

MARCH/APRIL 2018

OP/FYI

A NEWSLETTER
FROM THE
VILLAGE OF
OAK PARK

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 2



Ninth annual Earth Fest to serve up family fun



The beehives atop the Public Works Center will be part of Earth Fest.

Celebrate green living at the Village's ninth annual Earth Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sat., April 21 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd.

Fun for the whole family awaits, including a wide range of activities for kids.

Environmentally-conscious residents will be able to engage with more than 50 vendors and organizations providing hands-on activities, environmental services information, free samples and green goods for sale.

Other Earth Fest highlights include tours of the LEED Gold-certified Public Works facility. Guests will be able to check out the beehives on the building's green roof and get an up-close look at the Village's big trucks and other equipment during the behind-the-scenes look at what goes into the Public Works Department's service delivery.

An opportunity to pet and feed goats from an urban goat farm is among the many kid-friendly activities being planned. A bounce house, face painter and puppet show also will be part of the fun.

The Park District of Oak Park will be on hand with a pop-up park for kids, and the Oak Park Library's book bike is scheduled to make an appearance at the event.

Food trucks from local restaurants are expected to park on South Boulevard, just outside the Public Works Center, and other refreshments will be available.

Earth Fest will once again include an on-site opportunity for residents to recycle eyeglasses, sun glasses and hearing aids, all of which are not eligible for disposal through the Village's blue bin recycling program.

Residents will also have an opportunity to meet the citizen volunteers who serve on the Village's Environment & Energy Commission, which advises the Village Board on issues related to environmental conservation.

Visit www.oak-park.us/earthfest for more information about Earth Fest and additional details leading up to the event.

Sponsors, vendors sought

Sponsors and vendors are being sought for Earth Fest, the Village's annual celebration of green living set for April 21. Sponsors not only receive special recognition in event promotional materials, they also help spread awareness about environmental issues, support environmental initiatives, highlight Oak Park's dedication to sustainability and build momentum for the environmental movement. Sponsorships range from \$125 to \$1,000. Vendors can rent a booth for just \$50. Local businesses or organizations interested in participating in Earth Fest as a sponsor or vendor can download an application form at www.oak-park.us/earthfest. Contact the Village's Sustainability Manager at 708.358.5778 or sustainability@oak-park.us for more information.

Day in Our Village is recruiting

Local groups and volunteers are invited to participate in the 45th annual *A Day in Our Village*, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. Scheduled for Sun., June 3, the event features activity and information booths in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue, local restaurants and activities in Rehm Park. In addition to participants, volunteers are needed to donate an hour or two of time well before the event, distributing promotional literature and hanging posters around the community. For more information on participating or volunteering to help with the 2018 *A Day in Our Village* celebration, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

2017 By the Numbers: A look at municipal service delivery

With only 4.5 square miles and 52,000 residents, many would say Oak Park is a small town. But the municipal services that make our community such a great place to live, work and do business are anything but small.

Oak Park has more than 100 miles of Village-owned streets, 500 alleys, nearly 20,000 parkway trees, 7,000 lighting fixtures, 104 miles of water mains, 110 miles of sewer mains and some 4,000 public parking spaces.

Services are delivered by a workforce of about 350 full-time workers who bring a wide range of formal education, experience and expertise to their jobs.

From a highly trained and motivated police force focused on neighborhoods to firefighter-paramedics who routinely eclipse national emergency response times, Oak Park's public safety programs rival those of much larger communities.

The Village's public works programs are the core of municipal services. They pump

the water, maintain the streets, plow the snow, keep the traffic signals operating, trim the trees and keep a fleet of nearly 250 traditional, hybrid, compressed natural gas and bio-diesel fueled vehicles running smoothly.

One of only a handful certified by the state, the Health Department keeps our restaurants clean, pets licensed, childcare facilities safe and the community prepared for emergencies.

Other municipal services nurture

business investment, foster diversity, plan for future development, manage thousands of parking spaces and protect the historic housing stock, one of Oak Park's most valuable assets.

Though employees are assigned to different departments, and the jobs performed vary, all have the common mission of serving the many needs of the residents of Oak Park. So how did they do in 2017? Here's snapshot of some of their activities from the year just ended...

IMPROVING THE VILLAGE

- 10,690** feet of new sewer main installed
- 6,640** feet of curbs painted
- 5,440** potholes patched with 243 tons of asphalt
- 3,582** sidewalk squares replaced
- 1,310** feet of new water mains installed
- 1,295** street signs replaced
- 783** street lamps replaced
- 412** Sidewalk ramps upgraded to ADA standards
- 22** alley segments reconstructed
- 5.8** miles of streets rebuilt and resurfaced
- 5.6** miles of dedicated bicycle lanes maintained
- 5** miles of sewer mains cleaned and video inspected — 90 tons of debris removed
- 4.7** miles of streets micro-paved

COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

- 1,797,346** website page views — 45% on a mobile device
- 200,696** views of VOP-TV programming on Village YouTube channel and other social media platforms
- 8,269** Village Facebook followers
- 5,632** Village Twitter feed followers
- 3,403** e-news list serve subscribers
- 1,337** Instagram followers



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

- 65,588** Police responses, including calls, traffic stops, vacation property checks and alarm/security checks
- 6,822** fire and emergency medical service calls
- 5,258** citizen contacts for fire and safety public education, including CPR classes
- 3,508** trees trimmed, 634 removed and 555 planted
- 1,855** tons of salt spread during 14 separate snow events
- 1,240** fire hydrants tested, 40 repaired, 15 replaced
- 1,164** building code violations reviewed
- 726** health inspections performed
- 375** health complaints investigated



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

- \$1,746,697** in federal and county grants distributed to help low- and moderate-income residents and the homeless
- 32,226** service requests answered by the Public Works Department
- 7,124** local ordinance and parking citations administratively adjudicated at Village Hall
- 3,700** hours contributed by 150 volunteers on 19 advisory boards, committees and commissions
- 2,950** animals licensed
- 1,558** community relations issues addressed, including tenant/landlord disputes and neighbor conflicts
- 1,069** requests processed under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act
- 662** block party requests processed
- 654** rental dwelling licenses issued
- 599** graffiti hits removed
- 441** animals rescued
- 47** meetings of the Village Board and its committees — nearly 700 issues of public policy deliberated
- 44** Sewer Backup Prevention Grants approved for \$141,802
- 31** nuisance wildlife traps loaned



BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

- \$6,362,247** sales taxes generated by local businesses
- \$1,217,933** in building permit fees collected
- 15,501** building-related inquiries answered
- 9,206** construction, commercial and residential property inspections performed
- 5,003** building permits issued, 42% applied for online
- 997** business licenses issued, including for 104 new businesses
- 88** liquor licenses issued, including 8 new
- 73** historic preservation property renovation requests reviewed
- 16** multi-family housing grants approved for \$105,000, leveraging private investment of 3:1



SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT

- \$423,888** in disposal fees saved by diverting 43 percent of all residential waste from landfills
- 176,000** pounds of household hazardous waste materials collected from 1,690 stops—90% sent for recycling
- 10,989** tons of garbage hauled away
- 4,659** tons of household recyclables collected
- 1,572** tons of yard waste and food scraps composted, including from the 1,282 households and 30 institutions participating in food scrap collection program

Into numbers? Go online

Oak Park residents interested in diving deep into Village finances need look no further than www.oak-park.us/financial-reports where a wide range of documents is posted. From annual budgets and audits to bond ratings and municipal compensation reports, virtually every document related to how taxes and fees collected by the Village are allocated is available at the click of a mouse — most covering multiple years of activity. Details on the Village's three Tax Increment Finance Districts are available on the web page as well, the data compiled by year for each TIF district since it was created. Residents interested in the Downtown Tax Increment Finance District, for example, can see the data all the way back to 1984. Some of the information is necessarily detailed and complex. Complying with the state, federal and local laws that govern municipal finance require information be presented in very specific ways. But anyone needing help understanding any of the documents may call 708.358.5460 or email finance@oak-park.us for help. And if information is needed that is not readily available online, residents are invited to file a request for public documents under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, at www.oak-park.us/foia. A request for documents and records under the Illinois FOIA sets a process in motion that requires a timely response.

Citizen participation...Residents interested in learning more about how local laws and regulations are made can watch the creation of public policy online via video recordings of Village Board meetings dating back to January 2015 and review meeting agendas and minutes in an archive dating back to 2010 — all available via links at www.oak-park.us/boardtv. Those interested in digging even deeper into the citizen-driven process are invited to learn about the 19 volunteer boards, commissions and committees that create the public record and advise the Village Board on important matters of public policy. These citizen bodies, comprised of volunteers who live in the community, meet regularly. Review their missions, meeting agendas and meeting minutes, or even volunteer to serve, at www.oak-park.us/volunteer.

Loans, grants available for rehab projects

Income-eligible, single-family households may be eligible for no-interest home rehabilitation loans of up to \$25,000 to correct health and safety issues and building code violations, such as broken pipes, a leaking basement or roof, crumbling entry stairs, dangerous electrical systems or accessibility obstacles. Related projects to deal with peeling or damaged lead paint surfaces may be covered under a separate grant of up to \$12,000. No monthly payments are required and loans are repayable after 20 years or when the property is transferred. Grants do not have to be repaid. Eligibility is determined by income limits set for the Chicago area by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. For example, a family of four with a total household income below \$63,200 would qualify for a loan and a grant. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/housing, email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.



Earn cash listing extra parking spaces

Property owners with extra garage or off-street parking spaces can earn extra cash with a listing through the Village's parking clearinghouse. The list is managed by the Parking Services Division, which provides copies upon request, via email or in person at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., to those in need of a place to park. To list an available space or check for a local space to rent, call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us. All rental agreements are between the lessor and lessee.

Municipal vehicles enhance Police visibility

Calling the Oak Park Police is not the only way to report suspicious activity or persons. The more than 200 vehicles bearing the Village of Oak Park logo offer an added tool to communicate with law enforcement.



Known as *Fleet Watch*, the decades-old program enlists the entire municipal workforce that is on the street every day conducting a wide range of activities, from inspecting construction projects to fixing street lights and conducting restaurant inspections. Anyone walking, biking or driving in Oak Park can stop a municipal vehicle anywhere, anytime to report an incident or issue. Village workers driving these municipal vehicles have a direct line to the Police either by two-way radio, cell phone or both. In addition, these Village employees have been trained to report anything they see that is suspicious, dangerous or even criminal so that Police officers can be dispatched to the scene as necessary. The Fleet Watch program is, in many ways, like a neighborhood watch initiative, but traveling throughout the community. Of course, calling 911 remains the most effective means to communicate in an emergency. For more information, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Get to Know Your RBO



The Oak Park Police Department operates under a community policing strategy that includes assigning officers to specific neighborhoods based on eight geographic zones. Residents are urged to visit www.oak-park.us/rbo to identify their respective zone officers and sign up for email alerts, newsletters and other neighborhood-specific news.

Parking restrictions eased for holidays

As a courtesy to residents and their guests, the overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during several holidays in the year ahead. Restrictions will remain in effect in areas reserved for overnight permit holders, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. For more information on parking in Oak Park call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us.

- **Memorial Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m. Sat., May 26 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., May 30
- **July 4** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., June 30 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Fri., July 6
- **Labor Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Sept. 1 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., Sept. 5
- **Thanksgiving** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 21 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Mon., Nov. 26
- **Christmas/New Year** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 22 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Jan. 2

Safely dispose of unwanted prescription drugs

A disposal box is available in the lobby of the Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. for residents to safely dispose of unwanted prescription drugs. Needles or other medical waste are not accepted. Safe disposal of drugs is becoming increasingly important, as trace residues of some medications can turn up in the water supply when prescription drugs are flushed. For more information on the drug collection service call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5630
Development Customer Services	358.5420
Business Services	358.5425
Neighborhood Services	358.5410
Housing	option 1
CDBG	option 2
Property complaints	option 3
Permits & Inspections	358.5430
Planning	358.5440
General questions	option 1
Historic Preservation	option 2
Zoning	option 3
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (nonemergency)	358.5600
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Mayor & Trustees	358.5784
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	725.2000
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015

Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	383.0700

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005
Mental Health Board	358.8855

facebook.com/vopnews

instagram.com/oakparkil

pinterest.com/oakparkil

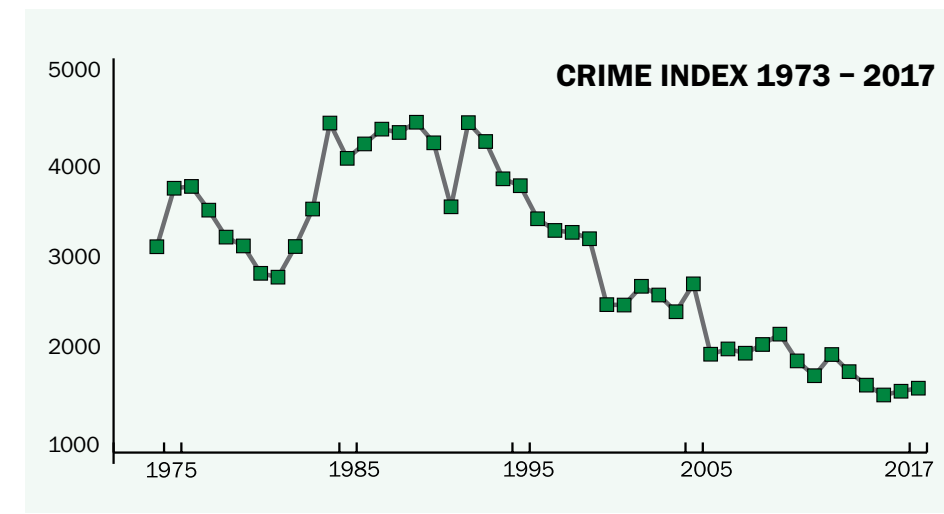
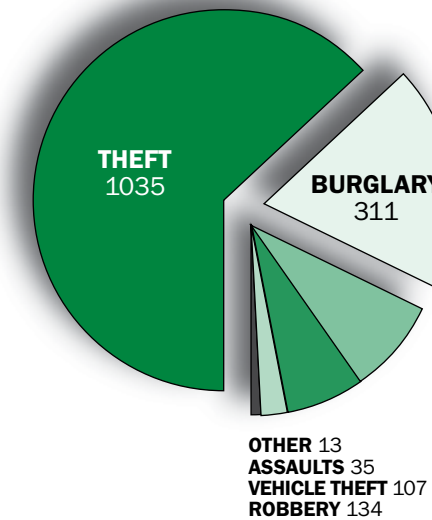
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Police release 2017 crime statistics

The overall crime rate in Oak Park increased a modest 2 percent in 2017, according to data compiled by the Police Department for the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program that studies patterns and trends over time. The increase was driven in part by an uptick in robberies, the category that includes incidents of vehicle hijackings that officials say have spiked throughout the region. Burglaries and thefts, which historically represent more than 80 percent of all crime committed in Oak Park, remained the biggest categories, but decreased in 2017, a drop Police attribute to residents locking doors and windows and properly securing their belongings. Oak Park Police investigated 1,635 crimes in 2017, up from the 1,605 crimes reported in 2016, but down from the 1,665 crimes reported in 2014. Oak Park Police arrested 188 suspects in connection with the most serious offense categories under the crime index reporting system. Another 43 individuals were arrested for driving under the influence in 2017 and 10 individuals were arrested for drug violations.

CRIMES REPORTED



Crime Report Summary

- **Thefts**, typically crimes of opportunity, remained the single largest category of crimes reported in Oak Park. Some 1,035 thefts were reported in 2017, compared to 1,057 in 2016.
- **Burglary** continued to be the second largest single crime category, with 311 cases reported in 2017, compared to 360 in 2016.
- Police investigated 134 **robberies** in 2017, including 15 **carjackings** and four attempts, up from the 68 robberies reported in 2016 that included four vehicle hijackings and one attempt. Police arrested 10 suspects in connection with the 2017 carjackings.
- **Vehicle thefts** were up in 2017, as Police investigated 107 incidents compared to 80 incidents in 2016. In 32 of the 2017 incidents, the keys were left inside unlocked, running vehicles.
- Thirty-five **aggravated assault/battery** cases were reported in 2017, compared to 34 in 2016.
- Nine **criminal sexual assaults** were reported in 2017, compared to three in 2016. In seven of the 2017 cases, the victim knew the offender.
- Two **homicides** occurred in 2017, the first in Oak Park since 2012. One of the homicides was ruled justifiable when a licensed gun owner shot an armed attacker.
- Two **arsons** were reported in 2017, compared to three in 2016. None were significant.
- Police responded to 67,580 **calls for service** in 2017, compared to 65,830 calls in 2016.

For more information on the Police Department and crime prevention, visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Police launch Facebook, Twitter accounts

The Oak Park Police Department is expanding its channels for communicating with the public with a new presence on Facebook and Twitter. Residents can now receive regular updates related to public safety in Oak Park on Facebook at www.facebook.com/voppolice and on Twitter at [@VOPpolice](http://www.twitter.com/voppolice). Followers can expect to see police activity reports on a regular basis, including summaries of crimes and arrests for specific dates that often are the basis for stories by local news organizations. When significant incidents occur, the Police Facebook and Twitter accounts will be used to provide details once verifiable information has been gathered, such as descriptions of suspects and any additional updates that develop as investigations continue. Important safety tips, information about various Police programs and behind-the-scenes access to the Department and its personnel also will be a part of the content shared on Facebook and Twitter. While officials hope the Police Department's social media presence helps improve engagement with the community, they stress that the Facebook and Twitter accounts are not for reporting crimes or suspicious activity. In the event of an emergency, residents should always call 911. Resources may not allow the Police Department's Facebook and Twitter accounts to be monitored 24/7, but staff will respond to inquiries as time allows. Officials also stress that the social media platforms will not be used to provide real-time, minute-by-minute details about police activity.



Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews Dan Moroney

Simone M. Boutet Jim Taglia

Andrea Button Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman

Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL
PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
Presort

Opportunities for artists

Sculpture walk...Artists are being sought to temporarily display their work at the seventh annual Oak Park Sculpture Walk. At least 12 works will be part of the outdoor exhibit set for May through September. After the event, the Village may consider purchasing a piece for its permanent collection. Applications may be downloaded at www.oakparkareaartscouncil.org. The deadline to apply is March 30. For more information, call 708.358.5692 or email opaacsculpturewalk@gmail.com.

Outdoor murals...Twenty artists are being sought to create murals that will continue the transformation of the railroad retaining walls along the Green Line corridor from dull, blank concrete into canvases. Each selected artist receives a stipend for materials prior to beginning the project and another sum upon completion. The deadline to apply for the first 10 slots is Friday, April 20. Concepts from another 10 artists will be selected in June. The deadline to apply for the second round will be Fri., June 15. Call 708.358.5692 or email info@oakparkareaartscouncil.org for more information on the application process.

Art banners...Artists are being sought to create hand-painted banners to be installed on about three dozen new streetlight poles along Harrison Street in the Oak Park Arts District. Blank, vinyl banners six feet tall by two feet wide will be provided to selected artists, who must paint their designs on both sides. A stipend will be awarded. The deadline to apply is Mon., April 2. For more information, email info@oakparkartsdistrict.com.

New online water billing system coming

A new online water billing payment system is set to launch by the end of March that will make it easier for property owners to view and pay electronically with a credit/debit card or electronic check. In addition to allowing a quick, one-time payment without registering, customers also will be able to create an account to set up automatic, recurring payments, save payment information for later use and view usage and payment history. Customers who set up accounts will receive email reminders when the bill is ready, a scheduled payment is pending and a confirmation after payment is made. Customers also can choose to go paperless and receive bills only via email. Other features will include payment by phone and text message. All features will be explained on the new user-friendly website landing page once the new system goes live. In addition to charges for water and sewer use, the bill for property owners whose homes are in buildings of five or fewer units also includes charges for refuse and recycling hauling. A link to the new system will be posted at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices.

Bus added to senior fleet

An additional 12-passenger shuttle bus with a wheelchair lift will be available to transport area seniors, residents with mobility issues and caregivers thanks to an agreement between the Oak Park Township and Park District of Oak Park. The bus-sharing agreement means four vehicles will offer curb-to-curb transportation to medical appointments, local grocery stores, personal errands, field trips or other activities. A reservation is required and a donation of \$1 each way is requested, but not required. Last year, Township buses provided more than 21,700 rides to doctor appointments, dialysis treatments, local stores, workshops and adult day care services. The added capacity is estimated to add another 6,000 rides per year. For more information on senior services, visit www.oakparktownship.org/services or call 708.383.4806.

Medical equipment to loan...Medical equipment — including canes, walkers, shower chairs and wheelchairs — is available for loan free of charge for as long as needed through the Oak Park Township. Requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and all equipment is donated. Borrowers assume all risk and liability when using the borrowed equipment. To find out if a specific item is available, or to donate equipment, call 708.383.8005.