

OAK PARK BRANCH

ACORNS OF INFORMATION FOR OAK PARK RESIDENTS



City Council Approves 2016-2017 Budget



Strategic Plan Priorities

2016-2017 APPROVED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- The Budget will be balanced for the next three years.
- Although the City will increase the water rate, they will do so at a lower rate than recommended by a third party consultant.
- The City will not increase solid waste/garbage removal fees.
- The City will add three new Public Safety officers over the next three years, one per year.
- The City will maintain a very strong rainy day fund.
- The City will pre-fund a portion of the retiree health care liability to maintain financial stability.
- The City will continue to focus on economic development through new business starts and new restaurants.
- The City will invest in public infrastructure and facilities, including \$1.88 million local road projects, motor pool investment and community center improvements.

The City's summer programs are in full swing and, as always, we are pleased with the amazing support we have received from our residents and visitors.

As you know we are always looking for every opportunity to improve our operations. The implementation of our new City website came as a result of your input. You can find the new website online at www.oakparkmi.gov.

In addition, in an effort to better communicate our budget priorities with you, we have created an Executive Budget Summary to accompany our Annual City Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17, approved by City Council on May 16. The summary was created in a user-friendly format to provide a clear explanation of how we are using your tax dollars to provide exceptional public services.

Enjoy all that our community has to offer in the summer months and thanks again for your tremendous support.

City Council Approves 2016-2017 Budget

"This year's budget is an example of when a city comes together on all fronts to make a difference," said City Manager Erik Tungate. "This is a community on the mend and a community that is growing."

At the May 16 City Council Meeting, City Council approved the 2016-2017 budget, a 2016-2017 millage rate increase, and fee schedule. This year's budget was designed to address six priorities set by City Council:

- Focus on economic development
- Firm up administrative operations
- Focus on new and advanced technologies
- Improve communications to residents and businesses
- Maintain efficient public services
- Maintain long-term financial stability

The City has been able to turn itself around in four short years, according to City Manager Tungate stating that a look back into history indicates that in 2012 a \$3 million deficit resulted in unprecedented budget cuts. "In just four short years, the City has turned itself around financially by instituting a pro-growth strategy," said City Manager Tungate. "That pro-growth strategy is now in place and providing dividends for this community."

The Annual Budget has not been without challenges, the largest of which is the loss of \$17 million in state-funded revenue sharing since 2002. The City lost approximately \$292 million, or 40%, of its total taxable value from 2008 to 2015, even though taxable property values are slowly rising in Oak Park. In addition, the City will lose a \$150,000 COPS grant next year.

To offset these challenges, the City improved efficiencies, reduced costs, studied options, and saved taxpayers approximately \$1 million by refinancing 2003 and 2006 street bonds. With rising water and sewer rates being imposed by Great Lakes Water Authority, the City hired a consultant to advise on water and sewer rates and voted to pass on an increase in water and sewer rates, but at a lower than recommended level. The City will not increase solid waste/garbage removal fees even though the cost to the City did rise. For long-term stability, the City will maintain a strong rainy day fund and prefund the retiree health care liability at almost \$2.5 million while making investments in public infrastructure, equipment and facilities. The City also plans to maintain its focus on economic development to increase the tax base.

Annual City Budget 2016-2017

To view City Manager Erik Tungate's Annual Budget Presentation before the May 16 City Council, visit our YouTube channel @TheCityofOakPark.

To download a copy of the Executive Budget Summary and the Annual City Budget, visit the City's website, www.OakParkMI.gov

ELECTION NEWS: Updates from the City Clerk's Office

The August 2nd state primary election is around the corner. The City Clerk's office has some election news and voter insights to help you through this year's election process.

Voter Registration Deadlines to Remember

To vote in the August 2 state primary election, you must be registered to vote no later than July 5. October 11 is the voter registration deadline for the November 8 presidential general election.

Are You Registered to Vote? Unsure?

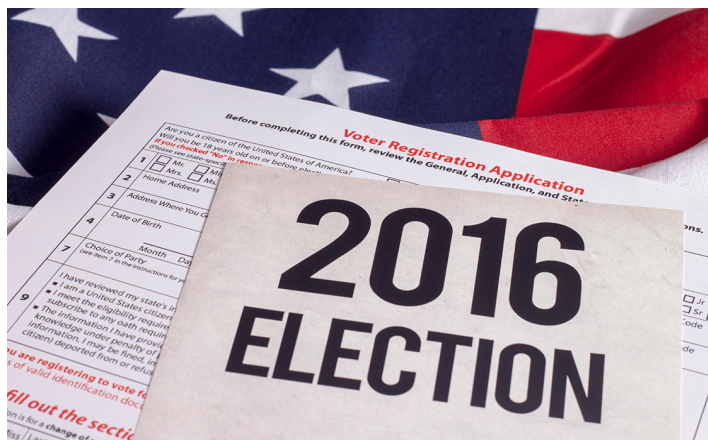
Did you know there is an easy way to determine whether you are registered to vote? You can call the City Clerk's office at (248) 691-7544 to inquire or go online at Michigan.gov/vote to determine whether your voter registration is up-to-date and valid.

Vote Absentee Voter Ballot

You may apply for an absentee voter ballot if you qualify by any of the following:

- You are 60 years old or older
- You are unable to vote at the polls without assistance
- You expect to be absent from the City on election day
- You are unable to attend polls because of religious beliefs
- You are in jail, awaiting arraignment or trial
- You are an assigned precinct inspector

To apply for an absentee voter ballot, call (248) 691- 7544, or visit City Hall at 14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Mich. The City Clerk's office is open Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday, July 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beginning July 1st, the City Clerk's office will be open every other Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Some Poll Locations Will Change for the August 2 State Primary Election

Voters in Precincts 2 and 3 who normally vote at Norup International School will vote at Avery Elementary School which is located at 14700 Lincoln Street, Oak Park, Mich. This is a temporary change that only applies to the August 2 state primary election, not the November presidential general election. If you are unsure where to vote, call the City Clerk's office at (248) 691-7544, or go online at Michigan.gov/vote for clarification.

Several voting locations in Oak Park host more than one precinct. Look for signs that will direct you to your precinct's voting location within the building.

Voting Instructions for the August State Primary Election

Partisan Section: There are two columns under this section of the ballot, the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. You may only vote one, or the other, not both. If you vote for candidates in both columns, none of your votes in the partisan section will count.

Non-Partisan Section and Proposal Section: All voters, regardless of which party they select in the partisan section, may vote in the non-partisan or proposal sections. Be sure not to vote for more candidates than indicated under each office title.



Free Garage Sale Weekends

July 21-24 and August 18-21

A homeowner or occupant in the City of Oak Park who wishes to hold a garage sale must receive a permit through the City Clerk's Office. The City Clerk's office is located at 14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Mich. in City Hall.

City Council designates a weekend in each of the summer months as a Free Garage Sale Weekend. This allows residents to hold a garage sale without obtaining a permit. However, the rules and regulations set forth for a garage sale will still apply and must still be met.

To learn more, contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 691-7544, or visit the City's website at www.oakparkmi.gov.



Don't Forget to Pay Summer Taxes

The City's Treasury Department will issue summer tax statements on Friday, July 1. Summer taxes are due by August 31 without penalty.

For more information, call the City of Oak Park's Treasury Department at (248) 691-7545.

The Beautification Commission is now Accepting Nominations

Call (248) 691-7497 to nominate a house or business for the Beautification Award. Nominations due by July 22, 2016.



The Festival of Flowers is in Full Sprout



To say sunflowers have taken over the City is an understatement. In fact, there are 15,000 plants spaced one-inch in the ground and one foot apart on patches of carefully groomed soil thanks to a team of Public Works employees coordinated by Gary Shermetaro. Students, teachers and school administrators from nearly every school in the City have volunteered their time and energies to grow the plants. Teachers have tailored their teachable moments around the project.

Some of the plants will only reach two feet tall and some four, while others will tower ten feet overhead. The overall purpose is to bring joy to those residing in or traveling in and around the City of Oak Park this summer. The sunflowers are known to be symbols of cheer, hope and inspiration. The City wishes to thank all who have participated in this wonderful project.



A Lieutenant and an Officer Honored in the Line of Duty

Lieutenant Marlon Benson and Officer David Gifford received a Merit Citation for saving the life of an elderly Oak Park resident last August. The officers were responding to a fire call. Upon arrival, they were met by a caregiver who indicated that a bedridden elderly man was unable to extricate himself from the home. "The quick actions taken by you ensure a positive outcome to a possibly deadly situation," said Public Safety Director Steve Cooper. "Your efforts are greatly appreciated."



Two New Public Safety Officers Sworn In for Duty

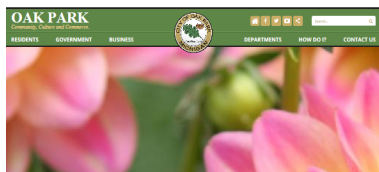
Join us in welcoming two new officers - Officer Zachary Tyler and Officer Matthew Rosnowski - to our Public Safety family. Officer Tyler is the son of Huntington Woods Public Safety Officer Todd Tyler and Officer Rosnowski has worked alongside the Department in the Court's Correction Division. Both are new to the Public Safety profession.



City Hires New Deputy Director of Finance and Treasury

The City welcomes Jamen Winters, the new Deputy Finance Director and Deputy Treasurer. Prior to Oak Park, Mr. Winters was the Assistant Treasurer for the City of East Lansing. He's a graduate of Michigan State University.

City of Oak Park Launches New Website

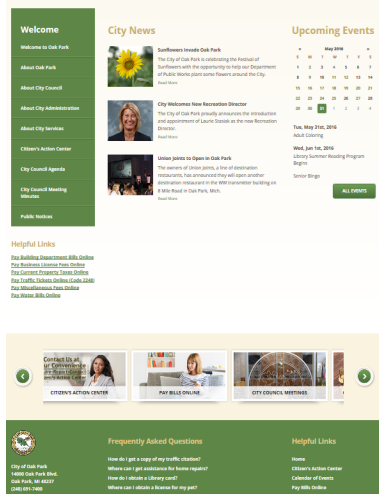


The City has officially launched its new website and we are interested to know what you think? The new site is user-friendly, easy to navigate, and informative. The ultimate goal of the site is to provide the information you need and be easily accessible. Even our domain name has been simplified, **www.oakparkmi.gov**.

The new site features a Citizen's Action Center to inquire, report or contact any department to obtain the answers to the community's pressing questions or to share concerns. We've also made it easier to access or pay bills online, find City Council meeting agendas and meeting minutes, and announce new developments within the City.

Each of the Boards and Commissions have a page on the website and we'll be adding information about their events, available Commission positions, and post their meeting minutes and agendas. In the coming weeks, we will add more information about Library and Recreation programs and services. Our new site allows us to share our upcoming events, download our pictures and videos, and share newsworthy announcements.

The Community Engagement pages provide information on ways to become informed, stay connected, seek assistance, and prepare for emergencies. The site also has an emergency alert system to notify the community in case of an emergency. When activated, the emergency alert is visible in the lower right corner of the website to provide necessary information during an emergency situation. The Public Safety and Public Works Departments share more information about City services, safety tips and prevention. We will be developing more content in the coming months so return back for more! Send us a note at **ContactUs@oakparkmi.gov** with any suggestions you may have for our new website. We would love to hear from you.



Public Safety Graduates Second Citizen's Academy



The Department of Public Safety led by Detective Robert Koch, held its annual Citizen's Academy every Wednesday evening in the month of May for residents to learn a variety of skills that our Public Safety Officers deploy. Participants learn everything from fingerprinting to fighting fires. The participants wore police officer issued bullet proof vests and gun belts and firefighting gear. They climbed tall ladders, manned the fire hose, used the jaws of life, and participated in police scenario simulations. Throughout the whole experience, the officers were providing the residents with an idea of the types of split minute decisions they make, the type of forensics techniques they deploy, and the wealth of knowledge and skill they master to serve and protect the community.

City Hires New Recreation Director

Please drop by the Recreation Department to meet our new Recreation Director Laurie Stasiak. Director Stasiak has over 30 years experience in the field of recreation. Prior to her hire, she was employed with the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department, the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department, the West Bloomfield School District's Community Education Program, South Lyon Community Schools, and Mercy Center of Farmington Hills. Welcome to the City of Oak Park, Director Stasiak!



Public Safety Director Steve Cooper Named Police Administrator of the Year by POAM

Oak Park Public Safety Director Steve Cooper was named Police Administrator of the Year by the Police Officers Association of Michigan, or POAM. During his acceptance speech, he said, "Nothing means more to me than this award. I enjoy coming to work on a daily basis and I've had the pleasure of working with the most professional men and women anywhere." Director Cooper's peers nominated him for the award with a letter detailing the traits they felt were needed in a chief and that they found in Director Cooper. The traits include experience, support, honesty, forward thinking, open mindedness, transparency and inspiration.

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

Fourth of July

July 4, 2016

Mayor's 5K Run/Walk

8 a.m.

Independence Day Parade

11 a.m. - Noon

Fun Fest

Immediately following parade, Noon to 3 p.m.



David H. Shepherd Park
(248) 691-7555

Concerts in the Park



July 7 - 20 Grand Experience

From Blues to Motown; Standards to Jazz; and Hip Hop to Rock and Roll, this eight-piece 20 Grand Experience band can sing and play it all.

July 14 - Denise Davis and the Motor City Sensations

Enjoy a variety of sounds including Rhythm and Blues, Pop, Funk, Top 40, Soul and the Classics with this local Detroit favorite.

July 21 - Surprise Concert in the Park

Be spontaneous and treat yourself to a surprise concert in the park.

July 28 - Gratitude Steel Band

Enjoy an evening worthy of line dance participation as this band performs Reggae, Classical, Soca, African, Gospelpso Wedding, Jazz, Hawaiian, 80's and 90's, Floridian, and more!

Thursdays in July, 7-8:30 p.m.
David H. Shepherd Park · Pavillion One

INSANE 5K
INFLATABLE
CRAZY FUN. CHALLENGING RUN.

Saturday, July 23

Insane 5K Race

For race information
or to register,
log onto
insaneinflatable5K.com

For more information,
contact the Recreation
Department
(248) 691-7555



Photo Credit: Townsquare Media

David H. Shepherd Park, Church Street, Oak Park, Mich.



Saturday, August 6 - Noon to 9 p.m.
Sunday, August 7 - Noon to 7 p.m.

David H. Shepherd Park and Oak Park Pool · 14300 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Mich.

**GAMES * ARTIST AND VENDOR BOOTHS *
HEALTH FAIR * PET ADOPTION * HOOLA HOOP
CONTEST * OAK PARK IDOL * INFLATABLES *
ROCK WALL * DIA AWAY BUS * ART MAKING *
FACE PAINTING * GAME TENT *
LIBRARY * PET PARADE *
CUTEST PET CONTEST * CUTEST BABY
CONTEST * POOL OPEN * PUTT PUTT GOLF *
DUNK TANK *
FOOD VENDORS, AND MORE...**

To sign up for the pet or baby contest contact Kimberly Marrone at
(248)691-7404 or email kmarrone@oakparkmi.gov.

If interested in becoming a vendor, contact Kimberly Marrone or
visit the website at www.oakparksummerfest.com for more details.
This is a FREE family fun event and brought to you by our generous
sponsors: Talmer Bank, Berger Realty - Oak Park Plaza, Oakland County
Parks, Mopec, and DTE. We are still accepting sponsorships.

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

July 2016 Dates to Remember

July 1 – Summer 2016 Taxes Due
July 3 – Library Closed Due to Holiday
July 4 – Mayor's 5K Run/Walk
July 4 – Independence Day Parade and Fun Fest
July 4 – City Offices and Library Closed Due to Holiday
July 5 – Deadline to Register to Vote for August 2 Primary Election
July 5 – City Council Meeting
July 6 – Fall Youth and Adult Sport Registration Begins
July 7 – Concert in the Park
July 7 – Bumpin' Bubbles Library Event
July 7-8 – Trash Collection Delayed One Day
July 11 – Planning Commission Meeting
July 13 – Superheroes of the Woods Library Event
July 14 – Rec and Read Library Event
July 14 – Concert in the Park
July 14 – Ethnic Advisory Commission Meeting
July 17 – Historical Society Meeting
July 18 – Animals of the World Library Event
July 18 – City Council Meeting
July 19 – Board of Review Meeting
July 19 – Library Board of Directors Meeting
July 20 – Generation Creation
July 20 – Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
July 20 – Communications Commission Meeting
July 21-24 – Free Garage Sale Weekend
July 21 – Rec and Read Library Event
July 21 – Concert in the Park
July 21 – Corridor Improvement Authority Board Meeting
July 22 – Beautification Awards Nominations Due
July 23 – Insane Inflatable 5K Race
July 25 – Economic Development Corp. Annual Meeting
July 25 – Employee's Retirement System Meeting
July 25 – Public Safety Retirement System Meeting
July 26 – Author Francis Vallejo Library Event
July 26 – Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
July 27 – Generation Creation Library Event
July 27 – Summerfest Meeting
July 27 – Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting
July 28 – Rec and Read Library Event
July 28 – Concert in the Park
July 30 – Clerk's Office Open for Absentee Voting

August 2016 Dates to Remember

Aug. 1 – City Council Meeting
Aug. 2 – Primary Election
Aug. 3 – Library Book Club Meeting
Aug. 4 – Fall Soccer Registration Deadline
Aug. 4 – Drummunity Library Event
Aug. 6-7 – Summerfest
Aug. 7 – Free Pool Admission
Aug. 8 – Oak Park Library Summer Reading Event End
Aug. 8 – Planning Commission Meeting
Aug. 11 – Ethnic Advisory Commission Meeting
Aug. 15 – City Council Meeting
Aug. 16 – Library Board of Directors Meeting
Aug. 17 – Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Aug. 17 – Communications Commission Meeting
Aug. 18 – Recycling and Environmental Conservation Commission Meeting
Aug. 18 – Corridor Improvement Authority Board Meeting
Aug. 18-21 – Free Garage Sale Weekend
Aug. 21 – Senior Citizens Day
Aug. 23 – Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
Aug. 24 – Summerfest Meeting
Aug. 24 – Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting
Aug. 27 – Pool Open (Weekend Only)
Aug. 27 – Pool Closes for Open Swim
Aug. 28 – Dog Day at Pool
Aug. 29 – Public Safety Retirement System Meeting
Aug. 31 – Summer Taxes Due Without Penalty
Aug. 31 – Oak Park Library Reading Logs Due

Advertise in the Branch

Reach over 14,000 homes and businesses
in the City of Oak Park
Contact Denise DeSantis, Director of
Community Engagement and Public Information
(248) 691-7589 or email ddesantis@oakparkmi.gov

Published by:

City of Oak Park

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Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

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