

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS™ OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST



Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees October 5, 2009

Cathy Sweitzer, Observer

The meeting began at 7:32 p.m. All members of the Board, as well as the Village Clerk, Manager and Attorney were present.

Several proclamations opened the meeting, including the Village's support of the 2010 Census Effort; the establishment of Trick or Treat hours between 3 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 31; and the endorsement of "Halfway to Earth Day," on Saturday, October 24. On this day, the Environmental Club of Oak Park and River Forest High School is sponsoring a climate rally and walk, "350.org," named for the safe upper limit of CO₂ in the atmosphere. The walk will begin at Lake and East at noon and proceed to Oak Park Avenue and the Eisenhower, where Senator Don Harmon and Village President David Pope will speak. The rally is one of 1,700 actions taken by a total of 125 countries to show support for the United Nation's Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December. It is the only event in the western suburbs. All villagers are invited to participate.

The Board also presided over the first ever "Green Awards" ceremony, presented to individuals and businesses fostering good environmental practices by the Energy and Environmental Commission. The League of Women Voters' own Amy Little received an award for her "Roll Out the Rain Barrel" campaign, which placed over 1000 rain barrels in the Village. Isaac Sinnot, the young entrepreneur and recent graduate of OPRF who made the barrels, was also honored. Other awards recognized the first "green block" in the village (300 S. Humphrey), the first "green garage," the "green Tuesdays" lecture series, and Green Home Experts, who provide source materials for homeowners. The Environmental Club of the high school received an honorable mention for their work.

Jim Budrick, Village Engineer, reported that the hole at the Colt site is about three-quarters full. Soon the ground will be prepped for asphalt and landscaping. It should be ready for parking by the holiday season. He also noted that the Village is nearing completion of an "enhanced walking and biking" project that involved upgrading signage at 500 intersections and adding some new stop signs. Schools will receive updated maps. President Pope noted that he thought the ability of students to safely ride their bikes to school was a measure of the success of a community and encourages efforts to reach that goal.

Public Health Director Margaret Provost-Fyfe reported that the Village has received federal funds through the Illinois Department of Public Health to distribute the swine flu vaccine. Vaccine will shortly become available at two sites: Village Hall and the main Fire Station. Appointments must be made to receive this free inoculation. First receivers will include children/young adults between 6 months and 24-years, pregnant women, chronically ill adults, and health and childcare workers. She expects about 5-6000 people will qualify for the vaccine in the Village. Questions about the vaccine can be

answered by calling the Health Department at 708.358.5480 or online at [www.oak-park.us/Public Health/Public Health.html](http://www.oak-park.us/Public_Health/Public_Health.html).

Before the final vote on an ordinance to amend the Arboricultural (tree planting) Standards of the Village, Trustee Ray Johnson proposed a change of language. Rather than explicitly set the standard at 50 feet between trees, he favored offering a range between 35 and 50 feet, to recognize the need for judgment based on existing infrastructure, tree species, and number and location of trees on nearby private property. Village Forestry Superintendent Jim Semelka urged the original language to give more authority to the forester, acknowledging that sometimes plantings would be less than 50 feet apart. Three Trustees voted for the change in language; four favored the original wording. The bill passed in its original language, with Trustee Johnson casting the only no vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

<http://www.oak-park.us/Agendas/index.htm>