



Upcoming Events

- Carl Swenson Farewell at Pleasant Home 4/4 6-8 pm Public Invited
- VMA "Meet and Greet" at the Abbey 4/8 from 3-5 pm \$10 charge
- Trustee Meetings 4/3 and 4/17
- Day in Our Village 6/4
- 4th of July Parade: Celebrating Diversity 7/4

Accomplishments: Off and Running!



January's Annual meeting signaled a new beginning for the VMA, and since that time the Board of Directors has been working very hard to make certain Oak Park knows the VMA is alive and well. Significant achievements during these first 3 months of 2006 include:

- Creation and passage of communications and membership strategies
- Acceptance of the guidelines for establishment of public policy positions
- Holding six board meetings
- Published Letters to the Editor in the Wednesday Journal and Oak Leaves on the subjects of board and commission reappointments; the selection process for the new Village Manager; the sale of the Colt building; the lack of Trustee decorum; and the school funding crisis
- Presentations to the Trustees by President Kane on several of the topics above
- Development of new logo
- Creation of membership brochure
- Creation of a new website and list serv (see below)
- Printing of t-shirts
- Planning for the first VMA social event of the year April 8 at the Abbey

What's New? VMA Website and List-serv info

VMA supporters now have several ways to stay connected and to access the latest information on Village issues including a brand new web site and a new list serve.

The web site offers numerous pull down menus providing information on everything from VMA history to current position papers to an informal photo gallery. The site is under construction and certain tabs will take longer than others to be fully functional, but a new "Pay Pal" feature is in place

for membership sign-up and contributions.

On the e-mail front, VMA members can join the VMA news group on Yahoo simply by signing up at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VMA> members.

The news group shares information regularly on current issues; giving all members the opportunity for input, suggestions, and feedback as well as a way to stay informed.

VMA Names to Know:

President:

Bob Kane - bob@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President: and Public Policy:

Brad Bartels

brad@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President/Membership:

Gail Moran gail@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President/Communications:

Jan Pate jan@vma@oakpark.org

Vice President Technology:

Barbara Ebner

barb@vma-oakpark.org

Secretary:

Pauline Coffman

pauline@vma-oakpark.org

Treasurer

Ray Barbosa

ray@vma-oakpark.org

VMA Elected Officials:

Trustee Ray Johnson 358-5788

rjohnson@oak-park.us

Clerk Sandra Sokol 358-5670

Board Members:

Gene Armstrong

Paul Beckwith

Eileen Fein

Dennis Murphy

Sherlynn Reid

Linda Sahagian

Kenneth Yarbrough



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About the VMA — Serving Oak Park Since 1952

The VMA is a political party with a rich history of promoting responsible government and citizen engagement in Oak Park. Organized under Illinois State law, we are a diverse group of informed citizens committed to the following principles of governance:

- Accountable and responsible government
- Ongoing and inclusive diversity
- Balanced and sensitive economic growth

The VMA engages in public discourse on the guiding principles in a variety of venues. Our major focus is finding and selecting the best candidates

who support these principles to run for elected office. We sponsor a comprehensive and open process for interviews. The citizen peers select a slate of candidates, and the VMA creates and runs a campaign to elect them. VMA candidates are not required to adhere to a specific platform or agenda but instead are permitted to govern based upon

the broad guiding principles under which they were selected and elected.

The purposes of the VMA shall be to maintain Oak Park as an outstanding community with accountable and responsive government; to encourage and promote ongoing and inclusive diversity; and to support balanced and sensitive economic growth.



The Trustee seats of Ray Johnson, Bob Milstein, and Elizabeth Brady will be up for re-election next year. The countdown has begun — the VMA needs your help in the selection process and the campaigns. Volunteer today!

Selection Process Being Reviewed and Refined—2007 Beckons!

The Selection Process Committee got right to work asking for feedback and developing recommendations after the new VMA Mission Statement was adopted. The group recently presented its report to the Board with 3 major points.

It was suggested the primary flaw in the previous selection process was that the VMA never truly adapted its process from four year to two year election cycles. It was possible, in the four year cycle, to disappear for some time, reappearing 18 months to two years before the next election. That is no longer possible. The VMA must be

on the look out for candidates and selection committee recruits on a continuing basis, and be able to maintain their interest over each two year period.

Due to shortcomings in this area, the selection process has become more drawn out as candidates either wait until or are sought at the last minute, necessitating rule changes, meetings without candidates, etc.

Therefore, the committee strongly recommended:

1. **There must be a standing recruitment committee of the VMA, recruiting on a continuing basis both**

members of the Selection Committee and prospective candidates.

2. **The selection process must start earlier and be shorter---8 weeks maximum.**
3. **The rules of the selection process must be standardized prior to the first Selection Committee meeting, clearly described, and remain in place unchanged during the committee's work.**

For more information or to provide input, e-mail Barbara Ebner, Process Committee Chair, or contact any VMA-Board member.