

Divvy bike sharing program arrives in Oak Park



Getting around Oak Park by bike is becoming easier than ever for residents and visitors alike thanks to the arrival of the Divvy bike share program.

The first of 13 Divvy stations was expected to begin operating in July, along with a dozen others in high-traffic locations throughout the Village, as Oak Park joined the bike share program with the largest geographic reach in North America.

Oak Park stations are being located strategically near the CTA Green Line and Metra tracks downtown and the CTA Blue Line and Interstate 290 in south Oak Park, as well as along Madison Street and near the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio. Stations also are planned for by the Dole Branch of the Oak Public Library and West Suburban Medical Center in northeast Oak Park.

Each Divvy docking site has an automated pay station that allows cyclists to rent bikes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. Riders can purchase an annual membership or simply buy a 24-hour pass. Bikes can be picked up at one station and dropped off at another.

Divvy has been operating in Chicago neighborhoods since its launch in 2013, but began an aggressive expansion this year that includes Oak Park and Evanston, as well as dozens of new locations in neighborhoods on the city's west, south and far north sides.

When the expansion is complete in July, Divvy will have more than 580 stations and 5,800 bikes spread across more than 100 square miles of Chicagoland, making it the largest and most diverse bike share system in North America.

Divvy's expansion into Oak Park and Evanston was made possible by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, with Chicago and the two suburban communities each providing a 20 percent local share for their stations and bikes.

Oak Park has a long tradition of encouraging safe cycling with bicycle friendly share the road signs at all major community entry points, marked dedicated and shared bicycle lanes on numerous streets and bike racks located throughout the community.

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Tobacco use limited to 21 and older

Come August 1, Oak Park will join a growing national movement aimed at deterring tobacco use among young people by increasing the minimum age to possess or purchase to 21 years old. Anyone under age 21 caught purchasing or possessing tobacco products will face a minimum \$25 fine for the first offense once the law goes into effect. The minimum penalty for anyone selling tobacco products to customers under 21 was increased to \$100. The new Village ordinance also makes it illegal for anyone under 21 years old to sell tobacco products, but implementation of that section of the law was delayed until Aug. 1, 2017 to give merchants sufficient time to make any necessary staffing changes. Much like with alcohol, businesses that sell tobacco products will be required to have someone 21 or older perform the sale or face a fine for each violation. To date, more than 120 cities in seven states have raised tobacco use to age 21. California and Hawaii also have increased their age requirements statewide. For more information on tobacco and other health-related issues, email health@oak-park.us.

Don't hesitate to call 911

Oak Park Police rely on residents taking an active role. If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to call 911 immediately. Visit www.oak-park.us/police for more information on police programs and services, including how to contact the officer assigned to your neighborhood.



Two opportunities ahead to recycle electronics

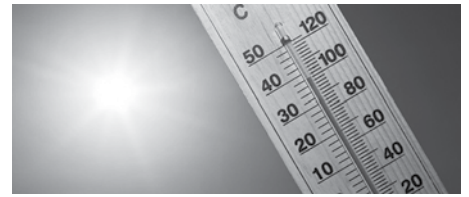
Oak Park residents can recycle outdated and unwanted electronics from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays, July 30 and Aug. 27. Most items are accepted, including computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders/players, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. However, console and projection televisions cannot be accepted. These events are sponsored in part by the Illinois EPA, the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency and Credential Wholesalers. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

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The community's commitment to encouraging wider use of bicycles led the national bicycling advocacy League of American Bicyclists to designate Oak Park as a Bicycle Friendly Community in 2015.

For more information about bicycling in Oak Park and the Village's comprehensive Bicycle Plan, visit www.oak-park.us/bicycling.



Cooling centers offer relief from extreme heat

With the highest temperatures of the season typically coming in July and August, public health officials urge residents to protect themselves and their loved ones from the sometimes severe consequences of extreme heat. While everyone is susceptible to heat-related illnesses, the elderly and individuals with chronic diseases are at greater risk. On excessively hot days, avoid strenuous activity and stay inside whenever possible. And be sure to check on relatives, neighbors and friends. Residents who don't have access to air conditioning are encouraged to take advantage of Oak Park's free cooling centers at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave., and West Suburban Medical Center, 3 Erie Court. When triggered by extreme temperatures, the centers are open seven days a week — 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at West Suburban and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rush. Hours may be extended when weather conditions warrant. To find out if a cooling center is open after hours, call West Suburban Hospital at 708.763.6747 or Rush Oak Park Hospital at 708.660.6000. If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800. Village Hall, 123 Madison St., also is a cooling center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Residents 60 years old and older also can visit Oak Park Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Ave., from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday — call 708.383.8060 if transportation is needed. For more information on dealing with the heat, email health@oak-park.us.

How Divvy Works

Divvy bikes are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. Each station has a touchscreen kiosk, station map and a docking system that releases bikes using a member key or ride code.

Here's how to use Divvy:

- **Join:** Purchase an annual membership online for \$9.95 per month (\$99 a year if paid in advance) or get a 24-hour pass from any Divvy station for \$9.95. Oak Park residents can call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us for a coupon code for a discount on an annual membership. Annual members receive a unique Divvy key in the mail after completing the application. You must be 16 years or older to ride Divvy.
- **Take:** Annual members insert the key into the slot at any station with an available bike. Purchasers of a 24-hour pass receive a code to type into the keypad on any dock with an available bike.
- **Ride:** 30-minute, unlimited trips are offered for the duration of the membership or pass to run an errand, grab a bite to eat or commute to work or school. Trips that last longer than 30 minutes incur usage fees.
- **Return:** Lock the bike back at any station. Wait for the green light to confirm the bike is secure. Divvy crews constantly monitor and balance stations to make sure they are neither full nor empty.
- **Repeat:** Take as many trips as you want during the membership or pass period.

For more information, visit www.DivvyBikes.com.



New faces at Village Hall

Finance Department... Steven Drazner, who has served as Interim Chief



Financial Officer since March, has officially assumed the role as CFO for the Village. Drazner joined the Village as Deputy CFO in August. Prior to joining the

Village, he served as finance director in Countryside, as well as assistant finance director in both Evanston and Morton Grove. Drazner is an Illinois Certified Public Accountant, with an accounting degree from Northern Illinois University.

Human Resources... A public administration executive with extensive



experience in a wide range of municipal employee programs and services has been hired as Oak Park's new

Human Resources Director. Julia Scott-Valdez, who has served as Human Resources Director for the City of Rockford since August 2010, is scheduled to assume her new duties in Oak Park on July 11. Her selection came after a national search that attracted more than 170 candidates from a dozen states.

Law Department... An Oak Park resident with experience in civil rights



litigation and a wide range of property and municipal code actions has been selected as the new Assistant Village Attorney.

Rasheda D. Jackson assumed her new duties at Village Hall in June. She was selected from a field of more than 60 candidates from several states. She earned her juris doctorate degree from Louisiana State University Law Center in Baton Rouge.

Disconnecting gutters from sewer can reduce flooding chances

Disconnecting gutter downspouts from the municipal sewer system can help reduce the chances of backups during heavy rain. While storm water from roof gutters is not a problem under normal conditions, the main system can become overwhelmed during heavy rain events, sometimes causing sewage and storm water to back up into basements. A one-inch rainfall on a 1,000-square-foot roof can produce 600 gallons of water. Disconnecting gutter downspouts from the municipal sewer system also can offer a way to capture free water for plants, lawns and gardens. Capturing storm runoff in rain barrels or rain gardens and using native plants in landscaping to help absorb runoff are effective methods. For more information on flooding prevention, email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Gutter Disconnection Tips

- Extend downspouts at least three to six feet away from the building foundation wall and direct flow away from the building.
- Pick a suitable area for water to flow to such as a grassy area or rain garden. Route downspout extensions under decks or patios to reach these permeable areas.
- Avoid placing an extension across a sidewalk so as not to create a tripping hazard.
- Use a splash block at the end of the extension to avoid soil erosion.
- Avoid flowing water onto sidewalks or driveways since these may freeze during cold months.
- Remember to cap the sewer where the downspout once connected to prevent debris and animals from entering and odors from escaping.

Downed power lines pose real risks

When severe weather brings down power lines, public safety personnel urge residents to be aware of the danger. Their advice — always assume power lines are live, since even momentary contact with a live power line can injure or kill. If a power line comes down, ideally, a firefighter or police officer will stand by the site until utility workers arrive. But when emergency conditions are widespread, personnel may not be available for this level of service. In those instances, affected streets or alleys are blocked and the area around the downed wire isolated by yellow warning tape. Residents who see a downed power line should call 911 right away and report the location. For more information, call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Free youth skills workshops planned

Residents ages 16 to 18 are invited to learn skills and techniques that can help them find and keep a job at annual workshops presented by the Community Relations Department. This year's workshops are scheduled for 1 to 6 p.m., Aug. 1 – 5 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Participants learn skills such as resume writing, interviewing, career path development and interpersonal relations. Guest speakers and representatives from local businesses help participants learn to take charge of their lives by developing critical job seeking and retention skills that can be carried throughout adulthood. These local employers also offer opportunities for individuals who complete the workshop to interview for available positions. The number of participants is limited. Register by July 25 online at www.oak-park.us/community or call 708.358.5407.

Farmers' Market in full swing



The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open for business from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through October. Now in its 41st season, the venerable market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses from Illinois and neighboring states, the market also offers warm donuts made on-site, juice and coffee, and live bluegrass music. Regional vendors featuring sus-

tainable, organic and locally sourced goods are participating again this season as well, including several offering heirloom products. Non-profit bake sales are there, too, along with children's activities and occasional cooking demonstrations. In addition, Chicago Public Radio's WBEZ-FM will broadcast live from select markets. A majority of the vendors now accept credit/debit cards as well as Link cards. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5780.

How to properly dispose of storm debris

When severe weather brings down branches and even entire trees, property owners are urged not to bring any debris from trees on private property to the parkway or street, which can lead to clogged sewer inlets and localized flooding during heavy rains. Public Works crews only pick up debris from parkway trees — a big job with nearly 19,000 trees on public property throughout the Village. However, brush from private property will be treated as yard waste if it is tied into bundles, each tagged with a green yard waste sticker and placed in the regular refuse pick-up area. Each bundle should be no larger than two feet in diameter, four feet in length and not exceed 50 pounds. Yard waste stickers are \$2.45 each and are available at most Village grocery and hardware stores, as well as in the cashier's office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The Village's contract refuse hauler also will come to a home and estimate the cost for removing larger, unbundled quantities of yard waste — call 888.656.5350 to request an estimate. Refuse collection is funded by user fees billed quarterly with the water bill, rather than property taxes, an approach that means only those properties that require the service pay. About half of Oak Park's 26,000 residential addresses are in multifamily buildings. For more information on yard waste, recycling and refuse hauling, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Learn more about Township services

Residents who may have missed the Oak Park Township insert in the June issue of the OP/FYI newsletter are urged to drop by the main office at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. or the Senior Center across the street at 130 S. Oak Park Ave., to pick up a copy. The two-page flyer provides details on the wide variety of services available to residents, including:

- Voter Services
- Assessor Services
- Senior Services
- Youth Services
- Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Funding

For more information on Township programs and services, call 708.383.8005 or visit www.oakparktownship.org.

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

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Nominations sought for community awards



Nominations are being sought for awards that recognize efforts by organizations, individuals and businesses to improve the Village through property preservation, sustainability and accessibility. Deadline for nominations is October 14, with awards to be presented in December. Here are the details:

Historic Preservation: Nomination categories include restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, additions/new construction, stewardship, detail and design. Nominations need not be in a historic district and interior work may be considered in conjunction with exterior work. More details are at www.oak-park.us/preservationawards.

Sustainability: Projects should fit the preservation award criteria, but also adapt, add to, rehabilitate or restore an older structure while innovatively addressing sustainability issues of air, energy, waste and water. Awards are given for both residential and commercial projects. More details are at www.oak-park.us/preservationawards.

Accessibility: Businesses, organizations and other entities that provide extraordinary accessibility for patrons with disabilities and their families may be nominated for this award. Nominations should be for efforts to provide easy access to people with disabilities, create an inviting physical space and offer a welcoming, helpful, service-oriented attitude. More details are at www.oak-park.us/accessawards.

Park District News

Frank Lloyd Wright Races – Registration is now open for the 40th annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races set for Oct. 23. This year's event will feature a 5 kilometer run and walk, 10 kilometer run and walk and a youth mile. Visit flwraces.com for more information.

Campfire cooking workshop – Learn the basics of cooking over a campfire, discover new recipes and sample a fireside feast from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sat., July 23, at the new Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center, by Forest Avenue, just north of Lake Street. Pre-registration at www.pdop.org is required for this free program.

Park-to-park bike ride – Explore the community's parks by bicycle, beginning at 9:45 a.m., Sun., July 24 in Austin Gardens, 167 Forest Ave. Finish the ride about noon back at Austin Gardens for a tour of the new Environmental Education Center. Pre-registration is available at www.pdop.org, but drop-ins are welcome.

Summer concerts – Music in Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue, continues on Sunday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. through August 7. Here's the schedule:

- July 3 – Wood Street Bloodhounds (bluegrass)
- July 10 – One Family Band (acoustic)
- July 17 – Deja Blue (blues)
- July 24 – The Replays (classic rock)
- July 31 – Saturday June Band (rock)
- August 7 – Teen Battle of the Bands winner

Movies in the Park – Enjoy free movies in Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue. Movies begin at dusk. Here's the schedule:

- July 14: The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water
- Aug. 18: The Good Dinosaur
- Sept. 17: Zootopia

West Nile Virus threat returns

As temperatures rise, so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. Illinois reported 77 human cases and nine deaths last year. The severity of this season has not been established, but the virus has been found in several counties and one human case had been reported by mid-June.

Take precautions... Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by wearing long sleeves and pants, limiting time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and wearing insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Residents also are urged to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, storing containers upside down and emptying birdbaths every few days. For more information, call 708.358.5694, visit www.oak-park.us/fightthebite or email health@oak-park.us.

Report dead birds... If you see a dead bird call the West Nile Virus Hotline 708.358.5694. Depending on the bird's condition and species, a Health Department staff member may pick up the carcass for testing.

Prevention efforts... The Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District treats all street catch basins with larvicide every seven to 10 days during the mosquito-breeding season. The abatement district also will treat catch basins on private property by request and pick up old vehicle tires. Call 708.447.1765 or visit www.desplainesvalleymad.com for more information.

Spraying notification... Residents who wish to be notified when the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District has scheduled spraying for adult mosquitoes can sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme. Registrants will be notified by an automated telephone system, email or text message as soon as possible following a decision to spray in Oak Park. Individuals without computer access may call 708.358.5694 to leave their phone number for telephone notification only. Visit www.desplainesvalleymad.com for information on spraying.



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb
Trustees
Peter Barber
Andrea Button Ott
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Collette Lueck
Bob Tucker
Village Clerk Teresa Powell
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

O P / F Y I

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



Outdoor sculpture walk comes to Mills Park



Bountiful Bench crafted in bronze by Chicago artist Christina Murphy.

The Oak Park Sculpture Walk is back for a fifth season, with 12 sculptures on display in an outdoor exhibit through Sept. 5 in Mills Park. Located near Pleasant and Home avenues just east of Marion Street, the park's four-plus acres provides a scenic backdrop for the sculptures, which are displayed along the winding walking paths. This year's sculptures come from near and far. Oak Park resident Tia Jones-Etu's *Flower*, a celebration of the growing season, is located near the park's north-east entrance. Pieces created by artists from Texas, Missouri and Iowa also are part of this year's exhibit. Sculptures are chosen through a juried competition and vary in materials. Brochures with details about the art and the artists are available by the exhibit, at all Oak Park public libraries, area businesses near the park and online at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk. The Sculpture Walk is organized by the Public Art Advisory Commission, citizen volunteers who promote the acquisition and placement of public art that reflects diversity and artistic expression, and enhances the aesthetic environment of the Village. For more information, email sculpturewalk@oak-park.us.

Composting program diverts organic waste from landfills

The Village offers a food scrap composting program to residents who wish to reduce the amount of organic refuse sent to landfills. Currently, 1,063 households participate in the Village program that provides a special 96-gallon mobile cart for organics, an under-sink collection bucket and a box of compostable bags for food scraps. The cost is \$14 per month, which is about the same as recycling one bag of yard waste per week under the current Village-wide yard program that does not accept food scraps and requires a \$2.45 green sticker be attached to each bag or barrel. Subscribers who use the organics cart for their yard waste as well as food scraps do not need yard waste stickers for grass clippings and other gardening waste since it can go right into the organics cart. Residents who maintain backyard compost piles or mulch grass clippings are urged to investigate sharing organics carts and costs with neighbors. Food scraps and food-soiled paper make up about 35 percent of what residents throw away, which is the largest unrecycled portion of the residential waste stream. For more information on the Village composting program, call 708.358.5700 or email compostable@oak-park.us.