



I am often asked how the City has been able to turn its finances around after such a long slide. To answer that question, I would like to use this opportunity to outline a few key initiatives we have completed in the last four years that have paved the way for our transformation. They are as follows:

- The voter ratification of Public Act 345 that offset nearly \$2.2 million of our long-term pension and healthcare liabilities
- Refinancing of taxpayer bonded debt realizing approximately \$2.4 million in savings
- General healthcare plan changes that have now reached approximately \$3.5 million in savings over the last three years
- Other miscellaneous savings and operational efficiencies found in all City departments which total nearly \$1 million

These savings made all the difference for us, especially when coupled with my economic development strategy to grow the City's commercial tax base which resulted in over 100 new businesses. We have halted the slide and put the city on a sustained growth trajectory.

City Seeks to Improve Quality of Life and Private Sector Investment with Proposed 9 Mile Redesign Project

The proposed 9 Mile Road Redesign Project in Oak Park represents an exciting opportunity for the City. "It's one of those projects that has the potential to greatly enhance the vibrancy and the vitality of our City," states City Manager Erik Tungate who equates the project to a three-way win for the residents, businesses and the City. "Not only does it have the potential to create a more enjoyable and family-friendly environment for our residents, but - as economic development principles suggest - it has the potential to instigate more private sector investment in the area around it."

In its entirety, the project involves a realignment of 9 Mile Road from the Ferndale border on the east to the Southfield border on the west. The project is planned to take place over multiple years. The first portion under consideration is 9 Mile from the Ferndale border west to McClain Dr. This portion of the project plans for the road to be narrowed from four or five lanes to three lanes to accommodate vehicular traffic patterns as well as increase and encourage pedestrian and bike activity. New optimized street signals and parking installations are planned, as well. The new traffic signalization will allow the City to appropriately time traffic lights to allow the current level of service to remain when the road is resized. Motorists will still have the ability to conveniently make left turns along the entire corridor. Additional parking will be added to serve some of our struggling commercial districts along this corridor.

Narrowing the road, or putting it on a "street diet," provides an opportunity to include many placemaking amenities that could not be previously considered. Placemaking is a multi-faceted approach to creating public spaces with community-based participation. It capitalizes on community assets to create public spaces that enhance quality of life. With bike lanes, new linear parks, appealing landscape and gathering spaces, not only is it our hope that the community will enjoy these spaces, but Oak Park will be seen as a viable and vibrant community with people out-and-about enjoying what all the community has to offer.

This one-of-a-kind project will create a unique district within the City of Oak Park as well as contribute to the enhancement of the entire Metropolitan Detroit area.

The project is still in the early stages of planning. The City welcomes citizen input. If you would like more information on this project, please contact Kim Marrone, the Director of Economic Development and Communications at (248) 691-7450, or email kmarrone@ci.oak-park.mi.us.



State of the City: Sunflowers, Pop-Up Recreation, Balance Budget and One Iconic Announcement

The full capacity crowd that attended this year's State of the City address were in for a big surprise as Mayor Marian McClellan and City Manager Erik Tungate delivered news that was worthy of cheers and sustained applause.

"We have changed the trajectory of the City in many ways - arresting the decline and accelerating the growth. We are creating a City destined for vibrancy, energy and prosperity," reported Mayor Marian McClellan of the significant change the City has experienced in the past four years. "This is a great turnaround story."

City Manager Tungate opened his address with news that the City will grow and plant sunflowers - the symbol of faith, happiness, hope and unity - throughout the City as a way to represent our better nature and to display the joy throughout the community. Soon, pop-up recreation activities, like volleyball, ping pong and maybe even table chess will adorn select street corners for community members to enjoy. City Manager Tungate also disclosed that in May he will present a budget to City Council that is balanced for the next three years. Moving forward, he plans to carry a 15% rainy day fund balance to protect against unforeseen circumstances and, for the first time in many years, the City is able to prefund a significant portion of the retiree healthcare liability.

Perhaps, the most surprising announcement of the evening was when Curt Catalo, co-owner of Union Joints, announced his plans to renovate and restore the nostalgic WWJ transmitter building in Oak Park on 8 Mile Road, east of Coolidge. Union Joints is a collection of destination restaurants that reside in often iconic and repurposed buildings with historic and community value, such as the Clarkston Union, Union Woodship, Fenton Fire Hall and Vinsetta Garage. The WWJ transmitter building was designed by industrial architect Albert Kahn who also designed over 60 buildings that reside on the National Register of Historic Places. WWJ, known at the time as 8MK, is said to be the first radio station in the world to broadcast regularly scheduled programs as early as August 20, 1920. The building was boarded in 1995 after having housed a network of accomplishments in the history of radio broadcasting worldwide. The unique husband-wife team of Curt Catalo and designer Ann Stevenson specialize in giving new life to unique and historic buildings by repurposing the building and reinventing its charm and unique feel. The news that evening, spread throughout the community with cheers and accolades, sending newsfeeds abuzz.

WWJ Served One Purpose in Broadcast History, But It Is Now Destined to Serve Another

Curt Catalo admits that the WWJ building has been on his radar to repurpose for quite some time, but he didn't give the option much thought until City Council voted to allow beer and wine sales and the citizens of Oak Park voted to allow Class C Liquor licenses into the once-dry community.

"For me, it means the world that the citizens of Oak Park voted on the referendum to allow liquor," stated Curt Catalo while being interviewed for the City Manager's *Meeting with the City Manager* cable program. "That is something that they recognized is a necessity if they want to attract restaurants and businesses."

With that honor in mind, Catalo describes how he can now come into the City, and in due course, make a difference in helping to grow Oak Park. "We never forget to give back," he says. For 20 years, his company has given back to the communities in which they serve.

"We are big proponents of the strength of restaurants and placemaking for job creation," he said, using Vinsetta Garage in Berkley as an example. "That business has paid over \$6 million to the people who work there since we opened - and we haven't been open long." Vinsetta employs 100 people and over 30 percent of them come from the surrounding community, he said.

"We look at why Union Joints has grown over the years and it is because our dishwashers become cooks; and our cooks want to become chefs, and our chefs want to run a restaurant, and so forth," said Catalo. "We have people that have been with us for over all 20 years. And, as we grow, it is our obligation to find opportunities for them."

He also reports that his restaurants, known as destination eateries, bring commerce to the community. The Clarkston restaurant, for example, has been in business for 20 years and sold its millionth mac n' cheese in March. In fact, on average, they sell 166 servings of "mac" a day.



Another important element of his management philosophy is that he and his team never forget to remember why their buildings were built in the first place.

"We have always been fortunate enough to find these buildings that serve one purpose, but were destined to serve another," said Catalo who believes the buildings find, and speak to, him and his wife. "We really go in with a low impact approach because, for us the buildings are more important than what we are doing in them... We know that if we take care of these buildings, then when we are done, they start taking care of us."

The WWJ building's allure is the fact it can't be replicated. It's Albert Kahn, which is the pinnacle," said Catalo. "And, it happens to be on 8 Mile which is even more amazing... 8 Mile is so iconic."

He believes that 8 Mile is transforming into a vibrant thoroughfare which is being revitalized in an organic manner. "And as a business you have to respect that traffic because it is such a rare opportunity."

The Oak Park Library: A Valuable Community Resource

Today, the Oak Park Library enjoys a history of strong community support and patronage as individuals come to rely on the Library to explore new and emergent technologies; browse books, movies and music; and enjoy a quiet, safe haven for reading, working and relaxing.

Children exposed to library environments can develop a zest for reading, a passion for learning, and a quest for knowledge that will prove valuable throughout their lifetime. Adults visit the library for its community gathering space, a technology petting zoo, resources, personal assistance, and informative, educational and entertaining activities.

Oak Park Library Director Brandon Bowman and his dedicated staff enjoy servicing the emergent needs of the Oak Park community. On a yearly basis, they:



- register 1,000 card holders,
- circulate 94,438 items,
- answer 15,256 reference questions,
- Loan 6,766 items to other Oakland County libraries,
- serve 45,000 computer and wireless users,
- engage 3,000 to attend programs, and
- enjoy 86,000 annual visits

Oak Park Library Expands Services

The mission of the Oak Park Library is to provide materials, services and information to the diverse community to meet its lifelong educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs. This has been the catalyst for program and service development.

The Library recently upgraded their computers and doubled the number of computers available for public use. The computers have increased user functionality, facilitate remote printing and have document stations that provide patrons with the ability to scan to email, utilize cloud services, and fax over the internet. Computer classes are available to anyone wishing to learn the basics.

Zinio services were added complements of the Friends of Oak Park Library which is a non-profit organization that helps to raise funds for the Library's initiatives. Zinio allows patrons to read library magazines using their smart phones and tablets.

Help Fund Library Programs Through Kroger Community Rewards

Individuals that shop Kroger have the ability to help Oak Park fund their library programs. It's as easy as signing up for Kroger Rewards Card, then designate a charity of choice. This is a card that you swipe every time you shop at Kroger. It provides the card holder with a discount on their day's purchase, allots points to redeem at the gas pump, and if set up correctly can donate to the charity of choice at no additional cost to the cardholder. To participate, log onto Kroger's website at www.Kroger.com; register for a Kroger Plus Card; and designate the Oak Park Library, number "20807," as your charity of choice. Kroger will then donate a percentage of your purchase to the Oak Park Library. The Library uses the funds to enhance the public programs.



Library Opens Teen Space and Promotes Opportunities for Youth Development

In May, the Library is formally opening its teen space, a dedicated area of the Library where youth, teens and tweens alike, can gather, socialize and explore. The intent is to provide a safe haven where area youth feel welcome and accepted. The teen space is filled with youth-friendly furniture, books, and materials geared toward the age group and interests. Program activities will include monthly Movie nights, weekly Table Tuesdays, ongoing STEM programs, and maker space activities. Table Tuesdays will feature table board games, trading cards and the like to entertain and promote socialization. STEM programming provides entertaining and educational experiences that are fun and explorational in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Maker space materials are random items used to make things such as arts and crafts, Strawbees, Little Bits and Squishy Circuits - all educational and interest. Upon completion the activities provide children with a sense of accomplishment, but in a fun way.

Summer Reading Begins

The Library's Summer Reading Program officially launches on June 1. Children are encouraged to read during summer months when school is on hiatus to keep from losing literacy momentum. In this program, participants are encouraged to read 20 minutes a day for eight weeks. If they do, they qualify to be entered into the weekly drawing to win their choice on the prize cart that includes stickers, candy, books or toys. Those successfully completing the program last year were then entered to win the grand prize of a Kindle Paperwhite eBook reader. Of the 200 participants in last year's program, 25 completed the program.

Don't Miss the Fun: The Library Line-Up

Don't miss our upcoming Library events:

- May 5 - The Beauty of Native Plants with Drew Lathin at 6:30 p.m.
- May 7 - "Read in the Park" at Berkley High School from 1-3 p.m.
- May 11 - "Spotlight on Harlem" swing music night with PD9 and R.J. Spangler at 3 p.m. at the Library.
- June 1 - The Summer Reading Program Begins

Or, ask us about 1) Movie Mondays, 2) Table Top Tuesdays, 3) Storytime, 4) Adult Coloring Club, or 5) Computer Boot Camp. For more information, call (248) 691-7480. The Oak Park Library is open Monday thru Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 6 p.m.; closed on Saturday; and open on Sunday, 1-5 p.m. The Oak Park Library is located at 14200 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, Mich.



Oak Park Pool Opens June 4

Weather permitting, the Oak Park Pool is scheduled to open on Saturday, June 4. Children under the age of five must have adult supervision at all times whether in or out of the water. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a responsible guardian over the age of 18. The Recreation Department offers patrons the option of a daily rate or a season pass. Admission is open to both residents and non-residents of Oak Park. Fees depend on residency. Pool hours are Monday thru Thursday, 1 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, closed. Parties wishing to rent the Oak Park Municipal Pool for private events are urged to call the Recreation Department at (248) 691-7555.

**Oak Park Summer Day Camp
Begins June 20 • (248)691-7555**

City Manager Erik Tungate Re-Elected to Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

City Manager Erik Tungate has been re-elected to the Executive Committee of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, or SEMCOG. The Executive Committee conducts the main policy work of the organization. It monitors the operation of SEMCOG. As the chief working committee of SEMCOG and the financial control body for the organization, it proposes, discusses, and reviews regional studies and plans, and takes action on policies and legislative positions. City Manager Tungate's election to this committee bodes well for the City of Oak Park as he will be well positioned to identify all types of opportunities that will directly benefit residents and business owners.

Register for Oak Park Recreation Programs Today

The Recreation Department offers many opportunities for youth, adults and seniors to enroll in classes, participate in activities, and join programs. Recreation programming changes with the seasons so keeping abreast of the latest classes is as easy as visiting the Recreation Department; calling 691-7555; or accessing the menu of classes online by simply visiting the following link: <http://bitly.com/OPRecreationRegistration>.

Youth Recreation Programs -The youth programs that are open for enrollment in May and June include, Ballet, Jazz and Tap; Spring Youth Baseball, Dragon's Eight Karate; and Youth Girls Softball.

Adult Recreation Programs - The adult programs that are open for enrollment in May and June include, Ballroom Dance for Men and Women; Dance American Art-DIA Tour; Kickball; Men's Adult Softball; Anyone Can Paint; and Online Safety from Michigan Attorney General.

Senior Recreation Programs - Join Our 50 Up Club Today! - The senior programs that are open for enrollment in May and June include, AARP Driving Safety Program; Home Repair and Improvement; Lunch Bunch, Remember When; Sit an Get Fit; Laptop Computer Classes; Tai Chi; Senior Day Trips; Bingo; Estate Planning; Eat Smart, Live Strong; Yoga; and Total Body Workout.

For more programs and information , call (248) 691-7555.

City Clerk Seeks Election Poll Workers

The City Clerk's Office is seeking election workers who are skilled computer users for both the August 2 Primary Election and the November 8 General Election. Pay is \$150 for the full day. Candidate must be a voter in the State of Michigan; skilled laptop user; able to interact with the public in a professional and friendly manner; able to attend a 3-hour training class; and must not have a felony or election crime convictions. Duties include the verification of identity; performing computer search functions; electronic logging of voters, ballots issued and special circumstances; reconciling voter registration issues and instructing voters through the voting process. The application deadline is June 23, 2016. For more information, contact Cherylynn Brown, Deputy City Clerk, Director of elections at (248) 691-7542.



OAK PARK PUBLIC SAFETY ALERT - BEWARE OF IRS PHONE SCAM

The Oak Park Public Safety Department has received reports from approximately six residents who have been the target of a phone scam. The resident receives a telephone call from a subject claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS. The caller claims that the resident owes unpaid taxes to the IRS and that a federal warrant has been issued for the resident's arrest. To avoid arrest, the caller demands that the resident pay promptly through a pre-loaded debit card, such as an iTunes gift card, and provide the caller with the pin number off the back of the card to help process the payment. At this point, the Oak Park Public Safety Department is unsure exactly how the caller is making use of the card and pin numbers.

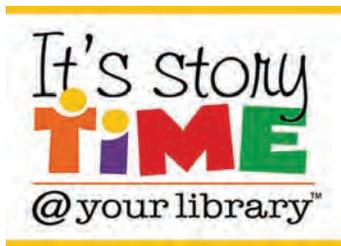
The callers are both male and female. The callers speak with a heavy foreign accent. The most recent calls appear to have come from a Virginia area code. Residents who may be the subject of this scam are advised to immediately contact the Oak Park Public Safety Department at (248) 691-7520.

It is important to know that the IRS does not solicit or accept payments over the telephone. In addition, the IRS "does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS also does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts," states the IRS in a public service announcement about pervasive phone scams. Unfortunately, telephone scams like this one are not new. The IRS warned of a similar pervasive telephone scam on October 31, 2013. In reviewing the IRS correspondence to the public, you can find helpful descriptions of other possible phone scam characteristics. For more information, visit <https://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Warns-of-Pervasive-Telephone-Scam>.

City of Oak Park: Community, Commerce and Culture



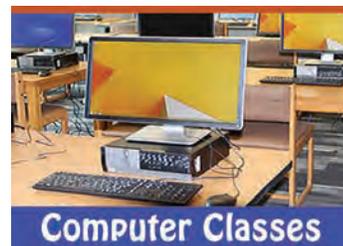
Adult Coloring Club @ Library
Whether trying to relax, restore or express, adult coloring can help. In May and June, the Oak Park Library will host the Adult Coloring Club every Tuesday at 6-7:30 p.m. Call the Oak Park Library at (248) 691-7480 for details.



Story Time @ Oak Park Library
It's Story Time! Bring a child between the ages 2- to 6-years-old to the Oak Park Library every Tuesday morning at 11:30 a.m. for stories, movement and fun. All children must be accompanied by an adult during story time.



May 7 - Read in the Park
The Oak Park Library would like to cordially invite you to join them at Berkley High School to attend the Read in the Park Event on May 7 between 1-3 p.m. Call the Oak Park Library for more details, (248) 691-7480.



Computer Boot Camp
Computer usage is becoming the norm for more and more people as they email, search the web, and become social online. Computer classes are held every Monday in May and June at the Library. Call (248) 691-7480.



May 15 - Swing Music with RJ Spangler and PD9
Friends of the Oak Park Library proudly announce the "Spotlight on Harlem" evening with R.J. Spangler and PD9 on May 15 at 3 p.m. Come join us for swing music! For more information, call (248) 691-7480.



Free Garage Sale Weekend
With the onset of Spring comes Spring cleaning and garage sales. The Oak Park Free Garage Sale Weekend allows residents to have a garage sale, permit free. Garage sale guidelines still apply. Free Garage Sale Weekends are May 19-22 and June 23-26.



Haul Your Own Junk Away
Do you have junk to haul away? If so, join us on June 10-12 for Haul Your Own Junk Away Days at the Oak Park Ice Arena parking lot. For further information, call (248) 691-7497.



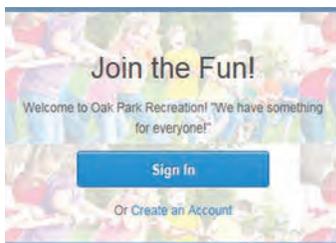
Summer Reading Program
If your child loves to read, enroll them in the Oak Park Summer Reading Program which begins on June 1. Your child will have the opportunity to enter weekly drawings while enhancing literacy skills.



Flower Sale
The City of Oak Park will be holding their annual Flower Sale on Sunday, May 29 in the Recreation parking lot. Beautiful flowers and great deals abound. Call (248) 691-7497.



Join the 50 Up Club for Seniors
The Recreation Department offers seniors who are 50-years-old or older, the opportunity to join the 50 Up Club. Membership provides access to day trips, lunch bunch, drop-in classes, and more.



Online Recreation Registration
Did you know you can register online for Recreation Department events, programs or activities? Simply click on <http://bitly.com/OPRecreationRegistration> and sign-in! Or, call (248) 691-7555.



Summer Day Camp Begins
Children ages 5 and up are invited to experience the Oak Park Tot Lot and Day Camp. Latchkey is also available. The Recreation Dept. accepts weekly registrations. Call (248) 691-7555.



STEM Programs Begin
As part of their Youth Development program, the Oak Park Library will be conducting a series of science, technology, engineering, and math. programs. Call (248) 691-7580



Recycling Bins
Recycling bins deter rodents and keep items contained. You can purchase recycling bins and trash containers through SOCCRA, DPW, Water Dept, or Library. Call (248) 691-7497



Accepting Applications
The Clerk's Office is currently accepting applications for various Boards and Commission openings. For more information, call (248) 691-7533.



Native Plants with Drew Lathin
The Friends of the Library invite you to learn about sustainable landscapes and native plants with Drew Lathin on Thursday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Park Library.

Mayor
Marian McClellan
Mayor Pro Tem
Carolyn Burns
Council Members
Kiesha Speech
Solomon Radner
Ken Rich
City Manager
Erik Tungate

ECRWSS

**RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS
POSTAL CUSTOMER
OAK PARK, MICHIGAN 48237**

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Detroit, MI
Permit No. 1376



CITY HALL • 14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237 • Ph: (248) 691-7400 • www.ci.oak-park.mi.us

OAK PARK BRANCH, City of Oak Park's Community Newsletter

May - June 2016, Page 6

community happenings

May 2016 Dates to Remember

May 2 – City Council Meeting
May 4 – Library Book Club Meeting
May 4 – Independence Day Commission Meeting
May 5 – CINCO DE MAYO
May 5 – The Beauty of Native Plants, Library Presentation
May 7 – Read in the Park, Berkley High School
May 8 – MOTHER'S DAY
May 9 – Planning Commission Meeting
May 9 – Emergency Services Council Meeting
May 9 – Friends of the Oak Park Library Meeting
May 10 – Senior Day Trip/Tulip Time Festival
May 12 – Ethnic Advisory Commission Meeting
May 15 – "Spotlight on Harlem," Swing music with PD9/R.J. Spangler
May 16 – City Council Meeting
May 16 to 17 – Seniors/AARP Smart Driver Course
May 17 – Beautification Advisory Commission Meeting
May 17 – Library Board of Directors Meeting
May 18 – Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
May 18 – Communications Commission Meeting
May 19 – Corridor Improvement Authority Board Meeting
May 19 to 22 – Free Garage Sale Weekend
May 20 – Senior Lunch Bunch/Bar Louie, Great Lakes Crossing
May 21 – ARMED SERVICES DAY
May 23 – Public Safety Retirement System Meeting
May 24 – Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
May 25 – Seniors/50 Up Club Birthday Party
May 25 – Summerfest Meeting
May 25 – Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting
May 29 – Flower Sale
May 29 – Oak Park Library Closed
May 30 – MEMORIAL DAY
May 30 – Oak Park Library and City Offices Closed

June 2016 Dates to Remember

June 1 – Library Summer Reading Program Begins
June 1 – Independence Day Commission Meeting
June 1 – Library Book Club Meeting
June 2 and 3 – Trash Collection Delayed One Day
June 4 to 5 – Oak Park Municipal Pool Open (Weekend Only)
June 6 – City Council Meeting
June 9 – Ethnic Advisory Commission Meeting
June 9 – Senior Day Trip/DIA Experience the Dance
June 10 to 12 – Haul Your Own Junk Away
June 11 – SHAVUOT BEGINS
June 11 to 12 – Pool Open (Weekend Only)
June 13 – SHAVUOT ENDS
June 13 – Planning Commission Meeting
June 13 – Emergency Services Council Meeting
June 13 – Friends of Oak Park Library Meeting
June 14 – FLAG DAY
June 15 – Senior/Summer Ice Cream Social
June 15 – Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
June 15 – Communications Commission Meeting
June 16 – Recycling and Environmental Conservation Commission Meeting
June 16 – Corridor Improvement Authority Board Meeting
June 19 – FATHER'S DAY
June 20 – FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
June 20 – Summer Day Camp Begins
June 20 – City Council Meeting
June 21 – Beautification Advisory Commission Meeting
June 21 – Library Board of Directors Meeting
June 22 – Summerfest Meeting
June 22 – Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting
June 23 to 26 – Free Garage Sale Weekend
June 24 – Senior Lunch Bunch/Max & Erma's Partridge Creek
June 27 – Public Safety Retirement System Meeting
June 28 – Bike Rodeo
June 28 – Seniors/Remember When, Diamond Jack River Cruise
June 28 – Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
June 29 – Seniors/50 Up Club Birthday Party

Published by:

City of Oak Park

Denise DeSantis, Director

Department of Community Engagement and Public Information
14000 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237

Letters to the editor: oakpark@ci.oak-park.mi.us

For past issues: www.ci.oak-park.mi.us/public_information

Stay Connected Subscribe Today

Would you like to receive our online eBlasts?
If so, send an email to OakPark@ci.oak-park.mi.us