



Voters will respond to Public Safety Proposal

November 6 Election Ballot



The question asked by Proposal 2012-05 on the General Election ballot is whether voters will authorize the City to establish a retirement system exclusively for Public Safety officers, and to levy sufficient taxes annually to fund officers' retirement costs.

Because of the multi-faceted component issues that are addressed by this proposition, the response of voters who go to the polls on Nov. 6 will have a significant impact. A majority "yes" will result in expansion of the Public Safety Department's personnel roster. It also will enable the City to balance its General Fund Budget over the next three to four years, and provide the potential for enhancing other priority citizen services without further tax increases.

Approval of the measure would accomplish these goals by eliminating a large and ongoing expenditure from the municipal budget. It would shift financing of the newly-separate Public Safety retirement system to yearly millage levies dedicated solely to that purpose. This administrative process is stipulated by law (an officers-

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Jr. NBA Hoops Registration Deadline

The deadline to register for participation in the 2013 Jr. NBA Co-Ed Basketball League is Nov. 15, the Recreation Department has announced. There are four age divisions: 8-10; 11&12; 13& 14; 15-18. The fee is \$60. An additional \$5 is charged for late signups. First-time participants are required to present birth certificates in order to register. Practices will begin in early December. League competition starts January 12. *Call or come into the Recreation Department today!*

Recreation Office Hours: 10am-1pm & 2-4pm Phone: 248-691-7555



Recycling Pays Dividends

to City, residents & businesses

Statistics prove that when private citizens and commercial locations participate in the recycling process, there are benefits across-the-board. The Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCCRA) describes the effect with a concise slogan, It Pays to Recycle!

Here are some basic, and documented facts
See RECYCLING on page 3



Manager's Monthly Bulletin

Erik Tungate

It has been a long haul getting here but we have made it to the November 6 general election. I do not have to tell you about the importance of the election both for our country and our City so please turn out and vote. If you need assistance in determining how to vote, please contact the City Clerk's office at (248) 691-7544. Soon enough, the political ads and phone

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On the other hand, if the proposal is not approved Oak Park will likely have to deal with an expected \$1.5 million

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No matter what, we are going to continue to do everything in our power to find greater efficiencies and cost savings. Approval of it simply means that we will be able to stabilize and refine our services for at least the next seven



“We won’t be able to hire back any of the officers who have been laid off because of this year’s huge budget shortfall and we won’t be able to keep the three serving officers that are funded by the soon-to-expire COPS grant,” said City Manager Erik Tungate. “Plus, we will not be able to expand our capacity to deliver other major public services that residents have identified as priorities.”



Carol Tine

Erik Tungate

RECYCLING

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mented, numbers that are specific to Oak Park, which is 1 of 12 SOCCRA “community partners” in the region:

- The City is paid \$50 for each ton of recyclable material collected within its borders.
- Oak Park pays \$27.50 for each ton of trash sent to landfills. The volume of this minus-factor tonnage can be substantially reduced by placing recyclable materials in recycling bins for collection, rather than in garbage containers for refuse pickup.
- Last year, Oak Park earned \$28,920 in revenue from recyclables. SOCCRA estimates that this amount can be doubled or even tripled if more residents take part in the

process. The math is fundamental – every ton of materials diverted from refuse collection into the recycling system simultaneously cuts the City’s expenditure for trash sent to landfills and adds to the City’s revenue from recycling tonnage. (In 2011, Royal Oak earned \$165,000 via recycling.)

Taxpayers, of course, benefit in the long run.

\$\$-SAVING NOTE: Residents can purchase recycling bins at half-price throughout the month of November, SOCCRA and the Department of Public Works have announced. Anyone who needs a replacement bin or wants an additional one will pay \$6, rather than the regular price of \$12, this month only at either City Hall or the Library. Questions should be directed to 248-691-7470.

Businesses, as well as residents, are included in the tax-paying category, and SOCCRA offers ample incentives for those which are located in Oak Park to “start recycling now.” The organization will provide free bins and carts, free weekly collection, and free consultation with experts on how to implement and sustain a successful recycling program.

To access further information and register for these services, contact Colette by calling 248-288-5150 or via the Internet: recycling@socrra.org.



Scam Alert

More frauds are targeting seniors

Soliciting by telephone is an effective method used by a number of honest companies to increase business and legitimate charities to raise money for worthy causes. Unfortunately, this approach also is used by many dishonest people.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), nearly 25 million Americans are victims of consumer fraud each year and many of these are senior citizens who represent a rapidly increasing segment of the population. Individuals who are 65 or older already represent about 13 percent of the country’s population, which makes them prime targets for con artists.



The statistics are alarming. Studies show that senior citizens are more at risk to be targeted by telemarketing scams than other age groups, and fraudulent telemarketers direct anywhere from 56 to 80 percent of their calls at older Americans. These con artists operate on the premise that senior citizens are generally more vulnerable and specifically more susceptible to their style of trickery.

However, because informed awareness is the key to protection against being defrauded, the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) urges seniors to become educated consumers. And, the organization offers valuable guidelines for achieving the goal. Public Safety experts point to the following cautions:

“Offers that sound too good to be true usually are. Before you make a commitment, ask to receive the ‘unbelievable deal’ or the ‘amazing prize offer’ in writing so you can evaluate it carefully. Never give out your personal information over the phone or Internet unless you have initiated the contact. Legitimate business callers will never ask you for this information over the phone. If a caller asks you to pay for an offer in advance or asks for your credit card number or Social Security number, tell the person you don’t give out personal information over the telephone.”

Here, courtesy of the NCPC, are the most prevalent types of scams currently targeting seniors:

Medicare Discount Card -- This card is available to people enrolled in Medicare, but not everyone on Medicare is

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Where to report problem events

- To report a *downed power line*, notify **Public Safety** by calling **9-1-1**.
- For all information about repair progress only call **DTE Energy** at **800-477-4747**.
- To report a *water main break*, between 7:30 am and 4 pm Monday through Thursday call the **DPW** at **248-691-7497**. During any other time period call **Public Safety** at **248-691-7447**.
- To report a suspected *gas leak*, call **Consumers Energy** at **800-477-5050** (web page is www.consumersenergy.com).



Preparation crucial to surviving home fires

No one likes to think about a scenario in which they and their family are confronted with a potentially “life or death” situation, but the Public Safety Department strongly recommends that all residents do exactly that when the topic is home fires. Advance preparation literally can make the difference between survival and tragedy.

The need to understand and act upon this reality is so important that the National Fire Prevention Week theme for 2012 was Have Two Ways Out. This exhortation refers specifically to the need for families to develop, and practice, an escape plan to be implemented in case a dangerous house blaze ever does occur. While the special educational event is commemorated for seven days every October, the information it promotes is applicable year-round.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), these are the fundamental steps for establishing an effective escape plan:

- Draw a simple, clear map of your home, including all doors and windows.
- Mark at least two ways (doors and/or windows) out of every room.
- Make certain that all doors and windows leading to the outside can easily be opened from the inside.
- Designate a meeting place outside of the house for all members of the family, such as a particular tree, light pole or a mailbox.
- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day twice a year with everyone in your household. Practice using each of the alternative ways out that you have specified.
- Explain that if you have to go through smoke to get out, “stay low and go,” meaning go under the smoke to get to your way out.
- Emphasize that once you are out, stay out!
- Call 911 from outside the house. First, get out!



Smoke alarms provide all-important call to action

Creating and practicing a solid escape plan is a great idea, but its life-saving capacity depends on knowing when the time comes to immediately put it into action. That is the key role played by smoke alarms which, the NFPA states, cut the risk of home fire fatalities by half.

Another statistic underscores the message: About two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes either without smoke alarms or with smoke alarms that aren’t working properly. “Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan,” the association states. “When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you an early warning so you can get outside quickly.”

Officer Thomas Oaks, Oak Park Public Safety’s Fire Inspector, puts it this way: “Following every precaution for fire prevention will definitely cut down the risk of a house fire, but there is no such thing as a ‘guarantee’ that one will not occur. Working smoke alarms save many lives every year.”

Considering the striking numbers and the testimonials from the NFPA and the Public Safety Department, there can be no reasonable doubt about the life-protecting value of functioning smoke detectors. The most common questions from homeowners concern not whether the devices are essential to family safety, but how the devices are most effectively deployed. These are the experts’ answers:

- Install an alarm inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnecting all of the devices so that when one sounds they all do provides the best protection.
- Smoke alarms should not be installed inside the kitchen because incidental smoke from stove or oven cooking can trigger false alarms. A general rule is to place the nearest one at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance.
- Every smoke alarm in your house should be checked at least once per month by using the test button.
- Every smoke alarm in your house that reaches 10 years old should be replaced by a new one.
- Questions about the use of smoke alarms in your

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City Hall/Public Safety Building

Construction project to continue through winter



There is plenty of pre-winter activity at the site of Oak Park's new City Hall/Public Safety Building and the work won't come to a complete halt, even during the coldest weather months, until the structure is ready to open next summer.

Construction is continuing on the timeline established last year when the project, just west of the current Public Safety headquarters, was initiated, according to Public Works Director and City Engineer Kevin Yee. While most of the tasks that will be performed over the winter won't be the kind of structural additions that are obvious to residents, they will be important to maintaining the progress, he said.

"Work crews will be taking care of a number of interior components of the overall job that are as necessary as the more visible aspects of the project. These are the types of steps that can be taken despite cold temperatures and frozen precipitation. Accomplishing them over the winter will keep us on track for finishing the building in August of 2013."

Meanwhile, below are excerpts from a status report, regarding current and near-future construction progress, which Yee submitted in mid-October to City Manager Eric Tungate.

√ The remaining emplacement of structural steel and pouring of floor slabs is continuing and will be

finished by late October.

√ The round columns in front of the building are being poured.

√ Roof decking, welding and final fastening is due to be completed in early November.

√ Masons will continue brick and block work into early December, with the goal of finishing that element of the project.

√ The site's geothermal wells are finished and pipes are being installed from the geo-field to the building. (A "geothermal" system taps into and draws natural heat from beneath the surface of the Earth.)

√ Additional utility work, such as the installation of water lines and storm sewers, is underway and expected to be completed by early November.



Community Center construction update

Phase one of the renovation has been finished, meaning that the building's main entrance (facing Oak Park Boulevard), primary service counter and activity rooms 1 through 3 are open to the public.

SPECIAL NOTE: The west entrance will be open on Election Day, Nov. 6. Until then it remains closed, and after Nov. 6 it will again be closed until work at that location has been completed. Renovation of activity rooms A and B will be initiated after the Election.

Like us on Facebook



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Follow us on Twitter



CityofOakPark

Oak Park has a presence on social media outlets

Residents, prior residents, and those living abroad are now, more than ever, able to have easy access to interact with their City in ways previously unheard of! Our growing social media presence allows us, the City, to add another venue of communication. Find up-to-date information in your daily feeds, as well as links to City programming, such as, Council meetings, department TV shows and more.

You can further your experience with us by interacting with City postings or by sharing family-friendly photos you may have taken at any of our city-sponsored events!

DETECTORS

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house can be directed to the Public Safety Department by calling 248-691-7504.



Another type of alarm can also save lives

There actually are two right answers to the question, “What device should be used to protect against home heating malfunctions?” Obviously, one of these responses is smoke alarms. The other correct response probably isn’t quite as obvious but it can be just as important to know – carbon monoxide detectors.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is often termed “the silent killer” because it is invisible, odorless and colorless. The gas is created when fuels such as oil, natural gas, methane, propane, coal and wood burn incompletely. This means cooking, as well as heating, equipment is a potential source of the deadly gas in a home.

Like smoke alarms, CO detectors are endorsed for placement every household by both Public Safety experts and the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). Similarly, they also should be installed on every level and in a central location outside each sleeping area. They also provide maximum protection when all of a home’s units are interconnected, so that when one sounds an alarm they all do. **IMPORTANT:** always choose a CO detector that has label of a recognized testing laboratory, and always the follow manufacturer’s instructions for specific placement and mounting height.

The Public Safety Department provided the following NFPA-published guidelines regarding in-home CO detectors.

- If a carbon monoxide alarm sounds, immediately move everyone in the house for a fresh air location, outdoors or by an open door or window. Call for help from there and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.
- During and after a heavy snowfall, make sure that vents for the furnace, dryer, stove and fireplace are not clogged.
- Whenever you decide to warm up a vehicle before driving somewhere remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run the engine inside the garage, even if the door is open.
- Before leaving the driveway, make certain your vehicle’s exhaust pipe opening is completely clear of

snow.

- If you need to use a generator, do so only in a well-ventilated outdoor location that is away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO, so never use them inside the house; only outdoors.



Incorrect use of space heaters is a dangerous gamble

Many residents whose furnaces aren’t sufficient to warm every part of their homes use additional heat supplies for greater comfort during the cold weather season. But there’s a very uncomfortable fact to keep in mind: Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths.

Every winter the Public Safety Department responds to several house fires that are caused by incorrect use of portable heating devices, which are in widespread use especially during January and February. While officials understand why ancillary equipment is implemented – for example, because of the high costs associated with central heating – they warn that incorrect usage can prove extremely dangerous.

Some easy-to-follow basic precautions can substantially reduce the risks.

- Keep any flammable material, such as curtains and bedclothes, at least three feet from heat sources.
- Maintain a three-foot “kid-free zone” around space heaters and open fireplaces. Follow the same rule for household pets.
- Turn off portable heaters when you leave the room or when going to bed.
- Always follow manufacturer’s instructions for operating any kind of portable device.
- Have a qualified professional handle the installation of stationary space heating equipment, water heaters and central heating hardware. A professional will follow local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Similarly, have a qualified professional inspect and clean your furnace and chimneys every year.
- If you use a fireplace to help heat an area of your home, make sure it has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Note that ashes should be cooled off before you remove them into a metal container for disposal. Keep the ash container a safe distance from the house.
- Never use the oven to heat your home!

SCAMS

from page 3

eligible. If you are in a state Medicare program that provides drug coverage, you cannot get a Medicare discount drug card. Often scam-artists will call, email, or knock at your door to sell you this card. If someone approaches you by any of these methods, it is a scam. Under the program, companies are allowed to advertise their cards by mail, TV, radio and newspapers or other print media. They, however, are not allowed to call, send emails, or visit your home unless YOU ask them to do so. You can protect yourself and your loved ones from such scams by visiting the Medicare Web site, www.medicare.gov, to access a list of approved cards and other information or call toll-free, 800-633-4227. AARP also has helpful information at www.aarp.org.

Charity -- Older Americans are very generous in helping others. However, there are many people looking to exploit the senior citizens' good nature. The elderly are often asked by professional con-artists to supply credit card information to help the victims of a recent natural disaster. In addition to credit card fraud, senior citizens also are asked to provide their sensitive

personal financial information including bank account numbers and Social Security numbers. Most states require



charities to register with the state, which reports how they use donations.

Prizes & Sweepstakes -- Senior citizens are the "high value" targets in this scheme. Many times scam artists will ask that seniors put down an advance payment to guarantee prize "winnings." Others will ask that the senior citizen provide personal information before receiving "winnings." These should be signs to avoid the questionable businesses or persons. The bottom line is, if the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. To find more information on safeguarding yourself against prizes and sweepstakes scams, visit the National Consumers

League at www.nclnet.org/.

Counterfeit Drugs -- Due to the nature of aging, seniors are also the main target for these types of scams. The biggest potential these types of senior drug scams offer is through online "pharmacies." Many of these online pharmacies will advertise cheaper, yet more effective, medications than a reputable pharmacy provides you. When the drugs arrive they are often useless knockoffs. As a result, the victims lose the money, and their health is jeopardized. Check out the Internet to determine whether an online pharmacy is officially licensed. If it is not, stay clear.

Telemarketing Fraud -- According to the FBI, individuals 60 years or older are prime targets for this type of fraud. Predators will often offer senior citizens a "free" or "low cost" vacation as long as you "act now." If you hear such lines as the ones above, hang up. There are numerous other examples of telemarketing fraud that target the elderly. For more information on telemarketing fraud go online to <http://www.fraud.org> or www.fraud.org/telemarketing/teleset.html

Friends of the Oak Park Library, needs friends more than ever

The Friends of the Oak Park Library, a volunteer organization that since the mid-1950s has maintained a tradition of consistently providing crucial support, is thus more valuable than ever before. And for that reason the residents' group is seeking to expand its ranks. "We and the thousands of people of all ages in the community we serve are fortunate to receive such outstanding support from the Friends," said Library Director Beth Tompkins. "Everyone benefits from their many contributions to the betterment of the Library."

Residents also are encouraged to join the Friends of the Oak Park Library, an independent volunteer organization that has provided crucial support for its institutional friend for more than a half-century. The group's fund-raising efforts, such as its two annual used book sales, have funded many programs and the purchase of numerous items for public use at the Library. Following are the membership fees for the current year: individual, \$10; family, \$15; Student, \$5; club/association, \$15; business, \$25; patron, \$100.

The Friends of the Library meet at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month (with the exceptions of July and August) in room 5 of the Oak Park Community Center.

I want to be a 2013 Friend of the Oak Park Library!

- ☐ **Student.....\$5**
- ☐ **Individual.....\$10**
- ☐ **Family.....\$15**
- ☐ **Club/Association...\$15**
- ☐ **Business.....\$25**
- ☐ **Patron.....\$100**
- ☐ **Tell me more about becoming an active member**

Enclosed is my payment
for \$ _____
payable to:
Friends of the Oak Park
Library

Name: _____

Address/City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Remit form and payment to: **Friends of the Oak Park Library**
14200 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Thursday, November 1

7pm Town Hall Meeting

Join City leaders and other fellow residents in open discussion regarding the public safety based ballot proposal #2012-05 that will be voted on during the General Election on Nov. 6. To be held in Room B in the Community Center at 7pm. Check social media for webcast information.

Saturday, November 3

City Clerk's Office Open

The City Clerk's office will be open from 10am-2pm for those people needing to obtain absentee ballots.

Monday, November 5

City Council Mtg.

Council convenes at City Hall in the council chambers. Regularly scheduled meetings begin at 7pm. Find info via the City web site:

ci.oak-park.mi.us/

Sunday, November 4

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Tuesday, November 6

2012 General Election

Registered Oak Park voters may visit their respective polling locations to cast their votes. Polling locations will open at 7am and close at 8pm.

Wednesday, November 7

Book Beat Presents

Caldecott Medalist David Small and Michigan Author Award Winner Sarah Stewart at the Oak Park Library. Books are available for purchase now at Book Beat and during the event at the Library. Event starts at 6:30pm.

Sunday, November 11

Veteran's Day

Wednesday, November 14

Friends of the Library Mtg.

Join fellow residents in an effort to support, sponsor, plan fun and educational programs, as well as coordinate annual book sales, for the Oak Park Library. Community Center Meeting Room #5 at 7pm

Monday, November 12

City Council Mtg.

Council convenes at City Hall in the council chambers. Regularly scheduled meetings begin at 7pm. Find info via the City web site:

ci.oak-park.mi.us/

Wednesday, November 21

City offices closed

City offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving

City offices will be closed. No trash pick-up today. Trash pick-up delayed by one day this week.

Monday, November 26

Huge Sale - Most Items \$6

From 11am to 5pm Nov. 26 in the Comm. Center, quality products will be available at factory-direct prices, up to 80% below retail. Items like rings, watches, bracelets, scarves, ties, earrings, etc.

Wednesday, November 28

Arts & Cultural Comm.

Join fellow residents in an effort to study & recommend plans for City-wide cultural enrichment programs.

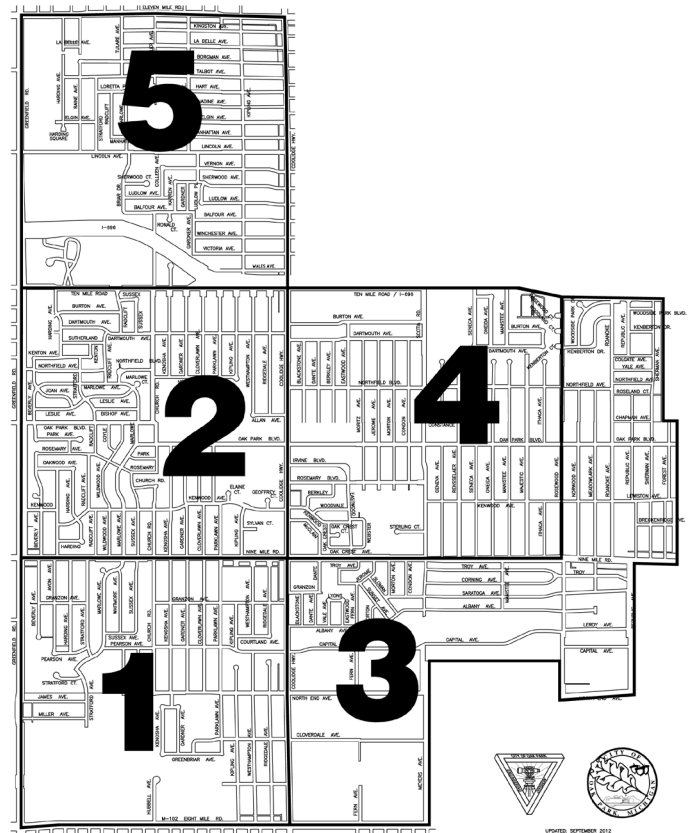
Community Center Meeting Room #5 at 7pm

Have a "Community Happening" we should spotlight here?
(eg. community groups, block club mtgs., etc.)

Email us at
oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us

LEAF PICK-UP INFORMATION

Specific dates to rake your leaves by



SECTION 1

OCTOBER 1 & 2
OCTOBER 15, 16, & 17
NOVEMBER 5, 6, & 7
NOVEMBER 28 & 29
DECEMBER 12

SECTION 2

OCTOBER 3 & 4
OCTOBER 18, 19, & 22
NOVEMBER 8, 9, & 12
NOV. 30 & DEC. 3
DECEMBER 12

SECTION 3

OCTOBER 5 & 8
OCTOBER 23, 24, & 25
NOVEMBER 13, 14, & 15
DECEMBER 4 & 5
DECEMBER 13

SECTION 4

OCTOBER 9 & 10
OCTOBER 26, 29, & 30
NOVEMBER 16, 19, & 20
DECEMBER 6 & 7
DECEMBER 13

SECTION 5

OCTOBER 11 & 12
OCT. 31 & NOV. 1, & 2
NOVEMBER 21, 26, & 27
DECEMBER 10 & 11
DECEMBER 14

Please note that on these dates, per each section, vehicles must be parked off the street at all times.

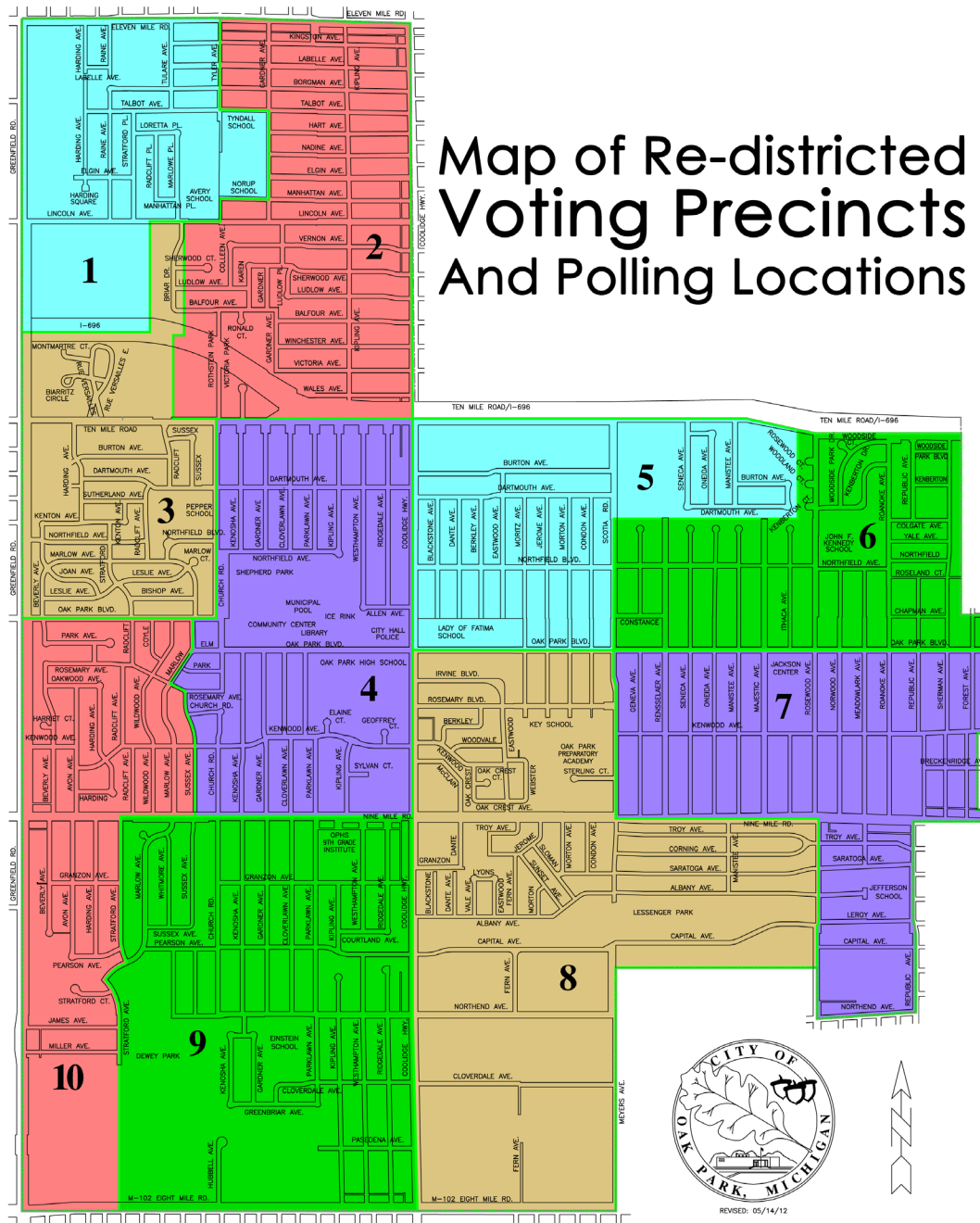
Leaves that are mixed with grass clippings, brush or any other yard waste will not be collected.

Questions regarding the 2012 leaf collection program should be directed to DPW at 248-691-7497.

VOTING PRECINCT INFORMATION

Where to find your precinct

Map of Re-districted Voting Precincts And Polling Locations



City of Oak Park polling location addresses:

- #1-- NORUP JR. HIGH, 14450 Manhattan
- #2-- NORUP JR. HIGH, 14450 Manhattan
- #3-- PEPPER SCHOOL, 24301 Church
- #4-- PEPPER SCHOOL, 24301 Church
- #5-- OAK PARK PREPARATORY ACADEMY, 23261 Scotia
- #6-- JACKSON CENTER, 23561 Rosewood
- #7-- JACKSON CENTER, 23561 Rosewood
- #8-- OAK PARK PREPARATORY ACADEMY, 23261 Scotia
- #9-- COMMUNITY CENTER, 14300 Oak Park Blvd.
- #10-- COMMUNITY CENTER, 14300 Oak Park Blvd.