



Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager 

FROM: Dan Yopchick, Chief Communications Officer 
Brandon Crawford, Deputy Development Services Director 

FOR: Village President and Board of Trustees

DATE: April 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Oak Park Film Festival

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to highlight an upcoming event that will enhance economic vitality in Oak Park. After a brief hiatus, the Oak Park Film Festival is scheduled to make its return to the community on September 12th and 14th, 2024.

Background

A group of local volunteers and cinephiles, including actress Joyce Porter, has worked to return the Oak Park Film Festival to the community later this year. The two-day event will take place on Thursday, September 12th and Saturday, September 14th, 2024. On September 12th, “The Abyss” will be shown at the Classic Cinemas Lake Theatre (1022 Lake St.) at 7 p.m. The film about a civilian diving team enlisted to search for a lost nuclear submarine has a local connection as it co-stars Oak Park River Forest High School graduate Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio alongside Ed Harris. “The Abyss” was written and directed by Academy Award winner James Cameron. Organizers are planning for a red carpet, appearances and other special touches to liven up the night. Food and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be served.

On September 14th, the festival shifts to the Madison Street Theater (1010 Madison St.). Beginning at 10 a.m., there will be film screenings including shorts, animations, documentaries, student films and more. Awards will be given in various categories. The sponsoring volunteers have requested the community solicits short-format films, documentaries, and animations from local and regional creators for consideration by the panel. Additionally, the Black Box Theater space within the Madison Street Theater will serve as a meeting and networking area during the event. Food and drinks (both alcoholic and non-

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alcoholic) will be served.

Festival organizers are working with a local graphic designer to produce marketing materials for the return of the Oak Park Film Festival. The team is also planning several advertising opportunities, including a presence at A Day in Our Village on June 2nd in Scoville Park to promote the event. Village staff will also assist in promoting the event through its regular channels including the OP/FYI newsletter, e-news, social media, web site and more.

For questions about the Oak Park Film Festival, please contact Dan Yopchick, Chief Communications Officer, via email at dyopchick@oak-park.us or by phone at 708.358.5781, or Brandon Crawford, Deputy Director of Development Services, via email at bcrawford@oak-park.us or by phone at 708.358.5438.

cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager
Ahmad Zayyad, Deputy Village Manager
Erin E. Baynes, Assistant to the Village Manager
Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk
All Department Directors