



Village of Oak Lawn

A Community United E-Newsletter

January 20, 2009

Keeping residents up to speed with the latest Village news

Oak Lawn turns 100!

As we enter our 100th year we thought our residents might be interested in a little history of Oak Lawn.

In 1842, a land broker named Julian Hatch purchased 1,273 acres of the land comprising modern Oak Lawn. The first settler was John Simpson, a farmer who purchased a heavily wooded land parcel along modern 95th Street in 1842 and in 1858 established his farm. By 1860, Black Oaks Grove had its first school. A large number of German immigrants were drawn to settle in the area after the Civil War and organized the Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Wabash Railroad laid the railroad tracks and was ready for service in 1881. The station master, Henry Crouch, applied for and received a post office, naming it Agnes, after his wife. There was another railroad station named Black Oaks Grove, so that when the area from Simpson Road to 95th Street, between Cook and Tulley Avenue, was subdivided it was recorded as Oak Lawn. Campbell's Oak Lawn Subdivision and Minnick Subdivision were the first to be built. Erasmus Minnick, whose house still stands at the corner of 54th Avenue and East Shore Drive, contracted to have the Oak Lawn Lake dug.

In the early 1900s, two more churches were organized, and in 1905 a larger school was built near the train depot. Residents began to consider incorporation for a number of reasons. In 1909, with a population just under 300, Oak Lawn Village incorporated the area between 87th and 99th Street from Central to Cicero Avenue.

The once coveted gas pipeline became obsolete within two years, and electric street lights were installed along 95th Street. Roads were graded and oiled to provide better transportation routes and a city hall was built. At this time, the only commercial establishments were a pickle factory and a hardware store.

During the 1920s, a fire department was established to serve the 489 residents. Additional subdivisions were built along 95th, 87th and 79th Streets and west of Western Avenue from 70th to 111th Street. In 1927, a Zoning Committee devised the concept of “super blocks” which proposed commercial zoning fronting multiple-unit housing which surrounded single-family homes. Although the community eventually abandoned the plan, shopping strips located along 87th, 95th and Cicero were developed in this fashion.

The Village had grown from 1,000 residents in 1930 to 27,000 in the 1960’s. Expansion was temporarily halted in April 1967 when Oak Lawn was struck by a tornado which killed 13 people and caused millions of dollars in damage. Oak Lawn quickly replaced or modernized old buildings. In 1971, under a new state constitution, Oak Lawn became a home rule unit.

While our population has remained steady, the Village is making efforts to modernize, update and develop to insure that we remain a tremendous community for families.

We will be celebrating our Centennial Anniversary with a series of events commencing with a Centennial Ball on May 16 and continuing for 100 days and culminating with a great Fall on the Green/100 Year Anniversary weekend event.

As we battle through the cold and snow, know that with the eventual warming temperatures will come some very memorable events for Oak Lawn families as we celebrate this anniversary together.



Residential Rental Property Owners’ Annual Registration Forms should be completed and returned to the Village Hall by **January 31**. This applies to both single family and multi unit buildings. Forms and copies of the ordinance are available at the Village Hall and on the Village website at www.oaklawn-il.gov.

**Our Children, Our Government -
*a partnership for the future***

"Our Children, Our Government - a partnership for the future" is a program initiated by Mayor Heilmann several years ago. Children from our community are elected by the principals of their school to participate in a morning of education at the Village Hall. The eighth grade students spend time with the Mayor, Clerk, Village Manager, Fire and Police Chiefs, and the 911 Emergency Communications Director to get a first hand view of how their Village Government operates on a day to day basis.

On Friday, December 19, four students from St. Catherine of Alexandria participated in the program. It was an enjoyable and educational morning and here is what one of the students had to say:

"Dear Mayor Heilmann:

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the "Our Children, Our Government" program. It was very interesting and fun to see what actually goes on at the Village Hall. I learned so much about Oak Lawn during my visit. I enjoyed learning about how the 911 center and the fire and police departments work together, and what happens when you call 911. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity, it was great to learn about the past, present, and future of Oak Lawn!

***Sincerely,
Bridget Hynes
St. Catherine of Alexandria School***

MONTHLY VEHICLE STICKER GIVEAWAY

Each month the Village will randomly draw the name of an Oak Lawn resident from our "A Community United" e-mail database. Congratulations to this month's winner: **AMY WILSON**

Your questions...our answers

You asked: When can I put my toters out for refuse pick up?

We answered: According to Village Code 8-5-6 "No garbage or refuse container of any kind shall be stored or deposited in any street, alley or public way, except for the purpose of pickup, and then only between the hours of 5:00 pm the day before pickup and 9:00 pm the day of the pickup. "

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

SENIOR NEWS

Free Rides for Seniors

What: Seniors 65 and older may take free public transit rides on fixed routes by CTA, RTA, Metra and Pace. Applicants are required to complete a short form and present a government issued identification card to verify age. A photo will be taken if needed.

When: Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

Where: Oak Lawn Senior Center, 5330 W. 95 St.

Plows Shared Housing Program

What: A program offering a housing alternative for persons of all ages who are interested in sharing living space, expenses and household duties with another person. PLOWS' staff screen home providers and seekers.

One person in the match must be a senior.

Contact: 708.361.0219

Oak Lawn Families benefit from the Generosity of Others

Oak Lawn Family Service reported that the Holiday Drive for Families in Need was a tremendous success. Thanks to the generosity of many Oak Lawn residents, organizations and businesses Oak Lawn Family Service was able to assist 38 families for Thanksgiving and 65 for Christmas.

A special acknowledgment goes out to: American Postal Workers Union, Automotion, CDI Construction Group, Grace Community Church, Hilton Oak Lawn, Oak Lawn Village Hall employees, Midas of Oak Lawn, Oak Lawn Municipal Employees Credit Union, Oak Lawn Community High School 's Pegasus Club & Operation Santa Clause, Oak Lawn Fire Department, Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School Girl Scouts, Oak Lawn Lions Club, Oak Lawn Raiders Social Athletic Club, Petty Bielak & Burke Orthodontics, VFW Post 5220 Johnson Phelps Ladies Auxiliary, and the Sisters of St. Francis.

Family Service would also like to give thanks to the generous residents of Oak Lawn and our neighboring communities who donated, food, gifts and certificates to this program. It is inspiring to observe people exhibiting such generosity and empathy during these trying economic times. The success of these holiday programs depends on the cooperation and generosity we receive from caring individuals and groups such as yourselves.

Thank You!

Oak Lawn Family Service

SCHOOL NEWS

School District 123 Early Childhood Screening

What: Children will be screened in the areas of motor, concepts, self help, social, and speech/language development. The district boundaries are: 87th Street on the North, the north side of 107th Street on the South, Pulaski Road on the East and Central Avenue on the West.

When: February 9, March 9, April 20 and May 18, 2007.

Where: Brandt School, 8901 S. 52nd Ave.

Registration: (708) 423-8363. Free for residents

ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

“2009 KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE” RAFFLE

Only 2000 tickets sold - \$100

\$100,000 in prizes

\$75,000 Grand Prize

Drawing Sunday, April 26, 2009

For ticket purchase information please contact

St. Catherine of Alexandria Rectory 708.425.2850 or
Kevin Hughes at kevinh@MCLABS.com

INFANT-TODDLER SCREENING

Monday, February 23, 2009

9:30 am – 12:30 pm (appointment only)

Maureen McCormack – 708. 496.3330 x 186

A.E.R.O. Special Education Cooperative
7600 S. Mason Ave., Burbank

Some children need a little more help reaching their full potential due to heredity, genetics, difficult birth, illnesses, accidents, environmental factors and unknown causes.

Most infants and toddlers develop in a very predictable pattern:

- They sit alone at about six months
- They play pat-a-cake and peek-a-boo at about 12 months
- They have 50 words at about 18 months.

If your child is not meeting certain milestones, contact A.E.R.O. to make an appointment for a screening.

THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF OAK LAWN-HOMETOWN
MIDDLE SCHOOL HAVE **CREATED A DREAM.**
NOW YOU CAN HELP THEM **MAKE IT A REALITY!**

2nd Annual Charity Volleyball Tournament

benefiting

 **MAKE-A-WISH.** 

Friday, February 13, 2009

Doors Open at 5:45 PM ~ Games Start at 6:00 PM

Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School
5345 W. 99th Street



Competing Teams

OLHMS Staff ~ OLHMS Students at Large

OLHMS 8th Grade Volleyball Teams

Oak Lawn Police Dept. ~ Oak Lawn Fire Dept.

Admission: Adults - \$3.00 Students - \$2.00

This Charity Volleyball Tournament is a kick-off to OLHMS's annual Make-A-Wish walkathon, in which the students and staff have raised over \$140,000 in the past four years. This year's walk will take place on May 15th.

For additional information contact: Mrs. Georgelos at sgeorgelos@d123.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

St. Linus Ladies Bunco Night

What: 2nd Annual Ladies Bunco Night sponsored by the Ladies Guild. Buffet, drinks and BUNCO included.

When: Saturday, **January 31**, Doors open - 6:00 pm. Bunco - 7:30 pm

Where: St. Linus Parish Center, 10400 S. Lawler

Info: Lisa Quinn, 708.425.2094.

Free Civil War Concert:

What: The Battlefield Balladeers will perform toe-tapping, sing-along favorites from America's Civil War era.

When: Sunday, **February 8**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Where: Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95 St. 708.422.4990

Movie Screening: The Visitor

When: Wednesday, **February 18**, 2:00 – 7:00 pm

Where: Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95 St., 708.422.4990

Lunch with the President

What: Michael Krebs stars as President Lincoln and Debra Miller as Mrs. Lincoln. Both are noted historians and impersonators. Lunch is included.

When: Sunday, **February 22**. Doors open – 12:15 pm. Buffet – 12:30 pm

Where: Stony Creek Clubhouse, 5850 W. 103rd St., 708.857.2200

Cost: Adults - \$18. Children (10 & under) - \$6. Cash bar.

Family Program – Walking through the Woods in Africa

What: Join storyteller Linda Gorham for African animal folktales updated with attitude. No advance registration. Open to all ages.

When: Sunday, **February 22**, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Where: Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95 St., 708.422.4990

TEEN SCENE

Live and Learn Women's Education Series

What: A free program where physician experts will discuss the latest prevention techniques, therapies and recent developments in HPV testing and pap smear screenings. Holly Loesch, M.D., Urogynecologist/Surgeon "Regain Control of Your Life – How to Deal with Incontinence" and Michael Regan, M.D., GYN-Oncologist "Cervical Cancer Update". Light refreshments will be served.

When: Wednesday, **January 28**, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Where: Advocate Christ Medical Center's Auditorium and Conference Center (located on the medical campus near 93rd St. & Kilbourn Ave.) Use the Imaging Center entrance.

Info: Contact Advocate Christ Medical Center's HealthAdvisor at 1.800.323.8622 and refer to Code #1W02.

Teen Game Night

What: Guitar Hero and Wii games for students in 6th – 10th grade. No advance registration.

When: Wednesday, **February 25**, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Where: Oak Lawn Library, 5300 W. 95 St., 708.422.4990

2009 CENTENNIAL CALENDAR

The Oak Lawn Community Library Foundation is now offering a commemorative 2009 Village of Oak Lawn Centennial Calendar with more than 70 historic photographs. Each month highlights a different aspect of Village history. The cost is \$12 and are available at the Library, 5300 W. 95th St., 708.422.4990.

YOUR HEALTH

Oak Lawn Community Partnership Free Health Screenings:

What: Free blood pressure screenings offered by the Oak Lawn Fire Department and free hearing tests performed by audiologists from Advocate Christ Medical Center.

When: Wednesday, **February 11**, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Where: Oak Lawn Public Library, 5300 W. 95 St., 708.422.4990

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Community Nutrition Network & Meals on Wheels Foundation

Community Nutrition Network and Meals on Wheels Foundation are in **dire need** of volunteers to assist with their mission: providing nutritious meals and services to older adults in suburban Cook, Grundy, and Kendall Counties to improve their quality of life. They are in need of Meals on Wheels Drivers and Group Dining Site Volunteers.

Drivers deliver a route of meals using their own vehicles. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Group Dining Site Volunteers lend a hand by helping prepare and serve or coordinating/sponsoring an activity, group outings, dancing, singing and parties.

To become a volunteer in the Oak Lawn area, please contact (708) 422-5180.

PADS Homeless Shelters

To volunteer to work at one of 29 overnight shelters in the South Suburbs call 708.754.4357 and ask for Denise.



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

**Sgt. Michael Sorice, US Air Force
Pfc Kyle Taylor, US Marine Corps
PFC Michael J. Roberts, US Army
Captain Edward J. O'Connell IV, US Marine Corps
Pfc James William Mazurek, US Army
NC1 Lawrence R. Walton, US Navy
Pfc Justin K. Cerniuk, US Marine Corps
Pfc Santo J. Carollo, US Marine Corps
Lt. Colonel John Paul Klatt, US Air Force
Jamie Hojek, US Navy
Pfc Antonio Fernandez, US Marine Corps
Pfc Garrett Coffey, US Army
TSgt. Matthew R. Marcinkowski, US Air Force
Sn Daniel Villavazo, US Coast Guard
Cpl. Andrew Chesna, US Marine Corps
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. Zylius, US Navy
Pfc Benjamin T. Kunst, US Marine Corps
Sgt. Enrico DeLorenzo, US Air Force
First Sgt. Daniel Miller, US Marine Corp
Rebecca Joy Inflow, US Naval Air Corps
Pfc Stephen Lukaiewicz, US Air Force
Sara Losos, AIC
Pfc Christopher Mann, US Marine Corps
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 Corps
Cpl. John C. Hojek, US Marine Corps
Sgt. Kevin J. Scharwarko, US Army
Gustavo Guerrez, US Marine Corps
Spc. Don Brady, US Army**



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.

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 “A Community United” email newsletter. Our features this edition are:



MILLIE'S ICE CREAM SHOPPE has new owners and a new menu. It features homemade soups, chili and deli sandwiches, with meats hand carved off the bone and, of course, delicious ice cream in a quaint old fashioned ice-cream parlor atmosphere. New Owners with a new menu. Dine-in, Carry-out, Delivery. Party trays are available. *Millie's would like to offer you 50% off any food or ice cream order (up to a \$5 value). Expires January 31, 2009*

5172 W. 95th Street. 708.423.3293.

Monday - Thursday, 11:00 am - 8:00 pm and Friday and Saturday,
11:00 am - 9:00 pm.
Closed Sundays

The Grant/Widel Team

Terry, Kai and Dawn
Coldwell Banker
Residential Brokerage
708.424.4000

**COLDWELL
BANKER** 

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

“List your home with us by March 31, 2009, and we will pay the \$395.00 processing fee.”



The Daly Agency

2553 W. 111th St.

Chicago, IL 60655

866.419.6697

ldaly77@yahoo.com

Village resident Larry Daly, a Family Protection Advisor and owner of The Daly Agency, has created a website for parents regarding Teen Driver Insurance. <http://www.teendriverinsurance.com/il-Daly>. The website was designed to provide information for parents of teenage drivers regarding safety, awareness and tips on how to lower insurance costs. It is a tool to educate parents can use to lessen the stress that most parents face when their children move into the driver's seat. It contains an online driver safety course, a listing of more than 100 teen driver safety tips, teen driver/parent driving contract, parental testimonials and links to many other organizations that provide helpful information. He also writes a free monthly e-zine "Driver's Seat" for which you may subscribe to through the website. Give Larry a call at his office at if you have any questions or would like help with your protection.

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