



# Revised Public Safety proposal on Election ballot

<http://www.ci.oak-park.mi.us>

Residents will have another opportunity on Nov. 6 to authorize an administrative change that would enable the City to hire additional Public Safety officers as well as to retain three others whose current positions are funded by a federal grant which will expire next year. Approval of Proposal 2012-05 in the upcoming General Election also would enable Oak Park to balance its budget for the next three to four years without further tax increases, and to enhance other core municipal services which residents identify as priorities.

The proposal asks voters' consent for the City to establish, under provisions of Michigan PA 345, a retirement system exclusively for Public Safety officers, and to levy sufficient taxes annu-



ally to fund officers' retirement costs. This system would be totally separate from the one which currently includes all municipal employees.

Implementing the change would eliminate a major ongoing expenditure from the City's General Fund Budget. The Public Safety system would be financed strictly by yearly millage levies dedicated solely to that pur-

pose. By law, all of the revenue generated by those levies would be used solely for the new retirement system.

Proposal 2012-05 is structured to accomplish the same objectives as those targeted by a proposal which was turned down by just 20 votes in the August Primary. However, it is different in several significant ways from the previous version. Most importantly, caps the annual levy for a separate Public Safety retirement system at no more than 7 mills, and limits the life of the measure to 7 years. It should also be noted that the millage levied in any year cannot exceed the level required to fund the system, so the 7-mill maximum will not necessarily be reached in any given year.

See **BALLOT** on page 3



## Leaf Pickup Details

### Dates & Procedures

When the City introduced a new leaf pickup system four years ago its primary objective was to enable residents to coordinate their raking and bagging chores with a predetermined collection schedule. Because this goal was

See **LEAF PICK UP** on page 2

## Upcoming Town Hall Meetings



Bring your neighbors, bring your block club friends, and bring your questions! The City has scheduled two additional town hall meetings to engage in open discussion with residents about the Public Safety based 2012-05 proposal coming up on the November 6 General Election ballot. The two remaining town hall meetings are scheduled for Thursday, October 4, and Thursday, November 1. Both will be at 7pm in Room B at the Oak Park Community Center.

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*Can't be here for the meetings? If you have internet access, you can still watch the meetings via our LIVE webcast. Questions regarding the 2012-05 can also be submitted via our social media to be answered during the meetings.*

*Webcast link: [www.ustream.com/channel/optv15](http://www.ustream.com/channel/optv15)*



## Trunk-or-Treat

### Halloween Fun for City Youth

Enjoying Halloween can be a great family affair in Oak Park. Just ask any of the little boys and girls who attended the Recreation Department's Halloween special event in past years. Or, ask their parents how nice it is to watch their

See **SPOOKTACULAR** on page 6

## LEAF PICK UP

from page 1

achieved and has led to additional benefits both for homeowners and the Department of Public Works, the design has been implemented every autumn since.

Here's how the program, which went into action Oct. 1 and will continue until Dec. 3, works:

As illustrated by the map on this page, collection vehicles are deployed within five sections of the city during specific time frames. Dates and locations are established according to the annual leaf-fall patterns within the respective areas.

The approach has proven to be very effective, according to the DPW Director Kevin Yee.

"Every standard for success we can apply has shown that this process is more effective than any prior method used over the years," Yee said. "Residents' evaluations have been consistently positive. People find it very helpful to know when it's time to set their leaves out at curb side in order to coincide as closely as possible with the next collection in their neighborhood. In fact, citizen comments have strongly focused on the importance of having a basic schedule.

"This system is much better for the DPW because we are able to do a more efficient and thorough job, just as it is much more convenient for our citizens. The volume of tonnage we are collecting has increased significantly."

While describing the system as a major improvement, Yee pointed out that neither it nor any other one will ever be perfect. A number of variables can affect the operation: weather factors such as high winds, rain and snow; and the hit-and-miss predictability of when the heaviest leaf-fall will occur within each section. Also, it takes time for DPW crews to do the most thorough job possible in every neighborhood. These realities are why he emphasizes the concept of time frames.

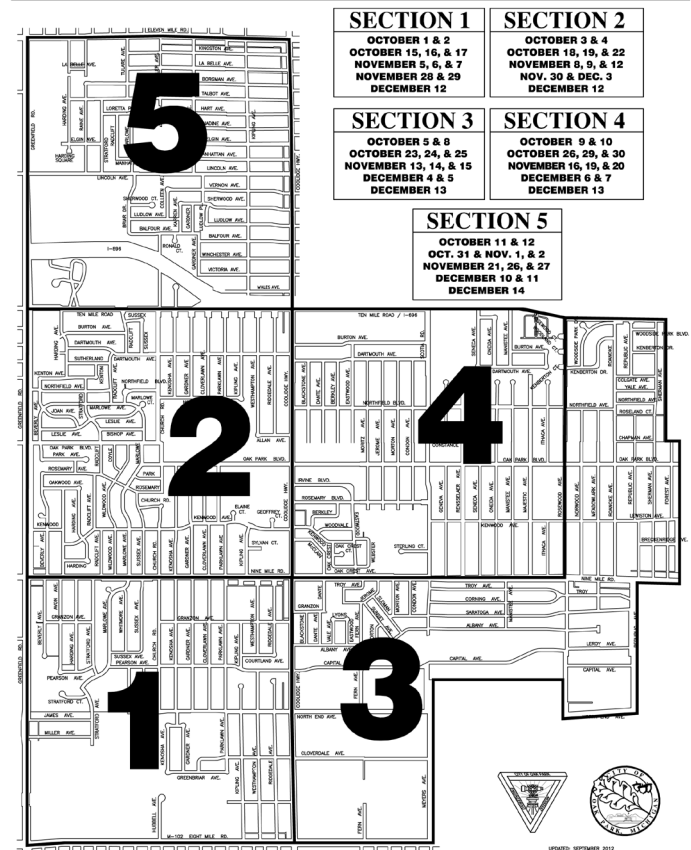
"There is no way we can issue an advance guarantee that any specific street will receive leaf pickup service on a definite date within the series of dates listed on the map," he said. "We are, however, committed to providing the service on every street in each area, within the established time frames. Those streets that aren't taken care of on the first day we are in a section will be serviced on the second or third day."

The DPW will follow the schedule displayed on the map as closely as possible, plus it will post reminder signs in neighborhoods that are about to receive pickup service. Signs also will be posted announcing any schedule adjustments that might become necessary.

Yee cautioned that any address at which leaves are not already at curb side when the collection vehicle passes will not receive service until the next scheduled time period for the section. He reminded residents of regulations stating that:

- Vehicles should be parked off the street at all times during scheduled leaf pickup dates for the area.
- Leaves that are mixed with grass clippings, brush or any other yard waste will not be collected.

## LEAF PICK UP DATES



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

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## Oak Park has a presence on social media outlets

Residents, prior residents, and those living abroad are more, now 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!

## BALLOT

from page 1

The first-year levy, beginning next July 1, is projected at just under 6.5 mills. This represents an estimated \$200 for the average Oak Park home.

What will happen if Proposal 2012-05 is not approved? According to City Manager Erik Tungate the real question is what will not happen.

"We won't be able to hire back any of the officers who were laid off because of this fiscal year's large budget shortfall," he said. "We won't be able to keep the three serving officers that are funded by the COPS grant that will expire. We will not be able to expand the City's capacity to maintain and deliver other major public services.

"In addition, Oak Park is facing a \$1.5 million deficit in the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) because of a projected decrease of at least 12% decrease in taxable values, along with a loss of revenue due to the State Legislature's takeaway of the business personal property tax, and continuing cost increases. Unless the proposal passes, it will be extremely difficult for us to deal with the challenge without having to implement even

more cutbacks."

Tungate stated that these realities provide the motivation for placing Proposal 2012-05 on the Nov. 6 Election ballot, and citizen feedback following the Primary led to the important revisions that make it different from the proposal that was narrowly defeated in August.

"The consensus among the many citizens who offered their opinions is that voters are supportive of the aims and prefer having limits built into the language it isn't 'open-ended'" he explained. "This proposal directly addresses the concerns, and it should be emphasized that the prior proposal lost by just 20 votes despite them."



## Guidelines for Safer Trick-or-Treating

As advised by Oak Park Public Safety



Hundreds of children will roam the city's neighborhoods Halloween night to celebrate the occasion in traditional fashion. Trick-or-treating has been a staple practice for generations – youngsters in all kinds of costumes collecting candies and other "loot" in neighborhoods both near and far.

However, Halloween in 2012 isn't the same as it was decades ago. Not all of the scary aspects are pretend ghosts, monsters or other creepy fantasies. Unfortunately, there are a number of all-too-real dangers to consider these days.

That is why the Public Safety Department has issued the following list of common sense guidelines that can help Oak Park's adults keep their children safer on Halloween night:

- It's a depressing fact of 21st century life: You have to be wary of sex offenders! Go on the Internet and search for a site identifying convicted persons in Michigan and where they live. By clicking on your zip code you can view a list of registered offenders in your area and their street addresses. Make sure your kids stay away from those houses!
- Trick-or-treating isn't what it used to be for other reasons, too. In general, it should not be taken for granted that children will be safe walking the streets alone. Your best bet is to make certain that an adult is going with them; if not you, then another parent or two.
- Issue strict instructions that no collected treats are to be eaten until everything is brought home and examined by a parent to make certain there's no problem candy.
- Because "kids will be kids," explain to children of all age groups the difference between tricks and vandalism. If damage is caused and/or a cleanup becomes necessary

that's vandalism.

- Teach your youngsters not to get into a stranger's car, go into a house they don't know, or even talk to a stranger, no matter what that person says to them. They need to understand that some adults are bad and want to hurt children. Tell them what to do, should they be invited into a stranger's car or house – scream as loudly as they can to draw attention and run as fast as they can to a safe location.
- Similarly, warn kids not to cut through alleys or across dark fields if they are out alone. Make sure they know to stay in populated areas that are well-lighted and where there are lots of people around. Keep in mind that if they are old enough to go out alone they also are old enough to know the bad things can happen, especially if they don't follow common-sense guidelines.
- Emphasize the importance of crossing a street properly, even if you have done so a hundred times before. Kids are highly excited on Halloween and often don't think about the safety principles they know, but act impulsively instead. Make sure that if you have two or more children trick-or-treating together the older one always holds the others' hands whenever they cross a street.
- Set a time for your children to be home and emphasize how important it is for them to meet the deadline. Also stress that they must call you immediately if something happens and they are going to be delayed.

*More information about Halloween safety for children can be obtained by calling the Public Safety Department Community Coordinator's office, 248-691-7504.*



## Manager's Monthly Bulletin

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome I have received upon taking my position as the new City Manager. For those of you that do not know, the City Manager is the Chief Executive of the city government. That means I am responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of all City departments including public safety. It is a big job but I am thrilled to be here and am ready to take on the challenges we face.

This section of the Oak Park Branch will be reserved for a monthly column that I will dedicate to provide you with updates and information. This month's column will focus on the following items:

- Proposal #2012-05
- Economic Development

First, Proposal #2012-05 is on the ballot as a local proposal exclusive to Oak Park. If the voters allow this proposal to pass, the City would create a separately funded retirement system to pay for health care and retirement costs for public safety retirees only. As it stands today, these costs come out of the General Fund budget which has the responsibility for providing all

public services to residents and business owners. Freeing up these funds in the General Fund budget is necessary because revenue to the City has gone down as a result of the 2008 economic collapse. If the proposal fails, the City of Oak Park will face a projected 12% decrease in revenues that will create a \$1.5 million deficit next year due to continuing decreases in taxable values of property in the City, the loss of business personal property tax revenue from the State of Michigan, and general cost increases including rising health care costs. Simply put, one mill in 2008 equaled \$750,000 in revenue to the City while one mill in 2012 equals \$430,000 in revenue.

It is important to note that this is not a repeat of the proposal that lost by only 20 votes in the primary election in August. The Mayor and City Council heard you loud and clear and established the following restrictions:

- The cost of the retirement account fund cannot exceed 7 mills in any given year.
- The retirement account fund will totally expire in 7 years (it will be evaluated annually to determine the real-time costs; projected to be 6.45 mills

in the first year.)

Second, working along with the Mayor and City Council, I have begun the necessary steps of pursuing an economic development initiative here in the City. The fact is we have to have a plan to grow our tax base by making our community more amenable to the business community. While the details of the economic plan we are pursuing have not been fully developed to date, I expect to have a proposal to present to city council within the next six months. Your input is critical to this process so please watch for opportunities to get your voice heard in the coming days.

That is all I have for this month but please see the Oak Park Branch again next month for the newest installment of my monthly column.

See you around town!

Respectfully,



Erik Tungate

## Used Book Sale offers big reading bargains

It's a fund-raising event for a great cause and a cost-saving opportunity for those who participate! The "everyone wins" description accurately characterizes the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale, which will begin Thursday, Oct. 25 and run through Sunday the 28th.

This fall version of the sale -- normally, one also is held each spring but construction forced a cancellation in 2012 -- will be held in rooms 2 and 3 of the Community Center. Here are the daily schedules: Oct. 25, noon-8 p.m.; Oct. 26, noon-6 p.m.; Oct. 27, noon-6 p.m.; Oct. 28, 1-4 p.m. NOTE: Those attending either Thursday or Friday must enter through the Library. Those attending Saturday or Sunday must use the main door (facing Oak Park Boulevard) of the Community Center.

All proceeds generated by the event are dedicated to financing such Friends-sponsored programs as concerts, art exhibits and author visits and to the purchase of furniture and other items that are not included in the City's Budget expenditures for the Library. The semi-annual sales are the primary fund-raising sources for these purposes.

The Friends of the Oak Park Library have been providing such

crucial support since before there even was an Oak Park Library. In fact, the earliest members of the volunteer citizens' organization played an essential part in the campaign to establish a local municipal library. Many of them went door-to-door in the early 1950s rallying support throughout the community for the millage proposal that, by passing, accomplished the goal. This tradition has continued through the decades, steadily enriching the Library's programming and facilities.

Current Friends members will be preparing for the sale by working from noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 22-24. They're inviting other residents to help them with the setup during those time periods. *Persons wishing to lend a hand can volunteer by calling the Library at 248-691-7480 or e-mailing Friends of the Library Chairperson Linda Paul Francisco at [linapf46@yahoo.com](mailto:linapf46@yahoo.com)*



## Senior Roundup: Health Fair highlights fall slate

A day of prevention that can stave off illnesses throughout the months they most commonly strike leads the list of autumn 50-Up Club events. The annual Health Fair, from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 25 in rooms A and B of the Community Center, offers flu, pneumonia and shingles inoculations, as well as some basic health monitoring, and a wide range of informational materials and exhibits. The shots, which will be provided by Walgreen's of Oak Park, are covered by most insurance companies, including: Medicare Part B, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, HAP, and AARP. Without coverage the fees per vaccination are \$25.99 for flu and \$72.99 for pneumonia. The cost of shingles shots varies according to type of insurance. Persons who plan to receive inoculations should make sure to bring photo I.D. and their insurance card.

**The following are other 50-Up Club programs for the coming weeks:**

**Estate Planning Clinic** – On Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m. lawyers from Cooley Law School will be available to discuss wills, trusts, and power of attorney. The service is free of charge and appointments are not required.

**Computer class for beginners** – Introduction to Computers, designed for individuals who have no computer experience whatsoever,

will be taught from 9 to 11 a.m. on four consecutive Mondays, Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Instruction will focus on such basics as using the mouse and how to navigate. The fee is \$40.

**Using WiFi on your laptop** – Topics will include: "how to determine if you have WiFi," "how to set up WiFi on your computer," "where to find places that have WiFi," and "alternatives to using WiFi." This class is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26. The fee is \$40.

**"Huge sale - Most items \$6"** – From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 26 quality products will be available at factory-direct prices, up to 80 percent below retail. Items will include rings, watches, bracelets, scarves, ties, earrings, cuff links, purses, wallets, totes, reading glasses, pendants, chains and winter wear.

**Fox Theater trip** – Some reservations remain available for the Nov. 27 evening performance of Christmas with the Rat Pack. It's a nostalgic look back to Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin and the together during the 1950s and '60s at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas. Round-trip transportation is included in the \$56 cost. The bus will leave the Community Center at 6:30 p.m. and return at 10:15 p.m.

**Additional information about all of these programs can be obtained by calling the Senior Center, 248-691-7577.**

## VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES

Many of Oak Park's nearly 22,000 registered voters now reside in different precincts than did in past elections and will be casting their ballots at different locations. The changes were mandated by a state law which became applicable after the 2010 Census was completed.

The Nov. 6 General Election will be the second conducted since Oak Park's revised precinct configuration and assigned polling places became official. As a result, there are now 10 City precincts, reduced from what for many years had been a total of 19. What had been 11 polling locations have been reduced by consolidation to 5.

As the administrator of all elections held in Oak Park, the office is responsible for the training and assigning of precinct workers, in addition to the voter registration process, oversight of the Board of Canvassers, and the safekeeping and maintenance of voting equipment. Therefore financial relief for the City is among the benefits of precinct realignment and consolidation.

Fewer voting locations means that fewer election inspectors are now needed: the number is down from 100 workers to 60. As a result, the savings for Oak Park will be \$10,000-\$20,000 per local election and \$20,000-\$40,000 per state general election or presidential election.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD**

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Listed below are the various \_\_\_\_\_ in which you reside:

US Congressional: \_\_\_\_\_ State Senate: \_\_\_\_\_ State Rep.: \_\_\_\_\_ County Comm: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

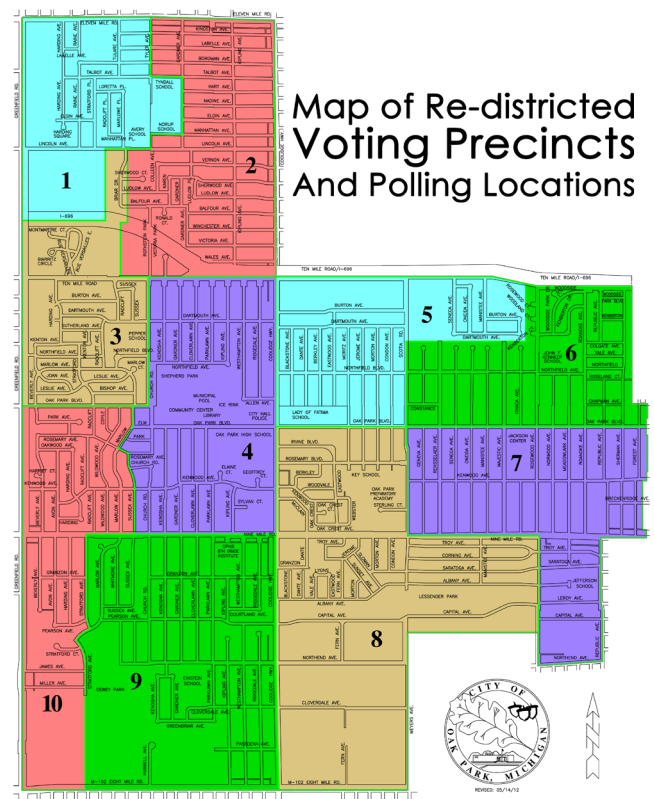
Polling Location: \_\_\_\_\_

School District Polling Location: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO SIGNATURE OF VOTER X

**Check here for precinct # and location**

Voter identification cards, which include each recipient's precinct number and polling location, were mailed to all registered voters the week of July 2 by the Clerk's Office.



### The newly-assigned polling locations 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.



## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Monday, October 1

#### *Curbside Leaf Pickup Begins*

### Wednesday, October 3

#### *Beautification Awards Ceremony*

Resident and business recipients of this year's awards will be presented with certificates and signs for their work in beautifying their properties in the City. Ceremony to commence at 7pm Rm. A in Oak Park Community Cntr.

### Thursday, October 4

#### *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 November 6.

To be held in Room B in the Community Center at 7pm  
*Check social media for webcast information.*

### Saturday, October 6

#### *Low Cost Pet Vaccinations*

This clinic is presented by All About Animals. Vaccinate your pet against Distemper, DHLPP(dogs), Rabies, Bordetella(Kennel Cough), and Feline Leukemia. \$10 per shot. Held at the Community Center, Room B from 10am - 2pm

### Tuesday, October 9

#### *Voter Registration Deadline*

Residents are advised to register to vote on or prior to this date if they are planning to vote November 6, 2012. No late registration is possible. Visit the Clerks office or local SOS branch.

### Tuesday, October 9

#### *Urban Blight Meeting*

Resident, Keith McClellan who has urban planning experience in many states, including Michigan, will lead

fellow residents in a conversation to discuss ways and plans of action to help improve the City of Oak Park. At Oak Park Library at 7pm.

### Wednesday, October 10

#### *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, October 15

#### *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, October 24

#### *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

### Thursday, October 25

#### *Annual Health Fair*

The fair offers flu, pneumonia & shingles inoculations, and basic health monitoring. A wide range of informational materials & exhibits will also be available. Please bring picture ID & insurance card for shots (fees may apply).

Event is free and located in the Community Center Room A&B from 9am-Noon

#### **October 25 - 28**

#### *Library Used Book Sale*

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Held in Rooms 2&3 in the community center. Thurs. Noon-8pm, Fri. Noon-6pm, Sat. Noon-6pm & Sun. Noon-4pm

### Saturday, October 27

#### *Halloweekends Cedar Point*

Family & teens will travel to Cedar Point for a day of fun & excitement. The trip will be supervised by our recreation coordinators and extra staff if needed. Cost is \$74/person. *Sign up by Oct. 18.*

248-691-7555

### Wednesday, October 31

#### *Halloween Spooktacular*

Trunk or Treat and other fun outdoor Halloween activities are back for kids ages 5-10yrs accompanied by an adult. West end of community center from 5:30-7pm

### 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 November 6.

To be held in Room B in the Community Center at 7pm  
*Check social media for webcast information.*

Have a "Community Happening" we should spotlight here?

(eg. community groups, block club mtgs., etc.)

Email us at

[oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us](mailto:oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us)

## Recreation Brochure Mailed

Residents should receive the department's latest Family City Fun Guide during the first several days of this month. The Fall/Winter 2012/13 edition was mailed Oct. 1 to all residential addresses in the City. Additional copies are available free-of-charge at the Community Center.

## SPOOKTACULAR

from page 1

kids have a great time at a supervised event, free of the concerns associated with young children trick-or-treating.

Trunk-or-Treat is specifically designed for kids age 5 through 10 and their parents or guardians. It takes place in the parking lot on the west side of the Community, where dozens of vehicles are parked with their trunk lids open, displaying a variety of treats. This year's edition, scheduled (of course) on Halloween evening, Oct. 31, is set from 5:30 to 7 p.m. No registration is required.

Children, who must be accompanied by an adult in order to participate, should bring their own bags for gathering the variety of goodies they'll collect as they advance from vehicle to vehicle along "Trunk-or-Treat Venue." They'll also be able to enjoy balloon art, Halloween-themed crafts, hayrides, refreshments and other highlights.

Recreation officials are reminding residents that the program will be conducted "rain or shine," so both adults and children should dress accordingly.

More information can be obtained by contacting the Recreation Department by phone: **248-691-7555** or visiting **www.ci.oak-park.mi.us** Recreation's office hours are 10am-1pm & 2pm-4pm., Monday through Thursday.

