Here Comes the Parade

Dust off your lawn chairs and wave your flags high! It’s time for the City of Oak Park’s annual Independence Day Parade and Fun Day on July 4th. The day begins with a “shotgun start” at 8AM for the Mayor’s 5K Run, followed by the annual Youth Assistance Pancake Breakfast (in Shelter One). The Parade launches at 11AM northbound from Coolidge and 9 Mile Rd., then winds past the new City Hall and ends at Shephard Park, where a series of special activities will be held for the remainder of the afternoon. The municipal pool will also be available for open swim from 1-8PM. For more information about the Mayor’s Run or other events, please call (248) 691-7555.

The Oak Park Recreation Department is looking for the following Oak Park residents to take part in this year’s Independence Day Parade on July 4th:
- Super seniors, 100 years old or more, with a talent for waving from cars!
- Kids with a passion for bike-decorating and leading parades!
- Block clubs with bold signs, comfortable sneakers and lots of enthusiasm!

If you or someone you know fits one of these descriptions, please contact the Recreation Department at (248) 691-7555.

Manager’s Monthly Bulletin

Erik Tungate

Spring has finally sprung, which means the City’s budget season is in full swing. For the last several years, we struggled to maintain our core services while market conditions deteriorated. Notwithstanding another market crash

“I would just like to thank the city for adding on to the code enforcement staff. They are really making a huge difference in the appearance of the city. I drive down 9 Mile every day to work and can see the results of their efforts.”
— Quote from a resident on Facebook

Like Us on Facebook @CityofOakPark
or further legislative revenue reductions from the State of Michigan, next year’s budget is projected to represent the City’s final revenue losses. That means that we can expect to see a bottoming-out affect in subsequent years to include inflationary growth patterns.

While all of this may seem like financial “mumbo jumbo,” it is important to remember that the budget is critical to our ability to provide essential core services. Among many priorities, your safety is paramount. We have a statutory responsibility to provide public safety and emergency medical services. We take very seriously our responsibility to serve as your first responders.

Given the economic challenges, many of you have asked why we instituted an economic development function. The answer is simple: we recognized the importance of being proactive in our approach to addressing diminishing revenues. We knew that we had to begin formulating a plan to attract new businesses that would grow our tax base.

Our strategy is to put Oak Park on solid footing. These measures will pay off in the long run; and, truthfully, we still cannot achieve success without our residents’ help. For this reason, I put out a request for action. Whether it is voting against the personal property tax exemption for businesses on the August ballot or getting involved in recruiting new businesses to Oak Park, we need your help to move this great community forward. The fact is that no one is coming to our aid from Lansing and City administration can only do so much. After all, it is you, our residents, who set the agenda and establish our priorities through your elected representation on city council.

When we speak with one voice and commit ourselves to action, we see the ground move beneath our feet. Our budgetary challenges then become a speck of the past, a fading memory that made us stronger and gave us the unprecedented opportunity to overcome our trials.

This is a serious call to action. Let the coming of spring serve as a reminder that those tough years are behind us and a new season has arrived.

If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (248) 691-7410. As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Respectfully,

Erik Tungate
City Manager

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Oak Park City Manager Erik Tungate recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. Mr. Tungate is one of over 1,300 local government management professionals in the nation currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program. “Dan Fitzpatrick, who served as city manager in Oak Park from 1993-2003, also received the ICMA certification,” commented City Council Member Mike Seligson. “It’s a distinguished accomplishment. Oak Park is very fortunate to have had past and present administrative leadership with such a prestigious designation.” ICMA’s mission is to create excellence in local governance by promoting professional management worldwide and increasing the proficiency of appointed chief administrative officers, assistant administrators, and other employees who serve local governments and regional entities around the world.

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**ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED!!!**

The Oak Park City Clerk’s Office currently seeks citizens interested in working the election polls in Oak Park on August 5, 2014, and November 4, 2014. Election Inspectors work from 6AM until, approximately, 8:30PM on Election Day. Election Inspectors earn $150 for the day and must attend the required training prior to working an election. Each worker must be a Michigan resident, at least 16 years of age on the day of the election, and a US citizen. Anyone 18 years of age or older must be a registered voter in Michigan. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at 248-691-7542. Applications are available on the Oak Park webpage at www.ci.oak-park.mi.us or by visiting the City Clerk’s Office.
CITY OF OAK PARK
VOTING PRECINCTS

PRECINCT NO. 1 AVERY CENTER - 14700 W. Lincoln
PRECINCT NO. 2 NORUP JUNIOR HIGH - 14450 Manhattan
PRECINCT NO. 3 NORUP JUNIOR HIGH - 14450 Manhattan
PRECINCT NO. 4 PEPPER SCHOOL - 24301 Church
PRECINCT NO. 5 OAK PARK COMMUNITY CENTER - 14300 Oak Park Blvd.
PRECINCT NO. 6 OAK PARK COMMUNITY CENTER - 14300 Oak Park Blvd.
PRECINCT NO. 7 OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL - 13701 Oak Park Blvd.
PRECINCT NO. 8 OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL - 13701 Oak Park Blvd.
PRECINCT NO. 9 EINSTEIN SCHOOL - 14001 Northend
PRECINCT NO. 10 EINSTEIN SCHOOL - 14001 Northend
PRECINCT NO. 11 OAK PARK ALT. ED. CENTER (LESENGER) - 12901 Albany
PRECINCT NO. 12 OAK PARK PREPARATORY ACADEMY - 23261 Scotia
PRECINCT NO. 13 OAK PARK PREPARATORY ACADEMY - 23261 Scotia
PRECINCT NO. 14 JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL - 24220 Rosewood
PRECINCT NO. 15 JACKSON CENTER - 23561 Rosewood
PRECINCT NO. 16 JACKSON CENTER - 23561 Rosewood
The City Manager, City Council and the Public Safety Department recently honored Timothy Vancil, George Burns and George Simmons for outstanding service in their roles as Parking Enforcement Volunteers. City leaders also recognized Josiaf Nissan for exceptional performance in the Department of Public Works. “We have an amazing community,” City Manager Erik Tungate said. “From our loyal employees to our dedicated residents - we are very grateful for the pride we all bring to Oak Park.”

Shades of Pink Zoo Walk Recap

On a sunny, Saturday morning in April, the City of Oak Park stepped up and out to support the Shades of Pink Foundation’s Walk at the Zoo, an event held at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak designed to raise funds to assist women from the region, who struggle financially with expenses related to breast cancer.

“This is an extremely important cause, which I am proud to support on behalf of Oak Park,” commented Mayor Marian McClellan, who, along with City Manager Erik Tungate, led a team of walkers. Oak Park served as a silver sponsor of the event. "Our hope is that this event will be successful this year and that the City of Oak Park can make an even greater showing next year.”

Employee Monthly Recognition

The Clerk’s Office is looking for Election Inspectors to work upcoming elections. Election Inspectors will receive $150.00 for the day, for additional information and how to obtain an application contact the Clerk’s Office at 248-691-7544 or you can download the application from the city’s website: www.ci.oak-park.mi.us

The deadline for applications is May 30, 2014.
True fact: 75% of planet Earth is made up of water. So, can you swim? If not, the Oak Park Recreation Department offers swimming lessons this summer for all levels beginning in late June. The municipal pool opens to all swimmers on June 14th – August 16th (including July 4th). Hours of operation are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1 – 8PM; Tuesday and Thursday 1 – 6PM; and Saturday 1 – 6PM, including a free mini-golf pass with admission. Sundays are reserved for private rentals only. Daily and season passes are open to residents and non-residents. For more info, please visit the Oak Park Family Fun Guide at www.oakpark-mi.com/recreation (pages 10-11).

Great Coaches Appreciated

Two, Oak Park sports enthusiasts earned Coach-of-the-Year recognition in March from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) in Lansing. Anthony Simmons received the 2014 Soccer Coach of the Year award; and Prentice Gardner was honored as the 2014 Basketball Coach of the Year. Congratulations to our own, local superheroes!

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Nothing says spring like a beautiful bouquet of flowers! The Oak Park Beautification Advisory Commission hosts its annual flower sale on Sunday, May 25, 2014, at the Community Center. Shoppers will find annuals for $10/flat, along with a variety of hanging baskets, porch pots, and other flowers. For those who like to cook (or just eat!), there will even be some fresh vegetables for sale.

Drop-in Everyday with the 50-Up Club

Have you noticed there's something happening every day at the Oak Park Community Center? If you haven't, it's time to take notice! (50-Up membership required)

- **Monday:** Quilting Club - 10:30AM
- **Tuesday:** Water Color Class - 1PM
  Scrapbooking - 1-4PM
- **Wednesday:** Weekly Blood Pressure - 10-11AM
  Bingo - Noon
  Scrabble Club - 1PM
- **Thursday:** Pickleball - 11:30AM
  Mahjong - 12:30PM
  Bid Whist - 1PM
- **Saturday:** Tennis - 10AM

Contact Oak Park Seniors for more info: (248) 691-7577
Wednesday, June 15
Friends of the Library
7PM @ Library

Saturday, June 14
Flag Day

Saturday, June 14
Municipal Pool OPENS!
1-6PM

Sunday, June 15
Father’s Day

Monday, June 16
First Day of Summer Camp!

Tuesday, May 20
Beautification Comm. Mtg
7PM @ Community Ctr.

Thursday, May 22
Ethnic Advisory Committee
Meeting @ Comm. Ctr.

Sunday, May 25
Annual Flower Sale
10AM-5PM @ Comm. Ctr.

Monday, May 19
City Council Mtg.
7PM @ City Hall

Monday, May 26
City Offices Closed
(Memorial Day)

Wednesday, March 26
Oak Park Arts & Cultural
Commission Meeting
@ City Hall

May 29 - 31
Trash Collection delayed
one day due to holiday

Sunday, June 1
Community Clean Up Day
8AM-noon, RSVP to DPW
for locations (248) 691-7497

Monday, June 2
City Council Mtg.
7PM @ City Hall

June 6 – 15
Haul Your Own Junk Away
Days @ Ice Arena Parking Lot

Community Clean Up Day Returns

Grab your gloves and pitch in to help keep Oak Park beautiful! On June 1, 2014, 8AM - noon, City employees and community volunteers will join together for Community Clean Up Day. “Our main focus will be picking up litter in common areas,” Assistant City Manager Kevin Yee shared. “This is an annual event initiated by our employees who really wanted to make a tangible contribution to the community. We welcome any and all residents who would like to join us.” To volunteer, contact Rocco Fortura for details via email rfortura@ci.oak-park.mi.us or phone (248) 691-7497.