



ALL GOOD THINGS CLOSE TO HOME



OAK FEST: CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF FAMILY FUN

Summer has arrived! Oak Fest celebrates its 29th season from June 30 through July 4 at 159th and Central Avenue. This five-day event is packed with free family fun. From concerts to crafts there's something for everyone to enjoy. There's also a carnival for kids of all ages (even the adult ones). Carnival mega passes will get you access to all rides during the entire festival and are \$55 in advance or \$75 at the festival grounds. There are also daily ride pass specials throughout the week. Don't forget to head to the craft fair or check out the new craft beer tent!

JUNE 30

The 29th season kicks off at 6 p.m., with bingo and the carnival. Rockstar Rodeo will take the stage at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to stick around because there will be a Salute to Hometown Heroes fireworks display presented by the Oak Forest Veterans Commission at 9 p.m.

JULY 1

Doors open again at 6 p.m. with food vendors, bingo and the carnival waiting to delight guests. Sh'Bang will take the stage at 6:30 p.m., followed by a performance by ...And Beyond, a classic rock experience to see and hear. Go "beyond the edge" of classic rock with this one-of-a-kind cover band.

JULY 2

Family Fun Day starts at 3 p.m. with performances by local children's groups. Have a child with special

needs? Come early for the special needs children only time from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Show off your tossing skills at the bean bag tournament, which starts at 4 p.m., registration opens at 3 p.m. April's Reign performs from 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. And don't forget to head over to the watermelon eating contest, which starts at 6:30 p.m. Hairbanger's Ball will take you into the night with their rocking sounds starting at 10 p.m.

JULY 3

Start the day off with a vroom with a car & bike show at 11 a.m. Bingo and carnival begin at noon. If you like

music, you will love what's in store today. 13 Tikis will take the stage at 11 a.m. followed by Cadillac Groove at 1 p.m. Heart to Heartbreaker visits Oak Fest with a set at 4 p.m. followed by Covergurl at 6 p.m. Then Infinity closes out the night at 9 p.m.

JULY 4

Get your Fourth of July holiday started with the carnival and bingo at 3 p.m.

Enjoy a mix of music starting with Different Pulse at 3 p.m., Ratboys at 6 p.m. and 3rd Degree at 7:30 p.m. Dusk is when the real magic happens! Be sure to grab a spot to watch the best fireworks display in the Southland.

For more information or to purchase mega passes, food tickets or raffle tickets, please visit www.oakfest.com.



Upcoming Events

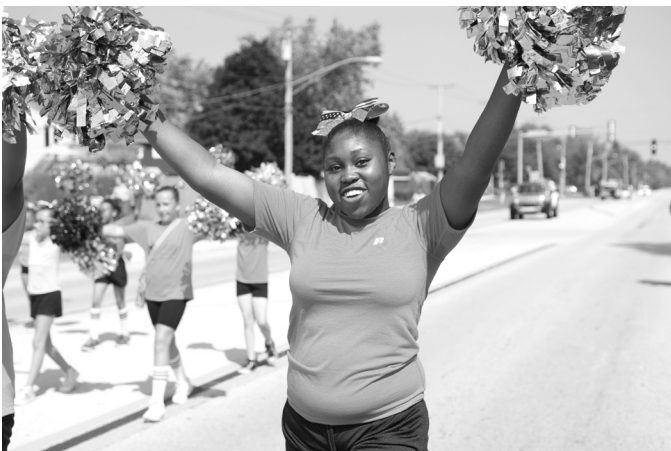
National Night Out

The Oak Forest Crime Prevention Commission will host the 20th Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the gazebo at City Hall. National Night Out is a community effort to strengthen neighborhood spirit and encourage police-community partnership. This year's event is designed to give residents the tools and confidence they need to prevent crime from occurring in our community. The event regularly features guided tours of the Oak Forest Police Department; the opportunity to Dunk-a-Cop for Special Olympics Illinois; and free giveaways and raffles.



American Day Parade & Old Times Picnic

The Oak Forest Veterans Commission will host the 5th Annual I Am An American Day Parade on Sunday, September 4 at 11 a.m. on Central Avenue between 151st Street and 156th Street. The patriotic parade will lead to the Oak Forest Park District's Old Times Picnic – a fun-filled event for all ages that has become an Oak Forest tradition. Families are invited to decorate their bikes, wagons or strollers and help lead the parade, which steps off from Hille Middle School.



Road Program Update

Iroquois Paving Corporation is moving full steam ahead with this year's Road Program, which involves pavement resurfacing; areas of partial, full-depth pavement removal and replacement; roadway base repairs; curb replacement; removal of asphalt ramps and mountable curbs across driveway entrances; partial driveway apron replacement to meet the grade of new curb lines; and sidewalk replacement.

The following streets are included in the program:

- Jessica Drive – Central Avenue to Lockwood Avenue
- Willowwick – Lisa Lane to Frontage Road
- Blair Lane – Wagman Street to Barry Lane
- 162nd Street – Long Avenue to Lockwood Avenue
- 153rd Street – Laramie Avenue to LeClaire Avenue
- Mission Court North
- Long Avenue – 149th Street to 147th Street
- Grange Avenue – El Vista Avenue to Long Avenue
- School Street – Las Flores Lane to Briar Lane

If curb and gutter is removed in front of your driveway, you will not be allowed to park in your driveway for approximately a week. This time is needed to give the new concrete sufficient time to "cure" to support the weight of vehicular traffic. Concrete work, including curb and driveway apron replacements, will be limited to one side of the street at a time to allow for on-street parking while the new concrete is curing.

The city is only removing and replacing the portion of a driveway apron necessary to meet the grades of the newly depressed curb line. Per City Code, the "apron" of a private driveway is the responsibility of the property owner. The city has requested that the asphalt and concrete sub-contractors be willing to take on private work to complete the entire apron at the resident's request. Iroquois Paving Corporation will not take private asphalt work. However, concrete work is available through Davis Concrete at 708-560-3751. Concrete work behind the sidewalk requires a building permit, please contact the Building Department at 708-687-4050, ext. 1041.

Any arrangements for private driveway work must be made by the property owner with the contractor and is at the sole expense of the property owner.

The Public Works Department is working with the contractors to minimize disruption to residents. Residents living on the affected streets can call Public Works at 708-535-4090 for more information.



from the MAYOR

City Clerk Scott Burkhardt is retiring after more than 19 years of service to the City of Oak Forest. Scott was first elected in 1997. As a result of his hard work and innovation as clerk and recognizing his professional background and experience, former Mayor JoAnn Kelly, in late 2005, appointed Scott as collector, a position that can only be held by the city clerk, but one that enables the incumbent to become a full-time employee. This reorganizational effort has worked well for more than 10 years with Scott taking on many duties and doing an excellent job serving our community in both capacities.

As city clerk, Scott expanded the work of the Clerk's Office and professionalized it not only by his presence, but by his willingness to work with and develop an excellent staff. After becoming collector, Scott took on significantly more duties that helped reduce the workload of the city administrator, the finance director and others. In fact, Scott became the Human Resources director for the city — handling a myriad of highly confidential responsibilities relating to hiring, firing and promotion of city personnel. He also took on the important role of Freedom of Information officer, overseeing the process by which requests for information about city government is carried out. Moreover, in addition to his duties maintaining the records of the City Council, coordinating procedures for the elections held in Oak

Forest, administering passports and writing ordinances, Scott handled all insurance related issues, including employee health, property, liability, and workmen's compensation.

Scott was uniquely qualified to take on the responsibility of clerk and collector having many years of experience in government with the state of Illinois, particularly the Illinois Department of Transportation. He had established contacts in high places and people willing to help him help our community. While Scott attended Valparaiso University in Indiana and received his master's degree in public administration from Governor's State University, he continued learning about labor relations and local government, eventually earning the designation of certified municipal clerk.

Scott is married to Maggi Leonard Burkhardt. Maggi and Scott have four wonderful grown children: Scott, Jr., Brian, Lauren, and Matthew. The entire Burkhardt family has been very involved in Oak Forest — its schools, St. Damian Parish, the park district, and Oak Fest. In fact, Scott and Maggi continue to work tirelessly to make Oak Fest a success so its proceeds can be distributed among the many local youth and service organizations reliant upon these funds.

On a personal level, my family has gotten to know Scott's family very well. The Burkhardts moved into our neighborhood around 15 years ago. Besides being my

colleague in Oak Forest government and community involvement, Scott has been an outstanding neighbor and a great friend over these years. I will miss working with Scott to improve Oak Forest. I will miss his good judgement, his willingness to work 60 hours a week to get the job done, and his professionalism. However, I am very grateful that Scott and Maggi will continue to be my neighbors and close friends of my family.

I have often been asked what makes a good government official. My answer is someone dedicated to the people they serve; an educated, intelligent person knowledgeable about government and its role in community life; a people person,



Kuspa with Burkhardt at this year's Memorial Day ceremony.

unquestionably honest and one who listens to the problems of others; a good person who wants to resolve issues, not complicate them. Scott Burkhardt is a government official that fits that description. Good luck, Scott. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Henry L. Kuspa

Henry L. Kuspa, Mayor



Laura Clemons
1st Ward Alderman
708-903-1845

Summer is here! Time to get outdoors and enjoy the weather. We only have about 94 days of warm weather to enjoy, so don't waste a minute!

With the annual road resurfacing program in full swing as well as kids out of school and playing outside, I'd like to remind everyone to SLOW DOWN. By far, the most calls I receive are reports of drivers ignoring posted speed limits and stop signs in our ward. I have worked with the police department to curtail these problems by stationing an officer at problem intersections for a specific period of time as well as displaying the speed sign cart in troublesome areas. The results of these measures were very interesting. Approximately 90 percent of the drivers pulled over for these traffic offenses are not outsiders but residents that live in the neighborhood! Please slow down. Also, please do not park your cars in the driveway blocking the sidewalk, which is against city ordinance and dangerous for anyone forced to move onto the street to get around the parked cars. Please be considerate of your neighbors and look out for one another.

The Gingerwood Pool is open! If you have never visited it, I suggest you take a drive over and see the gem that is right in our neighborhood. The pool is open to ALL Oak Forest residents at an affordable fee and is a wonderful place to relax, enjoy a swim, get the kids outside, and visit with

your neighbors. You also can rent the pool for private parties and celebrations! For membership information and pool rental rates, email Gingerwoodpool@gmail.com or visit the city's website at www.oak-forest.org under the Living and Resident Information sections. The pool is located on Aldersyde Road in the Gingerwood subdivision. I hope to see many faces at the pool this summer!

The Streetscape Commission will be judging homes for the annual Forest in Bloom beautification awards. This is our opportunity to acknowledge the great job that you do in beautifying your landscapes and homes. This is a very popular event, and the volunteer judges really enjoy visiting each and every entry. In order to be considered for an award, you must complete an entry form. You can nominate yourself, your neighbor, a business, or school. Deadline for entries is July 1. Apply online at www.oak-forest.org.

The Oak Forest Farmers Market is open at its new location at 156th and Cicero Avenue. Please support our local market so it can continue to grow. Many special events are scheduled each Saturday at the market.



Denise Danihel
7th Ward Alderman
708-535-0911

Over the Memorial Day weekend, it was such a pleasure to see the American flags flying high on Cicero Avenue and 159th Street. Thank you to the Oak Forest Social Services

Corporation for its generous donation, which allowed us to create this grand entry into town.

I hope everyone takes advantage of the free rain barrel program offered by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Each Oak Forest household is eligible to receive up to four free rain barrels. These rainwater collection systems are easily installed outside of homes to collect storm water runoff from rooftops. The rainwater can be collected for lawn and garden watering, plant watering, and car and window washing. Although it may take up to six weeks to receive your rain barrel, it's worth the wait. Applications are available at City Hall.

I hope to see everyone at Oak Fest, which runs from June 30 to July 4. This year, you can buy mega pass bracelets and food and raffle tickets at www.oakfest.com. Be sure to check out the daily schedule of events on the front page.





Jim Emmett
5th Ward Alderman
708-705-6895

In May, I had the pleasure of attending the Illinois Police Officers Memorial Ceremony in Springfield. The ceremony pays tribute to fallen officers and their families, including our own Officer Jim Morrissy. It was a privilege to share this moving experience with several Oak Forest police officers.

On the home front, several streets in our ward are being resurfaced as part of the annual Road Program. The streets include Long Avenue (147th Street to 149th Street), Mission Court North and Grange Avenue (Long Avenue to El Vista Avenue). All streets within the community were evaluated by the city engineer and the director of Public Works. The streets were ranked by the severity of repairs needed. The budgeted amount is then used to determine the number of streets the city can pave in any given year. There is no preference given to any particular ward.



From left: Officer Rich Belcher, Officer Nick Muller, Sergeant Jason Doornkaat, Alderman Jim Emmett, and Officer Bob Frias attend the Illinois Peace Officers Memorial in Springfield in May.

The fire hydrants in our ward, west of Central Avenue, are receiving a fresh coat of paint as part of the city's fire hydrant painting program. In addition, ComEd's wooden poles now have LED lighting to enhance visibility in our neighborhoods.

As Oak Fest is about to open, I want to thank all of the volunteers, who make it such a successful event. Your hard work is a credit to the local organizations you represent.



James Hortsman
6th Ward Alderman
708-687-5307

The City of Oak Forest is now moved past the Memorial Day Holiday weekend, now opens up the time that most residents will be outside in the yards and gardens getting our greenery up and growing. The City has just held the annual "All City Garage Sale" and the Streetscape Commission "Plant Exchange", so with those two events being great successes we look for some consistent good weather to get the action going outside.

Many Residents have Student Graduations with all the parties, family gatherings and activities that go with those wonderful events. As the school year has ended let's again make sure we are being watchful for the safety of our children this summer.

The City's Public Works Department have started the street repair

process, if you need to know if your street is on that list I believe the city website has the listing of streets that will be worked this season. At this point there are no Streets in the 6th Ward that are currently scheduled for repair, if you have any questions about street repair on your street or there are any potholes that need filling, call the Public Works Office or send me an email so I can follow up with them.

The Public Works Department will also be doing the latest tree replacements to continue the work of replacing the trees in the parkways. If you have been looking for that tree replacement or you have any concerns about replacing the trees in the parkway or if you would like to lend your voice to a choice of not replacing Trees in the parkway you can contact me at my email address – jhortsman@oakforest.org.

This is the time folks are addressing needs for their homes and as you will see many folks are in the process of repairing roofs, decks, driveways or patios. You may see the Building Department out doing their inspections of these repairs, but if you have any questions for them don't be afraid to stop and ask them questions.

I would also like to send my sincere thanks and gratitude to Scott Burkhardt as he is set to retire from City Service effective July 1st. Scott has been a fixture and has served the folks of the City of Oak Forest for many decades. Thanks Scott for all your Service and help to Oak Forest.

I look forward to assisting you with any issues as they come up just contact me with your concerns.



Oak Forest Police Remind Residents to Lock It or Lose It!

Through its Lock It or Lose It! program, the Oak Forest Police Department is encouraging drivers to take a few simple precautions to make sure valuables are not stolen from their vehicles. The police department's goal is to reduce vehicular burglaries over the summer months.

"A vehicle with an unlocked door or an open window is an easy target," said Officer Lori Manning, who serves as the department's crime prevention officer. "It takes less than 30 seconds for a thief to steal a phone, laptop, tablet, or wallet from a car. We want to remind drivers to remove their valuables or at least keep them out of sight."



As part of the campaign, police officers go through parking lots or neighborhoods looking for drivers who leave valuables in plain view, leave windows open or leave doors unlocked. In each instance, the officer will leave an inspection card under the vehicle's windshield wiper to remind the driver to better secure his or her vehicle in the future. The cards also will congratulate drivers who properly secure their vehicles.

How can you protect your valuables?

- Always lock your vehicle's doors.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended if it is unlocked.
- If you have a garage, use it and lock the door.
- Never leave your car keys in plain view or in an easily accessible area.
- Use tire and/or wheel locks.
- Lock valuables in the trunk.
- Park in well-lit areas when possible.
- Avoid parking near large vehicles and bushes.
- Call 911 if you see somebody looking into windows, pulling door handles or checking for alarms by bumping windows or bumpers.

Register for Free Rain Barrels from MWRD

The City of Oak Forest, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), is pleased to offer free rain barrels to our residents. Rain barrels are rainwater collection systems installed outside of residences and connected to downspouts to collect storm water runoff from rooftops. Rainwater can be collected for lawn and garden watering, plant watering, and car and window washing.

The 55-gallon rain barrels are made from recycled plastic and available in four colors — terra cotta, blue, black, and light gray. Features include stainless steel screens to prevent mosquitos breeding, overflow drains, and a convenient garden hose spigot.

In order to qualify for a free rain barrel, you must be a resident of Oak Forest, agree to connect the rain barrel(s) to downspouts, and provide access for an annual inspection by MWRD to verify use. The Public Works Department will be placing orders twice a month. MWRD anticipates delivery of the initial orders may take six-to-eight weeks after an order is placed. Delivery will be made by MWRD's contractor directly to your home.



Order forms are available on the city's website at www.oak-forest.org or at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 15440 S. Central Avenue, Oak Forest, IL 60452.

Farewell from City Clerk Scott Burkhardt



Burkhardt

Thank you to the citizens of Oak Forest for allowing me to serve you as city clerk. I will always be grateful for the opportunity that you have given me to be an integral part of city government. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the privilege of elected office and serving you in the City Clerk's Office.

It is my hope that I have done so professionally, competently and, most importantly, amicably.

Firefighters Compete for a Cure, Coach Austin

Oak Forest firefighters will be participating for the third year in the 5th Annual Fire Up A Cure event at Saint Xavier University at 3700 W. 103rd Street in Chicago on July 30. Fire Up A Cure raises funds for children to participate in fire cadet schools and programs. It also provides an opportunity for children who are fighting cancer and cancer survivors to participate in social and physical activities.

Firefighters from across Illinois sign up in teams to participate in various events, such as tug-of-war, jousting, obstacle courses, fire truck pull, and much more. Each team is assigned a pediatric cancer patient as its honorary coach for the event.

Austin Barnett has been the honorary coach for the Oak Forest Fire Department for the last three years. Austin was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma brain and spine cancer in September 2010.



From Left: Firefighter Nick Smith, Firefighter Ryan Doyle, Coach Austin Bennett, Firefighter Dana Pycz, and Firefighter Ryan Ballard.

"Our department has grown close to Austin and his family through their journey battling cancer and we are excited to be back for another year to compete with Austin by our side," said Oak Forest Firefighter Dana Pycz. "We appreciate all of the support from the community in the past years and look forward to seeing everyone come out again."

Fire Up A Cure is a family-friendly event that includes raffles, face painting, clowns, magicians, and bounce houses. For more information, visit www.fireupacure.com. To support Austin's Army, scan the QR code below or visit the team's fundraising page at www.crowdrise.com/danapycz-FireUpACureChicago.



Construction Can Impact Drainage

Planning on building a garage, retaining wall or fence? Building Commissioner Mike Forbes reminds residents to consider how such structures might impact a drainage easement or natural drainage.

"When setting out to improve their properties, residents don't always consider how those improvements might impact the flow of water around their properties or those of their neighbors," Forbes said. "But, it can have a big impact, especially if storm water has no place to go and begins to pool around homes or in backyards."

Per City Code, it is unlawful to erect a structure, change the grade of any soil, or plant grass, shrubbery or other vegetation that affects drainage. The Building Department will not issue a permit if, in the commissioner or city engineer's opinion, the construction will interfere with the proper and efficient flow of water. If a project is given the green light to proceed, the commissioner will evaluate the finished project to determine if the drainage has been impacted. If the drainage has been interfered with, the property owner must correct the situation.

To read the entire ordinance, visit the city's website at www.oak-forest.org, click on Government, City Code, and search for code 152.31. For more information, please contact the Building Department at 708-687-4050.

VISIT THE OAK FOREST FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAYS – MAY 28 to OCT 1
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. – 156th & Cicero Ave



708-687-1992
farmersmarket@oak-forest.org

oak-forest.org

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Resident Feedback

Please send your comments, suggestions,
compliments, or questions to:
City of Oak Forest, 15440 Central Avenue,
Oak Forest, IL 60452.

City of Oak Forest

Mayor – Henry L. Kuspa
City Clerk – Scott Burkhardt
Treasurer – JoAnn Kelly

Aldermen

1st Ward – Laura Clemons
2nd Ward – Richard Simon
3rd Ward – Diane Wolf
4th Ward – Larry Schoenfeld
5th Ward – Jim Emmett
6th Ward – James Hortsman
7th Ward – Denise Danihel

City Officials

City Administrator Troy Ishler
Finance Director Colleen Julian
Fire Chief Jack Janozik
Police Chief Greg Anderson
Public Works Director Rich Rinchich
Community Development . . . Adam Dotson
Building Commissioner Mike Forbes
EMA Director Robert Small
Taxpayer Advocate Guy Gattone

City of Oak Forest

15440 Central Avenue
www.oak-forest.org
www.livingoakforest.org

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Select Saturdays: Visit website

City Phone Numbers

City Hall 708-687-4050
Police non-emergency 708-687-1376
Fire non-emergency 708-687-6050
Public Works 708-535-4090
Animal Control 708-705-5690

FYI is published by the City of Oak Forest
for residents, business owners and friends
of the city. 🌿



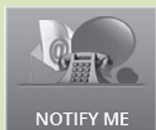
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