



Manager's Monthly Bulletin

Erik Tungate

Happy August, Oak Park! The 4th of July parade and events were wonderful and it reminded me once again of how lucky we are to have such great residents.

Thanks to our residents and our

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Election News

Get ready to mark your ballots! On Tuesday, November 5th, Oak Park residents will exercise their constitutional right to elect representation during the 2013 General Election. The ballot will include three, open positions: the Mayor

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Council Approves Growth Strategy

In an effort to boost the local economy, Oak Park City Council voted in July to approve the issuance of tavern licenses, which would allow Oak Park restaurants to seek qualification for the addition of beer and wine selections to food menus.

"This is a historic moment in Oak Park," Mayor Marian McClellan commented following a vote of 3 to 1 in favor of amending an existing ordinance on alcohol sales. "It takes courage to make these tough decisions; I commend this City Council." The City of Oak Park has been "dry" (operating under an ordinance that has prohibited the sale of liquor-by-the-glass of any kind) since incorporating in 1945. The current ordinance still prohibits the sale of spirits or mixed drinks by the glass in restaurants, although current law permits liquor sales in stores.

Previously, patrons wanting to order a glass of wine or beer at a restaurant had to visit neighboring cities such as Royal Oak, Berkley, Southfield and Ferndale. City officials now hope to increase business in Oak Park with the amended ordinance, which would, in turn, increase revenue for the City.

Through City Council's efforts to reduce spending and the passage of a public safety millage last fall, the City is slowly recovering from the challenges of declining property values, budget shortfalls and a lack of substantial business development. This year, however, city officials anticipate an 8% decrease in tax revenue due to declining property taxes and the phasing out of the personal

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Connect & Win!

When you register your email address with the City of Oak Park, you'll receive the Community E-Blast, a regular email newsletter covering City news and special events. You'll also register to win a drawing for your choice of either a free Family Pass for the Community Pool (up to seven members) or one free rental of Shelter One in Shepherd Park (schedule TBD). The first 250 to register by August 14th qualify for the drawing. Register by sending your email request to: oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us

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elected officials, Oak Park is on solid footing and our future looks brighter than ever. Since August marks my one-year anniversary as City Manager, I would like to take this time to reflect on our accomplishments thus far:

Community & Economic Development

- Created a formal community & economic development department at City Hall to begin the process of attracting new businesses and retaining the ones we already have;
- Created a request for proposals to gather bids for the City's first formal economic development plan (implementation of the study will begin in 4-6 months);
- Put together the background information and worked with City Council to get tavern licenses in place to spur economic growth at our restaurants.

Cost Savings

- Implemented a cost savings plan that has netted approximately \$1 million in savings (approximately \$380,000 in health care savings alone);
- Refinanced a 2003 road bond to save taxpayers approximately \$1.8 million over the remaining fifteen years of the repayment schedule.

Budget

- Produced a balanced budget for fiscal year 2013-14 that includes an 8.2% fund balance to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances.

Public Safety

- Brought back three of the fifteen laid-off public safety officers;
- Retained three public safety officers who would have been lost due to expiring federal grant funding;
- Provided funding for forty-five sets of new fire gear for our officers.

Code Enforcement

- Provided funding for two additional code enforcement officers to eliminate blight.

New City Hall/Public Safety and Rehabilitation of Library Community Center

- Nearing completion on the new city hall/public safety project, which is on time and within budget;
- Completed rehabilitation of the library/community center on time and under budget.

Public Infrastructure

- Rehabilitation of Oak Park Boulevard from Coolidge easterly to the City Limits utilizing an 80% funded grant (total federal funding of \$821,000);
- Rehabilitation of the 10 & Coolidge intersection, utilizing tri-party funding (the City pays one-third, the other two-thirds comes from the County and Road Commission);
- Repaving of local streets Winchester and Wales;
- Received \$523,482 in federal funding to rehabilitate Lincoln from Coolidge to Greenfield in 2014.

Communications

- Revamped the City's communications strategy, among other things, sending monthly mailers to every household again to keep our residents fully informed on happenings in our community.

Our strategy to grow Oak Park and put it on a new trajectory is in full swing. There will undoubtedly be challenges ahead; however, we have taken on the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression and come out better on the other side. That is a feat too few local units of government can share with us at this time.

Your support is greatly appreciated. As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Respectfully,



Erik Tungate
City Manager



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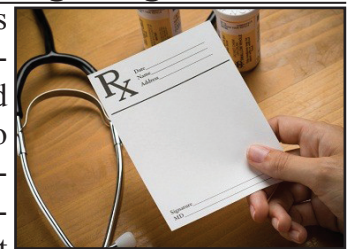
and two City Council seats. There will be no Primary Election in Oak Park this year, which traditionally occurs in August. A primary election only takes place when there are more than two candidates for any one opening. This year, there are four candidates vying for two seats; and the Mayor is running unopposed.

The last day to register to vote in the General Election is October 7th. To register, take one piece of photo identification (state ID, driver's license or passport) or a birth certificate along with official photo verification, such as student identification, to the Oak Park City Clerk's office or to the Secretary of State. Questions? Call the Clerk at (248) 691-7544.

Prescription Drug Program

Oakland County endorses Coast2CoastRx, a free discount prescription drug card program that allows users to save up to 75% on prescription drugs and other health-care services. The no-cost

program does not restrict users due to health, age or income; and it can be used immediately following registration. More than 60,000 pharmacies participate in the program. Residents can pick up a free card at a local pharmacy or county library or download and print the card online at Coast2CoastRx.com.



Strategy from page 1

property tax some businesses now pay.

The issuance of tavern licenses is part of a greater strategy by city leaders to revitalize Oak Park. “Our City Council recognizes a larger attempt to focus on economic development,” City Manager Erik Tungate said. “Allowing restaurants to expand their menus in order to attract more customers in and around the City is only one stimulus tool.” Mr. Tungate hired the City’s first Economic Development Director six months ago, and is currently designing a first-rate, strategic economic development plan for the City.

In order to receive City Council approval, restaurant owners would need to complete a rigorous application process and meet strict requirements. City Council also voted on a zoning ordinance specifying which restaurants can apply for licenses. Restaurants, for instance, would have to be located a minimum of 500 feet away from any school, park or place of worship; have at least 50 patron seats and a minimum of 10 food items on the menu; limit income from alcohol to 50% of total sales; and end the sale of wine or beer at midnight. The ordinance is written so that a maximum of 20 restaurants could qualify for tavern licenses, although only 10 existing restaurants currently meet zoning standards.



Local Company Gets County Grant

Congratulations to our business neighbor, H.O. Tretrice, for recently receiving a \$10,000 façade improvement grant through the Eight Mile Boulevard Association (www.eightmile.org). The grant comes from the Oakland County Historic Preservation Program, which is funding the project in an effort to retain the historic Art Deco styling and manufacturing heritage of the 8 Mile Road corridor. Established in 1993 as a Michigan non-profit corporation, the Eight Mile Boulevard Association revitalizes and promotes the Eight Mile transportation, business and residential corridor (between I-94 and I-275) by linking the efforts of the public and private sectors. H. O. Tretrice is located at:

12950 W. Eight Mile, Oak Park, MI.



Arts & Splash!

Arts, beats, eats, putt-putt, bounce, SPLASH! The *Oak Park Art Fair and Summer Splash* is so much more! On Saturday, August 3rd from 10 AM to 6 PM, the community is invited to the Oak Park Community Center Complex to enjoy a day of Big Fun.

The Oak Park Arts & Cultural Commission is hosting an art fair inside the Community Center, where several artists will be selling drawings, paintings, photography, jewelry, glass art and sculptures. During that same time, the commission is partnering with the City of Oak Park Recreation Department and the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce to host “Oak Park Summer Splash.” The family-themed event will include music, food vendors, pool time, putt-putt golf, inflatables and other activities for the kids at the Oak Park Community Center Complex, located at 14300 Oak Park Blvd, Oak Park, MI.

For more information, visit OPAACC on Facebook or go to www.oakparksummersplash.com.



City Hall Moves to 14000

The New City Hall will soon be open for business! The newly-constructed facility, located at 14000 Oak Park Blvd., sits just next door to the current City Hall building. As of August 19th, the following offices will be completely relocated to the new space: City Manager; City Clerk; Finance (Assessing, Treasury and Water Billing); Communications & Public Information; Information Technology; and Human Resources.

The August move will NOT include Public Safety, which will still be accessible at the current location until later in the fall. The 45th District Court will also remain in the former City Hall building. All published phone numbers will remain the same. Questions? Call (248) 691-7400.

Employee Recognition: Lieutenant Shawn Tetler



Pictured (L-R): Mayor Pro Tem Jackson, Mayor McClellan, City Manager Tungate, Councilman Duplessis, Lieutenant Tetler, Councilman Levine, Public Safety Director Cooper

In July, City Council recognized 15-year veteran Lt. Shawn Tetler as the Employee of the Month for his service as an outstanding Public Safety officer, which includes his current roles as Administrative Lieutenant, Fire Marshall and Range Master, and his past role as a Training Sergeant (duties which he still performs although the position was officially eliminated during budget cuts). Public Safety Director Steve Cooper paid tribute to Lt. Tetler as “a huge asset for Public Safety, representing the Department in exemplary fashion.”

Bargain: Mini-Dumpsters

The Oak Park Department of Public Works (DPW) recently secured a deal with SOCCRA, the City’s trash collection contractor, to bring residents the affordable option of purchasing a mini-dumpster from DPW for only \$60, including delivery in late August.

DPW recommends that residents utilize these oversized mini-dumpsters, which are 100%-recyclable, constructed of durable polyethylene, easy to maneuver and have attached lids to keep unwanted animals away. DPW is selling only 100 mini-dumpsters to residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents can reserve them by pre-paying now at City Hall.

Questions? Call DPW at (248) 691-7497.

Saturday, August 3

OPA Art Fair & OP Splash
10AM-6PM
Community Ctr.

Monday, August 5

City Council Mtg.
7PM @ City Hall

Tuesdays, Now - Oct. 2

Oak Park Farm Stand
3-6PM @ Community Ctr.

Thursday, August 8

*Living Wills, Funerals,
Pre-Planning & You*
2PM - Free @ Library

Tuesday, August 13

*Business Roundtable:
Meet the Officials* 9AM
Oak Park Career Ctr.
22180 Parklawn

Tuesday, August 13

*Bento: the Japanese Art of
Saving Money & Food*
7PM - Free @ Library

community happenings

Thursday, August 15

Family Storytime
6:30PM - Free @ Library

Monday, August 19

City Council Mtg.
7PM @ City Hall

Tuesday, August 27

*In Their Own Words:
Larry Martin's WWII*
6PM - Free @ Library

Wednesday, August 28

Arts & Cultural Comm.
7PM @ Community Ctr.

September 6 - 15

Junk-A-Way Days
Ice Arena parking lot

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