

Coming Soon: Winter Market, Plastic Bag Ordinance & At Your Door Collection



January Winter Market in River Forest

Each winter, from November through March, the community organization, Faith in Place, partners with faith communities to host a series of indoor farmers markets on Saturdays and Sundays. These winter farmers markets provide an additional source of income for local vendors during the offseason, promote sustainable farming methods and economic justice for regional farm families, encourage healthy, wholesome eating, and support the building of relationships between producers and consumers.

The January Winter Market in River Forest is Saturday January 13, from 9am - 1pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division, River Forest. Come out and support our local farmers. There are other indoor markets in Chicago throughout the winter as well.

Bring Your Own Bags

Beginning Jan. 1, Oak Park shoppers in many of the larger retail stores will be charged 10 cents for every single-use bag the store provides to carry home their purchases. The fee applies to paper as well as plastic bags. The new local law, which applies to retail stores of 5,000 or more square feet, is intended to reduce the negative impact single-use bags have on the environment.

Once collection of the fee begins, the retailer will retain half of the fee to help allay costs of implementing the program, with the other half remitted to the Village to fund local environmental initiatives. The Village will be working with retailers to provide reusable bags to those individuals who may not be able to afford to buy them. More information will be posted at www.oak-park.us.

Impact of Single-Use Bags

- Americans use an estimated 100 billion plastic bags a year, or about 360 bags for every man, woman and child. If tied together, those 100 billion plastic bags would reach around the Earth's equator 773 times.
- High-density polyethylene plastic bags, which are made from non-renewable fossil fuels, take more than 200 years to degrade. As polyethylene breaks down, toxic substances leach into the soil and waterways, and enter the food chain.
- Paper bags have a higher carbon footprint than plastic because more energy is required to produce and transport them.

At Your Door Collection

Oak Park residents in single-family homes and buildings with five or fewer units can schedule at-home collections of materials such as garden chemicals, automotive fluids, paint products and household cleaners as well as electronic items like televisions, computers, fax machines, printers and cell phones.

Under the new system, residents can schedule the service online at www.wmatyourdoor.com, via email to atyourdoor@wm.com or with a toll-free call to 1.800.449.7587. Collection kits sent by U.S. Mail include instructions on how to package the materials and where to place them safely for pickup on the scheduled date. Residents need not be home at the pickup time. Once collected, materials are sent to various processing facilities, with the emphasis placed first on recycling and treatment, then incineration and when necessary safe disposal in secure landfills.

Thank you to the Oak Park Temple for sharing this information with us!