

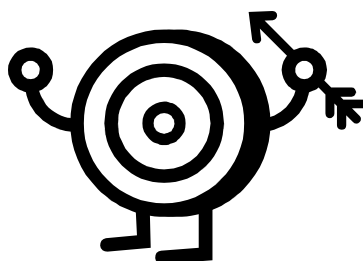
## VMA Voice



## Upcoming Events

- "Shared Voices" Forum on Historic Preservation and Development. 7-9 pm 5/31, Oak Park Library, No Charge
- Day in Our Village 6/4
- 4th of July Parade: Celebrating Diversity 7/4
- Members Ice Cream Social/Family get-together. Day, Time and place TBA
- "Shared Voices" Forum on Diversity, Day, time and place TBA

## VMA 90-Day Plan Right On Target



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 5 months of 2006 include:

- Publishing 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; the school funding crisis; the Heitzman decision; as well as verbal presentations to the Trustees by President Kane and VMA officers 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
- Holding a very successful membership event April 8
- Creation and passage of communications and membership strategies
- Acceptance of the guidelines for establishment of public policy positions
- Holding 8 board meetings

## 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 featuring shots from VMA social and membership events. A "Pay Pal" feature will soon be in place for membership sign-up and contributions. There is a password protected page for "Members Only"

for internal communications, surveys, etc.

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

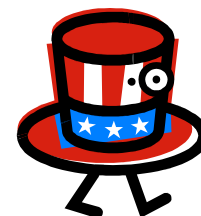
Eileen Fein

Dennis Murphy

Sherlynn Reid

Linda Sahagian

Kenneth Yarbrough



**Join us at the July 4th  
Diversity Parade!**

P.O. Box 4046  
Oak Park, IL 60303

Phone: 708-802-1905  
www.vma-oakpark.org  
E-mail: info@vma-oakpark.org



## 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. Please consider becoming a Volunteer today!*

## Selection Process Refined: Elections Less than 12 Months Away

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 volunteer to serve, contact any VMA Board member.