

Study focusing on broader role for bicycling in Oak Park

As the world grapples with the scope of how lifestyle choices affect the environment, Oak Park is encouraging residents to make the low-impact option of bicycling a key part of their everyday lives.

A two-part study currently underway through the Active Transportation Alliance is investigating the feasibility of bike sharing and ways to make bicycling, rather than motoring, the priority on selected low-speed, low-traffic residential streets.

The study will add to Oak Park's first major effort to increase bicycle use and to make the Village more bicycle friendly. That far-reaching plan, developed in 2008, called for making sure bicyclists' needs were considered in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of all Village streets.

Bicycle Sharing

With an eye toward extending Chicago's Divvy bike-share system into the Village, the new study will help define realistic goals, identify key cycling routes, catalog cycling destinations and find potential docking locations for bike share programs that may one day be an integral part of the community.



Among the factors to be assessed will be access to job centers, transit hubs, shopping and tourism. These are important steps in identifying destinations that should be included in strategies that make it easier for residents and visitors to make bicycling play a bigger transportation role in their lives.

Bike Boulevards

The 2008 plan also called for creating a network that would place every Oak Park resident and destination within two blocks of an east-west and a north-south bikeway. The network would include bike boulevards that use infrastructure to calm and reduce vehicle traffic on neighborhood

streets and improve safety at busy intersections.

This part of the new study will assess where and how to implement a variety of solutions as well as include a list of engineering strategies to implement along roadways and at intersections.

How to Get Involved

Oak Park residents are invited to get involved in the study through an online survey — just visit www.oak-park.us/bicycling for a link. Both the Transportation and Plan commissions also are reviewing findings and gathering citizen input at public meetings. Meeting dates and times are posted at www.oak-park.us/calendar.

Oak Park Earns 30th consecutive Tree City USA award

For the 30th year in a row, Oak Park has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. The award acknowledges the skill and commitment of Forestry Division staff to providing the highest quality of care for the more than 18,000 trees on parkways throughout the Village. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. According to Arbor



Day Foundation officials, the Tree City USA award is recognition of Oak Park's commitment to the best management practices, principles and procedures

that are so important to keeping the community safe, while also maintaining the health of the urban forest. Cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy savings and increased property values and commercial activity are among the benefits enjoyed by Tree City USA communities, they say. For more information on the Village's forestry programs, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. More information on Tree City USA is posted at www.arborday.org/treecityusa.

Housing News

Single-family rehab loans...No interest loans of up to \$25,000 are available to single-family homeowners to correct health and safety issues and building code violations. No monthly payments are required. Loans are repayable after 20 years or when the property is transferred. For details, email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.



Improving water efficiency...Residents who install low-flow toilets with the WaterSense label may qualify for a \$100 rebate. The program, funded by the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation and administered by the Village, offers rebates to about 50 single-family households. For details, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

Grants for sewer backup protection measures... Applications are now being accepted to help property owners pay to install overhead sewer or backflow prevention systems to protect against sewer backup during a heavy rain. Eligible homeowners may qualify for a grant of 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. Call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us for more information.

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

First-time homebuyer seminars...Individuals interested in learning more about buying a first home and securing a mortgage are invited to attend free seminars offered at 7 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of every month in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The next seminar is June 24. Call the West Cook Homeownership Center at 708.771.5801 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:

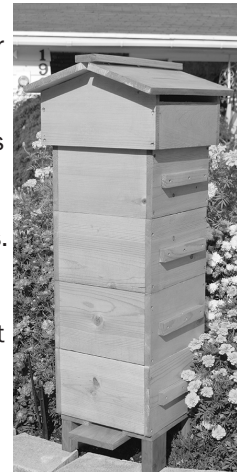
- Sales are limited to the daylight hours of no more than three consecutive days.
- Items must be displayed within a garage, residence, carport and/or rear yard, unless it is a neighborhood sale.
- Advertising signs may be displayed only on the property where the sale is held, and only while the sale 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. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Beekeeping rules acknowledge allergies

An Oak Park property owner can establish up to two honeybee colonies as long as the apiary meets specific Village code requirements. Beekeepers must register with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, provide an on-site water source for the bees, keep records of hive



maintenance, provide a flyaway barrier and surround the apiary with dense vegetation or a fence at least five feet high. Beekeepers also must apply for an annual permit, pay a \$75 fee and have their properties inspected by the Department of Public Health before a permit will be issued. A beekeeping permit will not be issued for an apiary within 150 feet of any address where a resident with an allergy to bee stings documented by a licensed physician has registered with the Village. For more information, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Health study recruitment underway

Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control will be in Oak Park through early August recruiting participants for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). All information gathered will be private and will help measure nationwide health trends for years to come. Participants will be chosen at random and will be compensated if selected. Door-to-door recruiters will have CDC identification displayed prominently and will have a signed letter from the Public Health Department available for review. Call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us for more information.

Free help available to quit smoking

Residents age 18 and older may be eligible for free nicotine replacement products available through the Illinois Department of Public Health Tobacco Free Communities fund. Call the Illinois Quitline 866.784.8937 to register. Information also is posted at www.quityes.org. Smoking is prohibited in most public places in the Village. To file a complaint about a violation of the Village's Clean Indoor Air Act, email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5489.

Farmers Market underway

The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open for business from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through Nov. 1. Now in its 39th 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, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5780. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Post Office seeking volunteers for advisory council

The U.S. Postal Service is seeking volunteers to serve on a local customer advisory council for Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park. The advisory council is intended to provide a forum for customers to meet with postal representatives to discuss concerns, ideas and suggestions for improving customer satisfaction. Postal officials also will keep the council informed on new or changing local programs, policies and procedures. Applications are now available at Post Offices in Oak Park as well as at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information call 630.260.5783.

BBQ safety a must

Summer means getting together with good friends and good food outside. Making sure your grill is operated safely and food is handled correctly is important, so follow these guidelines:

Grilling

- Make sure smoke is not a nuisance to a neighbor.
- Use an approved container designed for barbecuing.
- Keep grills at least 10 feet from any combustible material or structure, such as a house, garage or deck.
- Only use the fuel for which your grill is designed.
- Have a fire extinguisher, garden hose or bucket of water nearby just in case, and close the lid when done cooking.

Food handling

- Wash hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water before, between and after handling each different food item.
- Clean utensils, cutting boards and countertops with hot, soapy water before and after preparing each food item.
- Place cooked meat on a clean plate.
- Store all meat products in separate containers or bags that seal.
- Use a metal stemmed food thermometer to check the final cooking temperature of meat and poultry. Roasts and steaks should be cooked to an internal temperature of at least 150°F, ground beef and pork to 160°F, fish to 145°F and whole poultry to 180°F.
- Refrigerate cooked foods promptly to prevent the growth of harmful bacteria. Email fire@oak-park.us for information on equipment safety and health@oak-park.us for food handling guidance.



Deadline nears to be part of July 4th Parade

June 6 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 email 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., Fri., 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 email community@oak-park.us.

Give back to the community by volunteering

When it comes to citizen involvement in the process of making public policy, few communities can match the opportunities offered in Oak Park, where volunteers serve on nearly 20 separate advisory boards, commissions and committees. As part-time lawmakers, the Village president and trustees rely on the boards and commissions to do much of the investigative work associated with particular issues. These citizen volunteers conduct in-depth studies, evaluate research and hold meetings that create the public record so 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 for the Citizen Police Oversight Committee, the Board of Health and the Housing Programs



Advisory Committee. For more information on volunteering, visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Nominations sought for preservation awards

Nominations are being sought through Aug. 29 for this year's Historic Preservation Awards. Single-family residences, 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 need not be in an historic district, but must be located within the boundaries of the Village and should have been created within the past five years. Interior work also may be considered in conjunction with exterior work. Nominations also are being sought for a joint award for projects that address both historic preservation and sustainability issues. The judges' decisions will be based upon the Oak Park's Architectural Review Guidelines, which are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, as well as considerations of contextual and design appropriateness. Nomination forms are available in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., by calling 708.358.5417 or by email to historicpreservation@oak-park.us. A nomination form also can be completed online or downloaded at www.oak-park.us — just search 2014 preservation awards.

Outdoor sculpture walk returns

The Oak Park Sculpture Walk is back for a third season with 12 pieces from established artists and emerging newcomers chosen through a juried competition and installed in pedestrian-friendly sites. This year's event will feature art along Oak Park Avenue from Lake Street south to Pleasant Street in the Hemingway District. Sculptures are constructed from a variety of materials, including steel, bronze, fiberglass, recycled objects and stained glass, including four site-specific installations that incorporate the natural and built environment. Visitors are encouraged to pick up a brochure — available online at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk and at the Oak Park Visitors' Center, 1010 Lake St. — and take a self-guided walking tour. The Sculpture Walk will be open through Sept. 21. After the event closes, the Village may consider purchasing a piece of art to be permanently installed in a public space in the community. The Sculpture Walk is 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 aesthetic environment of the Village. For more information, email sculpturewalk@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
Schedule an inspection	option 1
Review status check	option 2
Report property condition	option 3
Speak with an inspector	option 4
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 (nonemergency)	358.5600
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Day Parking Passes	option 3
Extended Pass	option 4
Night Parking Pass	option 2
Parking Permits	option 5
Snow Hotline	option 1
Vehicle Stickers	option 5
Village Board	358.5784
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	725.2000
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015






Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	434.3107

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005
Mental Health Board	358.8855

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Owners responsible for storm debris on private property



When severe weather creates debris from trees on private property, limbs or brush should not be brought to the curb. 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 \$2.40 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 email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Residents urged to complete park needs survey

The 3,000 households selected at random to participate in a community park needs survey are urged to complete it soon to help the Park District of Oak Park plan for the future. Researchers began contacting residents in late May via mail, telephone and email as part of the Park District's comprehensive master planning process. Estimated to take only about 15 minutes to complete, the survey results will provide a statistically valid measure of residents' views on current programs and facilities, as well as direction for future planning and capital needs. For more information on the survey, email diane.stanke@pdop.org.

Grand opening set for Ridgeland Common

Oak Parkers are invited to the grand opening of the new Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex, Lake Street at Ridgeland Avenue, scheduled for noon to 3 p.m., Sat., June 14. Admission to the pool and ice arena will be free. Other activities will include musical entertainment and giveaways, as well as an opportunity to meet the new RCRC mascots. Olympic speed skater Emery Lehman also will be there. The new facility features a year-round, regulation-sized ice arena, new children's wading pool with a penguin slide and two activity rooms equipped with mirrors, sprung wood floors and ballet bars for dance, fitness and a variety of other programs. Numerous accessibility and energy efficient improvements also have been incorporated throughout the facility. Visit www.pdop.org for more information.



Vehicle stickers on sale

Vehicle stickers now are on sale. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a vehicle is required to purchase and display a vehicle sticker annually by July 15. Anyone who misses the deadline must purchase a sticker and pay a \$20 late fee. Failure to display a valid Village sticker by the deadline also may result in a \$50 ticket. Residents whose vehicles already are registered with the Village can save 10 percent by renewing online at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices, 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 available at Village Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Village Hall will be open for vehicle sticker purchases and renewals from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Sat., July 12, but will be closed on Mon., May 26 and Fri., 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 14, but will automatically assess the late fee at the midnight deadline. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. For more information, including rates for various types of vehicles, call 708.358.7275, option 5, visit www.oak-park.us/parking or email parking@oak-park.us.

Recycle old electronics

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



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



Village President Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Peter Barber
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Colette 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

New parking director to focus on customer service and technology



A seasoned administrator with experience managing Oak Park’s complex parking system has been tapped to lead the Parking & Mobility Services Department. Jill Velan, 43, was selected from a field of 30 candidates who applied for the post. As part of the selection process, Velan met with community and business leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities of parking in the Village. Her knowledge and understanding of the potential impact that three major developments planned for downtown likely will have on parking in the Village was key to her selection,

officials said. Velan had served as interim director of the department since 2012, assuming the role held by Cara Pavlicek, who became Village Manager. During her tenure, Velan supervised the rollout of new online parking programs for requesting overnight parking passes and paying for parking in surface lots via a smartphone. More technology improvements and upgrades are planned, she said. Since Oak Park was completely built out by the early part of the 20th Century — before most households owned automobiles — the Parking Department is tasked with managing a scarce resource that is in high demand. The department oversees four Village-owned garages, 130 surface lots and 1,700 parking meters. The department also supervises the distribution of 28,000 vehicle stickers and 30,000 quarterly parking permits each year. Velan leads a staff of 18 full-time employees and manages several service contracts, including site security. Prior to coming to Oak Park, Velan was a municipal administrator in Antioch and Lincolnwood. She has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Kansas and a master’s degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University. She lives in Evanston with her husband and two children. For more information on parking in Oak Park, call 708.358.7275, email parking@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Planning a block party? Know the rules

- **Use a north-south block.** Due to public safety and traffic considerations, block parties are not allowed on east-west streets.
- **Make sure emergency vehicles can get through if needed.** 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.
- **If alcohol is present, keep it on private property.** Alcohol may not be sold.

For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. An information packet is posted online at www.oak-park.us — just search block parties.