

Public health officials honor 10 high-scoring restaurants

Ten Oak Park restaurants received awards from the Oak Park Department of Public Health and Board of Health in recognition of their food service sanitation efforts.

The Johnson Restaurant Award, named for Oak Park's first lunchroom that operated in the 1890s at 124 Lake St., is presented each year to restaurants that consistently meet or exceed state food safety standards. This year's winners were chosen from a field of 79 eligible food service establishments, their scores based on a 45-point inspection survey.

Restaurants earning this award had sanitation scores that are the best in Oak Park, according to local public health officials. They said the establishments have demonstrated that they take food protection seriously and have made food safety and sanitation practices a priority in their day-to-day business operations.

The Health Department inspects more than 200 food service establishments in the Village every year, from day care centers to senior living facilities and traditional restaurants to cafes. These businesses are divided into three broad categories based on the complexity of their food service operations.

The winning eateries are responsible for some of the most complex aspects of food service and meal preparation, including cooking, cooling, reheating and serving. Each of these processes must be carried out to the exacting standards mandated by the state food service sanitation code.

The Johnson Award winners all have fairly complex food service processes. These processes require them to maintain competent management and continuous supervision of every step of their food service operations.

This is the 28th year that the Johnson Restaurant Awards have been presented. Recipients receive a door decal and a recognition certificate from the Health Department.

For more information on the awards, call 708.358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.



Comprehensive Plan process getting specific

Envision Oak Park, the process to update the Village's Comprehensive Plan, is moving from discussions of broad concepts to a close examination



of the key issues likely to have the greatest impact on the long-term future of the community. A series of small-group sessions are scheduled for 7

– 9:30 p.m., May 14 and June 5 at Oak Park and River Forest High School, 201

N. Scoville Ave. Participants will drill down into the 11 quality-of-life topics prioritized at a visioning event in February. The topics were distilled from information gathered during nearly 40 workshops, interviews and meetings with residents, neighbors, business operators, students and community leaders. Letters containing details about the workshops went to individuals who had expressed an interest in getting deeper into the details of crafting the plan. However, anyone with an interest in participating is encouraged to come out and get involved. Topics to be examined include arts and

culture; community health and safety; community life and engagement; economic health and vitality; education; environmental sustainability; governmental excellence; land use and built environment; neighborhoods, housing and diversity; parks, open space and environmental features; and transportation and infrastructure. The Comprehensive Plan will help guide future policy changes, land use, budget priorities and capital improvements. For more information on the workshops or the process, call 708.358.5418, e-mail planning@oak-park.us or visit envisionoakpark.com.

Vehicle sticker sales begin this month

Village vehicle stickers are scheduled to go on sale this month, as renewal notices go out to the nearly 28,000 residents who purchased stickers last year. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a vehicle is required to purchase and display a Village sticker annually by July 15. Anyone who misses the deadline must pay a \$20 late fee in addition to the cost of the sticker. Failure to display a valid Village



sticker also could 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, 123 Madison St. First-time vehicle sticker purchasers — and residents who have turned 65 since they last renewed — must come to Village Hall and provide proof of

residency, such as a lease, utility bill or other government-issued item. A driver's license and vehicle information also is required. A current vehicle sticker is needed to purchase a parking permit. Renewal forms mailed to current sticker holders include a unique web identification number that allows a vehicle owner to correct or update most data, including address and telephone number, and vehicle information. Online renewals require a credit card and an e-mail address for confirmation. New this year, anyone who loses the renewal notice will be able to look up their web ID number using the e-mail address or telephone number included in the previous year's application. 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 Village business, or visit the Oak Park Public Library. In-person sticker purchases and renewals are available at Village Hall from 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. Mondays, and 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday – Friday. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle and persons 65 years old and older, or who have a state-issued handicapped license plate or placard, receive a discount. For more information call 708.358.7275, option 5, visit www.oak-park.us/parking or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.

Farmers' Market to begin 38th season

The Oak Park Farmers' Market will open for its 38th season on Sat., May 18. The Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Saturday from opening day through October in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot, 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, bedding plants, honey, cheese, frozen meat, bread and baked goods the Market also features donuts made on-site, fresh coffee and live bluegrass music. Regional vendors will feature sustainable, organic and locally sourced goods again this season, including several heirloom products. To help support Market administration, a variety of items will be sold at the information tent, including reusable shopping bags, t-shirts and travel mugs. This season's special events will include Go Green from 9 a.m. – noon, May 18 and 25, a corn roast from 9 a.m. – noon on Aug. 17 and stone soup from 9 – 10 a.m., Oct. 26, the Market's final day. Non-profit bake sales will be offered each Saturday as well as occasional cooking demonstrations featuring chefs from local restaurants. A majority of the vendors now accept credit/debit cards as well as Link cards. For more information call 708.358.5780, e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.



Participants, volunteers, sponsors sought for July 4th Parade

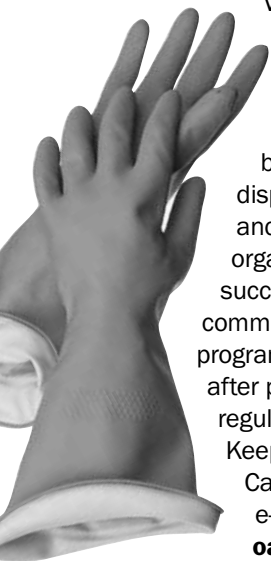
Participants, volunteers and sponsors are being sought for the annual July 4th Parade. June 7 is the deadline to register to be in the parade, which attracted nearly 75 groups last year. Local organizations and businesses are invited to bring a float, march, play music, carry balloons or banners, ride 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 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/community. 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. Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and organizations interested in helping support this year's parade with money, goods or services. Call 708.358.5407 or e-mail community@oak-park.us for more information.

A Day in Our Village festival is June 2

The 40th annual A Day in Our Village festival celebrating diversity and community involvement is scheduled for Sun., June 2. Activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will fill Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue, from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. along with live performances and a food court featuring local restaurants. Rehm Park & Pool, Garfield Street at East Avenue, also will offer many activities from noon – 5 p.m. An Oak Park Township mini-bus will provide free transportation between venues. For more information, call 708.358.5407 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Free alley clean-up kits available

Residents are encouraged to work with friends and neighbors to organize an alley clean-up. The Village's alley clean-up program, developed by the Keep Oak Park Beautiful committee, provides free plastic bags, refuse stickers, disposable rubber gloves and information on organizing a safe and successful event. The committee will monitor the program by taking before-and-after photographs for the regular reports issued to Keep America Beautiful, Inc. Call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.



Complete streets policies recognized

Oak Park has made the top 10 list of communities across the country that enacted the best complete streets policies of 2012, according to Smart Growth America, a coalition of advocacy organizations that have a stake in how metropolitan expansion affects the environment, quality of life and economic sustainability. Coming in at number seven just behind Portland, Maine, Oak Park was recognized for its policies intended to make roads safer and more accessible for everyone who uses them, whether walking, bicycling or driving. Oak Park was among 125 communities that adopted complete streets policies in 2012. Nearly 500 policies now are in place nationwide, including 27 states as well as the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Forty-two regional planning organizations, 38 counties and 379 municipalities in 48 states also have policies intended that allow everyone to safely use their roads. For more information on Oak Park's program, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

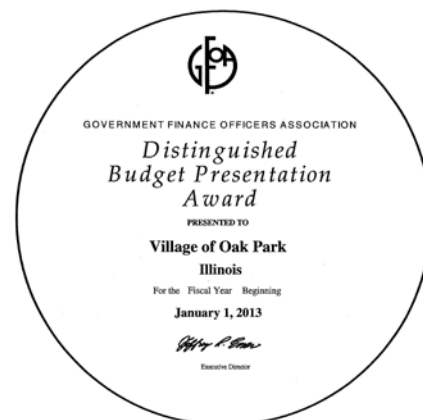
Public health contributors honored

Four Oak Park residents and one local hospital were honored for their contribution to the health and well-being of Oak Parkers during National Public Health Week, April 1 – 7. 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, demonstrating compassion for others, regardless of race or socio-economic status, a deep love of medicine and dedication to the serving others. 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:

- **Ellen Barton, APN** (advanced practice nurse), PCC Wellness Center, for the comprehensive care she provides to her patients including for their emotional health, social and academic needs, and spiritual concerns.
- **Janice Enloe**, personal trainer, lifestyle and weight management coach, advanced health and fitness specialist and running coach, for her comprehensive approach to diet and exercise that ensures participants have every opportunity to transform their lifestyle.
- **Vanguard West Suburban Hospital**, for going beyond free health screenings, health fairs and informational lectures on health-related topics. The hospital offers free, ongoing, regularly scheduled exercise, tai chi and yoga classes to the community without restriction or obligation.
- **Sugar Beet Cooperative**, a grassroots initiative, for its efforts in bringing healthier products from local farms to the wider community, including a community-managed store scheduled to open in 2014 that will be a gathering place for residents to grow, cook, discuss and eat food together.
- **Tracy A. Vegeler**, general manager, Oak Park Place Apartments, for her pioneering efforts and dedication in creating one of the first multi-unit residential properties in Oak Park to successfully transition to 100-percent smoke-free status. Vegeler has volunteered to serve as a role model and mentor for other property managers in Illinois as part of the growing campaign to create smoke-free housing.

Village budget wins top national government award

The Village has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) for fiscal year 2013, which began Jan. 1. In a statement notifying the Village of its selection, the GFOA, a nonprofit professional association that serves more than 17,500 government finance professionals across North America, called the award "the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting." To earn the award, the Village had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The budget was assessed as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications vehicle. GFOA judges used 14 mandatory criteria within these categories to determine those entities who would receive the award. Oak Park's annual municipal budget process typically begins in late summer or early fall and includes numerous reviews by the Village Board Finance Committee and public discussions led by the full Village Board. The budget usually is approved in late November or early December. The 2013 budget is posted online at www.oak-park.us/finance. For more information on the budget or budget creation process, call 708.358.5460 or e-mail finance@oak-park.us.



HOUSING NEWS

housing@oak-park.us

Free water-saving kits... Oak Parkers interested in saving water and energy are eligible for free water saver kits that can save up to 57 gallons of water per person per day. Each kit contains a low-flow shower head, low-flow kitchen and bath faucet aerators, and a toilet tank displacement device that can make any toilet a low-flow unit. Requests for a free kit may be made in person at the Housing & CDBG Programs Division office in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. or via e-mail to housing@oak-park.us.

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 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 May 28. For more information, call the Oak Park Regional Housing Center at 708.771.5801.

Free condo board training continues... A series of free, one-hour training seminars to help condominium board members learn more about how to meet their responsibilities continues in May and June. Industry experts will discuss hiring a management company on May 14, while collections and foreclosures will be discussed on June 11. The seminars, presented by the Association of Condominium, Townhouse and Homeowners Associations (ACTHA), are scheduled for 7 p.m., at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Advance registration is not required. Call 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us for more information.

Accessibility modification loans... Forgivable loans of up to \$15,000 each to fund accessibility modifications for homes or apartments are available through the Housing & CDBG Programs Division. 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.

Yard waste collection underway

Collection of bundled brush and yard waste is now underway through November. Bundled brush no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs and vines is picked up on regular collection days. A green yard waste sticker must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container. Stickers are available for \$2.36 each from Oak Park grocery and hardware stores and the Cashier's Office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Residents are urged to look for alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or backyard compost piles. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Monthly electronic recycling returns

Electronic recycling will be offered on the last Saturday of each month beginning May 25. Items can be recycled from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. The final recycling event of the season will be Oct. 26. 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. Such items are banned from Illinois landfills. The program is sponsored by the Illinois EPA, the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency and Vintage Tech Recyclers. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

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.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

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-  oak-park.us/enews

District 200 News

www.oprfhs.org

Grant recipient...Oak Park and River Forest High School science teacher and Golden Apple finalist Allison Hennings has received a federal grant to train 100 Illinois teachers on how to implement science, technology, engineering and math programs in their schools. The grant is from Race to the Top, a U.S. Department of Education program created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to spur innovation and reforms in local education.

Design winner...Senior Noelani Ho placed first in the competitive Chicago



Junior Science and Humanities Symposium with an engineering design for a new ballet shoe that costs less and can reduce dancers' foot injuries. Her winning project, a prototype molded of an orthotic material, earned her the right to compete against 240

U.S. students for a spot at this summer's London International Youth Science Forum.

Biogenius...Senior Rebecca Streit placed first in the state in the U.S. National BioGENEius Challenge, considered among the most prestigious high school biotechnology competitions in the world. Her winning project focused on using natural compounds in spinach to convert dangerous residue from explosives into less toxic compounds. She now will compete against students from across the country to become one of 10 who will represent the U.S. in the International BioGENEius Challenge.

Adopt a block

Residents, community groups and business owners are invited to adopt a block by committing to removing litter at least once a month for a year. The Keep Oak Park Beautiful committee will provide trash bags, refuse stickers, gloves, safety vests and an adopt-a-block sign listing the name of the participating individual or group. Call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Park District News

www.pdop.org

Plant sale

The Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St., will host its 24th annual plant sale on May 3 and 4. Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory, who support the facility year round, get the first look from 2 – 7 p.m., Fri., while the general public can come from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sat., May 4. However, non-members can join on Friday and take advantage of the early sale. Vegetables, herbs and flowers — most grown in the Conservatory greenhouses — will be available for sale, including tomatoes, basil, geraniums and ground covers. Call 708.725.2400 or visit www.fopcon.org for more information.

Plant & seed exchange

The annual spring perennial plant and seed exchange is scheduled for Sat., May 11 at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. Plants dropped off from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. will be available for exchange from noon – 12:30 p.m. Call 708.725.2400 or visit www.fopcon.org for more information.

Cheney waterfall garden restored

Officials will cut the ribbon on the newly restored waterfall garden at noon on Sun., May 19, at Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave. A donation from former Cheney Mansion neighbor Audrey Kouvel helped fund the restoration of the century old landscape element that had not worked for more than 30 years. The Park District will offer lemonade and iced tea for residents who would like to bring a basket for an old-fashioned public picnic following the ceremony. For more details visit www.cheneymansion.com.

Scoville Park to reopen

Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue, will officially reopen at 10 a.m., Sat., June 1 after several months of renovation. Oak Parkers are invited to the grand re-opening festivities, which will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, light refreshments and a family-oriented magic show. The Park District also invites the community to stroll the grounds of park, including the new playground, tennis courts, pathways, lighting and entrances. A grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources made the project possible. Visit www.pdop.org for more information.

Spring tree planting begins

Forestry crews and contractors will plant 170 trees across the Village this spring, with another 80 trees planned for the fall. A \$30,000 grant through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus helped to add nearly 100 trees to the planting schedule, as the Village combats the devastating impact of Dutch elm disease and the emerald ash borer. Officials say species diversity is the key to preventing the widespread loss that can occur when an urban forest lacks variety. Among the diverse selection of trees scheduled to be planted will be catalpa, black locust, purple and tricolor beech, chinkapin (chinquapin), State Street maple, bur oak, swamp white oak, Kentucky coffee, Heritage Oak, Triumph Elm, honey locust and a new elm, Emerald Sunshine. For more information on tree planting, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Renew pet licenses online

Oak Park pet owners who receive an animal license renewal application in the mail are encouraged to renew online at www.oak-park.us. Pet owners also can delete pets they no longer own and add new ones. Payment is made with a credit card, a receipt sent via e-mail and the actual tag delivered in the U.S. Mail. Pet owners still will have the option of mailing in their payment or coming to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. All dogs and outdoor cats are required to display a current animal license by May 1. The license fee is \$10 for a neutered/spayed dog and all cats, and \$13 for any non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Proof of a current rabies inoculation and spaying/neutering is required for licensing. For more information call 708.358.5680 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.



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



Village President David Pope
Village President Elect Anan Abu-Taleb
Trustees
Peter Barber (elect) Colette Lueck
Glenn Brewer Adam Salzman
John Hedges Bob Tucker
Ray Johnson
Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek
(printed May 1, 2013)

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Oak Park, Illinois

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Standard
U.S. Postage
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Oak Park, IL

Parking restrictions eased for holidays

As a courtesy to residents and their guests, the overnight parking ban will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during several holidays in the year ahead. Restrictions will remain in effect in overnight permit areas, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street overnight parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. For more information on parking in Oak Park call 708.358.7275 or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.

Memorial Day

Ban Lifted: 2:30 a.m., Sat., May 25
Ban Resumes: 2:30 a.m. Wed., May 29

July 4

Ban Lifted: 2:30 a.m. Wed., July 3
Ban Resumes: 2:30 a.m. Mon., July 8

Labor Day

Ban Lifted: 2:30 a.m. Sat, Aug. 31
Ban Resumes: 2:30 a.m. Wed., Sept. 4

Thanksgiving

Ban Lifted: 2:30 a.m., Thurs., Nov. 28
Ban Resumes: 2:30 a.m. Mon., Dec. 2

Christmas/New Years

Ban Lifted: 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 21
Ban Resumes: 2:30 a.m. Fri., Jan. 3

Severe weather threat grows

Tornadoes, lightning, flash floods, damaging winds and destructive hail strike Illinois each spring, summer and fall, sometimes with incredible violence. Being aware of severe weather safety rules and knowing what to do might save your life, which is why the National Weather Service urges you to develop a safety plan for use at home, work, school, vehicle and outdoor activities. Visit ready.illinois.gov for more information.



Know the terms...Tornadoes are the most destructive storms that occur in Illinois. Being prepared for a tornado can save your life. A tornado watch means severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are possible over the next few hours, so be prepared. A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted by a trained storm spotter, or intense rotation that will likely produce a tornado has been detected by Doppler radar — get to a place of safety immediately.

Local warning siren...The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC), the emergency 9-1-1 hub for Oak Park, River Forest and Elmwood Park, sounds a warning siren when a tornado is sighted within a 10-mile radius. The sirens also are activated at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month as part of a regular statewide test. Information on severe weather is posted by the National Weather Service at www.spc.noaa.gov.

Carpet recycling program underway

The Village has teamed up with Heritage Recycling LLC to provide curb side collection and recycling of used carpet and padding. The pilot program, which is similar to the current yard waste and bulk garbage sticker programs, began March 1. During this pilot program, residential units may place an unlimited number of rolls out for collection so long as each has two blue stickers attached. Each roll must be no more than four feet wide (cut or folded) and not exceed 50 pounds. The rolls must be placed in a dry location such as on/under a porch or in a garage. Program participants then contact the vendor via information on the sticker to arrange pick up. Stickers cost \$2 each and can be purchased at the Village Hall Cashier's Office. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.