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Intergovernmental Agreement Between Park District and Oak Park Township To Provide Transportation Options for Seniors and Disabled Residents

Oak Park Township's Senior Services Transportation Department will be able to provide up to an additional 6,000 rides this year to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities in Oak Park and River Forest as a result of an intergovernmental agreement with the Park District of Oak Park. One shuttle bus, with a wheelchair lift and the capacity to accommodate 12 passengers, is available on a reservation basis through the Township Transportation Coordinator, Charles M. Barnes. "The additional bus will be beneficial to the seniors and disabled clients because of the opportunity to possibly accept some same day/emergency appointments," stated Barnes.

Currently, the Township operates three buses that are used to transport clients to medical appointments, local grocery stores, personal errands, and field trips or other activities. This curb-to-curb service is both convenient and cost-effective for residents with mobility issues as well as their caregivers; a donation of \$1.00 each way is requested, but not required. Barnes is excited about the expanded service that began on February 8th 2018. "It allows the Transportation team to route buses more efficiently. More field trips could be offered, and it will significantly reduce the amount of rides that are declined due to overbooked routes."

Jan R. Arnold, Executive Director of the Park District of Oak Park, agrees, "The Park District is pleased to collaborate with the Township to assist in providing service to our residents while maximizing community resources." During the daytime, Park District buses are sometimes idle depending on program scheduling; this allows the Township to fill more requests for rides and avoid scheduling conflicts. The two taxing bodies will

collaborate to create a flexible bus schedule to ensure that passengers participating in Park District activities receive priority and adjustments can be made quickly.

For Fiscal Year 2017, the Township served clients in the community by providing over 21,700 rides to doctor appointments, dialysis treatments, local stores, workshops, and adult day care services. Terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement include driver training, insurance coverage, and vehicle maintenance. Additional information on Township Senior Services Transportation may be found at www.oakparktownship.org/services/transportation or by calling 708-383-4806.

Park District of Oak Park's mission statement: In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks and facilities.

Oak Park Township's mission statement: Oak Park Township assists:

- Senior citizens, youth and their families, people with disabilities, and financially struggling residents to fully participate in community life by providing information, supportive services, advocacy, and referrals;
- Partner agencies with funding for youth, mental health, and other human services; and
- All residents with property tax information, advocacy and services, voter registration, public transportation assistance, and community information

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