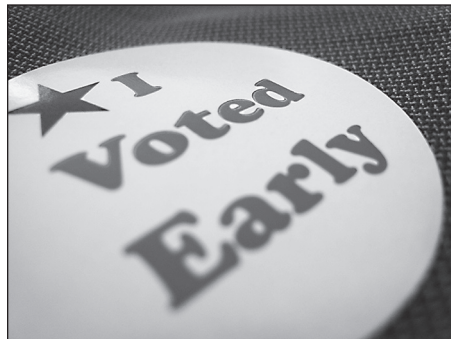


Village Hall to host early voting

Suburban Cook County voters can cast an early ballot for the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Municipal Election from March 20 through April 3 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Village Hall hours for early voting will be as follows:

- Monday – Saturday, March 20 – March 25: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, March 26: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday – Saturday, March 27 – April 1: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 2: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, April 3: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Village Hall also will offer grace-period registration during early voting hours for those individuals who missed the registration deadline. Valid



identification is required to register during the grace period and a vote must be cast immediately after registration. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill with the current address. Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day, April 4. Residents who don't vote early must cast ballots on Election Day at their designated

polling place. Visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections for Election Day polling place locations by address and more information about the 2023 Consolidated Municipal Election.

Voter registration...Residents can register to vote in local, state and federal elections at Oak Park Village Hall, 123 Madison St., by appointment. To schedule an appointment, email clerk@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5672 or 708.358.5673. Residents who have an Illinois driver's license or state ID may also register online at www.elections.il.gov.



Block party season around the corner

Applications for block parties are now being accepted. Each block is limited to two events per year. The events can be a block party, a block sale or a combination of both. The total number of events across the community is limited to 30 per weekend. Some weekends fill quickly, so residents are encouraged to plan events early to ensure preferred dates. Find more information and the block event application form at www.oak-park.us/blockparties.

Collaboration Corner

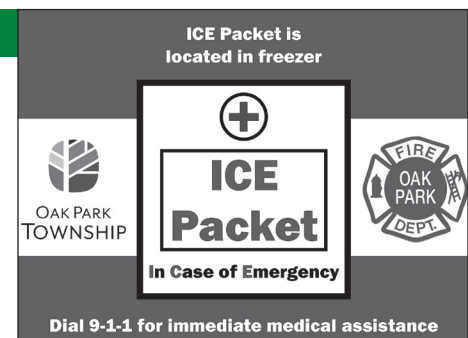
ICE Packets available to help first responders during medical emergencies

The Oak Park Township and Oak Park Fire Department are working together to better prepare residents for instances when medical emergencies strike. The Township is now distributing new ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packets to Oak Park residents upon request. The ICE Packet contains a medical information form that can be completed by a resident and stored in the freezer, where it can be easily located by paramedics.

The packet also includes a decal to be placed on the front of the freezer to draw paramedics' attention to the fact a completed ICE Packet is inside.

ICE Packets are available for pickup at the Oak Park Township Senior Services Center at 130 S. Oak Park Ave. For more information, contact 708.383.8060 or seniors@oakparktownship.org.

Collaboration Corner is a recurring feature offering readers updates on initiatives cooperatively designed by Oak Park's six local government agencies to improve the quality of life for everyone in Oak Park.



By the Numbers: A look at municipal service delivery in 2022

With only 4.5 square miles and 54,500 residents, some may say Oak Park is a small town. But the municipal services that make our community such a great place to live, work and do business are anything but small.

Oak Park has more than 100 miles of Village-owned streets, 500 alleys, nearly 18,000 parkway trees, 7,000 lighting fixtures, 104 miles of water mains, 110 miles of sewer mains and some 4,000 public parking spaces.

Services are delivered by a workforce of about 350 full-time employees who bring a wide range of formal education, experience and expertise to their jobs.

From a highly trained and motivated police force focused on neighborhoods to firefighter-paramedics who routinely eclipse national emergency response times, Oak Park's public safety programs rival those of much larger communities.

The Village's public works programs are at the core of municipal services. They pump the water, maintain the streets, plow the snow, keep the traffic signals operating, trim the trees and keep a fleet of roughly 250 traditional, hybrid, compressed natural gas, bio-diesel and electric vehicles running smoothly.

One of only a handful certified by the state, the Health Department keeps our restaurants clean, pets licensed, childcare facilities safe

and the community prepared for emergencies.

Other municipal services nurture business investment, foster diversity, equity and inclusion, plan for future development and protect the community's housing stock, one of Oak Park's most valuable assets.

Since approved by voters in 1952, Oak Park has operated under the council manager form of government, in which an elected Village Board hires a professional manager to oversee

the day-to-day operations of municipal services and programs.

Though employees are assigned to different departments, and the jobs performed vary, all have the common mission of serving the many needs of the residents of Oak Park. So how did they do in 2022? Here's a snapshot of some of their activities from last year...



COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

1,995,449 website page views

816,400 minutes of VOP-TV programming viewed on Village YouTube channel and other social media platforms

481,886 engagements with Village social media posts

27,458 Village, Police, Fire and Pick Oak Park Facebook followers

20,516 minutes of video programming produced

11,126 Village and Police Twitter followers

9,828 Village and Pick Oak Park Instagram followers

6,000 enews listserv subscribers



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

\$2,650,137 in federal grants distributed to help low- and moderate-income residents and the homeless

\$428,756 allocated to support affordable housing programs

234,239 mobile parking meter transactions processed

\$150,000 in funding distributed for property improvements through 16 Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program grants

109,653 overnight parking passes processed online

32,301 service requests answered by the Public Works Department Call Center

29,151 views of Village board and commission meetings

8,488 local ordinance and parking citations administratively adjudicated at Village Hall

2,548 requests processed under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act

2,543 graffiti hits removed

1,703 animals licensed

817 community relations issues addressed, including tenant/landlord disputes and neighbor conflicts

625 block party requests processed

454 rental dwelling licenses issued

394 rat cases baited

159 animals rescued

88 short-term rental property licenses issued

52 sewer backup prevention grants approved for \$181,615

48 public health visits to homebound residents



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

43,188 police responses, including calls, traffic stops, vacation property checks and alarm/security checks

8,594 fire and emergency medical service calls — 5,333 for EMS

6,168 trees trimmed, 273 removed and 387 planted

2,649 tons of salt spread during 17 separate snow events

2,408 property code violations reviewed

1,287 fire safety building plans reviewed

1,239 fire hydrants tested, 76 repaired, 4 replaced

945 buildings inspected for fire safety

456 public health inspections performed

364 inspections of fire suppression equipment

164 Village-sponsored COVID-19 testing clinics held

76 Village-sponsored COVID-19 vaccine clinics held



IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

7,698 potholes patched with 181 tons of asphalt

3,592 feet of new water mains installed

905 lane miles of streets swept

757 sidewalk squares replaced and repaired

703 street lamps replaced

371 street signs replaced

50 sidewalk ramps upgraded to ADA standards

6.5 miles of sewer video inspected and cleaned — 16 tons of debris removed

2 miles of streets rebuilt and resurfaced



BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

\$12,000,000 in sales and use taxes generated — \$9,900,000 by local businesses

\$2,473,000 in building permit fees collected

11,667 construction, commercial and residential property inspections performed

5,102 building permit applications submitted — 100% online

2,018 historic preservation property renovation permits reviewed

1,299 business licenses issued, including for 130 new businesses

87 liquor licenses issued, including 6 new licenses



SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT

\$600,000 invested in home energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades through the Village's energy grant program

\$345,090 in disposal fees saved by diverting 45 percent of all residential waste from landfills

7,609 tons of garbage hauled away

2,851 tons of household recyclables collected

2,016 tons of leaves collected

192 tons of yard waste and organics collected

30 tons of hazardous household waste materials and electronic waste collected

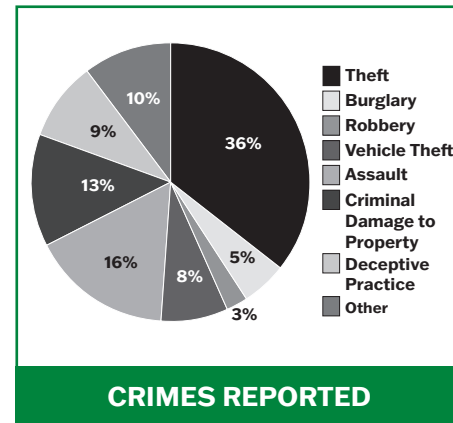
18 public EV charging stations and parking spaces maintained in Village lots

Police release 2022 crime stats

Oak Park Police investigated 238 more crimes in 2022 than in 2021, pushing the overall crime rate up about 11 percent, according to data compiled by the Police Department for the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes.

The biggest increase came in motor vehicle thefts as there were 266 in 2022 compared to 71 in 2021. The uptick reflects a trend across the region and country as Hyundai and Kia models manufactured from 2010 to 2021 have been targeted because they use a mechanical key to start rather than a key fob and push-button.

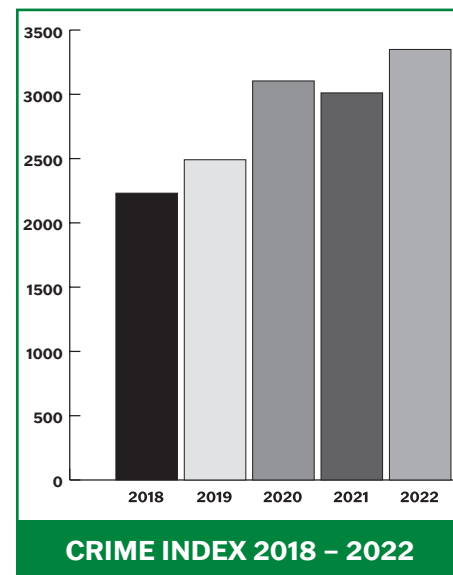
Oak Park Police investigated 3,349 crimes in 2022, compared to 3,011 in 2021. Thefts and property crimes that historically represent the largest share of lawbreaking in the Village remained the biggest categories in 2022.



2022 crime summary

- **Thefts** were up last year — there were 1,198 reports in 2022 compared to 884 in 2021 — but burglaries were down — 173 in 2022 compared to 311 in 2021. Police officials say locking garage doors and keeping a watchful eye on personal belongings are among the best deterrents to these crimes of opportunity.
- The number of **assault and battery** cases was up slightly in 2022, as police investigated 546 incidents in 2022 compared to 538 in 2021.
- The death of an 18-year-old female in June was one of three **homicides** reported in 2022, and two individuals were arrested in the case. Police continue to investigate the other two homicides with the aid of regional, state and federal agencies.
- Police investigated 1,889 **traffic-related incidents** in 2022. Of those incidents, 606 occurred in intersections, 34 involved pedestrians and 30 involved bicycles. By comparison, there were 1,909 traffic-related incidents in 2021, 648 of which occurred in an intersection, 35 of which involved a bicycle and 25 of which involved a pedestrian.

For more information about the Oak Park Police Department, visit www.oak-park.us/police, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.



Vehicle license sales begin in May

Village vehicle licenses for the 2023/2024 season are scheduled to go on sale May 1. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local license before July 15 to get the lowest rate, which increases by \$20 after the deadline. Failure to purchase a license also could result in a ticket. A current vehicle license is needed to purchase a parking permit. Windshield decals are no longer issued. Parking enforcement officers use remote electronic recognition technology to scan license plates to ensure compliance. Vehicle license rates vary by type of vehicle, with discounts for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and active-duty veterans. Vehicle licenses may be renewed online at www.oak-park.us/vehicelicense. For more information, call 708.358.7275, visit www.oak-park.us/parking or email parking@oak-park.us.

Paper shredding event set for April

Oak Parkers are invited to safely dispose of sensitive documents at a free paper shredding event scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Sat., April 22 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes of paper items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted. For more information about the paper shredding event or recycling in Oak Park, email publicworks@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/recycling.

Division Street project launches construction season

The 2023 construction season gets underway in March with a major improvement project along Division Street, the latest in a series of much-needed upgrades to main thoroughfares in the community.

Work is expected to begin in March on the first phase of the project, which involves replacing and rehabilitating underground water and sewer mains between Grove and Oak Park avenues, East and Ridgeland avenues and Hayes and Humphrey avenues. Partial road closures and staged detours for thru traffic will be in effect while sewer work is ongoing, including where Division Street intersects with Oak Park Avenue and Ridgeland Avenue.

Following the water and sewer work, street resurfacing will begin along Division Street from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. The project also includes pedestrian ramp improvements to meet federal ADA standards. All work on Division Street is expected to wrap up by early fall.

Elsewhere, work is expected to begin later this spring on a street resurfacing project along Roosevelt Road. The Illinois Department of Transportation is managing the project, which will extend along the Village's entire southern border and into neighboring communities to the east and west along the busy state highway. The roadway is expected to remain open to traffic throughout the project, but on-street parking will be impacted at various times.

A number of other smaller projects are also slated to take place throughout the Village this year. Visit www.oak-park.us/construction for regular updates about various construction projects around Oak Park.

For more detailed information about specific projects, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Sustainability News

Earth Month activities...The Village is partnering with organizations from Oak Park and the surrounding area to promote a series of community events with a focus on sustainability during April in celebration of Earth Month. Learning about opportunities to save on energy costs and exploring ways to be good stewards of the environment are among the topics for events being planned. Information will be posted at www.oak-park.us/earthmonth as details are finalized. For more information or to add an event to the community calendar, contact sustainability@oak-park.us. The focus on sustainable living ties back to Climate Ready Oak Park, the comprehensive and long-range plan adopted last year by the Village Board to address climate change. More information about the plan is at www.oak-park.us/climateplan.

Organize a neighborhood clean-up event...Residents and organizations located in Oak Park can help improve the community by organizing a neighborhood clean-up event as part of the Keep Oak Park Beautiful initiative. The Village will provide up to 10 heavy duty trash bags, 10 pairs of gloves and 10 pink refuse stickers that can be used to collect litter from alleys and parkways. Brooms and shovels are also available to borrow on a first come, first served basis. Visit www.oak-park.us/neighborhoodcleanup to sign up and for tips to hosting a safe and successful event.

Green Business Program...Oak Park's Green Business Program features a diverse cohort of local small businesses working to identify ways to cut costs while taking action on climate change. In partnership with the Illinois Green Business Program, each participating business is receiving a technical assessment and customized green business action plan. Many participating businesses are already taking steps to help the environment and their bottom line by using efficient LED lighting or scheduling their thermostats during unoccupied times. Find more information and a list of participating businesses at www.sustainoakpark.com/greenbusinessprogram.

Community blood drive planned for April

The Oak Park Public Health Department is asking members of the community to roll up their sleeves this spring and help save lives by participating in a blood drive. In partnership with the American Red Cross and Oak Park Temple, the Health Department is hosting a community blood drive on April 25 at Oak Park Temple, 1235 N. Harlem Ave. Blood donations are essential for individuals who need surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses or have suffered traumatic injuries. More information about the event will be posted at www.oak-park.us/blooddrive. The Health Department is also looking for volunteers to help ensure the success of the event. The pool of volunteers will come from the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Find more information about volunteering and links to sign up at www.oak-park.us/emergencypreparedness.

Community Health and Wellness Fair...The Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Community Health and Wellness Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 23 at FFC Oak Park, 1114 Lake St. The Oak Park Health Department will be among more than 40 local health and wellness professionals on hand, and will be offering free blood pressure and wellness checks and information about its services and programming. Find more information at www.oprfchamber.org/health-wellness-fair.

Free COVID-19 testing...The Oak Park Health Department is hosting COVID-19 testing several days each week at various locations in the community. All testing provided by the Health Department is free and insurance is not required. Visit www.oak-park.us/testing for more information and a list of upcoming clinic dates and locations.

View with a
smartphone camera.



Village President Vicki Scaman
Trustees Susan Buchanan Lucia Robinson
Chibuike Enyia Jim Taglia
Ravi Parakkat Cory Wesley
Village Clerk Christina M. Waters
Village Manager Kevin J. Jackson

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

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



Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Yard waste collection begins in April

Weekly collection of yard waste for residential dwellings of five or fewer units begins in April and continues through the last full week of November. Bundled brush no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs and vines will be picked up on regular refuse collection days. A green yard waste sticker must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container. Stickers are \$3.10 each. Residents are urged to look for alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or composting. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Where to buy stickers

- **Village Hall**, 123 Madison Street
- **Sugar Beet Food Co-Op**, 812 Madison Street
- **Pete's Fresh Market**, 259 Lake Street
- **Jewel Food Stores**, 438 Madison Street, 7036 Roosevelt Road and 7572 Lake Street

Proper mulching key to tree health

Village Forestry officials say mulching a tree is one of the best ways you can care for a tree, but they warn it is important to do it correctly. Far too often parkway and landscape trees are mulched improperly where mulch is piled up against the trunk of the tree. This practice of *volcano mulching* can greatly reduce a tree's lifespan as stem girdling roots are more likely to form that can eventually girdle and kill the tree. Additionally, a tree's trunk stays permanently damp and can begin to rot due to excess mulching. If not killed, the tree often underperforms and growth is stunted. Residents and their landscaping contractors are asked to follow a few simple guidelines if they plan to mulch or landscape trees this spring:

- Avoid piling mulch against the trunk.
- Instead, spread out the mulch and increase its depth as you move further from the trunk.
- Make sure the root collar, which is where the trunk widens and transitions into roots, remains visible.

These steps will help your tree stay healthy and ensure it provides more shade during hot summer days. For more information about the care of Oak Park's urban forest, visit www.oak-park.us/trees or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Programs help homeowners with repairs

Income-eligible, single-family households can apply for no-interest home rehabilitation loans of up to \$25,000 to correct health and safety issues and building code violations such as broken pipes, a leaking basement, a deteriorating roof, dangerous electrical systems or accessibility obstacles. Related projects to deal with peeling or damaged lead paint surfaces may be covered under a separate grant of up to \$20,000 per location. In addition, for a limited time, a \$10,000 energy grant is available for income-eligible households to replace furnaces, water heaters or provide insulation. No monthly payments are required and loans are repayable after 20 years or when the property is transferred. Grants, like the one available for lead paint abatement, do not have to be repaid. Eligibility is determined by income limits set for the Chicago area by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For example, a family of four with a total household income below \$83,350 would possibly qualify for a loan and a grant. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/housing, email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.