

Conservation can help keep water costs down

An aggressive water system improvement program underway in the City of Chicago means that communities like Oak Park that rely on Lake Michigan water can expect a rate increase on Jan. 1 of every year.

While some may say consumers have no choice but to pay more, there is another option — use less.

Individuals and families who adopt common sense water conservation strategies can not only ease the impact of rate increases, but even help reduce the community's impact on the shared environment.

Systems that capture gray water from bathtubs and laundries for non-potable uses such as landscaping can dramatically reduce consumption, but can be expensive. Luckily, low- and no-cost options also can have a big impact on a household's water use and, ultimately, on its water bill.

In fact, small lifestyle changes often can have the biggest collective impact on water use, experts say. Fixing a running toilet and using flow restrictors on showerheads and faucets (read about free kits below), for example, can save significant amounts of water and help reduce one's bill.

Taking shorter showers can save lots of water, too. Simply turning off the water while you brush your teeth can reduce water use up to four gallons a minute — that's as much as 200 gallons a week for a family of four.

Oak Parkers use more than five million gallons of water every day, for which the Village pays Chicago about \$6 million each year.

The actual cost of the water Oak Park property owners pay is in addition to local fees that are essential to maintaining the network that delivers water to customers' taps and carries the waste to regional treatment plants.

Water charges are calculated monthly, but most property owners are billed quarterly. The bill also includes charges for sewer service based on water usage and refuse hauling fees.

Information on ways to conserve water abounds. The Village has compiled a list of some of the most practical approaches — just visit www.oak-park.us/conservewater.

Tale of the leaking toilet

Most people probably think a running toilet is just a noisy nuisance. But it also can be a huge — and expensive — waste of water. A toilet that keeps running after being flushed can waste as much as two gallons an hour. Multiply that times 24 hours, times 30 days and more than 1,400 gallons of water has literally — and needlessly — been flushed down the toilet in a single month. How much could that cost the person who forgot to jiggle the handle? The Village of Oak Park issues water bills every three months. So that toilet left running all day for three months could have wasted more than 4,320 thousand gallons of water during a single billing period. At \$8.37 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used — that's how much the Village currently charges for water — the cost of that running toilet would be more than \$36 in additional water on that quarter's bill. But that's not the bottom line. Sewer charges are based on how much water is used. The fee is capped at \$81 per quarter for a single-family residence, but not for multifamily or commercial buildings. The sewer charge is \$2.39 for each 1,000 gallons of water used. So 4,320 gallons of water wasted could cost another \$10.32 in additional sewer charges, depending on total consumption. And that doesn't even consider the negative environmental impact of wasting so much water and sending it back through a treatment facility. So if you hear the tell-tale sounds of a running toilet, don't ignore it. The typical fix is usually less than \$20 and is an easy do-it-yourself project. Just Google *toilet repair* for all kinds of information and instructional videos. For more information on saving water, visit www.oak-park.us/conservewater.

Free kits can help save water, reduce costs

Oak Parkers interested in saving water and its related costs are eligible for free water-saver kits that can save up to 57 gallons of water per person per day. Each kit contains a low-flow shower head, low-flow kitchen and bath faucet aerators, and a toilet tank displacement device that can make any toilet a low-flow unit. Kits must be picked up in person at the Housing Programs office in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For tips on saving water, visit www.oak-park.us/conservewater.



News You Can Use

Holidays affect waste collection schedule...Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed by the holidays. For Thanksgiving, Thursday's collection will be delayed until Friday and Friday's collection delayed until Saturday. Collection also will be pushed back one day on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Holiday tree collection begins Jan. 4 — be sure to place the tree in the regular collection area. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Village Hall holiday hours...Village Hall will be closed on Nov. 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving, from noon Dec. 24 through Dec. 25, and on Jan. 1. Regular Village Hall hours are 8:30 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Parking Services Center is open until 7 p.m. on Mondays, except holidays. For more information on Village Hall hours, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Regular yard waste collection ends...After Sat., Nov. 28, yard waste will be collected only by appointment. Call Waste Management at 888.656.5350 to arrange a special pick-up.

Recycle holiday lights...Residents can recycle unwanted holiday lights and extension cords from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in December and January at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Mini, rope, LED, C7 and C9 lights and extension cords will be accepted. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for details.

Avoid missed collections...Residents and building owners are reminded to clear snow away from refuse and recycling containers to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible, it will not be emptied. Call 708.358.5700 to report a missed collection.

Pay water bill online...Property owners can pay their water bills electronically, either by using a credit card online, or setting up an automatic debit from a checking, savings or credit card account. Property owners also can go paperless by signing up to receive bills via email. In addition to water, the quarterly bill includes charges for sewer, garbage disposal and recycling. For more information, call 708.358.5478 or email waterbilling@oak-park.us.

Pet responsibilities...Dog owners are required to pick up and dispose of dog waste. Owners walking their dogs must carry a bag or other suitable means to pick up dog waste. Call 708.358.5680 to register a complaint about an animal, such as noise, excrement, cruelty or off leash.

Be cautious with alternate heat sources...When using heat sources such as portable and baseboard electric heaters, fireplaces and woodstoves, remove nearby objects, keep furniture a safe distance away, do not block the heat flow and never use an extension cord. Working carbon monoxide detectors, smoke alarms and a family escape plan also are essential. Call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us for more information.

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.



Not too late for a flu shot

Getting vaccinated against the flu in November or even December is still not too late. Public health officials recommend that everyone older than 6 months get vaccinated every year. Flu vaccine is offered at numerous commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area. Most of these sites accept private insurances and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Many sites will vaccinate children as young as 18 months. Help finding a flu shot provider is available at flushot.healthmap.org. Residents also can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5483 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

Vaccination not the only way...

In addition to getting vaccinated, individuals also can help protect themselves from the flu by following these simple actions to help prevent the spread of germs:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.
- Stay home when you are sick to help prevent others from catching your illness.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often, and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- Get plenty of sleep, engage in physical activity, manage stress, drink water and eat right.

Downsize your refuse cart, downsize the fee

Oak Parkers who opt for a refuse cart the same size as the recycling container can save \$4.28 per month, or \$12.84 on each quarterly bill under the current rate structure. Nearly 40 percent of residences served by the Village hauling contractor have chosen this option since it was first offered in 2004. Additional recycling bins are available at no cost. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Plans set for winter tree pruning cycle

Private contractors soon will be pruning trees as part of the winter trimming cycle set for January through March. The areas scheduled for trimming this season are between the Eisenhower Expressway and Madison Street from East Avenue to Harlem Avenue, and between Madison Street and South Boulevard, from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue. Crews will follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines for tree care to address three key issues — tree health, resident safety and protecting property from damage. Dead or dying limbs will be removed and the canopies thinned out and raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic and create appropriate clearances for adjacent structures and signs. While the pruning can seem excessive during winter when no leaves are on the limbs, crews will work to ensure that pruning is just right as foliage returns in the spring. With a program that aims to prune every tree on public property once every four years, plans must consider that the medium-aged trees that compose a sizeable share of those on Oak Park parkways can grow up to two feet each year — or eight feet between pruning cycles. The Village's pruning program has proven very successful in minimizing storm damage and reducing ongoing pruning requests. Village Forestry crews will be spot checking progress of the private contractors. Residents who have any questions or concerns about the type or quality of work being performed by contractors are urged to call 708.358.5700. More information on the care of the nearly 19,000 trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.



Free weekend parking to help support shopping locally

Shoppers who come upon a bagged meter in downtown Oak Park or in the vicinity of South Oak Park Avenue are in luck. They can park free for two hours. Beginning after Thanksgiving, anyone can park free for two hours at a bagged meter, in a pay-by-space lot or a municipal garage on Saturdays before Dec. 25. Parking always is free on Sunday. The program is intended as a thank you for residents and visitors who shop locally. Retail sales benefit not only local retailers, but the entire Village since 2 percent of every retail sale comes back to municipal coffers to fund vital public services. For many retailers, the holiday season is the most important time of the year. Village officials say they hope this small gesture will increase sales as well as create goodwill among the businesses and their customers. For more information on parking in the Village, email parking@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.oakpark.us/parking.

Life-saving carbon monoxide detectors required by law

An investment of about \$30 for a detector can be the difference in life and death when it comes to deadly carbon monoxide, an odorless and tasteless gas that can leak into one's home from a malfunctioning gas appliance, such as a furnace or water heater. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. That's why state law requires homeowners and landlords to install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping. Alarms can be battery powered, plug-in with battery backup or wired into the AC power line with a secondary battery backup. The alarm can be combined with a smoke detector if the combined unit complies with established standards and the alarm differentiates the hazard. The property owner must supply and install all required alarms. Landlords must ensure that alarms are operable on the date a lease is initiated. While tenants are responsible for testing and maintaining the alarm after the lease commences, landlords must provide written instructions. Carbon monoxide detectors are not substitutes for smoke detectors, Fire Department officials caution, so both devices are essential. For more information, call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Licensing underway for residential rentals

All rental property in Oak Park must be licensed annually by Jan. 1. Even property owners who rent out a single residential unit must meet the following requirements:

- Obtain a residential license for each property every year
- Participate in an annual crime-free-housing seminar
- Include a crime-free addendum with all leases

Crime-free housing seminar dates are available now. Visit www.oak-park.us/rentalseminar to sign up for a time that best fits your schedule or find out about how to participate online. Owners without computer access can register by calling 708.358.5410. Registration is required.

On-street parking rules eased for holidays

Overnight, on-street parking restrictions are eased to accommodate visitors and guests during major holidays, including Thanksgiving and Christmas. Restrictions will be lifted from 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 25 until 2:30 a.m., Mon. Nov. 30, and from 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 19 until 2:30 a.m. Mon., Jan. 4. However, parking restrictions will remain in effect during these times in overnight permit parking zones where residents have purchased quarterly passes. Other parking regulations, such as posted daytime and safety restrictions, will remain in effect. Visit www.oak-park.us/parking for more information.

Rehab loans available for smaller rental properties

Owners of multi-family buildings with seven or fewer units may be eligible for forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 per unit under the Village's Small Rental Rehab Program. Owners need to contribute matching funds of at least 25 percent of the total project cost and agree to rent to income-eligible tenants for two years. Projects eligible for funding under the program include general property repairs, unit upgrades and energy efficiency. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/housing, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

Sewer backup protection grants prove popular

More than three years after it was launched, Oak Park's sewer backup prevention grant program has helped 184 households make improvements to address basement flooding. A recent customer satisfaction survey of grant recipients found that 92 percent of respondents were satisfied with the results of the program. Perhaps most importantly, 88 percent of survey respondents said they hadn't experienced flooding since installing the improvements the Village grant helped to fund. Qualifying households can apply for a grant of 50 percent of the total cost of improvements up to \$3,500 to install a backflow prevention valve or an overhead sewer system. To date, the program has committed to pay some \$575,720 in grants, which has helped spur an additional \$875,500 in private investment. The customer satisfaction survey yielded about 68 responses from program participants, or about a 37-percent response rate, which officials say is a good representative sample. The size of the average grant delivered through the program so far is about \$3,100 — less than the maximum allowed — and the average total project cost topped \$7,900. The program's funds have been committed for 2015, but officials expect it to return next year. The sewer backup prevention grant program was created after a 2011 study of Oak Park's sewer system capacity. A report commissioned by the Village recommended a number of prevention steps, including urging property owners to disconnect downspouts and creating a grant-funded flood control improvements program. For more information on the backup protection grant program visit www.oak-park.us/sewergrant or email housing@oak-park.us.

Single-family rehab loans can help correct safety issues

Single-family homeowners who need help paying for work to correct health and safety issues and building code violations may be eligible for no-interest loans of up to \$25,000. No monthly payments are required. Loans are repayable after 20 years or when the property is transferred. The federally funded, income-based rehabilitation home loans are designed to ensure public safety and improve the Village's housing stock by bringing structures into compliance with key housing and building codes. More information on the program is posted at www.oak-park.us/housing. For application information, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

Water meter upgrades continuing

Property owners who receive a letter from the Village asking them to call a private vendor or visit the company's website to set up an appointment to replace a water meter are urged to respond promptly. The 30-minute process does not require any plumbing changes although the water will be turned off during the upgrade. The new meters allow for remote reading of water usage. More than 4,100 meters have been replaced since 2010. The Village is well on its way to installing nearly 1,000 new water meters this year. For more information on the program call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
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

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	434.3107

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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Veteran named Interim Health Director



Mike Charley

A veteran Village employee has been named Interim Director of the Oak Park Department of Public Health. Mike Charley, who joined the Health Department in 2003 as manager of the Environmental Services Division, steps into a position that had been vacant since Margaret Provost-Fyfe retired at the end of 2014 after 30 years with the Village. In addition to his new duties as Interim Health Director, Charley will continue to manage the department's environmental services functions. These duties include supervising food services inspections, animal control and the Oak Park Farmers' Market. Prior to coming to Oak Park, Charley had been an environmental consultant, a sanitarian with the

DuPage County Health Department and a supervisor with the City of Evanston's Health Department. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental health from Illinois State University and a master's degree in environmental management from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Stuart School of Business. Charley also holds several professional certifications including being a Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner and Licensed Lead Assessor. Oak Park is among an elite cadre of state-certified municipal health departments. Its mission is to protect the community's health from preventable death, disease, illness and injury. The Health Department identifies community problems and potential epidemics, develops health policies, enforces local ordinances and links residents to or provides a wide range of direct services. For more information on the services and responsibilities of the Oak Park Department of Public Health, visit www.oak-park.us/health.

New chief building inspector

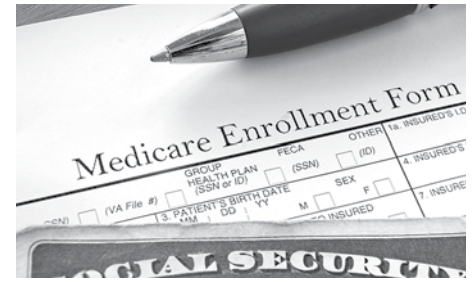


Steven L. Cutaia

A Master Code Professional and Certified Building Official has been named the Village's new Chief Building Official. Steven L. Cutaia, who also holds a master's degree in business and public administration, joined the Village in October. Cutaia comes to Oak Park from Prospect Heights where he was public works director after being assistant director of the Building & Zoning Department. His other experience includes serving as building administrator for Park Ridge and a plans examiner for Glenview and Round Lake Beach. In addition to overseeing building permit activity for Oak Park, Cutaia will play a key role in the implementation of CityView, a new software solution for permitting, licensing and inspection services.

Fire Department offers range of useful safety information

Oak Parkers seeking information on a wide range of potential safety issues need go no further than www.oak-park.us/fire. That's the page on the Village web site that links to important information provided by the Oak Park Fire Department. Along with details on the vital mission of fire suppression and emergency medical services, the page also includes links to fact sheets on topics such as how to deal with severe weather and properly use a barbecue grill or outdoor fire pit. Fact sheets posted on the page also offer tips on properly using candles and making sure winter holiday decorations don't create any unintended safety surprises. In addition, visitors to the web page also can see the schedule for local CPR/AED classes, learn about child safety seats and even register their burglar, fire and medical alarms. For more information on the Fire Department and related safety issues, call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us.



Township offers help with Medicare enrollment

Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities can get assistance enrolling in Medicare Part D through the Oak Park Township Senior Services' Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). Counselors are available by appointment to help with decisions on health care options for the upcoming year. During the enrollment period, which lasts until Dec. 7, Medicare recipients can:

- Change from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan
- Change from a Medicare Advantage plan to original Medicare
- Switch Medicare Advantage plans
- Join, drop or switch Medicare Part D drug plans

To schedule an appointment for Medicare enrollment assistance, call 708.383.8060. Information on Township Senior Services programs is posted online at www.oakparktownship.org/departments/seniors.

Voter registration available online

An Illinois driver's license or state identification card is all it takes to register to vote or change a voting address online at www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Individuals submitting an online application receive an email confirmation followed by a voter registration card via the U.S. Mail within a few weeks. Online registration requires applicants to:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be 18 years old on or before the next general election of Nov. 8, 2016
- Have an Illinois Driver's License or Illinois Identification Card

The deadline to register to vote in the March 15, 2016 presidential primary election is Feb. 16, 2016.



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



OP/FYI

Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Peter Barber
 Glenn Brewer
 Adam Salzman
 Colette Lueck
 Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

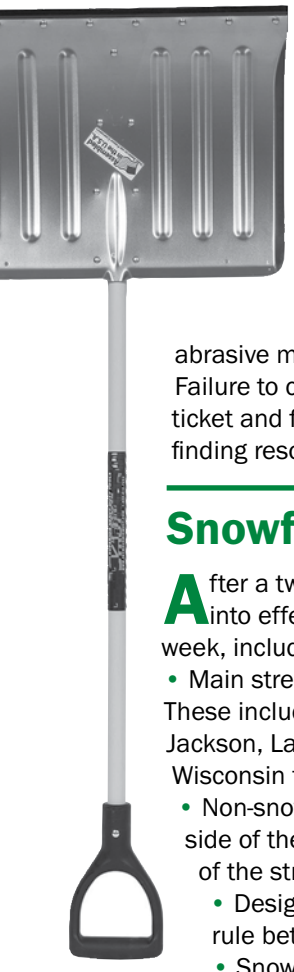
Residential Customer Local
 Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
 Pre-Sort

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

Residents, businesses required to shovel sidewalks

Residents and businesses are urged to help improve walking conditions and public safety by removing snow and ice from sidewalks after a storm. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. If the snow or ice has become so hard that it cannot be removed without damaging the sidewalk, then sand, salt or other abrasive material may be used to make pedestrian travel reasonably safe. Failure to clear a sidewalk fronting or abutting one's property could lead to a ticket and fine. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help finding resources, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Snowfall may trigger parking restrictions

After a two-inch snowfall, the Emergency Snow Removal Parking Plan goes into effect and the following parking rules are enforced seven days a week, including holidays:

- Main streets posted as snow routes must be cleared of all parked cars. These include Augusta, Austin, Chicago, Division, Garfield, Harlem, Harrison, Jackson, Lake, Madison, North Ave., Oak Park, Ridgeland, Roosevelt and Wisconsin from Madison to the emergency entrance of Oak Park Hospital.
- Non-snow route streets allow parking between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the side of the street with even numbered addresses on even days and the side of the street with odd numbered addresses on odd days.
 - Designated commercial parking areas as posted follow the odd/even rule between midnight and 8 a.m.
 - Snow parking rules do not override other parking regulations, such as time limitations and prohibitions.
- Vehicles parked in violation of the snow restrictions are subject to ticketing and towing.

To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 708.358.7669 for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOP-TV, available on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. Residents also can sign up for alerts at www.oak-park.us/notifyme.

Fall leaf collection continues

The annual fall leaf collection program will continue through Dec. 3. Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Residents are urged to consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

NORTH AVE			
WEDNESDAY Nov. 4 Nov. 11 Nov. 18 Nov. 25 Dec. 2	EAST AVE	THURSDAY Nov. 5 Nov. 12 Nov. 19 Nov. 26 Dec. 3	
TUESDAY Nov. 3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24 Dec. 1	EAST AVE	MONDAY Nov. 2 Nov. 9 Nov. 16 Nov. 23 Nov. 30	
SOUTH BLVD			
HARLEM AVE			AUSTIN BLVD
ROOSEVELT RD			