



## Pay Your Water Bill Online

**Oak Park Water Department**

Good News! The Oak park Water Department is pleased to announce that water bills can now be paid online! Payments may only be made with a credit card at this time. To make an online credit card payment, residents will need to go to the City of Oak Park web

*See WATER on page 2*



## Manager's Monthly Bulletin

**Erik Tungate**

It's time to prepare for next year's budget here in the City of Oak Park and my staff and I have begun to carve out our plan. Among the many changes we have to showcase will be a new economic development department tasked with attracting new businesses and retaining the great

*See MANAGER on page 4*



## Spring Cleaning soon to be Sprung

**2013 Junk disposal opportunity at the end of this month**

Have you been hearing the sounds of birds chirping high in the trees these past few weeks? It can only mean one thing, and that would be that Spring is finally on its way. With the welcoming of Spring, many residents find it an opportune time to clean out the old as they welcome the new. The City is here to help you to do just that with the upcoming "Haul Your Own Junk Away Days" coming up at the end of the month, starting Friday, March 22 through Sunday, March 31.

To help you with your "Spring Cleaning" DPW has issued a reminder that the first of 2013's junk disposal opportunities will begin on Friday, March 22 and run through Sunday, March 31. During Junk Away Days, residents can take anything (with the exception of hazardous materials) to the parking lot north of the Library, where designated dumpsters will be located, unwanted items which do not qualify for curb side garbage or recycling pickup. Also mentioned in this reminder is the opportunity for

*See SPRING on page 2*



## Business Round-Up

**New Monthly Feature**

Our new Director of Community and Economic Development, Emily Doerr, has begun to attend block club meetings to hear residents' opinions, as well as work with business owners to help them grow their business or consider locating

*See BUSINESS on page 3*



## 2013 Election Inspectors Needed

**City Clerk's Office**

The City of Oak park is always looking for dedicated precinct workers to work on Election Day. This paid position requires a commitment to attend training classes and work from 6am until all the votes are tallied at the end of the night on Election

*See ELECTIONS on page 2*

## Free Healthy Lawn Care Workshop

Thursday, March 7 from 7-8:30pm at the Oak Park Community Center.

The City of Oak Park (through the Dept. of Public Works) and SOCWA are co-sponsoring a free public workshop on Healthy Lawn Care. The featured speaker will be Gary Eichen, Bioturf Manager, Mike's Tree Surgeons, Inc.

If you have never heard Gary present, you are missing an opportunity! He has a substantive knowledge and understanding of the urban landscape and the water quality issues. He knows the topics of turf management, tree management and more. His presentations are substantive, informative, and entertaining! He approaches the topic in a serious way, and motivates the audience to THINK AGAIN about lawn care and the goal of a green, lower-maintenance lawn with earth-friendly fertilizer and little or no herbicide.

Gary Eichen is a frequent presenter to landscape companies and the Michigan Green Industry Association, so this is the equivalent of a \$75 professional workshop.

The workshop will be introduced by citizen/Master Composter presentations on: proper tree mulching, composting the easy way, and earth-friendly fertilizers. Lillian Dean will cover the "Rouge watershed connection."



## SPRING

from page 1



residents to rid themselves clutter that offer places for mosquito breeding environments, such as old children's wading pools, tires, and rusted-out buckets – or any other item that retains rainwater.

*More information may be obtained regarding Junk Days by calling Department of Public Works at 248-691-7497.*

## ELECTIONS

from page 1

Days. Typically there are two elections held in any given year, one in August and the other in November. You must be a registered voter and have transportation.

If you are interested in becoming a precinct worker, please visit the City Clerk's Office at City Hall to pick up an application. If accepted, you will be placed on our current precinct worker list.

*Questions may be asked in person, or you may contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-691-7544.*

## WATER

from page 1

WATER & SEWER USAGE 8/18/11 TO 11/17/11		CITY OF OAK PARK WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM 13700 Oak Park Blvd. Oak Park, MI 48237 (248) 691-7470		FIRST CLASS MAIL US POSTAGE PAID Detroit, MI 48237 Permit No. 1376	
DUE DATE	PLEASE PAY	AFTER DUE DATE PAY			
1/17/12	439.96	483.95			
2/14/12		IS THE SCHEDULED			
DISCONNECTION DATE FOR YOUR <i>CURRENT</i> AMOUNT. ANY PREVIOUS BALANCE IS OVERDUE AND SUBJECT TO EARLIER DISCONNECTION.					
(PLEASE DISREGARD IF YOUR BILL IS PAID BY THE DUE DATE)					
READINGS		- + CODE	USED	CURRENT AMOUNT	
PREVIOUS	PRESENT				
800	845		45	WT	140.40
				SW	265.50

CITY OF OAK PARK  
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM  
13700 Oak Park Blvd.  
Oak Park, MI 48237  
(248) 691-7470

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Detroit, MI 48237  
Permit No. 1376

Occupant  
00000 Oak Park Blvd.  
Oak Park, MI 48237

site located at <http://www.ci.oak-park.mi.us> and access your water account, or simply click on "Online Credit Card Water Payments" located on the home page. Online credit card payments will be posted to your account on our next business day. Please be sure to keep this in mind when trying to avoid either a water turn off, or addition of late charges. A water turn on can not be scheduled until your payment has been posted to your account. The system can not be utilized to arrange an overtime turn on.

*If you need further assistance, you can reach the Oak Park Water Department at 691-7470.*

## 2013 Election Dates

The City of Oak Park will be conducting three planned Elections during the 2013 calendar year:

1. May 7, 2013 *Berkley School District*
2. August 6, 2013 *Oak Park City Primary(if necessary)*
3. November 5, 2013 *Oak Park City General Election*

The electors of Oak Park will be voting for Mayor and two City Council seats in November. A City Primary will be required in August if there are more than four candidates running for City Council and/or more than two candidates running for the office of Mayor. Council Members serve for a term of four years, and the Mayor serves for two.

Candidate Information packets with filing instructions are available in the Clerk's Office for anyone interested in running for Mayor or Council and can be obtained during regular business hours.

## BUSINESS

from page 1

their business in the City of Oak Park. Each month in The Branch, there will be information about upcoming Community and Economic events, announcements, and features from guest writers. Please contact Emily at edoerr@ci.oak-park.mi.us or (248) 691-7404 with questions.

### Upcoming events:

1. Are you interested in further conversation about Oak Park's assets, and how to leverage them and build upon them for Oak Park's future? Come to a Community Visioning Session, happening at Oak Park's Community Center in the Senior Lounge, from 6-7pm on these upcoming Wednesdays: March 6th, March 13th, and March 27th.
  - a. Oak Park residents, business owners, and any community stakeholder are encouraged to attend.
2. March will be the start of our monthly Oak Park Business Roundtable! This will be a monthly opportunity for business owners to come together, talk to each other to discover ways to collaborate and help one another, and hear announcements from / give feedback to the city Community and Economic Development department. These will be informal gatherings with no politics or program; just networking with fellow business owners. Breakfast on your own.
  - a. First Meeting: Tuesday March 12th from 8am – 9:30am at Sahara Restaurant
  - b. Please contact Emily Doerr if you are interested in hosting the April meeting.

### Announcements:

- In the space formerly occupied by the Secretary of State, there now is a Sneaker Villa that is opening. They have applied for their business license and should be open soon.
- In the building previously known as Nikola's Restaurant on 9 Mile between Walgreens and Coolidge Café, there is a new restaurant that will be called Jamaican Palace. They hope to open sometime in March!



## OAKLAND COUNTY

M I C H I G A N

### Guest Feature:

This month, Emily Doerr is pleased to report that the City of Oak Park has been chosen to be a pilot Associate Community in the Oakland County Main Street program. This is excellent news as it brings momentum, resources, and best practices to Oak Park as we work to transition our commercial corridor of 9 Mile and Coolidge into a more traditional downtown. Robert Donohue, Principal Planner for Oakland County Main Street, is excited to work with the City of Oak Park. He explains that downtowns are important because:

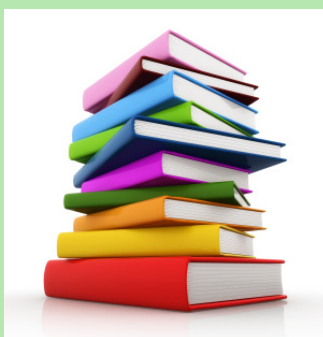
"A downtown is the face of the community's economic health, partnership between the private sector and the public sector, local quality of life, and history. Oak Park has all of those things. Downtowns serve as a good incubator for new small businesses – the success of tomorrow. A downtown is an important community space where members of all segments of the community can meet equally for parades, speeches, and other community events. Oak Park's future is exciting as long as we have buy-in and investment from each crucial partner: public, private, and residents."

## Green Story Time

*The Library has announced a special evening drop-in StoryTime for children ages 2 through 6 accompanied by a parent or caregiver. This special session will be held*

**Thursday, March 21 at 6:30pm**

*Children are asked (but not required) to wear something green for this event where they will hear stories and music about different kinds of green. A craft activity is also planned. This program is offered free of charge. No registration is required.*



## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Monday, March 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/

### Thursday, March 7

**Healthy Lawn Care Workshop**  
Learn easy ways to maintain your lawn without harmful chemicals. Workshop starts at 7pm in the Oak Park Community Center

**More info: 248-691-7497**

### Sunday, March 10

#### *Begin Daylight Savings*

### Wednesday, March 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, March 14

#### *Artist Talk at the Library*

Oneita Porter, designer, artist & entrepreneur, will share her insights into creating jewelry, getting started, and keeping motivated in the art world. This FREE event is brought to you by the OPAACC and will be held in the Library from 6:30-7:30pm.

### Monday, March 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/

### Wednesday, March 20

#### *First Day of Spring*

### March 22 - 31

#### *Haul Your Own Junk Away*

Residents can dispose of items not accepted by regular curbside pick-ups. Located in parking lot north of the Library. Hazardous materials not permitted.

**More info: 248-691-7497**

### Wednesday, March 27

#### *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

### Thursday, March 28

#### *Good Friday Observance*

#### *City Offices Closed*

### Friday, March 29

#### *Good Friday*

### Thursday, April 4

#### *Yard Waste & Brush Pick-Up*

#### *Begins*

## MANAGER

from page 1

ones we already have.

While the last few years have been difficult to say the least, the City has avoided the extreme financial distress that so many communities across the nation are facing. Our City's mature economy and older housing stock were hit hard in the Great Recession of 2008; the fallout from which we're still dealing with here in the public sector. Coupled with reductions in State revenue sharing and rising legacy costs it's been extremely difficult to maintain quality public services and deal with rising demands. On top of that, I expect property taxable values in Oak Park to tumble another 8% next year. On the flip side, thanks to our residents who voted in favor of last November's millage increase, we have new life and expect to be able to withstand next year's decrease without drastically cutting services and personnel. That means you can count on us being there when you need us. Even better, I was able to retain three public safety officers with the matching funds through a federal COPS grant. That means I've been able to stabilize the ranks so there's not a repeat of layoffs.

As we move through this budget process, we know that an economic recovery in the private sector is underway. The bad news is that the same recovery has not yet reached the public sector.

That means we'll have to maintain our conservative budgeting approach in our projections for next year's budget mindful of the need for more public safety officers and resources. We'll be shooting for a 10% fund balance to guard against unforeseen circumstances and we'll be looking for additional ways to streamline operations and cut unnecessary costs. In one instance alone, I expect to save about a half million dollars in our health care costs compared to last year.

In mid-April, our draft budget will be made available for public input. Please let your voice be heard and join us as we craft our plan to stabilize our City and fine tune our operation.

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

Respectfully,



Erik Tungate  
City Manager



Do you have a  
**"Community Happening"**  
we should spotlight?

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

Tell us by email:  
**oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us**