

Economic Development Oak Park makes history

The City of Oak Park recently made history with the issuance of Tavern Licenses for two, local businesses – Sahara Restaurant and Jade Palace – the first, Oak Park-based restaurants to receive state-approved licenses allowing both to offer patrons beer and wine from the menu. The City also initiated another “first” by granting a temporary permit for outdoor dining to Kravings restaurant. Known for its kosher menu, Kravings offered patio dining October 8-15 for Sukkot, a Jewish holiday also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, during which some Jewish people may choose to eat in the evening outside under the stars.

“This is a significant time for the City of Oak Park,” commented City Manager Erik Tungate. “Within months of completing the first, comprehensive economic development strategy in the city’s history, we’re already demonstrating some of the most critical aspects of the plan. In addition to tavern licenses and permits that help our local businesses thrive, we’re looking forward to several other enhancements across the city before the end of the year, starting with new welcome signage at our major points of entry. It’s crucial that we send a message to surrounding communities that Oak Park is open for business.” Oak Park’s Economic Development Plan was completed in July 2014 and can be found on the home page of the City’s web site at www.ci.oak-park.mi.us.



Manager's Monthly Bulletin

Erik Tungate

We made it through another summer and now have our sights set on a successful fall. This summer produced highs and lows and even a major flood. The fact is, however, that we persevered and are now settling back

See MANAGER on page 2



City depends on resident collaboration

“It takes genuine partnerships with our residents to make city services work,” City Manager Erik Tungate commented. “One of the City’s most complex responsibilities relates to the elimination of community blight, which actually comes in many forms.”

See COMMUNITY on page 5

Holiday Bazaar Returns

Did you know that when you shop locally-owned businesses, your money circulates over and over creating up to 75% more tax revenue for the local community?

The “Shop Oak Park” Holiday Bazaar is back for its second year on Sunday, November 9th, 11AM – 4PM at the Community Center, located at 14300 Oak Park Blvd. Local business owners and vendors will offer bargains on great holiday gifts, as well as an opportunity to reinvest in our community.

Questions? Send email to kmarrone@ci.oak-park.mi.us or call (248) 691-7404.

Shop early and local!

CityofOakPark

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Manager from page 1

into our core efforts. Among other things, we are focused on a multitude of economic development projects, as well as infrastructure improvements throughout the city.

One of our objectives is to fill the city's vacant retail and industrial spaces – both large and small. Kimberly Marrone, our Community & Economic Development Manager, has been hard at work connecting with various commercial real estate brokers, as well as firms which may have an interest in these spaces. We also launched our commercial façade improvement program, which is designed to assist those business owners interested in freshening up their storefronts. Since we know that a bona fide economic development function requires a community-wide effort, I ask all of our residents and business owners to help us recruit additional businesses by putting out the good word about what our great city has to offer.

We also have many infrastructure projects in the planning

phases for spring as well as a few currently underway. Needless to say, one of our most exciting projects is the installation of new city welcome signs at the major entrance areas of the city. These signs will look and feel the same as the signs in the new city hall complex, adding character to these corridors and building on our goal of creating a stronger sense of place.

There are many more exciting things happening throughout the city. In the coming days, I will have much more to share. As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Respectfully,

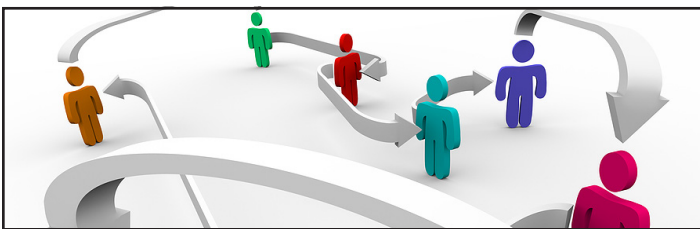


Erik Tungate
City Manager



Priority One: Safety

In September, Mayor Marian McClellan administered the Public Safety Oath to new Officers Justin Parker (left) and Michael Ryan (right).



New ways to get information

There are now two, new ways to receive emergency announcements from the City in REAL TIME – Community eBlasts and Robocalls. The City will automatically administer robocalls to published home phone numbers, but can only call cellular phones or unlisted home phone numbers upon formal request by the owners. You can register for eBlasts, as well as robocalls to cellular and unlisted phone numbers, by sharing your email address and/or phone number at oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us. You can also register for robocalls by clearly reciting your phone number into voicemail at (248) 691-7589 (no email addresses by phone, please).

Honoring Officer Bur

It is with great sadness that the City of Oak Park announces the passing of Public Safety Officer Kevin Bur. While off duty on September 8th, Officer Bur was involved in an accident while riding his motorcycle. As a result of the accident, he suffered extensive injuries and passed away later that same day. Officer Bur was a highly decorated officer, who served honorably for 22 years with the Oak Park Public Safety Department. Our hearts go out to his wife of 19 years, Lori, his son, Austin, and his daughter, Victoria. Officer Bur will truly be missed.

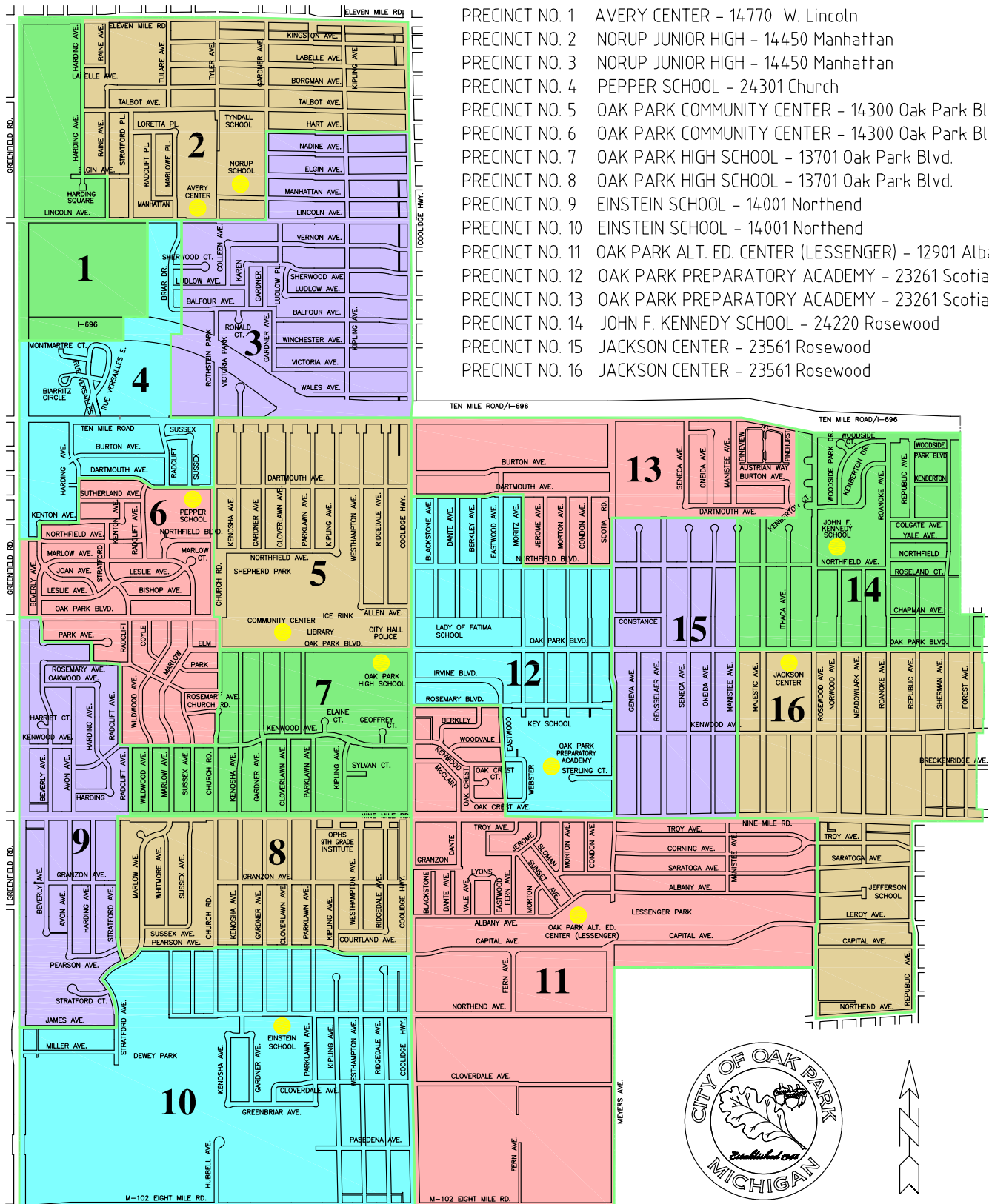


City Welcomes New Library Director

In October, Brandon Bowman assumed the position of Library Director following the retirement of Beth Tompkins. "Beth will certainly be missed. She was instrumental, however, in our selection of Director Bowman, who comes to Oak Park highly qualified with solid experience in, both, library science and administrative services," commented City Manager Erik Tungate. "He's an excellent addition to the City's leadership team." Director Bowman served as Oak Park's Children's Librarian prior to his appointment. Before this, he worked in the Chesterfield Public Library and as a Media Specialist in the Almont School District. He earned a bachelor's degree in Public History from Western Michigan University and a MA in Library & Information Science from Wayne State University.



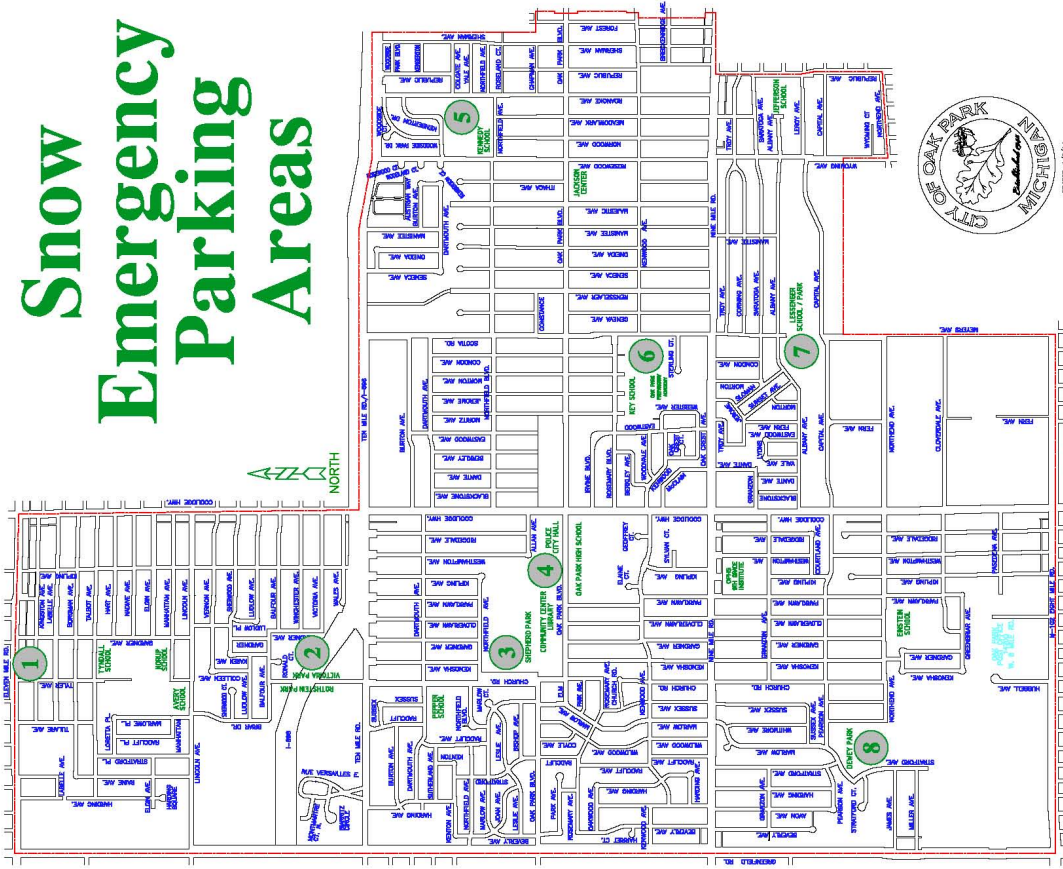
CITY OF OAK PARK VOTING PRECINCTS



REVISED: 1/2/14

City of Oak Park

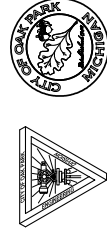
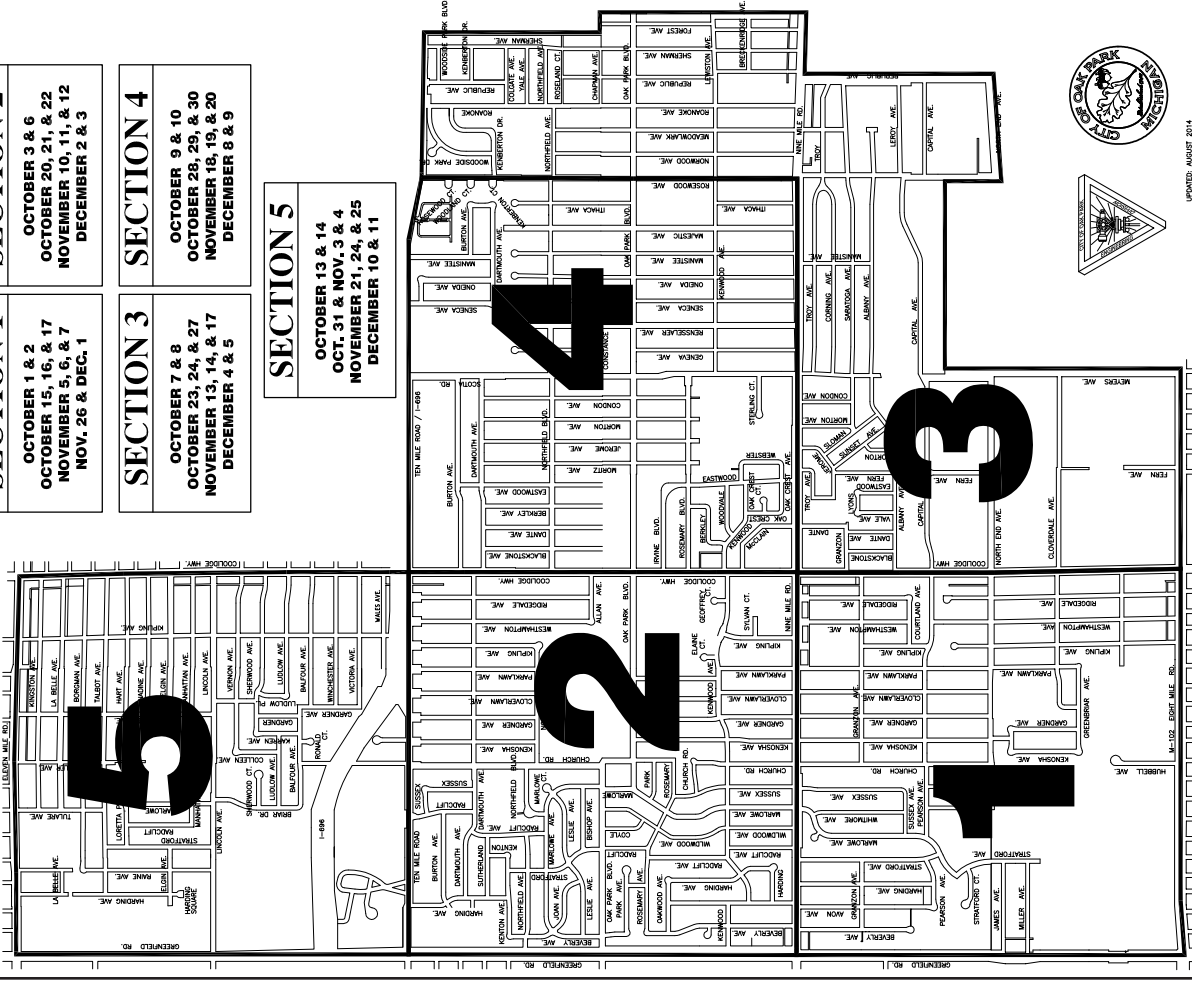
Snow Emergency Parking Areas



- ① Eleven Mile Off-Street Parking Lots
- ② Victoria Park Parking Lots
- ③ Shepherd Park Parking Lots
- ④ City Complex Parking Lots
- ⑤ Best Park Parking Lot
- ⑥ Key Park Parking Lot
- ⑦ Lessenger Park Parking Lot
- ⑧ Dewey Park Parking Lot

LEAF PICK UP DATES

SECTION 1	SECTION 2
OCTOBER 1 & 2 OCTOBER 15, 16, & 17 NOVEMBER 5, 6, & 7 NOV. 26 & DEC. 1	OCTOBER 3 & 6 OCTOBER 20, 21, & 22 NOVEMBER 10, 11, & 12 DECEMBER 2 & 3
SECTION 3	SECTION 4
OCTOBER 7 & 8 OCTOBER 23, 24, & 27 NOVEMBER 13, 14, & 17 DECEMBER 4 & 5	OCTOBER 9 & 10 OCTOBER 28, 29, & 30 NOVEMBER 18, 19, & 20 DECEMBER 8 & 9
SECTION 5	
OCTOBER 13 & 14 OCT. 31 & NOV. 3 & 4 NOVEMBER 21, 24, & 25 DECEMBER 10 & 11	



UPDATED: AUGUST 2014

Community from page 1

As Director of Oak Park's Technical & Planning Department, Robert Barrett oversees five divisions, including Building Inspection, Code Assistance, Building Maintenance, Engineering and Animal Control. He strongly urges all residents to review the rules and regulations associated with neighborhood upkeep on a seasonal basis, since some responsibilities strictly belong to residents.

"Our most frequent inquiries relate to abandoned or ill-kept homes, sidewalk upkeep, grass-cutting, trash collection, rodent control and various aspects of snow management," Director Barrett added. Details about each subject can be accessed on the City's web site under Technical & Buildings or Department of Public Works at www.ci.oak-park.mi.us.

The T&P Department has responded to more than 3,000 code issues within the last 12 months. Once a violation such as blight has been identified either by City employees, or more commonly, through tips from residents, the department takes several steps designed to give the owner a fair chance to correct the problem or, if resolution cannot be reached, to condemn the property and take legal action against the owner.

Snow management remains another prevalent topic. "It's critical that our residents regularly pay attention to winter weather reports in order to move cars from the streets in time for snow plows to get through," commented Kevin Yee, Assistant City Manager, Director of the Department of Public Works and City Engineer. "The City is pretty good about announcing snow emergencies through multiple communication channels; however, common sense helps many of our residents stay ahead of fines issued for cars parked on snow plow routes." In such emergencies, residents are encouraged to park in their garages and driveways or to use the lots in the community parks as an alternative.



Beautification awards beautiful properties

Congratulations 2014 Beautification Awardees! During a televised ceremony in City Hall Council Chambers on October 2, 2014, the Oak Park Beautification Advisory Commission recognized exceptional landscaping maintained by 43 homeowners, two non-profits, and two Adopt-a-Garden program participants. You can see re-broadcasts on Comcast OPTV-15. For more information about annual nominations (usually due in July), send email to tbrown@ci.oak-park.mi.us or call (248) 691-7497.

Big cans are back!

The Department of Public Works (DPW) once again offers Oak Park residents the option of purchasing 95-gallon mini-dumpsters. These popular cans are ordered in limited quantity and will go fast! To reserve yours, contact DPW now at (248) 691-7497 to prepay and be added to the wait list.



MONTHLY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:



Pictured: DPW, City Manager Tungate, Mayor McClellan and Council

In September, City Manager Erik Tungate and Oak Park City Council paid tribute to members of the Department of Public Works (DPW) for exceptional management of the City's August flood crisis. The City received a number of notes and personal visits from residents regarding the efficient and, oftentimes, personable manner in which DPW workers handled the clean-up process. In October, Irina Kushner also received recognition for above-and-beyond service in her role as Special Collections Librarian.



Pictured L-R: Mayor Pro Tem Paul Levine, Mayor Marian McClellan, Irina Kushner, City Manager Erik Tungate, Councilwoman Carolyn Burns

Winter Fun in the City

Ice skating! Zumba! Ballroom lessons! Martial Arts! Basketball! Aerobics! There's something for everyone at Oak Park Recreation this season. Recreation also offers several activities, events and trips for seniors. For a complete listing of fall and winter programs for the whole family, visit the City's web site at www.ci.oak-park.mi.us/recreation or call (248) 691-7555.



Mayor
Marian McClellan
Mayor Pro Tem
Paul Levine
Council Members
Michael Seligson
Carolyn Burns
Kiesha Speech
City Manager
Erik Tungate

ECRWSS

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OAK PARK BRANCH, November - December 2014 - 6

www.ci.oak-park.mi.us

October - December 1

Curbside Leaf Pick-Up

Saturday, November 1

City Clerk Office Open
10AM-2PM for Absentee Voting

Sunday, November 2

Daylight Savings Ends

Monday, November 3

City Council Mtg.
7PM @ City Hall

Tuesday, November 4

General Election
Polls open 7AM-8PM

Sunday, November 9

"Shop Oak Park" Holiday Bazaar
11AM-4PM @ Community Ctr.

Sunday, November 9

History of Military Communication
FREE @ Library, 2:30PM

Monday, November 10

Business Roundtable
8-9AM Community Ctr.
Register (248) 691-7404

Monday, November 10

'15 Resident Shelter Reservations
In-person 8AM Community Ctr.

Tuesday, November 11

Veteran's Day

Weds., November 12

Friends of the Library @ 7PM

Monday, November 17

City Council Mtg.
7PM @ City Hall

Weds., November 19

OPAACC Meeting @ City Hall

Weds., November 26

Thanksgiving Observation
City Offices Closed

community happenings

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day
City Offices/Library Closed

Friday, November 28

Library Closed

November 27-29

Trash Collection Delayed One Day

Sunday, November 30

Library Closed

Monday, December 1

Curbside Leaf Pick-Up Ends

Monday, December 1

Winter 2014 Taxes Issued

Monday, December 1

City Council Mtg.
7PM @ City Hall

Sunday, December 7

R.J. Spangler Concert
FREE @ Library, 2PM

Weds., December 10

Friends of the Library @ 7PM

Friday, December 12

Yard Waste & Brush
Pick-Up Ends

Monday, December 15

City Council Mtg.
7PM @ City Hall

Monday, December 16

Chanukah begins at sunset

December 25-27

Trash Collection Delayed One Day

Weds., December 24

Christmas Eve
City Offices/Library Closed

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
City Offices/Library Closed

Friday, December 26

Kwanzaa begins

Fri. - Sun. Dec. 26-28

Library Closed

Weds., December 31

New Year's Eve
City Offices/Library Closed

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day
City Offices/Library Closed

Fri. - Sun. Jan. 2-4

Library Closed

Sunday, January 25

Winterfest 1-3PM @ Comm. Ctr.

VOTE

Election News

Vote: Tuesday, November 4, 2014

See enclosed map to confirm your voting precinct location on page 3. Sample ballots are available on the City's web site or in the Clerk's office.

Have questions? Call (248) 691-7544 or email ssummer@ci.oak-park.mi.us



Park Shelter Bookings Begin

Oak Park Recreation will start taking 2015 park pavilion reservations from residents (only) on November 10th at 9AM in the Recreation office, located at 14300 Oak Park Blvd. Dates go fast, so book early! The Community Center doors opens (and line forms) at 8AM. Questions? Call Recreation at 248-691-7555.

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