



Terrace Leaves

August • September 2014

A Message From the Mayor

I want to thank everyone for attending our fabulous Fourth of July event this year. The weather could not have been better, and with great food, games, entertainment, music and fun, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.



I am pleased to report that we have had our Groundbreaking Ceremony for a new, spacious and modern police facility that will enable the City to take advantage of the latest technology and advancements available to law enforcement. The new Police Department will be located on the lot just east of City Hall.

We are also starting on a renovation of City Hall, which is expected to take several months. An updated and modernized City Hall will help us to better serve the needs of our residents.

The City is anticipating a \$70,000 grant from the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, which will be applied to construction work on the curb and gutter in the Elm Place cul-de-sac, as well as the intersection of MacArthur Drive and Stillwell Road. The work is expected to take place this fall.

I also want to inform residents that once again the City will be performing cracksealing of all streets, a project that is expected to be finished during September. We have tried to create minimal disruption during this work and there will be no roadway closings.

If you have questions about any of these projects — or additional concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at City Hall at 630-941-8300. Also, just a reminder — kids will be back in school soon, so please take care when driving through our City's neighborhoods.

*Sincerely,
Mayor Tony Ragucci*



Thank You to our Fourth of July Sponsors!

Again this year the City offered a sponsorship program for its annual Fourth of July celebration. Thank you to all of the businesses that helped us put on the Independence Day Celebration. Your assistance in putting on this annual community favorite is greatly appreciated.

- *Platinum sponsor: (\$10,000)* — Flood Brothers
- *Silver sponsors: (\$2,500)*
—Blackhawk Restaurant Group (DBA: Betty's Bistro & Penny's Place)
- *Bronze sponsors: (\$1,000)*
—BMO Harris Bank
—Storino, Ramello & Durkin
—Christopher B. Burke Engineering
- *Certificate sponsors: (\$500)*
— AlphaGraphics Oakbrook Terrace
— Beppe's Italian Deli & Cafe
— Casualty Recovery Group, Inc.
— Daniel Law Office, P.C.
— JRC Investments, LLC
— Drury Lane
— Wolf & Company
- *Red, White & Blue sponsors: (Under \$500)*
—Dana Investment Advisors
—Pearle Vision
—PTC Inc.
—S & H Rehab
—Volare



Monday, August 25Brush Pick-up
 Friday, August 29City Hall Summer Hours End
 Monday, September 15Brush Pick-up

John Valle Appointed to Police Commission



Longtime Oakbrook Terrace resident John Valle, who recently was appointed to the Oakbrook Terrace Police Commission, is not new to the workings of city government. He served as a member of the Oakbrook

Terrace City Council from 1989 to 2001, in addition to holding the position of president of the Oakbrook Terrace Fire Protection District, together with a wide variety of other volunteer activities.

"The entire community benefits when an individual participates in public-spirited efforts to improve the quality of life," John said, "whether they're volunteering for a charitable organization, assisting with civic committees or running for office. There are so many ways to give back, such as helping out at the food pantry, with seniors or with the disabled. If everyone did one good deed a day, what a better place it would be."

The duties of the Police Commission, John explained, are threefold. "To recruit,

select and appoint qualified candidates to fill vacancies for original appointment of police officers. To determine testing and selection processes that allow qualified employees to participate in the promotional processes in the police department. And to conduct disciplinary hearings or appeals of disciplinary action in the police department."

"The Police Commission is given the power and authority of the state legislature to find the best officers for the safety of our residents," he continued.

John is also involved with numerous other civic and community organizations, such as the Illinois State Crime Commission, Elks Lodge and American Legion post 187 among others.

In his professional life, John is Township Supervisor for York Township. He and his wife Mariann have two children and have been married for 34 years.

"I'm excited that the Mayor and City Council appointed me," John said, "and I will give the very best that I can for the benefit of our community."

New Planning & Zoning Commission Member Paul Smurawski



Paul Smurawski recently joined the City's Planning and Zoning Commission, a seven-member body, which is charged with evaluating variations to zoning ordinances. Prior to joining the commission, Paul attended its meetings to familiarize himself with the work.

"I wanted to get involved with city government," he said, "meet new people and also give myself something meaningful to do."

Paul, his wife Keiko, and their two sons have lived in Oakbrook Terrace for five years. "It is a unique community with great parks and open spaces," he said. "They're wonderful for walking and running, something I enjoy doing."

Paul is an administrative assistant for the FDIC. In addition, he spent 9-1/2 years on active duty in the Navy followed by 18-1/2 years in the Navy Reserve. Until recently, he was the National Treasurer for the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association and a Finance Office at the American Legion Post in Northlake.

Paul is looking forward to serving on the City's Planning and Zoning Commission. "I'm doing something new," he said, "and I get an education on how some parts of real life work. It's a great opportunity to develop relationships with some outstanding people while working to make positive contributions to the City."

Meet Cinnamon Benda, Accounts Payable and Utility Billing

In May of this year, Cinnamon Benda joined the City of Oakbrook Terrace in utility billing and accounts payable. Cinnamon, who brings a wealth of experience in accounting and finance and auditing to the position, grew up in Lombard and today resides in Warrenville with her husband Joseph and two daughters Sierra and Iliana.

She is pleased about the new position and reported that she finds the City officials and staff very welcoming and accommodating. "This is a very friendly town," she said, "and I love how centrally located it is."

Cinnamon was named after the Character played by Barbara Bain in the *Mission Impossible* TV show that began in the 1960s. In her spare time, Cinnamon enjoys a wide range of hobbies. "I love to garden and cook and am very active in biking, hiking and swimming," she said. "We also like extreme sports and motorcycling in the good weather," she added.

The City is pleased to welcome Cinnamon to her new position.



New Community Service Officer Christine O'Brien



Christine O'Brien recently joined the City of Oakbrook Terrace Police Department as a Community Service Officer. A Community Service Officer holds a civilian position that supports the police in non-hazardous duties. The purpose of the position is to provide an alternative approach to handling non-criminal offenses and to provide support services such as clerical,

ordinance and code enforcement, as well as community relations functions for the Police Department and the community.

Christine is not new to the workings of law enforcement, however. She worked at the Wheaton Police Department, as well as the Illinois State Police prior to coming to the City.

When she chose to go into law enforcement, Christine was following in the family tradition. "Most of my family is involved in law enforcement," she said. "From a very young age, I knew this is what I wanted to do."

Christine finds her work as a Community Service Officer highly rewarding. "It's always a little different every day. I enjoy the fact that it's never exactly the same."

Christine, who grew up in West Chicago, is enthusiastic about the City of Oakbrook Terrace. "Oakbrook Terrace has so much to offer," she said, "entertainment, restaurants and easy access to highways for commuting. Oakbrook Terrace is an exceptional City and it is an honor to serve such an outstanding community."

City Hall and Public Services Summer Hours

Through Friday, August 29

City Hall

Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Street and Water Divisions

Monday-Thursday: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Police Department hours remain the same.

2014 Brush Pick-Up Dates

August 25

October 6

September 15

October 27

Why is Homeowners' Insurance so Important?

Homeowners insurance not only protects homeowners against losses due to fire, weather-related events or theft, but it also helps to protect homeowners financially.

Building Coverage

At the minimum, all lenders require the structure of the home to be insured. Policies cover losses from fire and weather, but may not cover a building that is damaged by flood or earthquake. Homeowners can add protection against these hazards to the policy, which will add to the premium. Standard insurance policies cover damage from smoke, fire, hail, wind, vandalism and theft. The building is insured for its value. In a volatile housing market, values can go up or down quickly, and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to make sure the home is insured for its market value.

Liability Insurance

Liability coverage pays for claims against the homeowner for accidents on their property. A visitor may hurt themselves on the property and they have the right to file a claim or a lawsuit against the homeowner to pay for medical expenses and damages that result from the accident.

Personal Property Coverage

While not required by the lender, personal property coverage is frequently part of a policy. Homeowners need to document their possessions, with receipts, video or photographs, and secure these records in a safe place. Making several paper or DVD copies and distributing them among friends or family who do not live in the house is a good way to safeguard the record of personal property. Most hazard insurance policies will not cover expensive jewelry, art, or musical instruments, except as riders to the policy. Before

many insurance companies will accept the value of the item, they may require an appraisal of the item by a professional. Some homeowners' insurance policies do not cover business equipment located in the home; just as with jewelry or art, the insurer may require a rider for items that are used in a home office, such as copiers, faxes and computers.

Finding Insurance

Lenders may recommend a specific company, but each homeowner has the right to shop around to find a policy that will satisfy both the lender and the owner. Some people save money on their homeowner insurance policies by bundling the policy with the company who insures their vehicles. The lender will require the homeowner to show proof of insurance before they will fund the mortgage at the close of escrow to protect both themselves and the homeowner from losses.

Managing Raccoon Problems in our Community

Many residents have experienced raccoon problems and the following are some helpful tips on how to avoid attracting them and what to do if you already have a problem.

Raccoons prefer wooded areas near water and in natural habitats. They den in hollow trees, ground burrows, brush piles, or rock crevices. This nocturnal animal adapts extremely well to urban and suburban environments, where it often creates dens in backyards, beneath decks, or in accessible outbuildings. Attics, chimneys, and the spaces beneath houses are also used as dens if access can be gained. Because they are active mostly at nighttime, raccoons are often present, but may go undetected for some time.

Raccoons are omnivorous, eating both plants and animals. In urban settings, in addition to feeding on backyard fruits, nuts, and vegetables, they scavenge from garbage cans and compost piles. Pet food should never be left outside because this will attract raccoons. Because of the availability of food and den sites, urban and suburban raccoon populations can become very large.

Raccoons have great potential to cause damage to homes. Females in search of nesting sites may rip off shingles, fascia boards, or rooftop ventilators to get into the attic. Once inside the attic, insulation on walls may be torn up and displaced, and insulation on heating and air conditioning ducts may be ripped off and destroyed. Raccoons may begin using an area of the attic for a latrine, and the ceiling beneath may become stained with urine, accompanied by an objectionable odor. Ectoparasites may infest the attic and migrate to other parts of the house. Uncapped chimneys are often used as den sites, as are spaces beneath porches and decks. Doors covering crawl spaces are sometimes damaged in an effort to den beneath the house.

Raccoons are known to carry a number of diseases and internal parasites. The raccoon roundworm, an infection spread to people by the accidental ingestion or inhalation of roundworm eggs from raccoon feces,

has caused increased concern in recent years. Roundworm infection can cause serious disabilities, and young children are thought to be most susceptible. Raccoons are also carriers of rabies.

Evidence of feeding, tracks, and droppings may provide clues to their visits. Noises on the roof, in the chimney, or in the attic let you know of their presence. An occasional visit by a raccoon or a family of raccoons may not be a cause for major concern, but if these visits become commonplace and raccoons are also climbing on your roof, some action is probably warranted.

There are various approaches to resolving raccoon problems. Efforts to reduce available food can include using metal garbage cans with secure lids. To prevent raccoons from tipping over garbage cans, place the cans in a rack or tie them to a secure post. Pet food left outdoors should be removed before nightfall. Pick up fallen fruits and nuts frequently. Never intentionally provide food for raccoons, and discourage your neighbors from this practice as well; it only attracts more raccoons.

If possible, remove woodpiles or other materials raccoons can den in or under. Thinning out overgrown shrubbery will reduce cover. To reduce access to the roof, tree branches that overhang rooftops should be cut back if possible, leaving a gap of at least five feet between the roof and the tree. Trellises and arbors attached to homes may facilitate access to the roof and consideration should be given to their removal. While habitat modification is often helpful, it is rarely a total solution.

Prevent access to chimneys by covering them with a spark arrester that meets the fire code of your area. These caps will keep raccoons, tree squirrels, rats, and birds out of the chimney, but be sure they are tightly secured to prevent raccoons from pulling them loose.

Open spaces beneath structures, such as porches, decks, and garden and tool sheds, should be tightly screened with 1/4- or 1/3-inch galvanized hardware mesh. The bottom edge of the wire should be buried

at least 6 inches deep, extended outward for 12 inches, and then back-covered with soil. Such measures will exclude not only raccoons but skunks, opossums, squirrels, and rats as well.

If the raccoons are in your home, try bright lights, loud noises (such as from a radio) and unpleasant smells (a bowl of apple cider vinegar). Use light, noise and smell simultaneously. Use these techniques at dusk, before their normal activity period begins.

If these efforts are unsuccessful, remember that raccoons are powerful animals and can become vicious when cornered, so they should not be approached.

For the average homeowner it is advisable to hire a professional wildlife control operator to remove the animal. The professional will have the proper equipment to accomplish the task and will be able to tell if a trapped female is nursing its young. This is very important because you don't want to leave young behind to starve.

The professional will also have the means to euthanize the animals, since releasing them elsewhere is prohibited by law. In addition, released animals may return or present a problem to someone else. Just as importantly, release of animals is a major factor in the dissemination of numerous diseases to other animals.

For more information, please contact Oakbrook Terrace Community Service Officer Christine O'Brien at 630-941-8300 ext. 323.

To find a trapper in your area, please visit [www.aaanimalcontrol.com/ Professional-Trapper/nationwide-trappers. htm](http://www.aaanimalcontrol.com/Professional-Trapper/nationwide-trappers.htm).

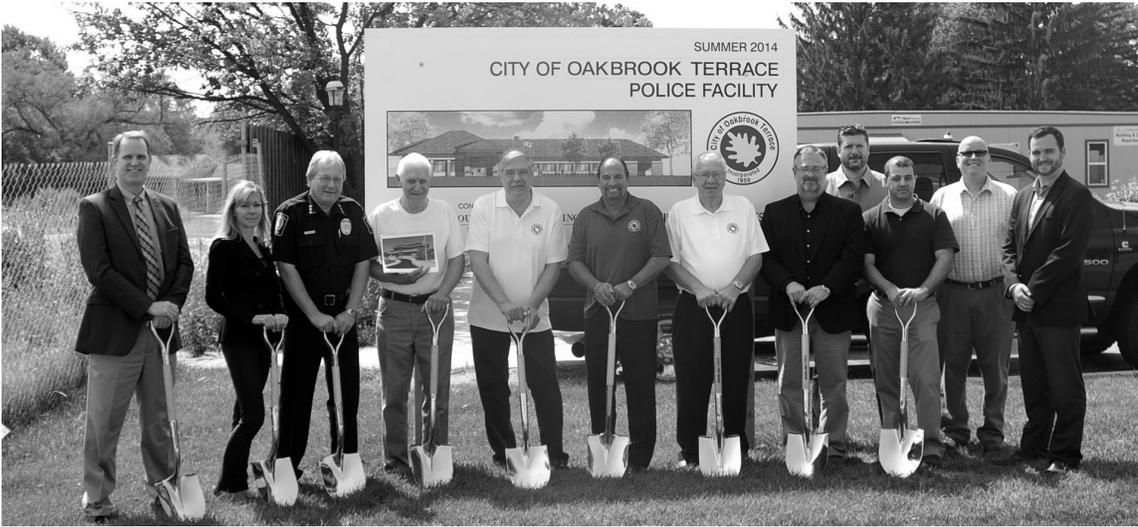
Additional details concerning raccoon problems can be found on the following websites:

www.dupageco.org/animalcontrol/

www.humanesociety.org/animals/raccoons/tips/solving_problems_raccoon.html

[www.aaanimalcontrol.com/professional-trapper/ howtogetridofraccoons.htm](http://www.aaanimalcontrol.com/professional-trapper/howtogetridofraccoons.htm)

Oakbrook Terrace Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Police Station and City Hall Renovation



Oakbrook Terrace Interim City Administrator Amy Marrero, Oakbrook Terrace Police Chief Wayne Holakovsky, City Aldermen Frank Vlach and Bob Przychodni, Oakbrook Terrace Mayor Tony Ragucci, Alderman Tom Thomas and Representatives of Harbor Construction, the contractor for the project, together with representatives from Williams Architects-project architects.

On Monday, July 21, a Groundbreaking Ceremony was held for the City of Oakbrook Terrace's new 20,000 square foot police station and a renovation and remodeling of City Hall. Plans for the new Police Station are available for viewing at City Hall.

The City's offices will be located in temporary buildings adjacent to the site during the work at City Hall, which is expected to take several months. Anticipated completion date for the new Police Station is 2015.



Oakbrook Terrace Park District Call 630-627-6100 or visit www.obtpd.org for more information about any of these programs.

Lincoln Park Zoo Trip

Wednesday, August 20, 9:30 a.m. departure
\$20 R/\$25 NR

Visit one of the nation's oldest zoos, housing more than 1,200 animals and representing more than 230 species. Admission is free to all who visit. Please pack a lunch to eat while at the zoo or feel free to purchase your lunch from one of the zoo's restaurants or cafes. The van will leave the Heritage Center at 9:30 a.m. and will leave the zoo at 2:30 p.m., returning to the Heritage Center around 3:30 p.m. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

Register For Preschool

Learning is fun at the Oakbrook Terrace Park District Preschool. Our state licensed preschool provides a stimulating environment for your child. Our goal is to make learning enjoyable while we help prepare your child for kindergarten and beyond. All children must be toilet-trained prior to school starting.

3 Year Old Preschool (Begins September 3)
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(\$120 R/\$137 NR monthly fee)

4 Year Old Preschool (Begins September 3)
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Noon-2:30 p.m.
(\$100 R/\$112 NR monthly fee)

3 & 4 Year Old Combined (Begins September 4)
Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. (\$100 R/\$112 NR)

Wild Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

All Ages Welcome, Free (Donations always appreciated)

Lake View Nature Center, 17W063 Hodges Road, 630-941-8747,
www.obtpd.org/lvnc

Join the Nature Center on Wednesdays this summer for a wild time. Share stories, take a special hike, and learn about a new animal each week. Popcorn and lemonade will be for sale. You can borrow a fishing pole, or rent a paddle boat. Paddle boat rental is available for \$3 per boat per ½ hour for the 2-person paddle boat and 4-person ADA accessible paddle boat. The 4-person Swan boat is \$5 per ½ hour. Wild Wednesdays is held at the Lake View Nature Center and Terrace View Park.

August Animal Schedule

August 13: *Woodchuck*
August 20: *Honeybee*

Paddle Boats At Terrace View Park Through August 30

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & Saturdays, 12 noon - 4 p.m.

Come out to Terrace View Park this summer and take a spin around the lake. Paddle boat rentals are available on a first come, first served basis. This is a great family activity and also a good workout. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Paddle boats rental is \$3 per boat per ½ hour for the 2-person boat and 4-person ADA accessible paddle boat. The 4-person Swan paddle boat is \$5 per ½ hour.



CITY OF OAKBROOK TERRACE

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Responsible Pet Ownership

During the hot summer months, pet owners are reminded about responsible pet ownership.

- Animals can suffer greatly from extreme temperatures, either hot or cold. Please be aware of weather changes and provide proper shelter, water and food for pets.
- Owners are required to clean up after their pets on public sidewalks, parkways, city parks or private property.
- Dogs must be properly restrained by a leash or chain, six feet or less in length, attached to the collar or harness whenever the dog is off the owner's property. Dogs are not allowed to trespass on private property.

Grass Height Reminder

With the growing season almost upon us, residents are reminded that the Oakbrook Terrace municipal code requires that lawns be maintained at a height of six inches or less. Homeowners can help keep our community neat and attractive during the summer months by regularly mowing their lawns.

Villa Park Library Card

The cost for a Villa Park Library Card is \$40 per multi-family household (living in apartments such as Versailles and Regency Place) and \$49 per single-family household (including Spring Club, Berkshire and Arbor 40, as well as all other single-family households) through April 30, 2015. The library card provides access to all of the library's resources. Applications for Villa Park library cards are available at Oakbrook Terrace City Hall or the Police Department after hours. For more information, please visit www.villapark.lib.il.us/.

Water Bill Payments

The City accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover for payment of water bills. Credit/Debit Card transactions will only be accepted in person at the City Hall front desk. In addition, there are other ways to pay your Oakbrook Terrace water bill: have it debited automatically from your checking account, mail it in, or drop your payment into the convenient drop-box located at the Butterfield Road entrance to City Hall. If paying by mail, please send it no less than five mailing days before the due date to avoid a penalty for late payment. Please note that water bills are now mailed to residents on a bi-monthly basis. IF YOU ARE MOVING, please call City Hall at 630-941-8300, ext. 342, to schedule a final reading.

Phone Numbers

For City Services:

POLICE Emergency	911
Information	630-941-8320
FIRE EMERGENCY	911
MAYOR	630-941-8300, EXT. 308
CITY ADMINISTRATOR	630-941-8300, EXT. 307
ADMINISTRATION	630-941-8300, EXT. 301
CITY CLERK	630-941-8300, EXT. 306
BUILDING & ZONING/	
CODE ENFORCEMENT	630-941-8300, EXT. 309
PUBLIC SERVICES	630-941-1651
WATER BILLING	630-941-8300, EXT. 342
SPECIAL EVENTS	630-941-8300, EXT. 338
OBT PARK DISTRICT	630-627-6100
YORK CENTER PARK DISTRICT	630-629-0886

August/September 2014

City of Oakbrook Terrace

Mayor Tony Ragucci

City Clerk Dennis Greco

Interim City Administrator Amy Marrero

Ward III: Ald. Robert Przychodni

Ward II: Ald. Michael Sarallo

Ald. Frank Vlach

Ward I: Ald. Tom Thomas

Ald. Paul Esposito

Monthly Meetings:

City Council — 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission — 1st & 3rd

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Police Commission — 2nd Thursday, 8 p.m.

Police Pension Board — 2nd Monday of the quarter