



Village of Oak Lawn

A Community United E-Newsletter December 6, 2007



Keeping residents up to speed with the latest Village news

No Tax Increase For 2008

There will be no tax increase from the Village of Oak Lawn in 2008. This marks the third straight year that there will be no new taxes or tax increases.

The Village has seen skyrocketing fuel costs, increases in labor costs, and rising pension and health care expenses. Despite millions more in expenses, we have fortunately been able to hold the line on taxes through better money management and responsible fiscal practices.

We will continue to focus on the most efficient use of your tax dollars while providing excellence service to each and every resident of Oak Lawn. You deserve nothing less.

Safe holiday shopping tips from our Police Chief

With the up coming holidays I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. This season is about family and friends and the joys they bring but it also presents opportunities for people such as pick pockets to take advantage of the crowds and ply their trade. Some simple precautions can prevent months or even years of trouble dealing with the unlawful use of credit cards or even worse the theft of your identity.

- When shopping, never leave purses, packages and bags alone.
- Do not become overloaded with packages and parcels. A shopping bag is more convenient and keeps one hand free.

- Packages should be stored in the trunk of the car. Lock your car doors.
- Always carry a purse or bag close to the body with an arm over the flap and the strap over your head. If the bag has no flap, avoid using it as a place to put a wallet, money, or credit cards.
- Be aware of your surroundings & protect your “**Personal Space.**”
- Realize that everyone is a potential target, however, Senior Citizens represent a large proportion of Pick Pocket Victims. Common Ruses used are:
 - Thief will ask for help getting an item from a high shelf directly in front of the target victim.
 - A stall tactic is used in an entry way causing someone to bump you from behind.
 - A similar ruse has the accomplice grabbing a portion of the victim’s clothing claiming to have spilled something on them while the thief makes off with the victim’s property.
- Never leave a purse unattended in a shopping cart.
- When walking in the company of others, purses and bags should be carried on the inside arm, that is, towards the other person(s).
- Carry only the cash and credit cards necessary.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Never flaunt money and other valuables in public.
- Wallets are safer from the pick-pocket when placed in the front pocket.
- Placing a comb in the folds of a wallet makes its removal more difficult for the pick-pocket.
- If a purse or bag is grabbed, be careful not to get involved in a wrestling match. The purse-snatcher may have a weapon.
- The police should be contacted immediately if a personal crime or theft occurs. Before traveling to foreign countries, practice a few basic phrases, such as "help", "police" and “does anyone speak English?”

The best way to not become a victim is to not look like one. Following this guide will make a thief think twice about making you a target.

Police Chief Bill Villanova

VOTER REGISTRATION

Clerk Quinlan will be registering voters for the February 5, 2008 presidential primary. Any person 18 years of age and older may register to vote with a valid Illinois State Driver’s license or State ID. Your identification must have your current address information. You may register at the following location:

**St. Germaine Church Lobby
9735 S. Kolin Ave.
Sunday, December 9
8:00 – 10:30 am**

\$1 Million Bearer Bond Found in File Cabinet

You may have heard through news reports that our new Finance Manager Brian Hanigan recently discovered a \$1 million bearer bond in a Village file cabinet. The bond had 10 coupons still attached to it, each worth more than \$45,000.

The bond was purchased in 1992 for the village pension funds, and sometime thereafter placed in a file cabinet for reasons no one has been able to explain. We have also heard reports - as of now unconfirmed - that this may not have been the only bond purchased in this fashion.

A bearer bond is a "negotiable instrument," meaning the person possessing it is presumed to own it. There is no name or other identifying information on it. Put simply, it is almost like cash, and anyone could have taken it or any of the \$45,000 coupons attached to it and the Village pension funds would have been out that money.

If there is any "good" news here, it's that the bond was called in May of 2004. That means all those \$45,000 coupons were immediately rendered worthless and couldn't have been lost or stolen. The bad news is the \$1 million bond was never redeemed with the U.S. Treasury, meaning we literally had \$1 million sitting in a drawer, unprotected, and earning no interest, which cost the pension funds about \$180,000 in lost interest income.

Trustee Phelan, Treasurer Jim McGovern, and Brian Hanigan had been conducting a review of the pension funds' management when the \$1 million bond was discovered. They discovered several other financial irregularities and erroneous reports that, coupled with the bond discovery, prompted the pension fund boards to call for a forensic examination of the pension funds going back several years. We will keep you informed as information becomes available.



Leaf Bags are available at the Cashier Window at the Village Hall. A roll of 20 costs \$7.50. Leaf bag & yard waste pick up continues through **December 15**. **35 gallon toters** are still available for Seniors aged 65 and older. You may contact the Village at (708) 636-4400 to order one.

JUST FOR SENIORS

Seniorcise

What: For seniors age 60 and up who want to get in shape and have some fun.

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, **January 8 – March 6**. 8:30 – 9:30 am

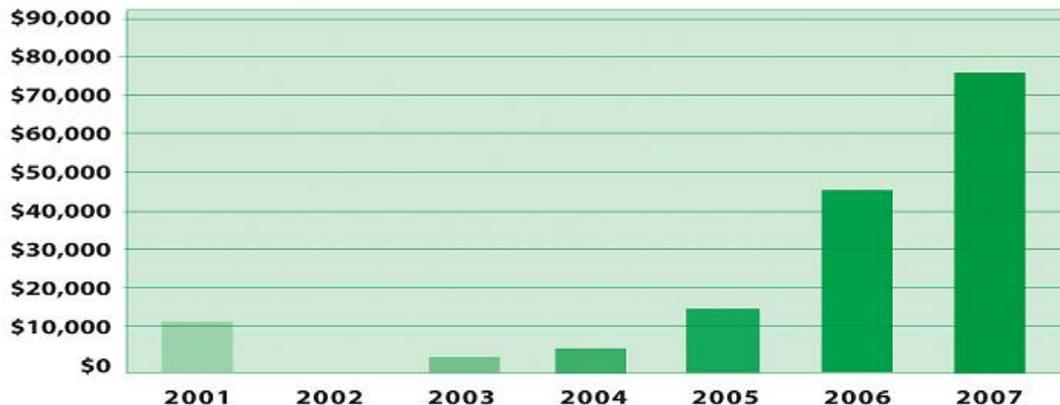
Where: Community Pavilion, 9400 S. Oak Park

Recycle, Recycle, Recycle

While the Village anticipated a 50% increase in recycling revenues, we actually have seen a 65% increase. In the first four months of service with Veolia Environmental Services, revenues from recycling are up from \$47,008 in 2006 to \$77,727 for the same time period in 2007. This added revenue from recycling reduces our taxes as Oak Lawn residents. Keep up the good work.

Remember to recycle during this Holiday Season. All those gift boxes, bags and paper on Christmas morning can be recycled. While entertaining, keep an extra can available for your empty bottles and cans rather than mixing them in with your household trash. Every little bit makes a difference. Help us keep the Earth green and earn a little “green” for Oak Lawn!

**Analysis of Oak Lawn Recycling Revenue
Rolling 5-month Periods (June 1st to October 31st)**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Worth Township Santa's Room

What: Children accompanied by an adult may stop in and visit Santa

When: **Now through December 15**, 3:30 – 5:30 pm and 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Oak Meadows Park

What: Join the Oak Lawn Park District Board of Commissioners and Senator Ed Maloney for a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new playground. Refreshments will be served.

When: Saturday, **December 8**, 10:00 am

Where: 99th St. and 51st Ave., (708) 857-2225

Breakfast or lunch with Santa

What: Enjoy breakfast or lunch with Santa and his helpers. Pictures with Santa are available for an additional fee.

When: Saturday, **December 8**. Breakfast – 9 am. Lunch – 1:00 pm.

Where: Stony Creek Clubhouse, 5850 W. 103 St.

Cost: \$6 per person. Reservations required, (708) 857-2433

Breakfast with Santa

What: Enjoy an abundant holiday breakfast with Santa and his helpers.

When: Sunday, **December 9**. Two seating times: 10:00 am & 1:00 pm

Where: The Hilton Oak Lawn, 9333 S. Cicero Ave.

Cost: Adults - \$22. Children 3-12 - \$15. 2 and under – free. Reservations required, (708) 229-8850

Gingerbread House Decorating

What: Decorate a gingerbread house. House and decorations provided

When: Tuesday, **December 18**, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Where: Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th St.

Cost: Residents - \$15. Non residents - \$18. Registration deadline – December 15.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Holly Days – Figure Skating Exhibition and Craft Show

When: Saturday, **December 8**, 4:00 pm

Where: Oak Lawn Ice Arena, 9320 S. Kenton.

Christmas in the City

What: Motorcoach bus trip to dine under the magnificent Christmas tree in the Walnut Room in Macy's Department Store downtown Chicago.

When: Tuesday, **December 11**, bus departs at 1:30 pm, returns at 10:00 pm

Where: Community Pavilion, 9401 S. Oak Park Ave.

Cost: Residents - \$69. Non Residents - \$74. (708) 857- 2200

Auditions for “Thoroughly Modern Millie”

What: Auditions will be held for the musical “Thoroughly Modern Millie”

When: Sunday, **January 6**, 1:00 pm. Monday, **January 7**, 7:30 pm.

Where: Oak View Center, 4625 W 110 W. St., (708) 857-2200

“Fame” the musical – tickets on sale

What: Oak Lawn Park District Community Theatre's teen production of Fame

When: Fridays, **February 15 & 22**, Saturdays, **February 16 & 23** and Sundays, **February 17 & 24**.

Where: Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110 St., (708) 857-2200

Cost: Adults - \$19. Seniors & children - \$18.

Be a “Little Angel” this Holiday Season

Oak Lawn Family Service will continue in the tradition of sharing this Holiday Season by facilitating a Charitable Drive for Families in Need. The program is designed to help local residents and their families currently experiencing a financial hardship due to illness, unemployment, etc. The program provides food, gift certificates and gifts to families. Your contribution will ensure that as many individuals and families as possible will have a nice holiday.

We are currently collecting donations for the Christmas Drive. Please consider the suggestions below when planning your donation:

Gift Certificates: Target, Toys R Us, K-mart, or other stores

Food Gift Certificates: Jewel, Dominick’s, Freshline, Boston Market

Food: Non-perishable items. Perishable items such as frozen turkeys/meat, fruits/vegetables and dairy, may be accepted but will require advance notice so that we can arrange for prompt pick-up or delivery.

Please call us at your earliest convenience to let us know that you will be a “Little Angel”. We look forward to hearing from you.

Oak Lawn Family Service
9401 S. 53rd Court
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708 423-3361, ext. 10
familyservice@oaklawn-il.gov

Thank you for your support!

If you are, or know someone in need, please contact us at the above phone number or email.

Your questions...our answers

You asked: How many lights are on the Village Christmas Tree on Raymond Avenue?

We answered: There are 7,200 lights on the Village Christmas Tree.

If you have a question about Oak Lawn, please let us know. We'll put the answer in our *Community United* e-newsletter.

Oak Lawn Family Service Gives Thanks for Donations

The Thanksgiving Charitable Drive for Families in Need was a great success, thanks to the generosity of many Oak Lawn residents and organizations. The Oak Lawn Family Service would like to acknowledge the Oak Lawn Telecommunicators, Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School Girl Scout Troops 141 & 312, and St. Xavier's Mercy Project for their donations and food baskets. A special thanks to the Oak Lawn Raiders Social Athletic Club for their generous donation of \$1,000 in Freshline Food gift certificates. Your generosity assisted 22 families and provided them with a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Thank you

Oak Lawn Family Service

SCHOOLS

School District 123 Early Childhood Screening – Free for Residents

What: Children will be screened in the areas of motor, concepts, self help, social, and speech/language development. The district boundaries are: North-87th St., South-107th St, East-Pulaski Rd., West-Central Ave.

When: **January 14, February 11, March 10, April 28, May 19, 2008**

Where: Brandt School, 8901 S. 52nd Ave. (708) 423-8363.

TEEN SCENE

Woodfield Christmas Shopping

What: Christmas shopping at Woodfield. Transportation and light breakfast will be provided.

When: Saturday, **December 8**, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Info: (708) 857-2200. Registration deadline is **November 26**.

Broadway Favorites – Free Concert

What: Pianist Eugene Kwok will play a selection of songs from Broadway.

When: Sunday, **December 9**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Where: Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95 St., (708) 422 4990

Auditions for the musical “Fame”

When: **December 10 & 11** at 7:30 pm

Where: Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110 St., (780) 857-2200



THE VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN SALUTES OUR RESIDENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES

**Jamie Hojek, US Navy
Pfc Antonio Fernandez, US Marine Corp
Pfc Garrett Coffey, US Army**

**TSgt. Matthew R. Marcinkowski, US Air Force
Sn Daniel Villavazo, US Coast Guard
Cpl. Andrew Chesna, US Marine Corp
Staff Sgt Christopher Reich, US Army Reserves**

**Dennis A Youngren, SrA, US Air Force
Captain David Pfeiffer, US Air Force
Captain Craig Lanigan, Army Reserves
Michael S. Zylus, US Navy**

**Pfc Benjamin T. Kunst, US Marine Corp
Sgt. Enrico DeLorenzo, US Air Force
Sgt. Daniel Miller, US Marine Corp
Rebecca Joy Inflow, US Naval Air Corp
Pfc Stephen Lukaiewicz, US Air Force**

**Sara Losos, AIC
Pfc Christopher Mann, US Marine Corp
1st Sgt Wade Pasquerrella, 82nd Airborne
Sgt Jeff M. Marsinkowski, US Air Force**

**Sp4 Archie Thompson, IV
Pfc Justin Sanchez
HM3 Leslye Thompson
Sgt. Robert Sanchez, Jr.**

**Keith Libner, US Marine Corp
Cpl. John C. Hojek, US Marine Corp
Sgt. Kevin J. Schwarko, US Army
Gustavo Guerrez, US Marine Corp**

**Pfc John W. Campbell, US Marine Corp
Spc. Dan Brady**

**OS2 Stacy L. Johnson, USS
Cpl. John Elder, US Marine Corp
Karl Schultz, US Navy**

**Sgt. R.E. Carlson, US Marine Corp
Sp4 Joseph J Necom, USA
Sgt. John Patrick White**

Tech Sgt. Michael Dignan, US Air Force

The Village of Oak Lawn appreciates the many sacrifices our residents in the Armed Forces make for us on a day to day basis. We ask our residents to keep all of those in the Armed Forces in their prayers. If you are an active service man or woman or have a loved one currently serving in the armed forces, please send their name and military information to mgorman@oaklawn-il.gov.

If any service man or woman would be interested in receiving the "A Community United" to keep in touch with the latest happenings in their hometown, they may do so by sending their email information to mgorman@oaklawn-il.gov

ZAZZ PARK LAWN'S ANNUAL SINGLE'S AUCTION & PARTY

Park Lawn's annual single's auction and party, ZAZZ is scheduled for Friday, February 29th at the Ashton Place in Willowbrook. The highlight of the evening is the date auction of date packages with bachelors and bachelorettes who are recruited before the auction. We are desperately seeking single men and women to volunteer and participate in the date auction portion of this event. This event attracts over 600 singles from all over. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door.

Gene Honda, announcer for the White Sox, Blackhawks and WTTW will serve as Master of Ceremonies again this year and through Gene we have had the fortunate opportunity to recruit our first celebrity bachelorette. Bonnie Greene, US 99 News and Traffic Reporter will join us and is excited to be a part of this event!

If you are interested in participating in the date auction or volunteering, please contact Nancy Schmitz at (708) 425-6867.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2007 FALL ON THE GREEN GOLD SPONSORS

City Beverage – Budweiser
Mancari's Chrysler Jeep, Inc.
Standard Bank & Trust

Heat & Frost Insulators Union Local #17
Robin Realty
Veolia Environmental Services

YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY

Cook County Prescription Drug Discount Card

The Cook County Prescription Drug Discount Card provides uninsured participants with the following benefits:

- 20% average savings on prescription drugs for the uninsured
- Extra savings on all mail order prescriptions
- Plus savings on medications not covered by insurance
- Unlimited family use

All commonly prescribed drugs are covered. Program participants can use the card at over 57,000 participating pharmacies (see www.naco.advancerx.com for a complete list. No enrollment fee, no age or income requirements. Cards are available in the Clerk's Office at the Village Hall or at the Senior Center

Winter Weather Safety Tips

- Conserve heating fuel by using a programmable thermostat to turn down your heat when you're not at home and during the night.
- Close vents and shut doors of any unused rooms.
- Protect against frozen pipes by insulating pipes near exterior walls, in crawl spaces and attics
- Disconnect garden hoses, shut off water and drain pipe leading to outside faucets.
- Have a battery-powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries on hand in case of a power outage. Also, plenty of non-perishable food and bottled water.
- Avoid using candles for light – they can become a fire hazard.
- Minimize drafts by caulking around inside door opening and windows.
- Have a winter storm survival kit in your vehicle. It should include a blanket, flashlight, batteries, first aid kit, high calorie, non-perishable food, extra clothing, small shovel, sand/kitty litter, windshield scraper/brush, tool kit, tow rope and battery jumper cables.
- Winterize your vehicle. Check your wiper blades, tire pressure and all fluid levels. Lubricate your door and trunk locks to prevent freezing.
- If taking a long trip, travel during the daylight and give an itinerary to a friend or relative, including the routes you'll travel. Be sure to check in, especially if you are running late.
- Make sure your cell phone is fully charged and keep a car charger in your vehicle for emergencies.
- BUCKLE UP!

BUSINESS SPECIALS FOR OAK LAWN RESIDENTS ONLY

Each e-mail will feature a few Oak Lawn businesses with special offers for our residents. Just mention that you are an Oak Lawn resident and read about the offer the "A Community United" email newsletter. Our features this edition are:

<p>CHRISTMAS TREES</p> <p>\$ 5.00 Any Fresh Cut Or Artificial Tree (4'-6') off</p> <p>Limit 1 coupon per tree. Not to be used with any other offer Valid thru December 24, 2007</p>  <p>10841 S. Cicero Ave. Oak Lawn, IL 60453</p> 
<p>CHRISTMAS TREES</p> <p>\$ 10.00 Any Fresh Cut Or Artificial Tree (7' and Up) off</p> <p>Limit 1 coupon per tree. Not to be used with any other offer Valid thru December 24, 2007</p>  <p>10841 S. Cicero Ave. Oak Lawn, IL 60453</p> 

***Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of A Community United.
Please know that your comments and concerns are always appreciated at
information@oaklawn-il.gov***