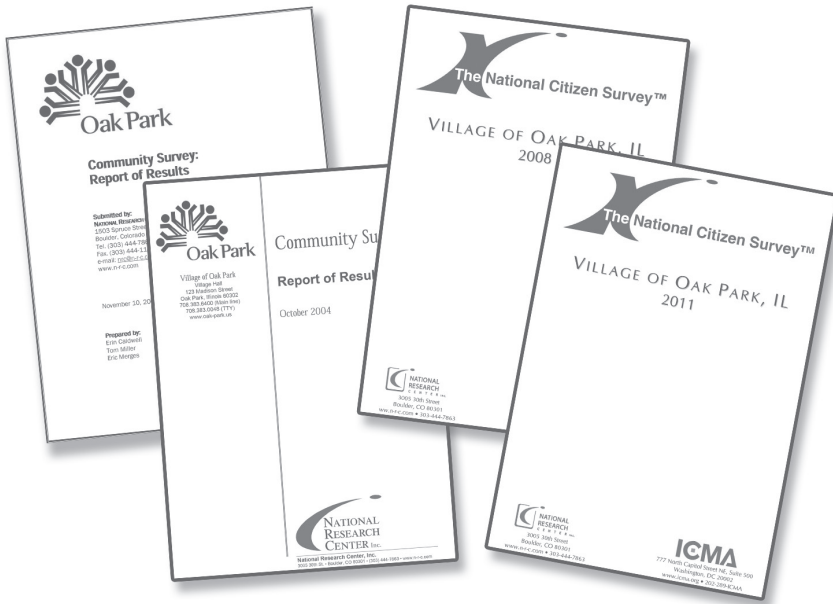


Residents urged to participate in community survey



National Research Center, Inc. (NRC), a social science research firm whose core business is community surveys, was hired to ensure the scientific validity of the survey results. NRC assisted with surveys conducted in Oak Park in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2011.

Results of these past surveys are posted online at oak-park.us – just search for community surveys.

Through its collaboration with the International City Managers Association, NRC has developed a national database of community surveys and survey questions, which allow the Village to compare many of the results with those from similar communities in Illinois and across the country.

Surveys in 2000 and 2004 were conducted by telephone. But with telephone response rates plummeting across the industry and costs rising, mail has proven to be a more cost-effective approach.

In addition, officials say mail responses tend to be more candid than those gathered by a telephone interviewer.

For more information about the survey, call 708.358.5791 or email village@oak-park.us.

Surveys soon will be showing up in the mailboxes of Oak Parkers selected at random to help the Village gauge citizen views on a wide range of community aspects and issues.

While taking only about 15 minutes to complete, the surveys will help policy makers better understand priorities for government action and citizen opinions on quality of life and public services.

Oak Park residents who receive a survey are urged to promptly complete

and return the document to ensure their viewpoints are part of the final tabulation.

About 1,200 responses are needed for a 95 percent confidence level. Survey respondents will remain anonymous.

Officials say residents who are willing to take the time to complete and return the survey will be doing a great service for the community, since the survey results will provide important information for planning how best to allocate municipal resources in the future.

Village launches new website

After months of development, testing and feedback, the new Village of Oak Park website is online. The new site brings a more modern look and enhanced navigation to oak-park.us, which had relied on the same design for more than a decade. Users will find much of the same information from the old site, but organized in a more intuitive manner and with an improved search feature. The new website also is a step toward responsive design for better display on mobile devices, which are proving increasingly popular.

All of the familiar, essential online services are available through the new site, including tools to contest and pay tickets, pay water bills and renew vehicle stickers. Much of the old site's archival content will be migrated to the new site in the coming weeks and months. The site displays best in Chrome, Firefox and Safari, but is compatible with Internet Explorer 8 and later versions. Users relying on older versions of IE are urged to update their browsers or install one of the other free browsers. The site was developed

by Breakthrough Technologies, an Evanston-based firm chosen via a competitive bid. For more information on the new website or to provide feedback, email vopnews@oak-park.us.



Conservatory schedules fall bulb sale



The Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St., has scheduled its annual fall bulb sale for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat., Sept. 28. Unusual varieties of premium bulbs typically not found at big box stores will be offered, including tulip, narcissus, hyacinths, Muscari and other varieties chosen for beauty, fragrance and ability to survive local winters. All proceeds support conservatory programming. Call 708.725.2400 for more information or view the bulb sale catalog at www.oakparkconservatory.org.

Volunteers needed: The Oak Park Conservatory is recruiting volunteers to serve as greeters, tour guides and gift store cashiers. Training is provided. Benefits include creating life-long friendships and working in a green environment that for 84 years has been a model of sustainability. Call 708.725.2460 for more information or visit www.fopcon.org to apply online.

Down payment assistance offered

The West Cook County Housing Collaborative is making homeownership more affordable with \$10,000 in down payment assistance for select updated and rehabbed homes. Financing and the supply of homes is limited. Call 708.771.5801 to set up an application appointment. An application form also is available at www.westcookhomeownership.org.

Emergency preparedness for condos

Condominium owners and board members are invited to a free presentation on emergency preparedness scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., Sept. 10 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Registration is not required. Topics to be covered include protecting people and property and post-disaster relief efforts. For more information, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

First-time homebuyer seminars set

Individuals interested in learning more about buying a home and securing a mortgage are invited to attend free seminars offered at 7 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of every month in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The next seminar is Sept. 24. For more information, call the Oak Park Regional Housing Center at 708.771.5801.

Free quit smoking help available

Residents age 18 and older are eligible for free nicotine replacement patches available through the Illinois Department of Public Health Tobacco Free Communities fund. Call the Illinois Quitline 866.784.8937 to register. Information also is posted at www.quityes.org. Smoking is prohibited in most public places in the Village. To file a complaint about a violation of the Village's Clean Indoor Air Act, email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5489.



Health insurance marketplace coming soon

Individuals without health insurance soon will be able to find coverage through *The Health Insurance Marketplace*. Beginning Oct. 1, consumers can compare and select a health insurance plan on the basis of price, benefits, quality and other factors at www.healthcare.gov. The website also offers a wide range of information to help consumers make an affordable choice. Residents who have difficulty navigating the online marketplace or have questions can call 800.318.2596 toll-free (TTY 855.889.4325) or contact the Health Department at 708.358.5483 or email health@oak-park.us. Applications will be accepted via telephone and U.S. Mail as well as online. The 2010 federal Affordable Health Care Act requires all Americans to have health insurance beginning Jan. 1.

Green living, learning tour set

Residents are invited to learn about practical, everyday ways to apply ecological principles, speak with knowledgeable professionals and homeowners, and meet like-minded



neighbors at the annual Green Living & Learning Tour scheduled for Sept. 28 in Oak Park and River Forest. This year's tour will feature a local fish farm and wine-making operation, a repair café, and offer an opportunity to learn more about the importance of native plants. Participants will tour stops highlighting solar and geo-thermal installations in private residences, a green condo, various water conservation methods, yard sharing and community gardening. The tour schedule, map and ticket information are posted at www.greencommunityconnections.org.

Opportunities abound to give back to community

Residents interested in giving back to the community are urged to volunteer to serve on one of the Village Board's citizen advisory boards, commissions and committees. Volunteers are needed for the Farmers Market Commission, which helps to operate the seasonal weekly market, the Community Design Commission, which works to enhance the aesthetic quality of life in the Village including the urban forest, and the Community Relations Commission, which focuses on intergroup relations and promoting diversity. Several other commissions also offer opportunities to serve. To learn more, and to apply, visit oak-park.us, email clerk@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5670.



Loans available for accessibility modifications

Forgivable loans of up to \$15,000 each to fund accessibility modifications for homes or apartments are available through the Housing & CDBG Programs Division. Applicants must have a physical or age-related impairment that requires modifications such as ramps, lifts or handrails, including for kitchens and bathrooms. Applicants must also meet income restrictions. Loans will be forgiven over five years. Call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us for more information.



Gymnastics center to open

The Park District of Oak Park will officially open the doors of the new Gymnastics and Recreation Center at 21 Lake St. on Oct. 5. Residents are invited to an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for guided tours, a sneak peak at gymnastics team practice, refreshments, giveaways and other activities. Kids can enjoy an inflatable obstacle course and try out the new in-ground tumbling track, while parents watch the action from the second-floor viewing balcony. The 18,670 square-foot-facility will house an expanded program of gymnastics classes as well as a birthday party service, fitness classes in the two multi-purpose rooms and many other recreational activities. Visit www.oakparkgymnastics.com for more details.

In-home assistance available for pregnant women, infants

Pregnant women and infants up to age 1 year can get help finding free and low-cost healthcare services through the Oak Park Health Department. A public health nurse will help families without health insurance get prenatal and pediatric health, as well as provide guidance and referrals to a number of free or low-cost local services including the WIC supplemental nutrition program and parenting support. Email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5484.

Old electronics? Recycle them

Oak Park residents can comply easily with the state law prohibiting electronics in landfills by taking advantage of a Village recycling program. Items can be dropped off from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., on the last Saturday of the month through October. The next opportunity is Sept. 28.

Acceptable items include 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. For more information call Public Works at 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Sewer backup protection grants offered

Eligible homeowners may qualify for a grant of 50 percent of the total cost of sewer backup prevention improvements, up to a maximum of \$3,500 for installing either an overhead sewer system or a backflow prevention valve system. Call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us for more information. Information also is posted at oak-park.us — just search for sewer protection grant.

Shots recommended as flu season approaches



As the flu season approaches, local public health officials are reminding residents that shots are recommended for everyone older than 6 months. Flu vaccine will be 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.

Shred sensitive paper, recycle old clothing in one place on same day

The Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., will be a busy site from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 21, as vendors will be on hand shredding documents and recycling old clothing that otherwise might end up in a landfill. Residents are invited to bring up to two bags or two small boxes of documents containing personal information such as canceled checks, credit card or social security numbers, or medical information. Since the idea is to help residents prevent identity theft, materials such as newspapers, magazines, chipboard or junk mail will not be accepted — just place them in the recycling cart or bin. Representatives of Epilepsy Foundation also will be on site collecting apparel of all types in any condition for recycling, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

The Great Paint Exchange is coming

Residents are invited to safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint — or pick up free paint — at The Great Paint Exchange, scheduled for Sat., Sept. 14 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Half-to-full cans of paint can be dropped off from 9 to 11 a.m., and anyone in need of paint can choose from the paint collected from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Only latex paint will be accepted. For more information, 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
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
Licenses/permits	358.5433
Codes/status of plans	358.5434
Property complaints	358.5443
Inspections	358.5440
Community Planning	358.5420
Historic Preservation	358.5417
Zoning	358.5449
Business Services	358.5648
Housing	358.5410
Community Relations	358.5405
Graffiti Hotline	358.5429
Neighborhood Programs	358.5405
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (non-emergency)	445.3300
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Police (non-emergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Day Parking Passes	option 3
Extended Pass	option 4
Night Parking Pass	option 2
Parking Permits	option 5
Snow Hotline	option 1
Vehicle Stickers	option 5
Village Board	358.5784
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	383.0002
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

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Voters invited to find out why Cook County matters

Oak Parkers interested in how Cook County government manages tax dollars and services are invited to a presentation and panel discussion sponsored by the Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters. Entitled *Why Cook County Matters*, the event is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 19 in the Oak Park-River Forest Room of the Koehneke Community Center at Concordia University in River Forest. A member of the League Board will set the tone with a presentation about the challenges the county faces and topics voters should consider, while a panel of Cook County Commissioners will field questions from the audience. The offices of Cook County president and all 17 county commissioners are up for election in 2014. Call 708.342.0803 or visit lwvoprf.org for more information.

Drop boxes accept payments 24/7

Payments for many municipal services and fines may be made by check or money order at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., any time via drop boxes — one outside by the parking lot and one just inside the south entrance by the stairway to the Police Department. Checks should be accompanied by any support materials required to make sure the payment is properly applied, including writing the account number on the check memo line. Payments for some services may be made online at oak-park.us/online-services, including water bills and parking tickets. Standard mail payments also are accepted. Cash should never be used for drop-box or mail payments. In-person cash or credit card payments are accepted during regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and until 7 p.m. on Mondays. For more information, call 708.358.5460 or email finance@oak-park.us.

Tune in to Village TV on cable and online



Cable television subscribers can learn about Village government and life in the community by tuning in to VOP-TV. Oak Park's municipal television station is available to Comcast subscribers on channel six and AT&T subscribers on channel 99. VOP-TV broadcasts original programming at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., and 10 p.m. Regular Village Board meetings are broadcast live at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Mondays, and replayed at 11 a.m., Sundays and Tuesdays, and 7 p.m., Wednesdays. Days and times of live cablecast of other meetings vary, but they are replayed at 11 a.m., Thursdays and Saturdays, and 7 p.m., Tuesdays. Village Board meetings also are streamed live and archived at oak-park.us — just click on the TV icon under the *stay connected* tab or search for village board meetings. A wide range of original programming created by VOP-TV also can be viewed online at youtube.com/vopnews.

Drivers urged to take extra care

With the new school year now underway, Oak Park police are urging motorists to stay alert — especially when driving in school zones. Motorists need to be focused and avoid distractions like talking on cell phones, police say, as well as come to a complete stop at intersections and not stop in crosswalks. Drivers also must obey the signals of crossing guards and should never attempt to pass a stopped school bus with lights flashing. To protect the many students who typically trek along Oak Park streets en route to their neighborhood schools, police have stepped up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. For more information on the Oak Park Police Department's school programs, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Farmers' Market enters season's final two months

September and October are the final two months of the Oak Park Farmers' Market. A changing array of produce appears, as the season winds down toward Oct. 26, when stone soup announces the last market of the year. Most vendors now accept credit cards, as well as supplemental food assistance Link cards. Many vendors also accept the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program \$3 coupons — inquire with the vendor directly. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. — 1 p.m. every Saturday from mid-May through October. Now in its 38th season, the market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. For more information visit oak-park.us, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5780.

West Nile Virus threat continues

While mosquitoes are likely to become less active as summer heat diminishes, the threat of West Nile Virus could continue as late as mid-October. Public health officials urge residents not to become complacent and to continue taking precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. The most effective precautions include 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. For more information visit oak-park.us or email health@oak-park.us.



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



OP/FYI

Village President Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Peter Barber
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Ray Johnson
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

The ins and outs of parking in Oak Park

The same neighborhood elements that make Oak Park such a great place to live also can make parking a tricky prospect — especially for multi-family dwellers.

The village was completely built out by the 1930s, well before automobile ownership became commonplace. As a result, Oak Park's available neighborhood parking supply has remained more or less static for the last 70 years, while the number of residents with automobiles has increased dramatically.

Just like any limited resource, parking in Oak Park must be carefully managed to ensure the supply meets the needs of everyone — residents, visitors,

workers and emergency response vehicles.

Most single-family homes have detached garages located in the rear of the property. Some multi-family buildings may offer parking, but chances are if you are a renter, you'll have to apply for a municipal parking permit and follow some pretty specific rules.

Generally, parking is prohibited on all streets from 2:30 to 6 a.m., seven days per week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass.

Vehicles with permits are allowed to park on the street overnight in designated areas, except in front of churches, schools and parks and on blocks where housing is more than 50 percent single family.

Parking near business districts and public areas also is carefully regulated to balance the needs of business owners, their employees and customers with those of nearby residents.

Other common restrictions include limited-duration parking on major streets, parking bans related to weather events such as snow and brief, regular prohibitions for cleaning.

Many Oak Park streets are on-street parking zones that allow parking for permit-holders. If you are a renter, your landlord is required by Village ordinance to provide information on parking restrictions.

You also can check with the Parking Services Center at Village Hall to find

Pay by phone coming soon

Oak Park soon will offer the option of paying for parking at meters and pay-by-space lots with a cell phone or smartphone app. The system will even send a text message when time is about to expire, allowing time to be added remotely. In addition, customers will have the option of using credit/debit cards to pay at meters and pay stations. The new program could be introduced as early as next month. Look for more details in the October issue of the OP/FYI newsletter. Information also will be posted at oak-park.us before the program is launched.



out if your block is zoned for overnight parking, and if so, how you can obtain a permit.

For special occasions, the Village can help residents with temporary parking passes to cover a variety of situations, such as guests staying overnight.

For more information on specific parking needs, visit oak-park.us, email parking@oak-park.us or call 708.358.7275.

