Spring Forward

New Year, New Projects

Board Approves Budget and Sets 2012 Goals

Flood Plain Update

Branching Out

Library Gala
Fellow Residents,

Your Village elected officials and staff are continuing to work hard to make 2012 an even better year than 2011! Here are some of the projects keeping us busy:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

The Village held its first Economic Development Summit on November 30 with residents, business, elected officials and staff. More than 100 participants heard presentations on the past, present and future economic development activities of the Village from a panel of experts. One important outgrowth of this meeting was the idea to restart the Village’s Commercial Revitalization and Streetscape Committees. I have asked former Trustee Jeff Kennedy to lead these committees. We will be developing measurable goals from some of the ideas developed at the Summit and will provide an annual update.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

This year promises to be an exciting year for new commercial development in Oak Brook! Pinstripes has been approved to build a bocce, bowling, and bistro facility on land just south of Walter E. Smithe furniture. Pinstripes has other successful locations in Barrington and Deerfield and is expected to generate at least $150,000 per year in annual sales tax for the Village. In addition, the Village Board recently approved an agreement with the HUB Group to build their headquarters at 2000 Clearwater Drive. This is the first office building to be built in Oak Brook in the past 12 years! HUB will employ more than 300 employees in their new five-story, 120,000 square foot building.

SPORTS CORE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING

Our Sports Core Director, Trey Van Dyke, recently gave an update at our Board meeting on the accomplishments and the future goals of the Sports Core. We invited all of our residents, and we had some excellent observations and suggestions on how to improve the Sports Core. I have asked the Village staff to work with a committee of trustees, residents and Sports Core members to develop a plan to improve this important Village asset!

Feel free to contact any of the Trustees, Village staff, or me with your concerns, thoughts or ideas. Let us know how we are doing, and what else we need to be working on. I pledge to you that we will do the best we can to make things happen.

Respectfully,

Gopal G. Lalmalani, M.D.
Village President
VILLAGE BOARD SETS 2012 GOALS
Recently the Village Board discussed and approved 48 major goals for 2012. These goals are listed on the Village website and include the following:

- Construct Streetscape improvements on 22nd Street from Spring Road to Salt Creek, which is mostly funded by a state grant
- Complete Saddle Brook road project, York Woods water system improvement
- Work with residents and realtors to develop ideas on how to attract younger families to Oak Brook
- Develop employee customer service standards
- Develop a citizen’s police academy
- Make the Village Budget more user friendly

DUPAGE RIVER SWEEP
Take an active interest in water quality. Participate in the 21st Anniversary of the DuPage River Sweep on Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. The Conservation Foundation along with the Illinois Environment Protection Agency, DuPage Stormwater Management Division, and Waste Management are working to remove trash from detention ponds, creeks, tributaries, and main river branches in our area. Last year, a record 620 volunteers attended the event and collected more than nine tons of debris. For more information, visit www.theconservationfoundation.org.

HIGHLAND SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT
The Village Board extends its sincerest congratulations to Principal Judy Kmak, the staff, and school community of Highland School in Downers Grove for being awarded the 2011 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

DU-COMM CUTOVER
Last year, the Village Board voted to move our police and fire 9-1-1 dispatch operations to the DuPage Public Safety Communications (DU-COMM), a regional dispatch agency that serves a number of DuPage police and fire communities. The Board made this decision because we will be receiving better services at a lower cost. The official cutover date to DU-COMM will be July 9. Residents will still dial 9-1-1 for police and fire emergencies and should not notice any significant difference when they call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

ELECTRIC AGGREGATION UPDATE
Participants in the electric aggregation program should have started to receive savings on their February ComEd bill. Oak Brook was one of the first communities in the Chicago area to take advantage of this program, which saved residents approximately 30 percent and businesses 32 percent on the electric supply portion of their bill. As of today, 3,248 Oak Brook businesses and residents are enrolled. For more information, call (877) 548-8795 or visit www.integrysenergy.com.

Make YOUR MARK
From time to time, vacancies occur on the various Village boards, commissions and committees. If you are interested in volunteering your time to serve as an appointed member, please complete an “Application for Appointment” form, which can be downloaded from the Village’s website at www.oak-brook.org or picked up at Village Hall. Your application will be kept on file for one year. We appreciate your interest in serving the community!
For a number of years, parts of the Village have been plagued by electric outages during bad weather and sometimes during good weather. About a year ago, the Village formed a ComEd Reliability Committee to work with ComEd to improve reliability in the most affected areas of Oak Brook. The committee includes Trustees Jerry Wolin and Mark Moy, and Homeowners Association Presidents Baker Nimry, Terry O’Malley, and Harry Peters. The committee has held several meetings with ComEd representatives to press them for improvements to Oak Brook. As a result, a number of improvements have been made or will be made, including the following:

- Replaced 3250 feet of cable that benefited Trinity Lakes, Covington Court, Brook Forest and Briarwood Lakes
- Robin Hood Ranch: Installed trip savers to reduce incidental tree contact outages, and will install 2550 feet of Hendrix cable (wire that can withstand tree branch/tree contact)
- Forest Glen: Installed trip savers and will install 2325 feet of Hendrix cable by year end
- ComEd will replace 1300 feet of cable on 35th Street that will benefit parts of Saddle Brook, Midwest Club and Midwest Chase
- Timber Trails: ComEd has installed a full loop distribution automation system. They have also installed 1000 feet of Hendrix cable along the York Woods Forest Preserve, and additional Hendrix cable will be installed this year that will benefit Timber Trails.
- Com Ed has also increased their tree trimming efforts throughout Oak Brook.

Oak Brook is also expected to benefit from the Smart Grid program approved by the Illinois state legislature last year. Specific plans will be announced shortly.

Starting this year, the Village of Oak Brook will hold two electronics recycling collections at the Oak Brook Public Library in May and September. Creative Recycling Systems (CRS) has worked with the Library in past recycling events, and will continue to work at our recycling events in the future. They have a contract with DuPage County, and we can work with them under that contract with the same terms provided to DuPage County. CRS comes on-site to our event and provides the materials necessary to collect and transport the electronics to their facility, and then pays the Village a small amount per pound collected.

DuPage County has published a brochure with details about the Landfill Ban as well as a website for further information – www.dupagecounty.org/recycling. Many surrounding communities, including Naperville, offer electronics recycling drop-off locations, and that information is also posted on the County’s website. Various retailers, such as Best Buy, Staples, Office Depot and more will accept electronics for recycling at their store locations. Another website that provides more recycling options is www.earth911.com.

* Note that household hazardous waste items are to be dropped off at the facility behind Fire Station #4, 1979 Brookdale Road in Naperville. The facility is open Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit www.naperville.il.us/hhw for more information.

Employee Milestone Anniversaries

The following employees were recognized at the end of 2011 for their years of service to the Village of Oak Brook. Thank you for your continued dedication to serving the Village.
The City of Chicago is passing on the cost of infrastructure improvements to the suburbs that use Lake Michigan water. Subsequently, the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) raised our bulk water purchase rate by 30 percent in 2012, and future increases are expected to range from 17 to 20 percent in the next year. To keep the Water Fund healthy, the Village Board approved an increase to the amount users will be charged for water. Starting with the March water bill, the new resident rate is $5.65 from $4.59 per 1,000 gallons and $7.05 from $5.74 for non-residents.

The Village of Oak Brook is pleased to announce that water customers can sign up to receive their water bill electronically by email. The electronic bill generated looks just like the bill a customer would receive in the mail. Customers will receive their bill one to two days earlier since the bill does not have to be forwarded and processed for mailing. Delinquent Notices will still be processed, printed and mailed.

If you would like to participate in this program, please email waterbilling@oak-brook.org and include the following information:
• Service Address
• Water Account Number
• Telephone Number

New and existing customers can sign up to have their water payment automatically deducted from their designated bank account on the bill due date. You will also be rewarded for using this convenient option with a $1.00 per month discount on your bill. This discount is by ordinance and expires January 1, 2013. Download the Enrollment Form on the Village website.

The 2012 Municipal Budget was approved by the Village Board on December 13, 2011. The President and Board of Trustees demonstrated their leadership, hard work, and tough decision-making skills, which shows their commitment to the financial stability of the Village.

The Village’s General Corporate cash reserve balance deserves some special mention as it continues to be an important aspect in the Village’s position of fiscal strength. The financial policy of the Village is to maintain a cash balance reserve of at least six months of operating expenditures in the General Corporate Fund. The projected ending cash balance for 2012 in the General Corporate Fund of $10,291,247 is equal to 6.88 months of operating expenses, which is $1.3 million above the six month operating reserve requirement.

The 2012 budgeted revenues are $45.4 million, a 1.8 percent decrease from the 2011 Budget. This is mostly due to lower revenue sources such as Utility/Telecommunications tax revenue and interest. The proposed 2012 General Fund Revenues (main operating fund) total $19.8 million, a decrease of $.6 million over the 2011 projected revenues, or 3 percent. This is mainly due to the 3 percent sales tax reduction assumed in the 2012 Budget.

Total Expenditures in the 2012 Budget are $49.2 million, a decrease of .42 percent from the 2011 Budget due to fewer Capital Projects.
The first three months since my official appointment have been very busy and exciting. There has been much to learn and many wonderful people to meet. I want to thank all of our residents for their warm welcome and my staff for making me feel right at home.

We are pleased to announce several new programs we are working on for 2012. First, we are launching our Homeowners Association Liaison Officer, or HALO Program, to begin this Spring. Officers will be permanently assigned to each homeowners association to serve as a conduit between the residents and the police department. The HALO Program will be a true community oriented policing strategy, which encourages communication, collaboration, and problem solving. We will provide more information to the association presidents next month, and begin scheduling informal meetings prior to launching the program.

Another program on the board is the Citizen’s Police Academy. We are currently developing curriculum and the schedule to commence this Fall. We hope many of our residents will be able to participate and get to know our dedicated staff and what your police department provides.

No police department is an island. Its effectiveness depends on the support of the community it serves. We cannot be everywhere all of the time, so we count on our residents to help us. Please report any suspicious activity you see and do not hesitate to call 9-1-1. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Police Chief.

From the Chief’s Desk
JAMES KRUGER

The Oak Brook Police Department is pleased to announce it will be hosting another session of the highly successful driving program “Alive @ 25”. The Alive @ 25 Defensive Driving Course targets young drivers and passengers ages group most likely to be involved in fatal collisions.

The program consists of a highly interactive 4 ½ hour classroom driving course focusing on decision making, responsibility and risk assessment. This program uses workbook exercises, interactive media segments, group discussions, role-playing and short lectures to help young drivers develop convictions and strategies that will keep them safer on the road.

Through generous donations from McDonald’s Corporation, this course is free to anyone who participates. Participants who successfully complete the program may even receive a discount on their auto insurance, depending upon the insurance provider.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

The next session is scheduled for April 14, 2012 at 9 a.m. at the Butler Government Center. Lunch will be provided.

For additional information or to register, please contact Officer Huff at (630) 368-8734 or via e-mail at ehuff@oak-brook.org.
Is your home fire safe? Would you like to find out? The Oak Brook Fire Department will come to your home to perform a Home Fire Safety Assessment. Call (630) 368-5220 today to schedule an appointment.

On Sunday, March 11, Daylight Savings Time began. Please remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and test the device.

Congratulations to Firefighter/Paramedic Mark Bahnsen (pictured below) who will be retiring March 31 after over 32 years of distinguished service to the Village. Mark grew up in Oak Brook on Adams Road in Fullersburg. He was a paid-on-call member of the Fire Department before becoming full time in 1979.

Mark is a charter member of the Fire Department Water Rescue team, and volunteered to become one of our first paramedics. His knowledge, work ethic and calm, pleasant demeanor made him one of the most respected and popular members of our department.

MINUTES MATTER!

Diagnosing a Heart Attack

If you are concerned that you may be experiencing a heart attack, call 9-1-1. Learn the warning signs to familiarize yourself in case of an emergency. You may be experiencing cardiovascular problems if you notice that ordinary physical activity causes you to experience the following symptoms:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

- **Difficult or labored breathing** with or without chest discomfort.

- **Palpitations** - the sensation that your heart is skipping a beat or beating too rapid.

- **Other signs may include undue fatigue, breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.**

For more information, please refer to the American Heart Association website at www.heart.org.
From the Director’s Desk

MICHAEL HULLIHAN

After a “reasonable” Winter, Public Works is gearing up for a busy Spring. Our annual Spring cleaning will include restoration of utility digs from Winter water main breaks and repair of turf damaged by plows. Due to the great amount of storm damage cleanup last year, our schedule of bike path and drainage improvements is very full. Public Works/Engineering will also be pursuing some major contract capital improvement projects, including road reconstruction and water main replacement. As always, should you notice some repairs required to Village property, please let us know at (630) 368-5270.

2012 Infrastructure Projects

The following infrastructure projects will occur this year within the Village of Oak Brook. Please contact the Engineering Department with any of your questions or comments (630) 368-5130.

WATER MAIN PROJECT (parts of York Woods Subdivision)
From April to October, this project replaces over one and a half miles of breaking old water main along Chatham Lane, Croydon Lane, Sheffield Lane (from north Brighton Lane going southwest to Windsor Drive) and Windsor Drive (from Dover Drive going north to the cul-de-sac).

CRACK SEALING PROJECT (various streets throughout the Village)
In May, this project places asphalt material over pavement cracks on the following streets: Ginger Creek Subdivision streets, Timber Trails Subdivision streets, Woodside Estates Subdivision streets, Acorn Hill Lane, Avenue Loire, Birchwood Road, Cambridge Drive, Canterberry Lane, Carlisle Drive, Clearwater Drive, Devonshire Drive, Enterprise Drive, Hampton Drive, Heather Lane, Hunt Club Drive, Hunt Club Lane, Luthin Road, Madison Street, Merry Lane, Natoma Court, Natoma Drive, Robin Hood Ranch, Spring Road (north of 16th Street and south of 31st Street), St. Stephens Green, Timber Edge Drive, Trinity Lane, Washington Street, Wennes Court and Wood Road.

PAVING PROJECT (Saddle Brook Subdivision and other misc. areas)
From May to September, this project resurfaces all of Saddle Brook Subdivision streets (east and west of Meyers Road) along with replacement of approximately ten percent of the curb and gutter. It also replaces the pavement for part of the Village Hall parking lot (near the east entrance) and repairs failing areas with deep asphalt patches in the northwest part of Brook Forest Subdivision and on Kensington Court. Moreover, it improves the parking lots at the Library and at the Fire Station #1 with asphalt patches, new sidewalks and re-striping. Finally, a guard rail will be extended along northbound York Road just west of 12 Woodridge Drive.

22nd STREET MEDIAN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
(Spring Road to Salt Creek)
In the second half of 2012, this project will enhance grassy medians within the State right-of-way of 22nd Street by installing landscaping along with irrigation. It is mostly funded by a grant from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, but is being coordinated by the Village.

Inspecting our Insects

An Update on the Emerald Ash Borer & Gypsy Moth

In June, 2011, Village of Oak Brook staff confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer beetle in the Village. A number of parkway trees from the Saddle Brook subdivision were removed due to branch wilting. Ash trees comprise about a fifth of the street tree population in the Village. The areas with the highest Ash tree population are Saddle Brook, Forest Glen, and Trinity lakes.

The Saddle Brook homeowners associate chose to treat approximately 400 trees in summer of 2011. The chemical used was Tree-Age which claims three year efficacy. While the Village continues to have the objective of gradually replacing Ash trees (50 per year), treatment of parkway trees will be permitted.

The egg mass surveys conducted in Fall of 2011 showed very little Gypsy Moth activity. Should the population rise in 2012, aerial sprays will be scheduled for 2013. If you have questions about any particular tree or would like more information, call Public Works at (630) 368-5270.
The Village Board has formally appointed members to two important committees who will be given the charge to provide input and guidance in Oak Brook’s future. The Commercial Revitalization Committee officially met in late January and initiated a review of several initiatives including future planning for opportunity sites as identified in the Village’s Commercial Revitalization Plan and reviewing design alternatives for a Village-owned directional signage program. The newly created Streetscape Committee met and is focusing in on projects that enhance the aesthetics (i.e., street lights, landscaped medians, parkway plantings, etc.) of several key roadway segments.

RECEIVES GRANT

The Village received a $300,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The funding will be used to resurface parts of 35th Street and St. Paschal Drive, as well as adding bike pathway shoulders on each side in order to connect the bike path on 35th Street to the bike path along 31st Street. The total project cost is estimated at $500,000.

Spotlight: Ravioli Oli Restaurant

“Ravioli Oli is a new fast casual restaurant focused on freshly made ravioli, hand made daily for our guests. I was taught ravioli making at the age of seven by my grandmother and this restaurant is indeed a tribute to her as well as the delicious food she taught us all to make.”

- JEFF BARRY, President

Photo: Village Trustees and staff attend the grand opening of Ravioli Oli Company in Oak Brook.
Spring is in the air, the grass is trying to grow, and it won’t be long before the Sports Core outdoor activities are in full bloom. Our staff is busy developing plans for summer fun.

We are happy to announce that noted swim instructor, Cindy Jones, has accepted the position of Head Swim Coach for the Bath & Tennis Club swim team. Additionally, she will also be developing new adult swim programming for this upcoming season. Please take a moment to stop by and say hi. We are very excited she will be joining us this season.

Below are a few dates that I think you should put on your calendar:

- **Golf Course Opened** – Friday, March 9
- **Golf Club Driving Range Opens** – Saturday, March 31
- **Bath & Tennis Club Courts Open** – Saturday, April 14
- **Bath & Tennis Club Early-Bird Discount Deadline** – Tuesday, May 1
- **Giant Golf Demo Day** – Wednesday, May 9
- **Bath & Tennis Club Pool Opens** – Saturday, May 26
- **Taste of Oak Brook** – Tuesday, July 3

Please watch for future mailings concerning the rebirth of Polo in Oak Brook. Matches are being developed for several Sundays in late summer. I hope you will be able to join us.
National Library Week is an observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April. It allows us to pay tribute to the contributions of libraries and librarians and to promote library use. Libraries can help us discover new opportunities. Take advantage of free access to books, computers, reference service, assistance with resumes and job searches, adult and children’s programs, financial information, CDs, DVDs and downloadable e-books and e-audiobooks. Our professional librarians are information smart and ready to help you find the answer to your question.

This year the theme for National Library Week is You Belong @ Your Library. National Library Week runs from April 8 through April 14. On Saturday, April 14 at 1 p.m., the Oak Brook Library will hold a special event, celebrating ten years at 600 Oak Brook Road. Please take note of all the festivities that will be available during Branching Out, our gala celebration. We hope to see you there!
TASTE OF OAK BROOK

Tuesday, July 3, 2012 • Oak Brook Polo Fields

Join us for Food, Fireworks, & Fun!