



Erik Tungate
City Manager



As we say goodbye to another successful summer, I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your support of our initiatives.

In addition to your help with festivals and the Fourth of July parade, your support of our sunflower planting project has been truly remarkable. While we tend to think of the big things making the most impact, it is truly amazing what something as simple as planting a flower can do to change perceptions and lift the spirits of an entire city.

Beautification projects, like the sunflowers, are just a small part of our overall plan to beautify our commercial corridors and reduce blight. There will be more in the years to come.

Please remember that you can be a part of the solution by helping us reduce trash and debris in your neighborhood and other public areas. We definitely cannot do this alone.

Thank you for yet another great summer!

Planet Fitness Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Was Held on August 23



Welcome to Oak Park!

Standing Tall, Big, Bright, Bold and Beautiful in Oak Park

When Oak Park City Manager Erik Tungate is asked why over 15,000 sunflowers, 44 sunflower beds, and 20 planters were planted all throughout the City, he's known to say, "They make people happy!" Mr. Tungate was raised on the west side of the state where sunflower farms are quite common. He recalls how joyful they made him feel as a child and he wanted to bring that type of joy to the Oak Park community.

"The sunflowers planted in Oak Park are meant to be bright, big, bold and beautiful symbols that stand tall and proud in the City of Oak Park," said City Manager Tungate. "They bring smiles to our community members and to all those who visit." It didn't take long after City Manager Tungate planted the seed, for the Department of Public Works to launch the project. Department of Public Works Supervisor Gary Shermetaro volunteered to research flowers, species, soil, planting conditions, vendors, and more. He then coordinated the germination of the seeds as a teachable moment within nearly all the City's public schools.

"He instantly took to it," said Assistant City Manager and Director of the Department of Public Works during a recent City Council meeting where Mr. Shermetaro was honored as Employee of the Month for his service to the City. "He's really contributed to what we have in this City and he's made it a great place to be."

Students, teachers and residents nurtured the seeds until weather conditions were conducive to planting. The sunflowers were then planted into 44 flower beds on major thoroughfares, along key intersections, and on City property. They received daily nourishment and weekly doses of fertilizer.

The City wishes to thank the many members of the community who worked to make this project such a beautiful success. This includes our students, school administrators, teachers, staff and vendors.

In addition to the sunflower beds, the City filled 20 planters with a beautiful array of flowers and ornate vegetables that bloom throughout September and October. Chief Designer Debbie Dombrowski and a staff of two from Eckert's Greenhouse in Sterling Heights spent several hours matching colors and textures. Ms. Dombrowski who has worked as a designer at several greenhouses and who took master gardening courses from Michigan State University chose taller Canna Lilies for their height. She added geranium, petunias and verbena for their robust and colorful flower. Ornamental kale and peppers added texture, while tiny white flowers called Diamond Frost® and Million Bells® were paired.

@hVTV* General Election: CgMla eS V3 e Vb

Can a Straight Party Ticket Have an Impact on Length of Poll Lines?

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At the time this newsletter [e dWf to print, the ruling on whether November ballots will have a straight party ticket option is still being decided.

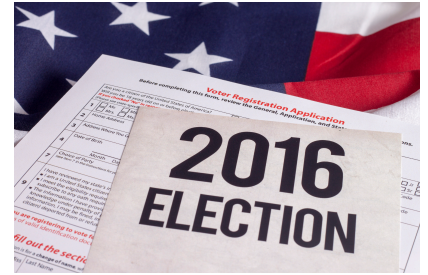
In prior years, voters were given the option to vote straight party ticket, essentially having the ability to vote for every candidate within a particular party with one simple check on the ballot. If voters are unable to cast a straight party vote, longer lines are expected at the polls.

What Measures : ShW4WV Taken to Decrease Wait Times?

Since the last Presidential Election, Oak Park made precincts smaller by increasing the number of voting precincts from 10 to 16. In addition, the City has increased the number of voting booths in each precinct. At the City's 10 busiest precincts, two laptops are now in place to process voters.

What Measures Can a Voter Take to Decrease Wait Times?

In the upcoming General Election, voters are encouraged to become familiar with the ballot choices by obtaining a sample ballot before Ya[Y to the polls. A sample ballot can be obtained through the City Clerk's Office or online at www.Michigan.gov/Vote. If eligible, a voter can eliminate fZVwait altogether by voting an Absent Voter's Ballot.



Who is Qualified to Vote an Absent Voter's Ballot?

To vote in the City, an individual must be a United States citizen and a qualified and registered voter in the City of Oak Park. The following are considered valid reasons for requesting an Absent Voter's Ballot:

- 60 years of age or older;
- Physically unable to attend the polls without assistance;
- Appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where elector resides;
- Expects to be absent from the community on election day;
- Cannot attend the polls due to religious tenets; or
- Cannot attend polls due to confinement to jail while awaiting arraignment or trial.

What is the Process of Obtaining an Absent Voter's Ballot?

Qualified voters (please refer to the checklist in the column to the right) may call or visit the City Clerk's Office to request an Absent Voter's Ballot Application. The City Clerk's Office mails the ballots during the first week of October to qualified voters who have submitted an application.

Here's What to Expect When Voting on Election Day

The polls will be open on Tuesday, November 8 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters are assigned a precinct based on their address. If an elector is unsure where to vote, either call the City Clerk's Office at (248) 691-7544 or visit www.michigan.gov/vote. When electors arrive at their polling location on Election Day, they'll be asked to show photo identification as required by Michigan election law; complete an application to vote; obtain a ballot from an Election Inspector; and be directed to a voting booth to vote in privacy. When finished voting, the voter feeds their ballot into the tabulator.

When is the Voter Registration Deadline?

In order to protect against being turned away at the polls, an individual will need to be registered as a voter by October 11. If a person is unsure of his or her voter registration status or whether their voter registration information is up-to-date, call (248) 691-7544 or visit www.michigan.gov/vote.

For Further Assistance, Call



City Clerk's Office
(248) 691-7544

Summer Property Taxes Paid After August 31 Incur Penalty



Summer property taxes were payable without penalty through August 31, 2016. On September 1, a penalty of four percent is added. Beginning on October 1, one-half of one percent of the outstanding balance will be added to your bill per month, not to exceed six percent of the outstanding balance. If the taxes are not fully paid by February 28, 2017, the records will be turned over to the Oakland County Treasurer for collection.

Four Ways to Pay Property Taxes

- By U.S. Mail.
- At the Treasury Division in City Hall located at 14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Mich.
- At the City Hall payment drop box located in front of City Hall entrance.
- Credit card payments for taxes may be made online with credit card. The link to the third-party processor, Official Payments, can be found at www.OakParkMI.gov of the City's website. Official Payments, as a third-party processor, charges 2.75 percent of the payment being made, or a minimum fee of \$3.95 per transaction.

Failure to receive bill does not waive responsibility of payment within normal terms.

Call (248) 691-7545 for more information.

Summer Property Tax Deferment Applications Are Due by September 15



Taxpayers meeting the following criteria may be eligible for a summer property tax deferral until February 14, 2017 in order to avoid penalties and interest. The property must be a principle residence of the taxpayer/property owner who: Has a total gross household income of \$40,000 or less; AND 1) is totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, hemiplegic, or quadriplegic; OR 2) is an eligible serviceperson, an eligible veteran, or an eligible widow or widower, OR 3) is at least 62-years-old.

Fall Event Schedule: Family-Friendly Festivities for One and All!

Upcoming Tours
Recreation Dept. • (248) 691-2357



Senior Free Day at the Detroit Zoo
September 6, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Michigan Princess Fall Color Tour
October 14, 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lunch Bunch
Recreation Dept. • (248) 691-2357



Mexico's Independence Day Celebration at El Zocalo Mexican Restaurant
September 16, 2016, 11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Lecture Series
(248) 691-2357



Grand Movie Palaces of Detroit

Michael Hauser Tuesday Monthly Lecture Series Kick Off
September 20, 2016, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE
Oak Park Public Safety



Saturday, September 24
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

FEATURING:

- Station Tours
- Photo Opportunities
- Gift Bags
- Treats

Demonstrations:

- Fire Trucks
- Police Vehicles
- Evidence Processing
- Firearm Simulations

13800 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI
(248) 691-7520



Oak Park Punt, Pass and Kick
Girls and Boys • Ages 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15

FREE Program Part of the national NFL PPK Program



Sunday, September 25 at 1 p.m.
Oak Park Community Center • (248) 691-7555

City Hall Gallery
Artist Meet and Greet • September 6, 5:30-7 p.m. • City Hall

The Creative Spirits





Oak Park Public Safety Citizen's Academy
Wednesdays in October
October 5, 12, 19 and 26, 6-9 p.m.

NOW ENROLLING
(248) 691-7514

Free four week informative, interactive and fun course on police, fire and medical-first response.

Department of Public Safety
13800 Oak Park Blvd.
Oak Park, MI 48137
(248) 691-7514





Oak Park Fall Dance Program




Ballet • Hip Hop • Jazz • Tap • Modern Dance • Ages 3-17
Classes Begin September 14




Oak Park Recreation (248) 691-2357

Oak Park Recreation Sports Programs

Fall Adult Kickball
Men's Fall Softball
Adult Soccer
Grand Master Hogan's Stick Fighting
Karate, and More!

(248) 691-7562
Register Online <http://bit.ly/OPOnlineRegistration>






Oak Park Library
(248) 691-7480 • 14200 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Mich.

Button Maker
Ozobots
Sensory Bottles
Strawbees
3Doodlers
Erza Jack Keats Shadow Play

Generation Creation • STEAM



HAPPY HALLOWEEN
Oak Park's Family-Friendly, Safe Night Out
ANNUAL HALLOWEEN EVENT

BOO BASH
Become a Sponsor!

October 31
5 to 8 p.m.

Become a Sponsor
(248) 691-2357

Where?
City of Oak Park Community Center's West Parking Lot, 14300 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Michigan

BALLOON ART • HAYRIDES • CRAFTS • FISH • GAMES • TREATS



Oak Park Holiday GIFT-O-RAMA

Shop Local Home Decor • Clothing Accessories • Jewelry And, More!

Saturday, November 26, 2016
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. • Oak Park Community Center
Become a Vendor • (248) 691-2357

Oak Park Recreation
14300 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237
(248) 691-2357



Mayor
Marian McClellan
Mayor Pro Tem
Carolyn Burns
Council Members
Kiesha Speech
Solomon Radner
Ken Rich
City Manager
Erik Tungate

ECRWSS

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OAK PARK BRANCH, City of Oak Park's Community Newsletter

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community happenings

September 2016 Dates to Remember

September 2 – City Offices Closed (Friday)
September 4 – Oak Park Library Closed (Labor Day)
September 5 – Happy Labor Day!
September 5 – City Offices Closed (Labor Day)
September 5 – Oak Park Library Closed (Labor Day)
September 6 – City Council Meeting
September 6 – Independence Day Commission Meeting
September 6 – Senior Free Day at the Detroit Zoo
September 6 – Artist Meet and Greet at City Hall
September 7 – Library Book Club Meeting
September 8 – Fall Adult Softball League Games Begin
September 8 – Ethnic Advisory Commission Meeting
September 8-10 – Trash Collection Delayed One Day (Labor Day)
September 11 – Patriot Day
September 11 – National Grandparents Day
September 12 – Planning Commission Meeting
September 12 – Emergency Services Council Meeting
September 12 – Friends of Oak Park Library Meeting
September 12 – October 17 – Free One-on-One Gadget Sessions
September 15 – Senior Deferments Due
September 15 – Cooley Law School Estate Planning Clinic
September 15-18 – Free Garage Sale Weekend
September 16 – Lunch Bunch: El Zocalo Mexican Restaurant
September 16 – City Offices are Closed (Friday)
September 16 – Batman Day at the Library
September 16-18 – Haul Your Own Junk Away
September 18 – Electronic Recycling and Paper Shredding Event
September 18 – Oak Park Historical Society Meeting
September 19 – Monday Movie Night at the Library (Ratchet & Clank)
September 19 – City Council Meeting
September 20 – Michael Hauser "Grand Movie Palaces of Detroit"
September 20 – Beautification Advisory Commission Meeting
September 20 – Library Board of Directors Meeting
September 21 – Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
September 21 – Communications Commission Meeting
September 21 – Themed Bingo – Celebrate Autumn
September 22 – First Day of Autumn
September 24 – Public Safety Open House
September 25 – Oak Park Punt, Pass and Kick Event
September 26 – Public Safety Retirement System Meeting
September 27 – Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
September 28 – Summerfest Meeting
September 28 – 50 Up Club Membership Birthday Party
September 28 – Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting
September 30 – Karate Registration Begins
September 30 – City Offices Closed (Friday)

October 2016 Dates to Remember

October 1 – Oak Park Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic
October 3 – First Day to Obtain Cat and Dog License Tags
October 3 – Winter Youth Sport Registration Begins
October 3 – City Council Meeting
October 3-9 – Michigan Libraries for Life Display
October 5 – Library Book Club Meeting
October 10 – Columbus Day
October 10 – Voter Registration Deadline for November General Election
October 10 – Planning Commission Meeting
October 10 – Emergency Services Council Meeting
October 10 – Friends of the Oak Park Library Meeting
October 10 – Oak Park Library Closed (In-Service)
October 13 – Ethnic Advisory Commission Meeting
October 13 – Touch a Truck with Public Safety Director Steve Cooper
October 14 – Princess Fall Color River Boat Tour
October 14 – City Offices Closed (Friday)
October 16 – Oak Park Historical Society Meeting
October 17 – Curbside Leaf Collection Begins
October 17 – Monday Movie Night at Library (Star Wars: The Force Awakens)
October 17 – City Council Meeting
October 17-18 – AARP Smart Driver Course
October 18 – Library Board of Directors Meeting
October 19 – Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
October 19 – Communications Commission Meeting
October 20 – Recycling & Environmental Conservation Commission Meeting
October 20 – Corridor Improvement Authority Board Meeting
October 20-21 and 23-24 – Fall Friends of the Library Book Sale
October 24 – Employee's Retirement System Meeting
October 24 – Public Safety Retirement System Meeting
October 25 – Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
October 26 – Pumpkin Painting for All Ages
October 26 – Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting
October 28 – City Offices Closed (Friday)
October 31 – Halloween Boo Bash

The City Clerk's Office is now taking applications for individuals interested in open positions as Commissioners on the City's Boards and Commissions. For more information, call Cherilynn Brown at (248) 691-7542.

Published by:

City of Oak Park

Denise DeSantis, Director

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14000 Oak Park, Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237 · (248) 691-7589

To send letters to the Editor: ContactUs@OakParkMI.gov

For archives: Log onto www.OakParkMI.gov