scavenger hunt...Take a closer look at nature around you and have some fun by participating in a scavenger hunt. Go to www.pdop.org/fallscavengerhunt to download the list of items to collect. Once you have gathered all of the items, turn them in at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615

Garfield St. for a special prize while supplies last. The hunt begins Mon., Sept. 5. The last day to claim a prize is Sun., Sept. 27.

Discovery garden to open...A unique garden where both adults and children can observe, touch and interact with plants and natural materials is scheduled to open with a ceremony at 10 a.m., Sat., Sept. 12 at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. The Elsie Jacobsen Discovery Garden is a joint project of the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory and the Park District of Oak Park. Visit www.pdop.org for more details.

Local bands wanted...The Park District of Oak Park is looking for local bands for the 2016 Scoville Park Summer Concert Series. To be considered, provide a demo CD or an online video/audio link plus a minimum of two professional references. Send materials to Karyn DeYoung, Park District of Oak Park, 218 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL 60302 or karyn.deyoung@pdop.org.

Drivers urged to take extra care

With the new school year now underway, Oak Park police are urging motorists to stay alert — especially when driving in school zones. Motorists need to be focused and avoid distractions like talking on cell phones, police say, as well as come to a complete stop at intersections and not stop in crosswalks. Drivers also must obey the signals of crossing guards and should never attempt to pass a stopped school bus with lights flashing. To protect the many students who typically trek along Oak Park streets en route to their neighborhood schools, police have stepped up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. For more information on the Oak Park Police Department's school programs, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Recycle unwanted electronics

Oak Park residents have two more opportunities this year to recycle old electronic equipment at no cost. Items can be recycled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays, Sept. 27 and Oct. 31 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, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. These items are banned by state law from Illinois landfills. Unlike in past years, the Village now incurs costs to sponsor these events, as state collection goals have been met and funding has declined for electronic processors. This means staff will check for identification to ensure residents are served first. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Vaccination urged as flu season approaches



As the flu season approaches, local public health officials are reminding residents that shots are recommended for everyone older than 6 months. 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 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.



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

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

Crime down through first half of 2015

Oak Park Police are reporting a decline in crime through the first seven months of 2015, a decrease they attribute to the continued vigilance of citizens who take an active role in eliminating opportunities for crime and reporting suspicious activity.

The number of crimes reported from January through July of this year was down more than 20 percent as compared to the same period last year.

Police officials say active citizen involvement is reflected in the numbers not only so far this year, but over the past several years as the overall rate has continued to decline significantly.

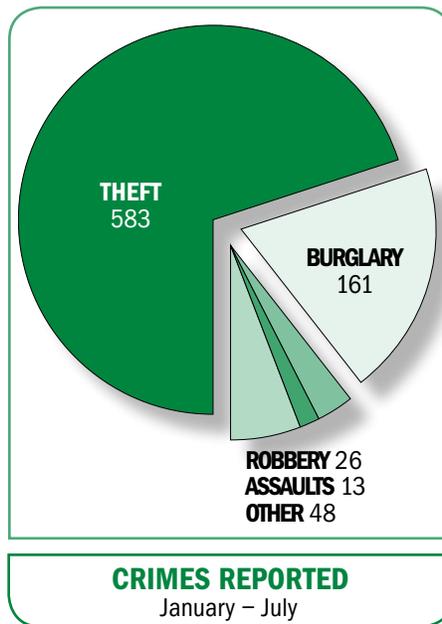
Through July of this year, some 831 crimes were reported, as compared to 1,048 for the same period in 2014. Thefts, which typically represent about 70 percent of local crimes, were down significantly — 583 in 2015 compared to 688 in 2014.

Burglary incidents continue to trend downward, according to the police statistics, with 161 burglaries reported so far this year, compared to 262 in 2014.

Twenty-six robberies were reported through July compared to 43 last year.

Police had investigated 13 assault reports through July, compared to 15 last year, a reminder Police say that serious crimes still do occur, but in small numbers considering Oak Park shares a border with the nation's third largest city.

Oak Park Police compile data under the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting index, a system used by law enforcement agencies to collect and report statistics,



with a focus on what are considered the most serious offenses — murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault/battery, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

By the end of July, Police had responded to more than 18,370 calls for service, the majority of which were categorized as medium or low-priority calls, such as accidents with no injuries. When a high priority call is received, on average Oak Park Police arrive on the scene in about three and a half minutes.

For more information about crime prevention, email police@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Police News

Lobby available for transactions...

Residents buying or selling items via an online forum can use the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department for transactions. Located in the lower level of Village Hall, 123 Madison St., the lobby is open, well-lit and staffed 24 hours a day. The police station has been used for parental custody exchanges for many years. Email police@oak-park.us for more information.

Drug disposal box...A prescription drug disposal box is available in the lobby of the Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Needles or other medical waste are not accepted. Safe disposal of drugs is becoming increasingly important, as trace residues of some medications can turn up in the water supply when prescription drugs are flushed. For more information on the drug collection service call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Crime Tip Hot Line...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.

Don't hesitate to call 911...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 911 immediately. Visit www.oak-park.us/police for more information on police programs and services.