



City in Transition During Stable Times

There are so many great things happening here in our City. From new infrastructure projects in various stages of planning to the momentum building around even more economic development projects, we are a City in transition; a transition towards an even more stable future.

The two largest indicators of more sustainable times ahead include our general fund balance, or "rainy day" fund, as well as our pipeline for new economic development projects.

With regards to our general fund balance or "rainy day" fund, we are as strong as we have been in almost 20 years. As of our recent audit, our "rainy day" funds exceed \$3.4 million. That means we are well protected against an unexpected circumstance that may come our way. In addition, we pre-fund our future retiree healthcare liability to the tune of approximately \$2 million. That is a feat that has not been accomplished in a very long time. Both of these measures ensure that services will remain steady and the City will remain viable.

We also managed to put together a steady economic development project pipeline. With your approval of Class C liquor licenses we believe we can locate approximately 15 new restaurants in our City over the next 5 years. We are also pursuing large retailers and small manufacturers to locate at various sites. These new businesses will grow our tax base and raise property values.

This is a truly monumental time. As always, we welcome your feedback and will do whatever we can to serve your needs at City Hall.



Mayor McClellan to Deliver State of the City Address February 25 at City Hall

The public is cordially invited to attend this year's State of the City Address where Mayor Marian McClellan will provide the City's residents and business partners with a review of accomplishments and strides from 2015, and a peek into what's in store for 2016. The event will take place in Council Chambers at the Oak Park City Hall, 14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Mich. There will be a light reception at 6 p.m., followed by the address at 7 p.m. For those unable to attend, the State of the City address will be broadcast live on Comcast OPTV-15 or USTREAM at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/optv15>. If you are busy and wish to watch at a later date, the broadcast will be available on USTREAM and on YouTube. To access the City's YouTube channel, visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityOfOakPark>.

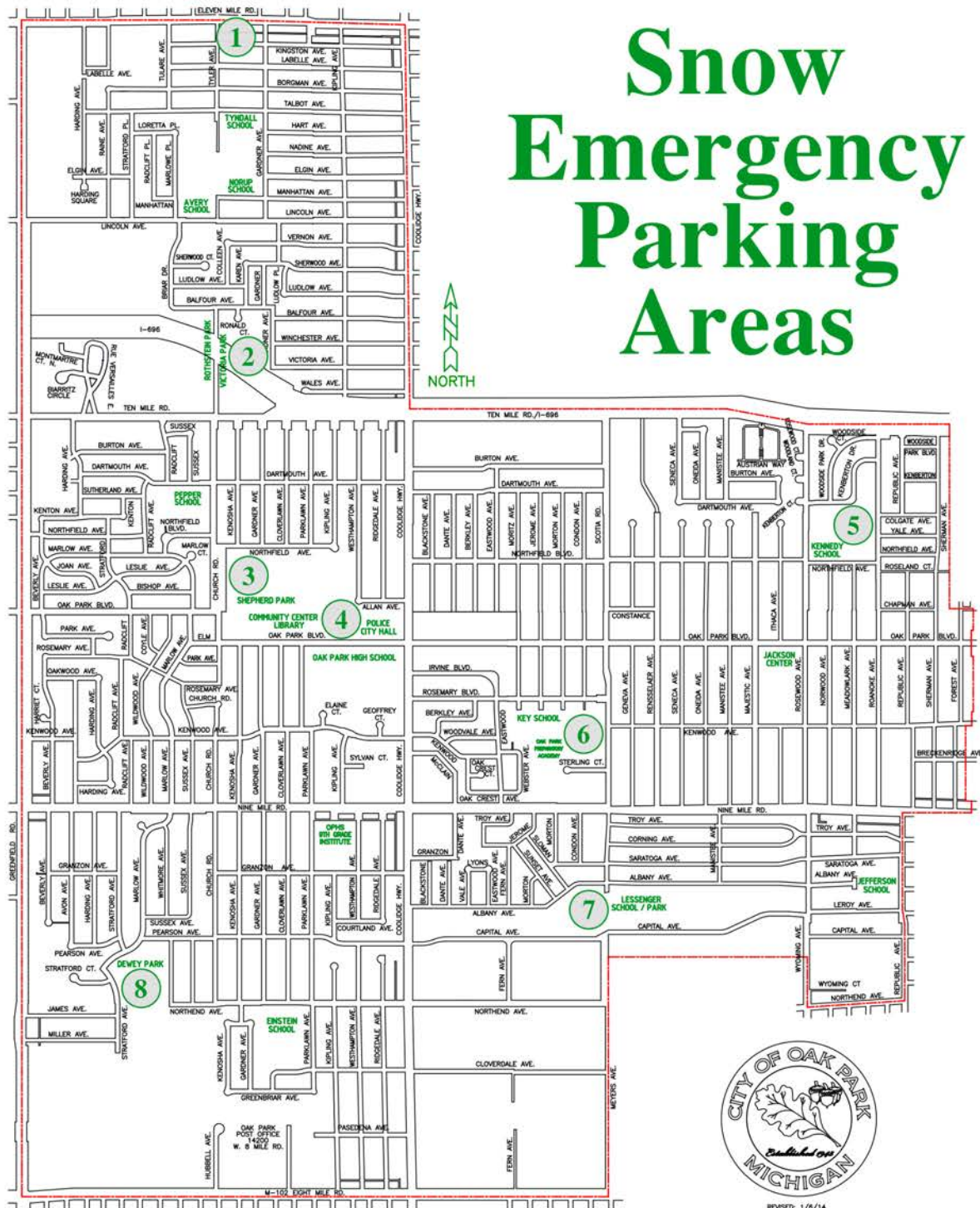


Help Shape the Future of Oak Park

What is your vision of Oak Park? Help us shape the future of the place we live, work, study, visit, play and shop. The higher the response rate, the more likely we are to be considered for grants and other forms of funding. To take the survey online, visit <http://bitly.com/MasterPlanSurvey>. Or, if you prefer a printed version, call (248) 691-7450. The deadline is February 29.


City of Oak Park

Snow Emergency Parking Areas



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ① Eleven Mile Off-Street Parking Lots | ⑤ Best Park Parking Lot |
| ② Victoria Park Parking Lots | ⑥ Key Park Parking Lot |
| ③ Shepherd Park Parking Lots | ⑦ Lessenger Park Parking Lot |
| ④ City Complex Parking Lots | ⑧ Dewey Park Parking Lot |

EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL: Policies, Procedures and Priorities for Snow Removal



Snow Removal Provisions

Contained in Chapter 66
Section 166-167 of the
Code of Ordinance

- Snow and ice must be removed from all sidewalks.
- When it stops snowing during daylight hours, snow and ice must be removed within 12 hours.
- When it stops snowing during night time, snow and ice must be removed by 6:00 p.m. the next day.
- It is considered a public nuisance to allow ice and snow to accumulate on sidewalks.
- Failure to remove snow and/or ice from all sidewalks within the time frames above may result in citations being issued or City removal at the homeowner's expense.



During this time of year, a snow emergency may be declared to help facilitate snow removal

Here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions

When is a snow emergency called?

A snow emergency is called when four or more inches of snow falls or other hazardous conditions necessitate. A snow emergency is declared for the purpose of safe and efficient snow removal and to allow access for police and emergency vehicles to respond to emergent situations.

What should residents do during a snow emergency?

For safe and efficient snow removal, parking is not permitted on City streets during snow emergencies. The City offers eight locations where vehicles can be parked during a snow emergency, see adjacent map for details. Voluntary compliance is appreciated, however the City reserves the right to ticket or tow vehicles that do not comply with City policy.

How do I know when a snow emergency has been declared?

The City of Oak Park will announce a snow emergency on their website's home page, social media (Facebook and Twitter), Comcast OPTV16, and through a Community eBlast (email). To enroll in Community eBlasts, visit <http://bitly.com/OakParkBlastSignUp> or email OakPark@ci.oak-park.mi.us. In addition, when a snow emergency is called, or called off, local television stations (ABC, NBC, Fox2Detroit, and CBS) and radio stations (WWJ and WJR) typically air a list of communities that are under snow emergency alert.

How are snow emergencies handled?

During snow emergencies the DPW assesses and prioritizes the snow removal process. In general, the City crews treat and plow roadways in the following order:

- **Primary Roadways** - Primary routes are the first priority for plowing and de-icing. Primary routes include major streets, snow emergency routes, school areas, and medical facilities. These roadways include the I-696 service drives, Greenfield, Coolidge, 11 Mile Road, and Nine Mile Road.
- **Secondary Roadways** - Secondary routes are main and heavily traveled thoroughfares. These include streets like Oak Park Boulevard, Scotia, Rosewood, Church, Capital, Lincoln, and Northfield.
- **Residential Intersections** - Tertiary priority is made to residential intersections so that vehicles can properly stop and proceed safely at intersections. Residential roadways are plowed when appropriate, typically when four or more inches of snow is present or other circumstances necessitate.

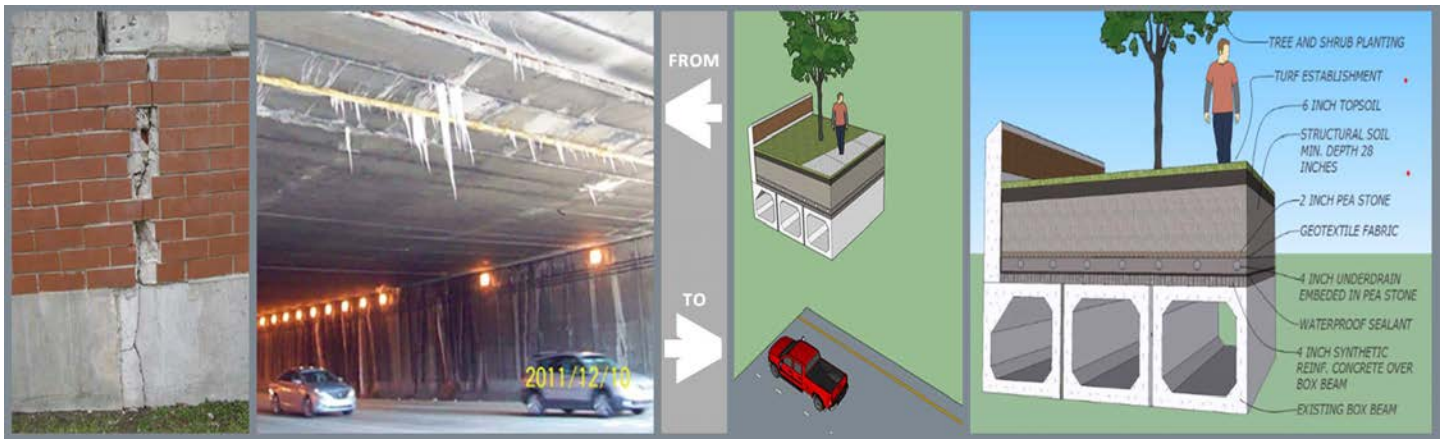
During snow emergencies, the Department of Public Works is in communication with the Department of Public Safety to address and respond to emergent and unsafe roadway conditions. For more information on snow emergencies and the snow removal process, call the Department of Public Works at (248) 691-7497.

WARMING SHELTERS: A Safe Haven From Chilly Temperatures

When the need arises, the City of Oak Park provides residents with temporary shelter to prevent injury related to exposure to the elements.

The Warming Center is operational when the weather forecast calls for low temperatures, or a combination of precipitation, wind chill, wind and temperatures that "feel like" temperatures of 10°F, or below. The Warming Center is located in the Community Center at 14300 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Michigan. It is open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m, Monday to Thursday. Hours outside of normal Recreation Department operation will be announced and posted.

Warming shelters provide a haven from the elements, but they differ from shelters which typically provide overnight stays, food, counseling and resource assistance. Individuals utilizing the Oak Park Warming Center are required to comply with Community Center rules and policies.



MDOT PROJECT: I-696 Plaza Reconstruction, Oak Park, Oakland County, MI. MDOT to reconstruct the Z03 plaza bridge over I-696. This is the area below Victoria Park, located east and west of Church Street just north of 10 Mile Road in Oak Park. The project repairs drainage issues and improves safety for vehicular traffic.

MDOT to Undertake Extensive Bridge Repair This Spring

MDOT officials acknowledged before City Council on Monday, February 1, that beginning in April they are about to embark on a reconstruction project that "is as big as it gets." The problem lies under the overpass structure where leaks are causing hazardous driving conditions for vehicular traffic that travel I-696. In the winter months, large icicles form, then melt and fall on the expressway below.

"As a project manager for MDOT, I have worked on these bridges lots of times over the years," said MDOT Bridge Project Manager Raja Jildeh of MDOT's efforts to repair drainage issues. "But, as you know, just like water leaking on your roof, you repair one and then it leaks somewhere else. It's very difficult to get ahead of a problem like that. So this job, once-and-for-all, should do it."

The reconstruction project involves removing everything above the bridge beams, including sections of Church Street, Victoria Park, the parking lot, sidewalks, trees, lights and play structure. The project will cost approximately \$4.4 million.

"We are pretty much destroying the whole thing and putting it back together again," said Nanette Alton, LLA, Landscape Architect for MDOT, disclosing that the intent is to replace everything in-kind. "What that basically means is that we are required to take everything that is there and bring it back to the level of where it was. But, in this case, I feel like we are bringing it back to a better level."

ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDE:

- A new play structure that meets the 2010 Americans with Disability Act Standards for Accessible Design and the American Society for Testing Materials guidelines for safety and accessibility.
- A rubberized poured-in-place playscape surface, or PIP, will replace the wooden mulch that currently collects and holds moisture.
- Over 175 new trees will be planted. They will be species that can thrive in new soil conditions. Existing trees were not thriving.
- Structural soil will be used to provide more oxygen, flexibility in compacting and layering, and improve drainage.
- Mindful that the City of Oak Park is a walking community, the pedestrian walkways will remain intact, however the existing walkways have large radius curves causing a longer walk than is necessary. The new walkway radius will be smaller.
- Fourteen benches will be placed along walkways and below tree species that will mature into shade-bearing trees.
- Lighting will receive an upgrade to LED technology.
- Updated garbage receptacles will be installed.

TIMELINE:

December 2015 - Tree Removal
 April 2016 - Construction begins.
 November 2016 - Construction ends.
 Spring 2017 - Landscape installed.

MDOT OPEN HOUSE
 I-696 Plaza Reconstruction
 of Victoria Park and Church Street
 City Hall Council Chambers
 14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI
 Tuesday, March 29, 4-7 p.m.



For Project Information and Updates:

MDOT provides information and updates on the I-696 Bridge Reconstruction Project in the form of a presentation, brochure and website project page.

Presentation: <http://bitly.com/MDOTBridgeReconstructionPresentation>
Brochure: <http://bitly.com/MDOTBridgeReconstructionBrochure>
Website Updates: <http://bitly.com/MDOTBridgeReconstructionWebsite>
For More Information: (248) 451-0001

City of Oak Park: Community, Commerce and Culture



Planet Fitness Announced Plans to Locate in Oak Park This Summer

Planet Fitness, the gym known for its Judgement Free Zone® and affordable pricing, will open a 30,000 sq. ft. gym this summer in Parkwoods Plaza Shopping Center at the corner of 10 Mile Road and Coolidge in Oak Park, Mich. The Oak Park location will be the 31st Planet Fitness location and largest facility in the Metro Detroit area.

Save-A-Lot Opens in Oak Park

Save-A-Lot, one of the nation's leading hard-discount, limited assortment grocery chains and a wholly-owned subsidiary of SUPERVALU INC., opened a 12,233 sq. ft. corporate-owned store in the Oak Park Shopping Center on Coolidge just South of I-696 in Oak Park, Mich. The store held their ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, January 21st.



CHN Receives Grant for Jefferson Oaks Project

Community Housing Network secured tax credits from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for the adaptive reuse of the vacant Thomas Jefferson school site. The nonprofit will invest \$15.8 million to develop 60 new units of affordable housing, which will include 20 one- and two-bedroom apartments and community space in the school. An additional 40 three- and four-bedroom townhouse style units will be constructed on the remainder of the 6.8-acre school site. A total of 21 of the units will be set aside for supportive housing with project-based rental assistance. For more information, visit <http://bitly.com/CHMJeffersonOaks>.



Winterfest: A Blast!

The dedicated and fun staff in the City's Recreation Department transformed the Community Center, Ice Arena and parking lot into a winter wonderland on Sunday, January 24 during the annual Winterfest celebration. Children and teens from the Oak Park School District performed well-rehearsed and playful dance and musical performances throughout the day. A special thanks to the performers, teachers, coaches and parents for the wonderful collaboration. Thank you to all the vendors that worked on the event to bring us fabulous ice sculptures, ice skating, bonfires and S'mores, chili and hot cocoa, horseback riding, balloon art, and free mittens and hats. Thank you for the nice turnout!



Daddy Daughter Dance: An Enchanted Evening

On February 5, the Oak Park dads stepped up to the plate. They arrived in style, they opened the doors for their dates, they posed for pictures, and they danced the night away with some very fortunate and special young girls. Cinderella and Prince Charming were the evening's fan favorites.



OPAACC Holds Artist Appreciation Reception for Robert Mirek

The Oak Park Arts and Cultural Commission held their first Artist Appreciation Reception in honor of sculptor and painter Robert Mirek, a business owner in Oak Park. His wooden sculptures have graced the halls of the Oak Park City Hall Art Gallery for months lending a touch of cultural class on display.

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

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

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community happenings

February 2016 Dates to Remember

February 1 - City Council Meeting
February 2 - Groundhog Day
February 3 - Library Book Club Meeting
February 3 - Independence Day Commission Meeting
February 5 - Daddy Daughter Dance, 7p.m.
February 8 - Deadline to Register to Vote in the March 8 Presidential Primary
February 8 - Planning Commission Meeting
February 8 - Emergency Services Council Meeting
February 8 - Friends of Oak Park Library Meeting
February 10 - Ash Wednesday
February 10 - Black History Music and Poetry at Library with Jay Burns
February 11 - Ethnic Advisory Commission Meeting
February 14 - Valentine's Day
February 15 - Presidents' Day
February 15 - City Council Meeting
February 16 - Winter 2015 Taxes Due
February 16 - Beautification Advisory Commission Meeting
February 16 - Library Board of Directors Meeting
February 17 - Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
February 17 - Communications Commission Meeting
February 18 - Recycling and Environmental Conservation Commission
February 18 - Corridor Improvement Authority Board Meeting
February 22 - Public Safety Retirement System Meeting
February 23 - Black History Bingo at Library
February 24 - Summerfest Meeting
February 24 - Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting
February 25 - State of the City Address
February 29 - Last Day to Pay 2015 Taxes
February 29 - Summer Recreation Job Applications Due

March 2016 Dates to Remember

March 2 - Independence Day Commission Meeting
March 5 - Clerk's Office Open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Absentee Voting
March 7 - City Council Meeting
March 8 - Presidential Primary Election. Polls Open
March 9 - Library Book Club Meeting
March 10 - Ethnic Advisory Commission Meeting
March 13 - Daylight Savings Begin
March 14 - Board of Review Meeting
March 14 - Planning Commission Meeting
March 14 - Emergency Services Council Meeting
March 14 - Friends of Oak Park Library Meeting
March 15 - Library Board of Directors Meeting
March 16 - Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
March 16 - Communications Commission Meeting
March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
March 17 - Corridor Improvement Authority Board Meeting
March 20 - Palm Sunday/First Day of Spring
March 21 - City Council Meeting
March 22 - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
March 23 - Purim Begins at Sunset
March 23 - Summerfest Meeting
March 23 - Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting
March 24 - Purim Ends at Sunset
March 24 - City Offices Closed in Observance of Holiday
March 24 - (No Delay in Trash Collection)
March 25 - Good Friday
March 25 - (No Delay in Trash Collection)
March 25 - Oak Park Library Closed in Observance of Holiday
March 27 - Easter Sunday
March 27 - Oak Park Library Closed
March 28 - Board of Review Meeting
March 28 - Public Safety Retirement System Meeting

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- Tree Trimming
- Storm Damage Specialist
- FREE ESTIMATES

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Other Services Available! Visit www.jmac-treeanddebris.com
Specializing in Removal of **DANGEROUS TREES**

Do you want to become active within the community?
We are currently accepting applications
Contact City Clerk's Office (248) 691-7544
City of Oak Park
Boards and Commissions

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