

## New trees add diversity to Oak Park’s urban forest

**S**pecies diversity was the theme of tree planting in May, as Village foresters and contractors spread out across the Village to plant nearly 350 trees representing 36 different species.

Diversity is essential, officials say, because the more diverse an urban forest, the less susceptible it will be to outbreaks like Dutch elm disease and the emerald ash borer that have led to widespread tree losses across the community and the region.

In addition to its annual spring tree planting, the Village also schedules a fall planting in November when another 200 or so trees likely will be planted.

The majority of annual plantings replace trees removed after they became infected with Dutch elm disease or the emerald ash borer, but foresters also are seeing an increase in Norway maple and linden trees that have reached the end of their life spans and require removal.



When a tree is removed, the location is entered in the Village’s inventory of trees in the public way and a new tree is typically replanted within two seasons.

The Village Forester, a certified municipal arborist, manages when, where and what trees will be planted. While requests for specific species are considered, the Village cannot provide

a list of available tree species from which a resident can select since site conditions and species availability vary greatly from season to season.

New trees typically are 10 to 15 feet tall with a two-inch trunk diameter and a 36-inch root ball. Each new tree is

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## July 4th parade to showcase Village’s many dimensions



**T**he many dimensions of Oak Park will be on display when the 11th annual July 4th parade steps off at 10 a.m., Mon., July 4 from Longfellow Park at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street. Parade participants march north on Ridgeland Avenue to Augusta Boulevard and disperse at Whittier School. The route will offer many viewing opportunities along the way. Residents typically bring chairs and blankets to sit on the parkways and curbs as they enjoy the old-fashioned, small-town display that suggests simpler times in the nation’s history. More than 75 groups participated in the parade last year, including social and special interest groups, community groups, athletic teams, politicians, businesses, service organizations, children’s groups, animal lovers with their pets and musical groups. This year’s event is expected to be even bigger. Some participants will bring floats and drive vintage cars. Others will play music, carry banners, ride decorated bicycles and skate. Most will dress up in all manner of red, white and blue to commemorate the nation’s birthday and to celebrate Oak Park’s rich diversity. Of course, the Police and Fire Departments will be part of the parade, too, with vehicle lights flashing and sirens blaring. A fireworks display organized by the local nonprofit Great American Light Show Association (GALA) typically begins at dusk in the football stadium of Oak Park and River Forest High School, near East Avenue and Lake Street. Check [www.oak-park.us/calendar](http://www.oak-park.us/calendar) for any schedule changes. The parade is organized by the citizen volunteers of the Community Relations Commission. For more information or to volunteer to help out at the parade, call 708.358.5407 or email [community@oak-park.us](mailto:community@oak-park.us).

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planted and mulched, and a watering bag attached that is refilled regularly during the first growing season.

Residents are urged to store the watering bags and use them in future years to help the trees on their parkways stay strong during their most vulnerable years.

Experience has shown that smaller trees transplant best in Oak Park's

urban environment. The cost and the chance of failure go up exponentially when transplanting larger trees, officials say, noting that within five years of planting, a two-inch and five-inch tree will look the same.

The Village maintains an inventory of trees in the public way that is updated regularly. The database is available online and residents can use it to identify trees on their parkways and throughout the Village.

At the time of the last comprehensive inventory in 2014, maple trees made up 24 percent of the tree population in Oak Park, followed by elm trees (11 percent), linden trees (10 percent) and oak trees (nine percent).

The goal for a healthy urban forest is to not have any species family make up more than 10 percent of the overall population. With this objective in mind, large quantities of oak, tulip, buckeye and pear trees are being planted this spring, while maple trees make up only a small fraction of the new arrivals.

In addition to caring for the nearly 19,000 trees growing on parkways throughout the village, the Village foresters also care for the bushes, shrubs and seasonal planters that are an important part of public landscaped areas.

Oak Park's care of its urban forest has not gone unnoticed. In 2015, the Village was recognized as the state's first municipal arboretum.

For more information on tree care in the Village visit [www.oak-park.us/trees](http://www.oak-park.us/trees).



## BBQ safety a must

Summer means getting together with good friends and good food outside. Making sure your grill is operated safely and food is handled correctly is important, so follow these guidelines:

### Grilling

- Make sure smoke is not a nuisance to a neighbor.
- Use an approved container designed for barbecuing.
- Keep grills at least 10 feet from any combustible material or structure, such as a house, garage or deck.
- Only use the fuel for which your grill is designed.
- Have a fire extinguisher, garden hose or bucket of water nearby just in case, and close the lid when done cooking.

### Food handling

- Wash hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water before, between and after handling each different food item.
- Clean utensils, cutting boards and countertops with hot, soapy water before and after preparing each food item.
- Place cooked meat on a clean plate.
- Store all meat products in separate containers or bags that seal.
- Use a metal stemmed food thermometer to check the final cooking temperature of meat and poultry. Roasts and steaks should be cooked to an internal temperature of at least 150°F, ground beef and pork to 160°F, fish to 145°F and whole poultry to 180°F.
- Refrigerate cooked foods promptly to prevent the growth of harmful bacteria.

Email [fire@oak-park.us](mailto:fire@oak-park.us) for information on grilling safety and [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) for food handling guidance.

## Spring Planting Inventory

Thirty six species of trees are scheduled to be planted in Oak Park in May. Here's the breakdown and quantities of each:

Chinkapin Oak – 10	Shawnee Brave Baldcypress – 12
Red Oak – 10	New Horizon Elm – 10
Regal Prince Oak – 10	Accolade Elm – 1
Sawtooth Oak – 10	Black Tupelo – 10
Shingle Oak – 10	Exclamation Londonplane – 10
Scarlet Oak – 8	Halka Pagodatree – 10
Heritage English Oak – 5	Happidaze Sweetgum – 10
Shumard Oak – 5	Kentucky Coffeetree – 10
Swamp White Oak – 5	Northern Catalpa – 10
Apple Serviceberry – 30	Siouxland Poplar – 10
Tulip Tree – 22	Skyline Honeylocust – 10
Glenleven Littleleaf Linden – 10	Turkish Filbert – 10
American Sentry Linden – 5	American Yellowwood – 5
Shamrock Linden – 5	Hardy Rubber Tree – 5
Whitespire Birch – 20	Kastura Tree – 5
Autumn Splendor Buckeye – 15	Purple Robe Black Locust – 5
New Bradford Pear – 14	Red Pointe Maple – 5
Seaside Alder – 12	Red Jewel Crabapple – 4

Visit [www.oak-park.us/trees](http://www.oak-park.us/trees) for more information on the care of Oak Park's urban forest.





## Environmental education center opening



The Park District of Oak Park's new Environmental Education Center is scheduled to open at 10 a.m., June 11 in Austin Gardens, just north of Lake Street near Forest Avenue. In addition to a tour of the LEED platinum-certified facility, a range of activities is planned, including recyclable crafts, a scavenger hunt and entertainment. Residents also are invited to bring their lawn and tree care questions for the staff experts to answer. The new facility, known as the AGEEC, is a showcase for sustainable design, featuring a geo-thermal heating and cooling system, solar panels, a green roof, storm water harvesting, rain gardens and an energy efficient building envelope and mechanical systems. The AGEEC will be home to sustainability workshops, classes, summer camps and a nature-based preschool program. Visit [www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org) for more information on Park District programs and facilities.

## Free legal assistance available through Oak Park Township

Senior citizens and people with disabilities needing assistance preparing advance directives legal documents such as power of attorney of health care and property or a living will can get help through Oak Park Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Representatives from the Center for Disability & Elder Law are available for free by appointment every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. To qualify, household income must be at or below 150 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Residency in Oak Park or River Forest also is required. Call 708.383.8060 or email [seniors@oakparktownship.org](mailto:seniors@oakparktownship.org) for an appointment and more information.

## Recycle electronics on June 25

Oak Parkers who still have outdated or unwanted electronic devices lying around should mark June 25 on their calendars. That's the date of the season's first free recycling event in the Village. Residents can drop off items from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Projection and console TVs will not be accepted. While the Village remains committed to providing opportunities to recycle electronics, state funding for municipal electronics recycling programs and the demand for the recycled materials have declined, requiring communities to pay for the service, which typically means offering fewer events. The June event in Oak Park is sponsored in part by the Illinois EPA, the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency and Credential Wholesalers. Providing opportunities for residents to recycle electronics is essential, officials say, since the state banned these items from landfills in 2012 and waste haulers no longer will pick them up with garbage. The Village is investigating funding support to offer additional electronics recycling opportunities this season. Events will be promoted as scheduled. Watch future issues of the *OP/FYI* community newsletter, sign up for email alerts at [www.oak-park.us/enews](http://www.oak-park.us/enews) and stay connected via [twitter.com/vopnews](https://twitter.com/vopnews) and [www.facebook.com/vopnews](https://www.facebook.com/vopnews). Most electronic equipment also is accepted at the Chicago Household Chemical and Electronics Recycling Facility, at 1150 N. North Branch St. The facility is open from 7 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, 2 to 7 p.m. Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. the first Saturday of the month. For more information on recycling, call 708.358.5700, email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us) or visit [www.oak-park.us/recycling](http://www.oak-park.us/recycling).



### Accepted Items

- Cell phones
- Desktop computers and peripherals
- Digital video disk players
- Fax machines
- Laptops
- Microwave ovens
- Monitors
- MP3 players
- Portable digital assistants
- Printers
- Rechargeable batteries
- Scanners
- TVs (no console or projection)
- Video cassette recorders/players
- Video game consoles
- Zip drives

## Free concerts, movies in the park

**Concerts...**The Park District of Oak Park's free summer concerts return, featuring a variety of local and well-known bands beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sunday evenings in Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue.

- June 12 – Blue Water Kings (70s/80s/90s)
- June 19 – Wild Daisy (country)
- June 26 – Second Time Around (classic rock)
- 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 – Battle of the Bands winner

**Movies...**Bring your picnic blanket and snacks and enjoy free movies in the parks all summer. Movies begin at dusk. Visit [www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org) for more details.

- June 16 – Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- July 14 – The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
- Aug. 18 – The Good Dinosaur
- Sept. 17 – Zootopia



## Farmers' Market welcomes new vendors, special guests

The Oak Park Farmers' Market is now open for its 41st season, welcoming new vendors and special guests. Katic Breads from Aurora and Mint Creek Farms, a grass-fed meat vendor from Stelle, have joined long-time vendors who offer a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses from Illinois and neighboring states. Children's activities are scheduled for the first and third Saturdays of each month and will be hosted by Miss Clara's, Seed Montessori, Friends of the Conservatory, the Oak Park Public Library Book Bike, Magical Minds, Oak Park Park District, Wonder Works children's museum and Musicgarten. The West Cook YMCA also will revive the popular vegetable of the week with collectible recipe cards available throughout the market season. In addition, Chicago Public Radio's WBEZ-FM will broadcast live from select markets. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open for business from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through October in the parking lot of Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake St., just west of Ridgeland Avenue. For more information, visit [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket).

## Parkway plantings can pose risks

Property owners who see the parkways as fertile ground for their green thumbs may actually be putting the trees at risk — not to mention themselves. Digging on parkways — the space between sidewalks and streets — can damage tree roots as well as utility lines that run from the streets into homes, including high-pressure natural gas lines. Most parkway planting rules, such as height restrictions to ensure driver and pedestrian sight lines, are linked to public safety and maintaining the health of the Village's urban forest. Using fertilizers and herbicides on parkway plantings is discouraged as well since pedestrians and pets abound in our walkable community. Parkway also are poor sites for anyone considering an urban vegetable garden. Given the winter road salt spray and frequent use of parkways by the Village's more than 3,000 registered dogs and cats, most experts would say a raised garden in a back yard is a better site choice — especially since it also can be fenced in to keep out the rabbits, opossums and other wild animals that share the community. Any resident who wishes to plant something other than grass on the parkway adjacent to his or her property should contact the Village for guidance prior to purchasing plants or beginning to dig. Just call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

## Public invited to comment on Cheney site plan

Oak Park residents are invited to get involved in planning for the future of the grounds that surround Cheney Mansion, the Park District of Oak Park's two-acre site at 220 N. Euclid Ave. A public meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., June 14 at Cheney Mansion. Working with a landscape architectural firm, the Park District is developing a site plan as a blueprint for the future of this important community park asset. For more details, visit [www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org).

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### Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

<b>Village Hall</b>	<b>oak-park.us</b>
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
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

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






<b>Public Library</b>	<b>www.oppl.org</b>
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

<b>School District 97</b>	<b>www.op97.org</b>
Administration	524.3000

<b>School District 200</b>	<b>www.oprfhs.org</b>
Administration	383.0700

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

### Stay connected...

-  [oak-park.us](http://oak-park.us)
-  [facebook.com/vopnews](https://facebook.com/vopnews)
-  [twitter.com/vopnews](https://twitter.com/vopnews)
-  [pinterest.com/oakparkil](https://pinterest.com/oakparkil)
-  [youtube.com/vopnews](https://youtube.com/vopnews)

## Planning will ensure a great block party



The Village encourages block parties as a way to build community spirit, meet neighbors and have fun. Each block may sponsor two block parties per year, but since some weekends fill quickly, plan early to get preferred dates. A petition signed by at least 10 separate addresses on the block is required to schedule a block party. Approved petitions allow the neighborhood

to close off a street to vehicle traffic for the entire day. Petitions must be returned two weeks before the date of the block party. Block party organizers are urged to remember the following rules:

- Include everyone on the block — especially renters in multifamily buildings.
- Use a north-south block. Due to public safety and traffic considerations, block parties are not allowed on east-west streets.
- Make sure emergency vehicles can get through if needed. Tables, chairs or other items should not project more than six feet from the curb. And don't stretch wires, ropes, nets, lights, banners or other items across the street.
- Supervise children at all times. Even though the street may be closed, accidents can happen.
- Use only street barricades provided by the Village. Cars parked in a street as a barricade may impede emergency vehicles, and could be ticketed.
- Do not plan a party for an alley. Alleys provide important access for utility companies and other services.
- Keep sidewalks clear. Sidewalks are public ways that may not be obstructed even during a block party.
- If alcohol is present, keep it on private property. Alcohol may not be sold.

For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us). An information packet is posted at [www.oak-park.us/blockparties](http://www.oak-park.us/blockparties).

## Police offer tips to deter bicycle thieves

Bicycle thefts tend to increase during warmer weather. Following these steps, police say, can help deter bicycle thieves:

- Don't leave your bike unlocked or unattended.
- Lock your bike even when it is stored in a closed garage, enclosed porch or basement common area.
- Never let anyone you do not know take your bike for a ride.
- Be cautious of two people on one bike. Bicycle thieves often travel in pairs this way.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel someone is going to take your bicycle, shout for help.
- Stay in the company of friends — there usually is safety in numbers.
- Think twice about resisting — your bike can be replaced.
- Call the police immediately if you see anyone suspicious hanging around a bike rack, in a neighbor's yard or near a garage.
- Register your bike with the Village. Should your bike be stolen and later recovered the registration provides information about its rightful owner.

Police urge parents to share these tips with their children. For more information, call 708.386.3800, email [police@oak-park.us](mailto:police@oak-park.us) or talk to your resident or neighborhood beat officer.

## Rules for a safe, successful garage sale

Oak Parkers seeking to declutter, while making a few extra dollars, can host a garage sale twice each year without a permit or permission from the Village. However, a few rules must be observed:

- Limit sales to the daylight hours of no more than three consecutive days.
- Display items only within a garage, residence, carport and/or rear yard, unless it is a neighborhood sale.
- Keep advertising signs on the property where the sale is held. Take them down when the sale is over.
- Don't put signs on public property, including light poles, sign posts or on or above public parkways or sidewalks.
- Make signs no larger than eight square feet.

Garage sales are intended for disposing of personal property, not for merchandise purchased for resale or on consignment. And keep in mind that the individual conducting the sale and the owner or tenant of the premises where the sale is being held are responsible for maintaining order and may be subject to penalty for any violations of garage sale rules. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

## Public meetings on zoning changes

Property owners are urged to visit [www.oakparkzoning.com](http://www.oakparkzoning.com) to get the latest information on the first comprehensive review of Village zoning regulations since 2002. Presentations and information about past and upcoming public meetings hosted by the Plan Commission are posted on the website as efforts continue to better align local laws with recommendations in Envision Oak Park, the community's long-range comprehensive plan adopted last year. Public meetings on proposed changes are expected to be held in June, with the Village Board likely to consider revisions sometime in late summer. In addition to information about the process posted on the dedicated website, public comments also are accepted. For more information, call 708.358.5440 or email [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us).

## Bicycles and sidewalks

Riding on a sidewalk by anyone of any age is not allowed in the business districts. And only those under 15 years of age may ride on a sidewalk anywhere else in the community. Youngsters riding on sidewalks always must yield to pedestrians. For more information on bicycle rules and safety, call 708.386.3800 or email [police@oak-park.us](mailto:police@oak-park.us).





**Village Manager** Teresa Powell  
**Village Clerk** Cara Pavlicek  
**Trustees** Peter Barber  
Glenn Brewer  
Adam Salzman  
Colette Lueck  
Bob Tucker  
Anan Abu-Taleb

Residential Customer Local  
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier  
Pre-Sort

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

**OP/FYI**

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



## Vehicle stickers on sale

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase and display a vehicle sticker annually by July 15. Sticker prices increase \$20 after the deadline. Failure to display a valid Village sticker by the deadline also may result in a \$75 ticket. Vehicle sticker rates were increased this year to help fund more aggressive alley and street improvement programs. Residents whose vehicles already are registered with the Village can save time by renewing online at [www.oak-park.us/online-services](http://www.oak-park.us/online-services) rather than via mail or in person at Village Hall. Renewal forms mailed or emailed to current sticker holders include a unique web identification number that allows a vehicle owner to correct or update most data online, including address and telephone number, and add vehicle information. Anyone who loses the renewal notice can look up their web ID number using the email address or telephone number included in the previous year's application. Online payments require an email address and a credit or debit card. The sticker is delivered via U.S. Mail, typically within a few days of purchase. The online option is for renewals only. First-time vehicle sticker purchasers must come to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. A lease, utility bill or other government-issued proof of residency is required. A current vehicle sticker is needed to purchase a parking permit. In-person sticker purchases and renewals will be available at Village Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, except holidays. Village Hall will be open for vehicle sticker purchases and renewals from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Sat., July 9. Individuals renewing in person are urged to bring their renewal notice to speed up processing. The online renewal system will continue to be available through July 14, but will automatically charge the higher fee at the midnight deadline. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. More information, including rates for various types of vehicles, is posted at [www.oak-park.us/parking](http://www.oak-park.us/parking). Information also is available by calling 708.358.7275 or email to [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us).

## View the latest water quality report online

Oak Park residents interested in knowing about the quality of the water they drink need go no further than [www.oak-park.us/waterqualityreport](http://www.oak-park.us/waterqualityreport) to read the latest report. Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires communities to prepare a Consumer Confidence Report that provides information on the quality of the local drinking water. In addition to detailed analyses of substances in the water, the report also includes facts about the community's drinking water delivery system and source, which is Lake Michigan for Oak Park. The Village is dedicated to supplying drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. For more information on Oak Park's drinking water or if you would like a paper copy of the Annual Water Report, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).



## Sculpture walk returns

The Oak Park Sculpture Walk returns for a fifth season this month, with 12 sculptures in an outdoor exhibit through Sept. 5 in Mills Park near Pleasant and Home avenues. Sculptures are chosen through a juried competition and vary in materials. Brochures with details about the art and the artists will be available on site, at Oak Park libraries, area businesses near the park and online at [www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk](http://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](mailto:sculpturewalk@oak-park.us).