



## Manager's Monthly Bulletin

**Erik Tungate**

Many of you have heard me talk about the need for a long-range financial stability plan for the City of Oak Park. Working with the Mayor and City Council, as well as with your direct input, I intend to build a detailed

*See MANAGER on page 2*



## Shop Local Holiday Bazaar

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! Start shopping early and locally at the "Shop Oak Park" Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, November 10th, 11AM – 6PM at the Community Center. (Also, look for the new Oak Park Business Directory in mailboxes soon!)



## Oak Park: Moving Forward

The City of Oak Park recently announced the hiring of Hamilton Anderson to design the first, strategic economic development plan in the City's history.

"This plan is critical to the present and future success of the City," City Manager Erik Tungate commented. "It will be instrumental in providing recommendations for new planning, and investment and infrastructure strategies to achieve a redeveloped Oak Park."

Hamilton Anderson is charged with conducting market research, identifying best practices in planning and urban design, and incorporating stakeholder input. According to City Manager Tungate, the final plan will serve as the benchmark for the City over the next 10-15 years.

Hamilton Anderson begins researching this fall to determine the most effective way for the City to promote private sector development and investment, and guide public sector initiatives. The firm will also examine the redevelopment potential for six, key areas of Oak Park, which include the Armory; Greenfield Rd.; Coolidge Rd; and the corridors of Eight Mile Rd., Nine Mile Rd. and Eleven Mile Rd.

"The assignment will be part of a larger, economic development plan to inspire business growth in Oak Park," added Emily Doerr, Director of Community & Economic Development. "The final strategy should take advantage of the City's location in metropolitan-Detroit, cultural diversity and strong infrastructure base."

"A comprehensive strategy will assist the City in strengthening the tax base,

*See MOVING FORWARD on page 2*

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## HELP WANTED!

*If you're interested in serving your community on one of the City's Boards or Commissions, please contact the City Clerk's office at (248) 691-7544 or visit the Clerk's office at 14000 Oak Park Blvd. to pick up an application. Vacant seats are currently available.*

## Manager from page 1

plan to address each of our long-term fiscal concerns. These are the icebergs that we see straight ahead. Rather than react as they come along, we need to be prepared.

As I see it, there are four major areas that we need to address. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **Elimination of the business personal property tax:**

This is a statewide ballot initiative that will be voted on in 2014. If the voters of Michigan allow elimination of the business personal property tax, the City of Oak Park could lose as much as \$1 million in revenue.

**Continuing increases in our legacy costs:** We continue to see rising costs related to retiree pension and healthcare. These are fixed costs that are continuing to rise in a declining revenue environment.

**Elimination of the 6.47 mills that will expire in six years per Public Act 345:** In November 2012, the voters elected to save our City from having to make additional cuts. (We cannot legally carry a deficit.) To comply with a request from the Mayor and City Council, we intend to

investigate ways to replace this revenue so that a renewal may not be necessary.

**Further declines in State of Michigan revenue sharing:** The City has lost upwards of \$2.1 million over the last five years due to revenue sharing reductions from the State of Michigan. While the State struggles to balance its own books, it's unlikely we'll see funding restored back to previous levels.

I intend to host public workshops beginning in November at City Hall. They will be posted as public meetings. I hope you'll be able to join me.

As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Respectfully,



Erik Tungate  
City Manager



## Keep Warm, Save Money

As temperatures begin to drop, it's time again to begin winterizing your home. DTE offers the following money-saving tips for your heating system: *Follow manufacturers' guidelines. Clean or replace the air filter regularly. Check your furnace for dust and lint. Check the chimney for obstructions. Inspect flue pipes. Check your ductwork.*



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If you or someone you know is struggling financially and in need of help related to home winterization, contact OLHSA by email at [assistance@olhsa.org](mailto:assistance@olhsa.org) or call (248) 209-2675. For more DTE tips or to schedule an in-home consultation, call (877) 497-2191 or visit [www.DTEenergy.com/saveenergy](http://www.DTEenergy.com/saveenergy)

**Shop Oak Park  
Holiday Bazaar**

**Sunday  
November 10, 2013  
11AM-6PM**

*buy this year's gifts locally*

Bazaar to be held at the Oak Park Community Center  
Interested in a table? Contact Emily Doerr @ 248-691-7404

# HAA

ARCHITECTURE  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
PLANNING  
INTERIOR DESIGN

## Moving Foward from page 1

and rebranding Oak Park as a pro-development, business-friendly, twenty-first century community," City Manager Tungate said.

The City of Oak Park will work with Hamilton Anderson to host a series of Community Visioning Sessions in the upcoming months. Residents should be on the lookout for chances to take part in these important conversations.

Events will be posted in future Branch newsletters and on the web site, Comcast TV 15 and the electronic billboard on 9 Mile and Coolidge Rd.



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## Mortgage Help Now

If you are a month or more behind in your mortgage or know someone who is, help may be available. Contact the certified counselors at Oakland County's Community & Home Improvement Division for a confidential appointment at (248) 858-1891. There is no charge or fee for this service.

# MINI-DUMPSTER

## PRE-ORDER TODAY!







**RESERVE YOURS!**

Contact DPW with questions:  
**248-691-7497**

## Demands for Cans

Response to the 95-gallon mini-dumpster offer was so great this summer that the Department of Public Works (DPW) sold out almost instantly. Back by popular demand, DPW will be offering another deal this spring. Contact DPW at (248) 691-7497 now to be added to the wait list and to arrange for pre-payment.



## Congratulations 2013 Recipients!



### BAC Awards Greenest Thumbs

Congratulations to the winners of the 2013 Beautification Awards! On October 3rd, the Oak Park Beautification Advisory Commission recognized 35 homeowners and one local non-profit – the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit – as the best-kept and well-gardened yards in the city. To learn more about the criteria for annual nominations, send an email to [dkyte@ci.oak-park](mailto:dkyte@ci.oak-park) or call (248) 691-7497. Nomination submissions are usually due around the end of July each year.



## Skating on the Edge

The Oak Park Ice Arena is officially open for business! Residents, friends and neighbors are invited to Open Skate from noon to 2PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday and for Drop-In Hockey from Noon to 2PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Starting January 5th, Open Skate hours will change to 5 - 6:30 PM only on Saturdays. You must bring your own skates and equipment to participate. The Ice Arena is located at 13950 Oak Park Blvd. (behind the Library). Questions? Call (248) 542-9669.

Remember to vote on November 5th in the General Election. The following candidates will be named on the ballot:

**Candidate for Mayor:** Marian McClellan (I)

**Candidate for Council Member (Two seats):**  
Emile J. Duplessis (I), Aaron Tobin, Carolyn Burns, and Keisha Speech

Questions about absentee voting or polling locations?  
Call the City Clerk at (248) 691-7544.

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**Mayor Pro Tem**  
Angela Diggs Jackson  
**Council Members**  
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Paul Levine  
Emile J. Duplessis  
**City Manager**  
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OAK PARK BRANCH, November-December 2013 – 4

[www.ci.oak-park.mi.us](http://www.ci.oak-park.mi.us)

**Every Monday**

*Oak Park Toastmasters Club*  
6:30PM @ Community Ctr. Free

**Oct. 1 - Dec. 13**

*Curbside Leaf Collection*

**Monday, November 4**

*City Council Mtg.*  
7PM @ City Hall

**Tuesday, November 5**

*General Election*  
*Polls open 7AM-8PM*

**Thursday, November 7**

*Eliel Lyn & Acoustic Guitar*  
6:30PM @ Library • FREE

**Sunday, November 10**

*Shop Oak Park Holiday*  
*Bazaar 11AM-6PM*  
@ Community Ctr. Free

**Wednesday, November 13**

*Friends of the Library*  
7PM @ Library

**community  
happenings**

**Monday, November 18**

*City Council Mtg.*  
7PM @ City Hall

**Wednesday, December 18**

*Trio Firori & the Jeffrey*  
*Beyer Trio*  
6:30PM @ Library • FREE

**Wednesday, November 27**

*City Offices Closed*

**Thursday, November 28**

*Thanksgiving*  
*City Offices Closed*

**November 28 - 30**

*Trash Collection Delayed*  
*One Day*

**Employee Recognition:  
Catherine Ricard**



*Pictured Catherine Ricard, during Story Time*

Catherine Ricard, Youth Librarian at the Oak Park Library, was recognized by the City Manager and City Council in October as the Employee of the Month. "The library's youth programs are exceptional," Library Director Beth Tompkins commented. "Our staff always demonstrates true passion for young people and learning, which is a perfect combination." The library hosts monthly Story Time events for young people, which is one of the most popular programs, both, at the Library and on Comcast TV 15.



**Oak Park Recreation Department**  
**"We Have Something For Everyone"**

*Ice skating! Movies! Cheer lessons! Martial Arts! Basketball! Nail Art! There's something for everybody at the Oak Park Recreation Complex this season. Did you know that the Recreation Department 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](http://www.ci.oak-park.mi.us/recreation), call (248) 691-7555 or pick-up the Family Fun Guide at the Community Center or at City Hall.*



**Reach 20,000 Customers!**

**The Branch newsletter is the source for news Oak Park residents can use! To reserve business ad space, call (248) 691-7589.**

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