



Manager's Monthly Bulletin

Erik Tungate

I hope you had a great holiday season and are staying warm in these cold winter months.

With the New Year upon us, I can't help but reflect on the amazing amount of challenges we have overcome and the unprecedented potential

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Community & Economic Development

A new department for a new initiative

When Oak Park officially became a city in 1945 its first-ever Council adopted the motto, "City with a Future." When Emily Doerr became Oak Park's first-ever Director of Community and Economic Development in January she became the point-person for an ongoing initiative to enhance its future.

In general terms, her position was created to pursue the goals associated with its title, such as expansion of the commercial sector and growing the municipal tax base. More specifically, Ms. Doerr is committed to achieving all of the necessary objectives in ways that are consistent with the fundamental character of the community.

"Oak Park is known as 'The Family City' because it's a great place to live for all generations, with an emphasis on nice homes in attractive neighborhoods and excellent municipal services," she said. "This was the founding vision and the community has implemented it throughout all of the years since. It is the Oak Park residents want and appreciate.

"My challenge is to both preserve and build upon this unique community character while working toward economic development that benefits all resi-

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Beautiful Notes

will fill the Library

The sounds of two styles of great music will be spotlighted this month in Oak Park's traditional literary and cultural center and residents are invited to enjoy both programs free of charge.

On Sunday, Feb. 10, the

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Join the Conversation!

We want to see your best pictures from any City-sponsored events (think Winterfest, Daddy/Daughter, etc.), recreation programs (ie. sports, classes, etc.), as well as an Oak Park 'scenic' photo (ie. a view of your street, Shepherd Park, etc.). Please, don't forget to include details about your image! Share via social media or Send to: oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us

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MANAGER

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our City has in front of us. This is truly a new day for the City of Oak Park and there are signs everywhere that the City is rising.

Our growth strategy is now in the works and the seeds we planted in the fall are already bearing fruit. In addition to keeping my commitment to do everything we can to improve our operations while maintaining our focus on reducing costs, I recently hired the City's first Director of Community & Economic Development to carry out our growth strategy. Emily Doerr comes to us from the Detroit Regional Chamber where she was working with small businesses around the Detroit region. She's focused on bringing new businesses to the City and lending a helping hand to the ones already here. She's also already begun the hard work of meeting with community stakeholders to begin outlining our neighborhood assets and initiatives. Needless to say, the table is set and we can expect some great things from her in the future.

I'm once again reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that tells us we can overcome any obstacles if

we keep working hard towards our goals: "Fortunately, history does not pose problems without eventually producing solutions. The disenchanting, the disadvantaged and the disinherited seem, at times of deep crisis, to summon up some sort of genius that enables them to perceive and capture the appropriate weapons to carve out their destiny."

There will undoubtedly be challenges ahead, but in this New Year, we have to reflect on where we were and where we're going. With last fall's approval of the public safety millage, you've given us a chance to make good on making this great City the place we all know it can be.

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

Respectfully,



Erik Tungate
City Manager

Be Prepared to Deal with Winter Power Outages

Both large-scale and localized power outages have occurred in this region many times over the years and there's no telling when the next one will hit or how extensive it will be. That is why the Public Safety Department encourages residents to always be prepared as if it will be long-lasting.

Incidents during the winter – and there are weeks remaining in this year's – are caused by snowstorms, high winds, ice storms, or a combination of such weather elements. Regardless which weather phenomenon triggers

the problem, winter outages present special challenges and some dangerous situations, such as by denying families the normal capacity to heat their homes during periods of extremely low temperatures.

Public Safety lists these basic measures for residents to implement during a power failure:

- Keep emergency food and water supplies in a home storm shelter.
- Store a battery-powered radio and extra batteries in the same location.
- Keep extra clothing and blankets for every member of the family in the same location.
- Keep several flashlights, along with extra batteries, around the house in locations that are known by all family members.
- Make sure everyone knows NOT to use candles – flashlights only – in order to avoid the associated fire dangers.
- Know in advance how to properly connect any generator you plan to use, and how to operate it exactly according to manufacturer's instructions. Also determine in advance where to locate the generator, keeping in mind that it should never be used inside the house.

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).

LIBRARY

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Woodward Corridor Musicians will perform a chamber music concert, "By the Books." The event, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Park Library, will begin at 2 p.m. Although there is no cost, registration is requested and can be accomplished by calling 248-691-7480 or e-mailing LFDDean@aol.com.

The concert will include several compositions by Franz Schubert, several Spanish songs, nocturnes for cello and guitar, and a quintet for wind instruments.

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. the Detroit Historical Museum will present "Roots of the Music: Origins of Motown." This program, which is also sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Park Library, is in celebration of Black History Month.



Children's programming

Two series are scheduled for young residents over the coming weeks. These are:

- Morning Story Time sessions on Tuesdays at 11 a.m., from Feb. 19 to Jan. 22. These are structured for kids ages 3-6 accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Registration is required.
- Sessions of Learning Together Playgroup with Great Parents, Great Start of Oakland Schools are slated 10- 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28; March 7. It is designed for children from infancy to age 3, with the parents. Preregistration is required and space is very limited. Residents can sign up for all sessions by contacting: Great Parents, Great Start (Jean Jocque) at 248-209-2519.

The Library also will host a series of three programs presented by the Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Protection Agency. Specific dates and times will be announced soon for the topics Identity Theft (March), Phone and Mail Scams (April) and Online Safety (May). These informative programs are designed for seniors, but all residents are invited.

Questions should be directed to 248-691-7480.



Appreciate the Arts?

Want to make an impact on our community?

Join the

Oak Park Arts & Cultural Commission

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month in Room 5 of the Recreation Center at 7:30 p.m.

Check out OPAACC on Facebook or call

248-691-7487

For more information



Photos from Winterfest 2013!





Scam Alert



WARNING: Beware Phony Charities

Regardless your age, chances are you either have been or will be solicited by a con artist on behalf of a fraudulent charity. If you're a senior, the chances are greater that you will be victimized these and other types of swindles.

Organizations ranging from the National Consumers League to the Better Business Bureau to law enforcement agencies throughout the country continually warn the public about these unfortunate facts and urge seniors and their family members to guard against swindlers who specialize in taking advantage of peoples' caring and generosity.

All of these entities agree on six basic guidelines for avoiding victimization by phony charities:

If you're approached by an unfamiliar charity, check it out -- Most states require charities to register with them and file annual reports showing how they use donations. You can connect with the Michigan Attorney General's Office website, <http://www.michigan.gov/ag>, and click on "Charities" to access this information. The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance also offers information about national charities. Call 703-276-0100 or go to www.give.org.

Ask for written information -- Legitimate charities will be happy to provide details about what they do and will never insist that you act immediately. Watch out for sound-a likes: Some crooks try to fool people by using names that are very similar to those of legitimate, well-known charities.

Ask about the caller's relation to the charity -- The caller may be a professional fundraiser, not an employee or a volunteer. Ask what percentage of donations goes to the charity and how much the fundraiser gets.

Be wary of requests to support police or firefighters -- Some fraudulent fundraisers claim that donations will benefit police or firefighters, when in fact little or no money goes to them. Contact your local police or fire department to find out if the claims are true and

what percentage of donations, if any, they will receive.

Be especially cautious after natural or other disasters -- The recent widespread, hurricane-related flooding on the east coast, for example, brought dozens of fraudulent charities out of the proverbial woodwork to trick people who want to aid the victims. If you're not sure whether a charity is legitimate, check it out with your state charities regulator and the Better Business Bureau before you donate.

Why senior citizens are frequently victimized

Seniors are commonly targeted by phony charity scams and other schemes primarily for the following reasons, according to experts:

- They are most likely to have a "nest egg," to own their home, and/or to have excellent credit, all factors which make them attractive to con artists.
- People who grew up in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s were generally raised to be polite and trusting. Con artists exploit these traits, knowing that it is difficult for these individuals to say "no" or just hang up the telephone.
- Older Americans are less likely to report a fraud because they don't know whom to report it to, are too ashamed at having been scammed, or don't know they have been scammed. Some elderly victims may not report such crimes because they are concerned that relatives may think they no longer have the mental capacity to take care of their own financial affairs.
- When elderly victims do report such a crime, they often make poor witnesses. Con artists know the effects of age on memory, and they are counting on elderly victims not being able to supply enough detailed information to investigators. In addition, the victims' realization that they have been swindled may take weeks -- or more likely, month -- after contact with the fraudster. This extended time frame makes it even more difficult to remember details from the events.

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Join the Conversation!

The City has joined the social media revolution for one specific reason: Our Residents! - YOU! Our Facebook, Twitter and other media platforms are in place to help us keep you informed of important information; from upcoming events, to important announcements like snow emergencies. In addition to this, residents are invited to share family-friendly images & content from events, locations, and businesses within our borders.

Won't you get social with us today? - Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter!

DEVELOPMENT
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dents and existing local businesses, and attracts new businesses to Oak Park. Our City Manager, Erik Tungate, believes in economic development as a tool to promote Oak Park as a pro-growth community and my work is part of a larger vision working for the city's future." Ms. Doerr explained that residents will benefit because more businesses locating in the City will build the tax base while shifting a greater share of the burden of paying for municipal services from citizens to the commercial sector. In addition, residents will have more local options for shopping, dining and accessing professional services.

"We value our existing businesses and they are going to receive a lot of positive attention," she said.

"In addition, attracting new business development is, of course, essential. Everyone has been impacted by the state's economic miseries. Yet this City's residents have made very difficult financial sacrifices again and again in order to maintain their vital public services. They have made an extraordinary investment in their community. The addition of high-quality businesses will expand the overall tax base while reducing the residents' share of funding their services."

"There are many reasons why Oak Park should be attractive to new businesses. It is a transportation center,

at the core of the regional network of expressway. Public safety is very responsive, and real estate is affordable. It is a beautiful community with hard-working residents who love where they live. It is a 'Family City' and this is a major attribute."

Ms. Doerr brings superior credentials to the newly-established position. For example, she previously specialized in small business development and 'ease-of-doing-business-in-Detroit' policy initiatives for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. She has a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Detroit-Mercy and has received a prestigious award from the Central Michigan University Alumni Association and recognition as one of "20 in their 20s" from Crain's Detroit Business.

Her appointment as Director of Community and Economic Development by City Manager Erik Tungate followed a series of interviews with a number qualified candidates. She was the unanimous choice of the interview committee.



Senior Roundup

Short-range trips are on the agenda

Three day trips are available in the near future to members of the 50-Up Club. The Senior Center provided the following details:

To Caesar's Windsor Feb. 12: The casino package includes a free lunch buffet or a \$15 meal voucher, or a \$15 coin voucher; coffee, paczkis and special Mardi Gras entertainment. Transportation leaves the Community Center at 10 a.m. and returns at 5:45 p.m.

NOTE: A passport or enhanced driver's license is required to enter Canada.

To the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Feb. 14: Beethoven's Leonore Overture #1, Symphony #2 and Symphony #7 will be performed in this DSO coffee concert. Departure is at 9:30 a.m., return at 1:15 p.m.

To the Berman Center for Performing Arts March 19: Midori live in concert will be presented at the venue in West Bloomfield. Considered one of the world's most gifted and innovative musicians, violinist Midori's repertoire ranges from Bach and Mozart to Bartok and Shostakovich. Transportation departs at 6:15 p.m. and returns at 10:15 p.m.

Further information about these programs and trips can be obtained by calling 248-691-7577.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Saturday, February 2

Ground Hog's Day

Monday, February 4

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/

Friday, February 8

Daddy Daughter Dance

Dads can call the Recreation Dept. to sign up to take their daughter(s) on a date to this year's "Princess on Parade" theme dance at the Recreation Center from 6-8pm.

More info: 248-691-7555

Sunday, February 10

A Chamber Music Concert:

By the Books

This FREE concert will be performed by the Woodward Corridor Musicians & will be held at the Oak Park Public Library at 2pm. *Registration requested: Call: 248-691-7480*

or e-mail: LFDean@aol.com

Wednesday, February 13

Roots of the Music:

Origins of Motown

This FREE event will be presented by the Detroit Historical Museum at the Oak Park Library at 7pm in celebration of Black History Month.

More info: 248-691-7480

Wednesday, February 13

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

Thursday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 13

Effects of Stress on the Body

Join one of the Lion's team doctors & learn how stress can affect your health. Q&A session following presentation. This FREE event is Sponsored by HealthQuest Lunch provided - Sign up by Mon. Feb. 7

Community Center

More info: 248-691-7555

Thursday, February 14

Winter Taxes Due

Monday, February 18

President's Day

Monday, February 18

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/

Thursday, February 28

"5 Tips for Better Pix"

FREE Artist talk by Oak Park resident, Ron Warren, of Ron Warren Photography. Learn some simple techniques to improve your images. Event sponsored by the Arts & Cultural Commission. To be held at Oak Park Library at 6:30pm.

Wednesday, January 23

Arts & Cultural Comm.

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

Community Center

Meeting Room #3 at 7:30pm



Have a
"Community Happening"
 we should spotlight?

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

Email us at:

oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us