

OCTOBER 2017

OP/FYI

A NEWSLETTER
FROM THE
VILLAGE OF
OAK PARK

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VOP-TV takes top honors for government programming

The Village of Oak Park's take on TV took top honors from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA).

The Government Programming Awards, presented at the NATOA's 32nd annual conference held in September in Seattle, honored excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies from across the country.

VOP-TV, the broadcast component of the Village's public information programs, was judged best in the programming excellence category of organizations with budgets under \$250,000.

To enter the category, Media Production Manager Joe Kreml compiled a greatest hits reel showcasing more than a dozen videos produced for VOP-TV and social media in the last year. Content included videos that focused on public health and safety, village government, local businesses and economic development.

The submitted videos represent a cross section of the diverse work that VOP-TV produces throughout the year in Oak Park.

VOP-TV has increasingly focused on its YouTube channel www.youtube.com/vopnews and incorporating videos into the municipal website and Village social media pages, particularly Facebook www.facebook.com/vopnews, which



VOP-TV Media Production Manager Joe Kreml

has more than 8,100 fans. The Village YouTube channel currently hosts more than 400 videos that have been viewed nearly 400,000 times.

In addition to original videos about Village government services, the community and its interesting residents, VOP-TV also continues its original mission of ensuring transparency in the local government policymaking process.

Village Board meetings are streamed live and archived for on-demand viewing at www.oak-park.us/boardtv, as well as cablecast on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. VOP-TV also streams and archives meetings of the Plan Com-

mission and Zoning Board of Appeals on www.oak-park.us/commissiontv.

VOP-TV's winning video reel was among the more than 900 entries submitted to NATOA by local governments from across the country. This is the fourth time VOP-TV entries have won the top honor from NATOA, which considers this category of special significance because it reflects the variety of superior programming produced throughout the year, rather than honor a single video.

For more information on VOP-TV and the Village's wide range of public information programs, visit www.oak-park.us/publicinformation.



Valet offers convenient downtown parking option

Oak Park's public valet service offers a quick and easy way to park in the busy downtown area from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Valet Oak Park has two drop-off and pick-up points — one on the north side of Lake Street, just west of Marion Street, and one on the east side of Marion Street by North Boulevard — just look for the London-style red telephone booth valet stands. Vehicles can be dropped off at either site, and then picked up at the closest valet stand. The service is \$5 for up to three hours and \$12 for more than three hours until close. For more information on parking in Oak Park visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Annual leaf collection program begins this month



The annual fall leaf collection program is scheduled for October 16 through November 30, with seven pickups planned for each quadrant of the Village.

Leaves raked into the streets by residents, landscapers and property owners are pushed into piles during the night, and then collected for recycling the following day.

Major undertaking

Keeping up with the leaves from the nearly 19,000 trees on parkways is just the start of the challenge the Village faces each fall. In addition to the leaves from these parkway trees, most of the leaves from the many more thousands of deciduous trees on private property tend to end up on the street as well.

The sheer volume of leaves that must be carted away each season is immense — nearly 2,000 tons. For 28 days and nights in October and November, crews from the Public Works Department and a private contractor push, pile, load and haul away the mountains of leaves raked into many of the 22 lane miles of streets in Oak Park.

The movement of equipment to get the leaves from the streets to the trucks to a licensed composting facility is nothing less than a heavy equipment ballet. Collecting the leaves on streets in neighborhoods with on-street parking can be especially difficult, requiring crews to be creative and resourceful, and drivers to be patient.

Residents' responsibilities

The cooperation of residents and property owners is essential for the program to work.

Leaves need to be not only raked into the street, but ideally kept at least 18 inches from the curb to make sure the

NORTH AVE		SOUTH BLVD	
HARLEM AVE	WEDNESDAY	EAST AVE	THURSDAY
	Oct. 18		Oct. 19
	Oct. 25		Oct. 26
	Nov. 1		Nov. 2
	Nov. 8		Nov. 9
	Nov. 15		Nov. 16
	Nov. 22		Nov. 23
Nov. 29	Nov. 30		
HARLEM AVE	TUESDAY	EAST AVE	MONDAY
	Oct. 17		Oct. 16
	Oct. 24		Oct. 23
	Oct. 31		Oct. 30
	Nov. 7		Nov. 6
	Nov. 14		Nov. 13
	Nov. 21		Nov. 20
Nov. 28	Nov. 27		
ROOSEVELT RD			
AUSTIN BLVD		AUSTIN BLVD	

equipment can get them all.

Residents also are urged to keep their leaves on the parkway until the day before their scheduled pickup, a simple courtesy that can improve day-to-day traffic flow and reduce the chances of an accident.

But with so many property owners relying on private landscaping companies that operate on strict schedules, motorists are urged to drive with caution as they are sure to encounter huge piles of possibly wet and blowing leaves on many streets every day of the week during the collection period.

Residents also are asked to resist the urge to toss in brush, pumpkins and all other forms of plant matter that can contaminate the leaf recycling stream.

For more information

To learn more about Oak Park's annual leaf collection program, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



A Few Simple Rules

- Consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking.
- Rake leaves out the day before the scheduled pickup date.
- If a scheduled pickup date is missed, keep the leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup.
- Leaves only — do not add brush, grass clippings or yard waste.
- Do not park on or near a pile of leaves, which can hinder leaf removal operations. Heat from a car also could ignite the leaves.
- Rake leaves onto side streets whenever possible. Try to avoid major thoroughfares where piles of leaves might create traffic hazards.
- Do not rake leaves into or close to cul de sacs or traffic diverters. The equipment needs room to operate.
- Keep catch basins clear of raked leaves to avoid flooding.
- Inform landscape services of the leaf collection schedule.
- Obey all parking restrictions. Regulations are strictly enforced.
- Dampen piles after raking to avoid leaves being blown by the wind.
- Drive carefully. Leaves are slippery when wet and large piles may hinder visibility.
- Watch for workers. Crews will create safe work zones and close intersections for a few minutes while removing large leaf piles.

For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



News You Can Use

Diabetes workshop set...Area seniors interested in learning about managing diabetes are invited to participate in a workshop set for 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday from Oct. 10 through Nov. 14. The six-week series will be held at the Oak Park Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. The program, entitled *Take Charge of Your Diabetes*, will help participants learn about healthy eating, pain management and medication, as well as how to communicate with family and medical professionals. Call 708.383.8060 or email cduignan@oakparktownship.org to register.

Village Board TV...Village Board meetings are streamed live and archived for on-demand viewing at www.oak-park.us/boardtv, where videos are linked to agendas and related materials. Meetings also are cablecast live on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99, and replayed at 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and 7 p.m. Sundays. Regular board meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. Special meetings typically are held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of the month.

Get to know your RBO...Oak Park's residential beat officers hold regular meetings in the neighborhoods they serve to discuss issues and crime trends, and answer questions. For more details, including dates, times and locations, call 708.386.3800 or visit www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Discrimination complaints...Village Code defends the rights of individuals within the protected classes of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status or disability in purchasing, leasing, securing a loan, renting or occupying housing or other real estate. Any person otherwise qualified who is denied or discriminated against in these processes should call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Overnight parking restricted...Parking is prohibited on all Village streets from 2:30 to 6 a.m., seven days a week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass. Up to 10 on-street overnight passes are allowed for each vehicle every month — the first three are free, and additional passes are \$7 each. If you have guests, consider parking in one of the Village's public garages. For more information about parking, visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Signs prohibited...Placing any type of sign in the public right of way such as the parkway space between the sidewalk and the curb is prohibited — including garage sale signs, political signs, open house signs and contractor signs. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Nature museum activities...Cook County's Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave., in River Forest, offers a range of programs for children and adults alike, including nature stories, fitness hikes and close-up visits with the Thatcher Woods' many inhabitants. For more information, visit the Museum or call 708.366.6530.

Leashes required...Leashes are required for all dogs that use any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public area. Leashes can't be longer than eight feet. Owners who allow their dogs to run off leash may be ticketed and fined. The Park District of Oak Park offers areas where dogs can run off leash. Visit www.pdop.org for more information.

Runners take streets...The Park District of Oak Park's annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races will bring street closures along the route from about 8 to 11 a.m., Sun., Oct. 22. Several streets will be closed from Lake Street north to LeMoyné Parkway and Marion Street east to Lombard Avenue. Residents are encouraged to review the course at www.flwraces.com and allow for extra travel time. Events start at Scoville Avenue and Ontario Street, just east of Oak Park and River Forest High School and finish on Scoville in front of the school. The course for the 10K race passes eight buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, including the Home and Studio on Chicago Avenue. Anyone interested in helping with this community event is invited to volunteer at www.flwraces.com/volunteering.

Veteran named Deputy Police Chief



A detective commander with 23 years of experience with the Oak Park Police Department has been named Deputy Chief. LaDon Reynolds,

who joined the Oak Park Police Department in September of 1994, was officially sworn in last month. As Deputy Chief, Reynolds will oversee the Patrol Division, which includes all of the men and women in uniform who police the community day to day. As a commander, Reynolds managed the Investigations Division of the Police Department, which includes Evidence Technicians, School Resource Officers, Juvenile Officers, Detectives and task force officers assigned to the FBI and the DEA. He also served as the Police public information officer and managed the Department's response-to-resistance programs, including initiatives to train officers in the use of less-than-lethal methods to diffuse potentially deadly situations. In addition to his Oak Park Police duties, Reynolds is an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Administration program at Triton College where he teaches courses in Law Enforcement Administration and Police Community Relations. He also is an instructor for Western Illinois University's campus security training program and an instructor for Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute, where he teaches modules on diversity, cultural awareness and community policing. Reynolds holds a Master of Science degree in Education and Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Senior Management Institute for Police, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute, and Community Leadership Program at Dominican University's Brennan School of Business. Information on the Oak Park Police Department and its community policing programs are posted online at www.oak-park.us/police.

Oak Park takes comprehensive approach to garbage collection and recycling

The Village of Oak Park's comprehensive waste disposal program is designed to effectively deal with increasing amounts of trash, rising collection and disposal costs, legislative restrictions and growing environmental concerns. Mobile refuse carts, available in two sizes, and large recycling containers allow residents to choose the level of service that best fits their needs. Refuse collection service is provided once a week for all residential buildings with up to five units. Owners of larger multifamily dwelling and commercial buildings must contract directly with private refuse haulers.

Collection – All trash, recyclables and yard waste are scheduled to be picked up on the same day of the week in each of five geographic sections of the Village. Items that are either prohibited by landfills or unacceptable for collection include car parts, dirt, soil, concrete, tires, motor oil, pesticides, acid, gasoline, anti-freeze, pool chemicals, automotive batteries, liquid paint and electronics such as computers, monitors and TVs. If any of these items are mixed with your trash, collection will not be made.

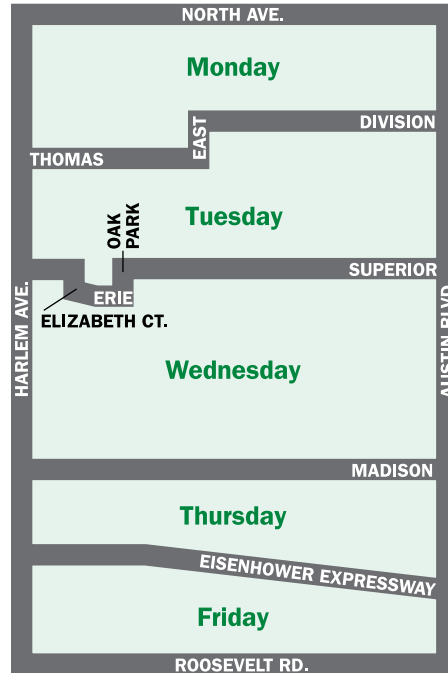
Recycling – The Village's single-stream recycling program eliminates the need to separate recyclables. Paper, cans and bottles that meet recycling guidelines can be placed together in the same container. The Village provides 64-gallon recycling containers to encourage more recycling. The amount of recyclable materials set out for collection is not limited. The Village also offers at-your-door collection for electronics, paint and common household hazardous waste.

Yard waste – Bundled brush and other yard waste are picked up from the first full week of April through November provided green yard waste stickers are properly affixed to the bundles and containers. Stickers can be purchased for \$2.50 each at grocery and hardware stores throughout the Village, including Village Hall, 123 Madison St. A yard waste sticker must be placed on each bundle of brush, paper yard waste bag or container.

Bulk items – Items such as discarded furniture, household appliances and hot water tanks – or more garbage than will fit in the cart – will be picked up when special pink refuse stickers are attached. Stickers can be purchased for \$2.25 each at grocery and hardware stores throughout the Village, including Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Each residential unit may place out one bulk item per week, provided that two pink refuse stickers are attached. Bulk items and extra trash cannot exceed 90 pounds.

Composting – The Village offers a residential composting program to help reduce the amount of organic waste like table scraps and food-soiled containers that otherwise would end up in the refuse container. While the program does have an additional cost – \$14.42 per month – neighbors can share a cart. Participants also can use the composting cart for yard waste, eliminating the need to buy bags and stickers for disposal. Call 708.358.5700 or email composting@oak-park.us for more information.

For more information on the Village's refuse and recycling programs, call 708.358.5700, email publicworks@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/refuse.



Collection Schedule

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
-  twitter.com/vopnews
-  youtube.com/vopnews

Property information at your fingertips

Residents interested in really getting to know the details of their Oak Park properties have a new online resource available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at www.oak-park.us/communityportal.

Just by entering an address into the portal search window on a computer, pad or smartphone, users can link to a wide range of property-specific information. The initial Community Portal page displayed after the address search immediately lists how the specific property is

zoned and its PIN (property identification number) that also is a live link directly to the tax and sales history information maintained by the county. Other important details about specific properties accessible through the portal include names and contact information for elected officials at all levels, recycling and refuse schedules, overnight parking permit maps, nearby public transportation sites and voting precinct and polling location. The underlying databases driving the new user-friendly community property information portal also includes information not viewable by the public that is helping to improve the delivery of municipal services. Authorized Village staff can view data such as fire hydrant locations and flow rates, registered residents with special needs that could affect emergency medical response strategies and police resource allocation tactics. In addition, the Village is compiling location-based data that can help allocate municipal resources more efficiently for services such as plowing snow, repairing streets and replacing burned out street lamps. The ability to provide residents with specific information about their properties is tied to Oak Park's participation in the GIS Consortium, a collective of local governments working together to develop and implement new technologies they can share. More information on the consortium is posted at public.gisconsortium.org.



Local sites featured in architectural tour

Ten Oak Park sites will be among the 200-plus locations featured in *Open House Chicago*, the Chicago Architecture Foundation's annual free, behind-the-scenes look at many of the region's great places and spaces rarely open to the public. The event is set for Oct. 14 and 15. In addition to Oak Park's iconic Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio at 951 Chicago Ave., featured local sites also will include the new Oak Park River Forest Museum, 129 Lake St. Details on times and date for each of the 200-plus properties are posted at openhousechicago.org.

Oak Park Sites

Cheney Mansion

220 N. Euclid Ave.
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Oct 14 and 15

Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio

951 Chicago Ave.
9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Oct. 14

Grace Episcopal Church

924 Lake St.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Oct 14
1 – 5 p.m., Oct 15

Nineteenth Century Club

178 Forest Ave.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Oct 14
1 – 5 p.m., Oct 15

Oak Park Art League

720 Chicago Ave.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Oct 14
1 – 5 p.m., Oct 15

Oak Park River Forest Museum

129 Lake St.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Oct 14 and 15

Pilgrim Congregational Church

460 Lake St.
10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Oct 14
1 – 5 p.m., Oct 15

Pleasant Home

217 Home Ave.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Oct 14 and 15

St. Edmund Roman Catholic Church

188 S. Oak Park Ave.
10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Oct 14
12:30 – 5 p.m., Oct 15

Unity Church of Oak Park

405 N. Euclid Ave.
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Oct 14
1 – 5 p.m., Oct 15

Get help for emergency repairs

No-interest loans of up to \$5,000 are available to help income-eligible owners of single family homes make emergency repairs such as replace faulty furnaces or water heaters before the winter weather returns. To qualify, homes must be owner-occupied and household income must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income – for example \$55,350 for a three-person household. Loan terms are for five years. Contact housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5413 for more information.

Household waste, electronics collected at doorstep

Residents of single-family homes and buildings with five or fewer units can safely dispose of common hazardous household waste and unwanted electronics without a trip to a collection site. At-your-door service is part of the regular weekly municipal garbage and recycling collection programs billed quarterly on water bills. At-home pickup is offered for materials such as garden chemicals, automotive fluids, paint products and household cleaners as well as electronic items like televisions, computers, fax machines, printers and cell phones. Residents can schedule the service online at www.wmatyourdoor.com, via email to atyourdoor@wm.com or with a toll-free call to 1.800.449.7587. Collection kits sent by U.S. Mail include instructions on how to package the materials and where to place them safely for pickup on the scheduled date. Residents of multifamily buildings not served under the municipal refuse hauling program are encouraged to contact their building's refuse service provider about recycling options. For more information about the Village's refuse and recycling services – including items eligible for at-your-door collection – visit www.oak-park.us/recycling.



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

Farmers' Market season ends with stone soup

The 2017 season of the Oak Park Farmers' Market comes to a close this month with *stone soup* served to patrons at the final Market on Oct. 28. The tradition of serving stone soup at the last market of the season was inspired by a European folk tale which has, for hundreds of years, called on people to live generously, even in times of need. Residents are invited to read a popular version of the stone soup tale at www.oak-park.us/stonesoup. This year, hot soup made from ingredients donated by Market vendors will be prepared by the culinary team from local shop Carnivore and ladled up free of charge from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty. Other free events planned for October include farmers' market-themed music sessions on Oct. 14 led by *Stomp and Shout*, a business that hosts music and theatre classes for kids and their grownups. The Oak Park Public Library's Book Bike will make its final appearance of the season at the Market on Oct. 28. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday, mid-May through October in the Pilgrim Church parking lot on Lake Street, just west of Ridgeland Avenue. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Citizen volunteers always needed

When it comes to citizen involvement in the process of making public policy, few communities can match the opportunities offered in Oak Park, where volunteers serve on nearly 20 separate advisory boards, commissions and committees. As part-time lawmakers, the Village president and trustees rely on the boards and commissions to do much of the investigative work associated with particular issues. A varied group of volunteers is sought. Renters as well as homeowners are encouraged to apply. Some commissions require a special skill, others only a fresh perspective. Currently, the Village is seeking a civil engineer or individual with professional HVAC knowledge to serve on the Building Codes Advisory Commission. For more information on volunteering, visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Divvy offering discounts

Getting around Oak Park by bike is easy for residents and visitors alike thanks to the Divvy bike share program. Through October, Oak Parkers can take advantage of a special offer and pay only \$59.99 for an annual membership, a savings of nearly \$40 off the regular membership price of \$99. To receive the discount, go to www.divvybikes.com and use the coupon code *OPFYI* when making the purchase. For more information about Divvy in Oak Park and the 13 stations located throughout the Village, visit www.oak-park.us/divvy.

Trick-or-treat hours set

Official hours for Halloween trick or treating are 3 to 7 p.m., Oct. 31. Parents should accompany young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. Other safety tips include:

- Use make-up instead of masks
- Choose flame-retardant costumes
- Wear light-colored clothing at night or add reflective tape to dark colored costumes
- Give and accept only wrapped and packaged candy
- Go out in daylight and carry a flashlight in case of delay
- Stay within your neighborhood and visit only homes you know

For information on Halloween safety, call 708.445.3300 or 708.386.3800, or email fire@oak-park.us or police@oak-park.us.

Change your clock, change your battery

Daylight saving time reverts to standard time at 2 a.m., Sun., Nov. 5, when clocks should be rolled back by one hour. Public safety officials recommend using the time change as a reminder to replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

