



Kentucky Derby fans (from left) Judy Greffin, Sally Wallace, Cathryn Heavey and Tom Karacic, all of Oak Park, react to the televised race during the Infant Welfare Society's third annual Day at the Races benefit on May 1 at the Cheney Mansion in Oak Park. (C. Jason Brown/for STM)

## Super Saver surprises at Day at the Races

By CHRIS LAFORTUNE  
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About 200 people attended the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society's third annual Day at the Races fundraiser to support The Children's Clinic.

People gathered together at Cheney Mansion Saturday, May 1, for the event,

which featured a viewing of the Kentucky Derby, music by the band Go Long Mule and games of skill and chance, according to a clinic press release.

There was also an auction, hat contest and raffle.

About \$40,000 was raised during Saturday's event, Children's Clinic Development and Marketing Man-

ager Jill Marie Aller said Monday.

The Children's Clinic, 320 Lake St., provides medical, dental and social services to needy children in Oak Park, Chicago and 50 surrounding suburbs.

More than 2,600 children visit annually, accounting for more than 9,300 health care visits.

## Village OKs sale of Los Cazadores building

By CHRIS LAFORTUNE  
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Oak Park has entered into a sales agreement to sell the 1113 Lake St. building that formerly housed Los Cazadores Mexican Restaurant.

Village trustees unanimously approved the contract with Adam and Kimberly Hudelson at their meeting Monday. There was no discussion.

The village will sell the building to the Hudelsons for \$395,000, the village's asking price. It was one of two offers the village received for the building, according to information provided to trustees.

According to information from the village, the couple proposes a Gastropub/American Bistro style restaurant for the location. It would operate seven days a week, open until 10 p.m. during the week and midnight on weekends.

The Hudelsons originally

offered \$325,000 for the property, while another pair, John and Bee Chen, offered \$352,000. Both couples suggested a restaurant for the space. The village asked for best offers from both parties in March, and the Hudelsons came back with an offer matching the asking price.

The Hudelsons have 30 days to complete inspections on the building and 60 days to get financing in order, according to information from the village.

An environmental assessment was done on the property in February, the village said. It noted several concerns, such as suspected asbestos.

The Hudelsons have the assessment report, but the contract is for purchase "as is," with no remediation required by Oak Park, according to the village.

Oak Park acquired 1113 Lake in April 2002 for \$350,000 in anticipation of a development project that

never came to fruition. The site was home to Los Cazadores Mexican Restaurant.

The village sold the building in 2008 to firm Preferred Development for \$540,000, but that deal fell apart as the recession hit. Still, the lease with Los Cazadores was dissolved for non-payment of rent, according to the village.

Restaurant owner Eddie Garcia at the time said he wanted to buy the building back from the village, but minus what his family had already paid back to the village in rent. The Garcias said they had an agreement with the village to buy the building back if nothing happened with it, but the village had a document showing that a "right of first refusal" was not part of the deal.

The restaurant closed in December 2008 and drew protesters objecting to the closure and the village's refusal to accept Garcia's offer. *Comment: pioneerlocal.com*

## Oak Park to launch Wednesday night open air market in June

By CHRIS LAFORTUNE  
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Downtown Oak Park will have another open air market starting in June.

The new Wednesday night market — focusing on food but also with vendors such as florists, soap makers and fabric artisans — will be held in the village parking lot on Lake Street, the former site of the Colt Building.

Village trustees on Monday approved the market, which is scheduled to begin June 16 and will run weekly from 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays until Sept. 15.

The market will be open to all village merchants in qualifying categories. Local growers can also take part.

Guest chefs are expected to provide demonstrations

and the market will offer local entertainment. There will be wine and beer available for sale.

"Vendors can select any different number of weeks they want to participate," Business Services Manager Loretta Daly said Monday. "They can decide what weeks they want to participate and what weeks they won't."

Vendors will be sought out in May, Daly said. Oak Park hopes to fill between 30 and 36 vendor booths for the weekly market.

While the entire parking lot will be shut down for the market, parking will be available in the parking lot off North Boulevard and in the nearby Holley Court parking garage, Daly said.

The village will seek some-

one to manage the market. Oak Park will contract out the job, Daly said, but has not officially hired anyone yet.

"I'm hoping that we actually have somebody in place later on this week," Daly said.

Downtown Oak Park Executive Director Pat Zubak said the business association was talking about a similar independent event.

"As it turns out, the village was thinking along the same lines," Zubak said.

Many of the downtown businesses will be pleased to have the event nearby, benefiting by its close proximity, Zubak said. Some will still come out and be involved in the market.

"The more people on the sidewalks, the better it is for everybody," she said.



Adam Stern of Elmwood Park shows fellow volunteer Hayley Webster of River Forest how to work the Run for the Roses game during the Infant Welfare Society's third annual Day at the Races benefit on May 1 at the Cheney Mansion in Oak Park. (C. Jason Brown/for STM)