

Electric municipal vehicles, charging stations underscore commitment to sustainability

By adding electric vehicles to its municipal fleet and expanding the number of public charging stations, Oak Park is bolstering its reputation as a green community known for its commitment to environmental sustainability.

Charging stations

Two public charging stations recently installed in the Village Hall parking lot at 123 Madison St. serve four dedicated spaces for electric vehicles, bringing to 18 the total number of spaces reserved for electric vehicles in Village-owned lots.

Six electric vehicle-charging spaces also are available at the Holley Court Garage downtown, and four each at the Avenue Garage, 720 North Blvd., and the public garage near Lake Street and Forest Avenue.

Electric fleet

In addition to offering public charging stations, the Village also recently added five new all-electric sedans to its fleet of vehicles used by employees who must drive around Oak Park on official duty as part of the normal work day.

These new electric vehicles are the latest green additions to the municipal fleet, which has embraced alternative fuel options since compressed natural gas was first used in a Village sedan nearly 20 years ago.

The Village also employs 18 other hybrid vehicles, and most of its heavy-duty equipment such as fire trucks and snow plows run on B20 fuel, a lower-emission diesel fuel made in part from agriculture waste products.

The Village even owns a hybrid truck that uses a battery-powered bucket lift rather than the vehicle's main engine to reduce emissions at a job site.



Village Property Inspector Stana Ryan charges a municipal car at Village Hall.

Other tools

Oak Park's green fleet is just one of many sustainability tools adopted to help reduce the carbon footprint and emissions of the wide range of specialized vehicles required to deliver public services.

The Village also expanded its use of telematics, which uses data collected by on-board vehicle computers to teach fleet drivers to reduce the use of fossil fuels by decreasing idling time and reducing speed and excessive acceleration.

Wider recognition

All of these efforts by the Village to improve air quality have not gone unnoticed.

The Village's municipal fleet operations earned Oak Park recognition as the best performing municipality for 2019 by *Chicago Area Clean Cities*, a nonprofit coalition of public and private organizations working to promote the use of clean fuels and clean fuel vehicles throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

Heavy Duty Trucking magazine also named the Village one of its 2019 Top Green Fleets.

For more information about the Village's municipal fleet, visit www.oak-park.us/publicworks.

Village joins solar purchasing pool

Oak Park is among the first nine communities to jump into the purchasing pool for the first community solar project in Illinois. When the state's first community solar project came online in October in Elgin, Oak Park joined Deerfield, Glencoe, Glenview, Highland Park, Lake Bluff, Park Forest and Elgin as subscribers. The program allows participating communities to purchase a portion of the electricity produced by a solar installation and then receive credits on their electric bills. Oak Park's credit for a portion of the output from the solar project in Elgin should mean lower electric bills for municipal facilities. For more information about environmental initiatives in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/sustainability.

2020 budget continues focus on public safety, essential services

The municipal budget for 2020 focuses resources on enhancing public safety and delivering essential services, while continuing to ensure fiscal stability.

The 2020 budget is comprised of 34 funds and \$168.6 million in expenditures, excluding interfund transfers.

The budget's \$63.7-million general fund, which supports most day-to-day municipal operations, allocates nearly two thirds of all spending to the vital services provided by the Police and Fire departments. The men and women who fill these critical roles are on call around the clock, seven days a week, 365 days each year, responding to nearly 77,000 service calls in a typical year.

About 13 percent of all general fund expenditures will support the Public Works Department, whose workers maintain 100 miles of Village-owned streets, 500 alleys, 18,000 parkway trees, 7,000 lighting fixtures, 104 miles

of water mains, 110 miles of sewer mains, eight miles of bicycle lanes and some 4,000 public parking spaces.

Municipal expenditures are supported by a number of sources including property taxes, sales taxes, user fees, utility taxes and real estate transfer taxes.

While property taxes will fund nearly 47 percent of general fund expenditures in 2020, only 11 percent of a local property owner's tax bills goes to fund Village municipal operations. State-mandated Police and Fire pensions comprise an additional 5.6 percent of the Village levy.

Increases in some fees went into effect on Jan. 1, including waste collection for residential buildings with five or fewer units that are served by the Village's waste hauling contractor.

The monthly cost for a 96-gallon refuse cart is now \$28.35, up from \$27.51, and the cost for a 64-gallon refuse cart is \$25.75, up from \$25.

Refuse rates are charged on quarterly water bills. Green yard waste and pink bulk item stickers are now \$3.10, up from \$3.

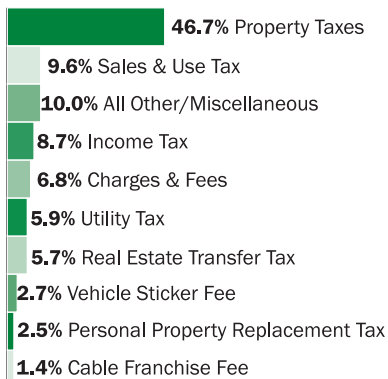
Water rates rose to \$9.81 per 1,000 gallons used, up from \$9.52. Sewer rates, which are based on water use, are now \$2.81 per 1,000 gallons of water used, up from \$2.73. The majority of water and sewer fees cover the cost of purchasing Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago, with a share also helping fund maintenance and improvements to the local water and sewer systems.

Revenue from a new fee is part of the 2020 budget — a 3 percent tax on recreational cannabis as allowed under state law. Proceeds from the cannabis tax have been earmarked for public safety programs.

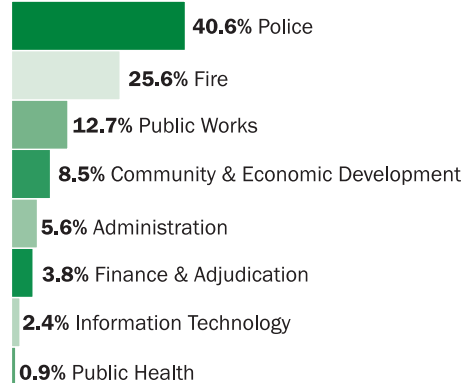
Information on the budget process and copies of the FY2020 and past year's budgets are posted at www.oak-park.us/budget.

2020 Budget at a Glance — General Fund

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



HOW PROPERTY TAXES ARE DISTRIBUTED



Finance documents available online

The Finance Department ensures the fiscal integrity of the Village of Oak Park by developing, maintaining and administering all programs related to the accounting of municipal revenues and expenditures. This critical municipal government role results in a wide range of financial documents available for public view online at www.oak-park.us/financial-reports. Among the documents readily assessable online are the following:

- Annual Budgets
- Audit Management Letters
- Bond Rating Service Reports
- Capital Improvements Plans
- Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports
- Quarterly Financial Reports
- Single Audit Reports
- Tax Increment Finance Annual Reports
- Tax Increment Finance Historical Reports
- Total Compensation Reports

For more information on the role and duties of the Finance Department, call 708.358.5460, email finance@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/finance.

Volunteers needed for A Day in Our Village

June may seem like a long way from January, but planning already is well underway for *A Day in Our Village*, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. This year's event is scheduled for Sun., June 7. A variety of volunteers is needed to help promote and staff the event, which includes activity booths, demonstrations, entertainment and food. Anyone interested in volunteering — or more information — is urged to call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Summer camp registration set

The Park District of Oak Park's 2020 Summer Camp Guide will be released online and at all facilities beginning Jan. 16. A wide variety of camps will be offered for all ages and interests. Camp registration for residents begins at 8:30am., Sat., Feb. 1. Visit pdop.org/camps for more information.

Valentine's market...Locally grown blooming plants and flowers such as orchids, Anthuriums, Sweetheart Hoyas and succulent heart gardens will be offered at a valentine's market scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., Feb. 8 at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. Visit oakparkconservatory.org for more information.

Memory Café helps residents connect

Individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers have a safe space to connect, share a meal and enjoy recreational and educational opportunities at The Memory Café, held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Sessions are scheduled for Jan. 21 and Feb. 18. Volunteer opportunities also are available. Call 708.383.8060 or email memorycafe@oakparktownship.org for more information or to register.

Police News

Share a compliment, file a complaint

The Oak Park Police Department's community-based policing philosophy relies on citizen involvement. Residents and visitors who interact with Police are invited to share a compliment if an encounter was helpful or file a complaint if they feel they were treated unfairly or improperly. While compliments are welcomed, complaints are investigated. Visit www.oak-park.us/police for links to the complaint and compliment online forms.

Updates and tips...Oak Park's residential beat officers hold regular meetings in the neighborhoods they serve to discuss issues and crime trends, and answer questions. They also provide helpful, practical information for residents in a monthly newsletter via email. For more details, including dates, times and locations of meetings, and to sign up for email from your beat officer, visit www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Bicycle registration...A new online form allows residents to easily register their bicycles as required by local law. Residents who register their bicycles will receive a difficult-to-remove decal that will allow easy identification should a registered bicycle be stolen and later recovered. The decal also serves as a deterrent to thieves because the bicycle can be easily traced to its owner. More details and a link to the online registration form are posted at www.oak-park.us/police.

Safe drug disposal...Residents can safely dispose of expired and unwanted prescription medicines in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Needles and other medical wastes are not accepted. Safe disposal of drugs is increasingly important, as trace residues of some medications can turn up in the water supply when prescription drugs are flushed down a drain or toilet. For more information on the drug collection service call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Request an escort...Any resident uneasy about walking to or from a public transit stop, public garage or other site in the community may contact the Police Department for an escort from dusk until dawn. Please consider seeking assistance from friends and family first, since officers may be needed for emergency calls. Call 708.386.3800 for information or an escort.

Follow the Police...Residents can view regular updates related to public safety in Oak Park on Facebook at www.facebook.com/voppolice and on Twitter at [@VOPpolice](http://www.twitter.com/voppolice).

Don't hesitate to call 911...If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to call 911 immediately.

Community awards celebrate stewardship

More than 60 individuals, organizations and businesses were recognized recently for their commitment to protecting Oak Park's heritage and making the Village a vibrant place for residents and visitors alike. Seven Preservation Awards were presented by the Historic Preservation Commission and five Green Awards were distributed by the Environment & Energy Commission. The Disability Access Commission also presented two awards for providing extraordinary accessibility for patrons with disabilities and their families. In addition, the Community Design Commission's Cavalcade of Pride awards were presented for 17 properties whose owners were deemed to have done an exceptional job of maintaining and improving the exteriors of their homes and businesses. New this year, the Aging in Place Commission presented six awards for efforts provide easy access to older residents, create an inviting physical space and offer a welcoming, helpful, service-oriented attitude. The complete list of award winners is posted online at www.oak-park.us/2019stewardshipawards.

Weather forecast key to parking when it snows

The Village has specific rules that govern parking when it snows — rules that are enforced seven days a week, including holidays. Residents are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly. When snow exceeds two inches, all parking is prohibited on the main streets posted as snow routes. Parking on other streets is restricted to one side from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in residential areas and from midnight to 8 a.m. in designated commercial districts, the side determined by the date. Park on the even-address side of the street on even dates and on the odd-address side on odd dates. 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, broadcast on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. Residents who sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme will be alerted. Efforts also are made to post timely information to the Village's social media sites, www.facebook.com/vopnews and twitter.com/vopnews. The snow emergency parking rules and a list of frequently asked questions also are posted at www.oak-park.us/snow.

Sidewalk shoveling required...Property owners who shovel their sidewalks are doing more than making it safer for pedestrians of all ages — they also are complying with the law. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. Being a good neighbor is important, too, so property owners are urged to help those who may need help clearing a sidewalk. And remember to clear the crossing ramps to ensure safe travel by individuals with disabilities, especially those in wheelchairs who face extraordinary challenges navigating snow-clogged sidewalks. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help resources, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Snow Route Map

Holiday tree collection schedule

Holiday trees will be collected the weeks of Jan. 6 and 13 from residential properties of five or fewer units served by the Village refuse hauling contractor. Be sure to remove all decorations and stands, and place the tree in the regular collection area before your regular collection day during these two weeks. If your regular collection point is in an alley, be sure to place the tree in the alley and not in the parkway in front of your residence. Since the trees are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment, please do not leave them in plastic disposal bags or they will not be collected. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker be attached. Stickers are available for \$3.10 each at most local grocery and hardware stores, as well as at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Wreaths and garlands cannot be collected for recycling because they contain wire — place them in the trash container. 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	358.5630
Development Customer Services	358.5420
Business Services	358.5425
Neighborhood Services	358.5410
Housing	option 1
CDBG	option 2
Property complaints	option 3
Permits & Inspections	358.5430
Planning	358.5440
General questions	option 1
Historic Preservation	option 2
Zoning	option 3
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (nonemergency)	358.5600
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Mayor & Trustees	358.5784
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911






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

Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	383.0700

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005
Mental Health Board	358.8855
Transportation	383.4806

-  facebook.com/vopnews
-  instagram.com/oakparkil
-  pinterest.com/oakparkil
-  twitter.com/vopnews
-  youtube.com/vopnews

Oak Parkers urged to make a difference by participating in coming Census

Oak Parkers who take a few minutes to answer nine simple questions will be helping to make sure Illinois has a strong voice in the U.S. Congress and gets its fair share of the nearly \$700 billion in federal funds, grants and support distributed each year to states, counties and communities. The results of the census are used to reapportion the U.S. House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets. Illinois had 24 districts in the 1970s, but has declined to 18 districts today. A census undercount could further diminish Illinois' representation in national matters. Notices with instructions on how to complete the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail will begin arriving in mailboxes in March for the April 1 official population count day. Residents who do not respond by the end of April can expect a census taker to be knocking on their doors in May through July, as efforts focus on making sure the constitutionally mandated count is as accurate as possible. With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2020 Census asks for name,

United States®
**Census
2020**

gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home. The questions are intended to gather information about how we live as a nation, our diversity, education, housing and jobs. All information provided to the Census Bureau is used for statistical purposes only, and is strictly confidential. In addition to grant funding and congressional representation, census data also guides local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, housing, schools, places of worship and more. For more information, visit 2020census.gov. For local information, call 708.358.5410 or email 2020census@oak-park.us.

Part-time workers needed...The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary, part-time census takers for the 2020 Census — including workers for the 7th Congressional District that includes Oak Park. These short-term jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, paid training and reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses, such as mileage incurred while conducting census work. Census takers often work right in their communities and earn a minimum of \$26.50 per hour in Cook County. Applicants must be 18 years old when work begins in the spring. For more information on qualifications and to apply, visit 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1.855.JOB.2020.

Residents asked to make way for winter tree pruning

Residents are urged to move their cars from the streets when temporary no-parking signs go up to allow private contractors to prune parkway trees quickly and safely. This winter, one third of the Village's 18,000-plus parkway trees will be pruned, with work scheduled for the area between the north side of Madison Street and the south side of Chicago Avenue, from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Crews 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 are removed and tree canopies raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and create appropriate clearances for adjacent structures and signs. While the pruning can seem excessive when no leaves are on the limbs, crews work to ensure that pruning is just right as foliage returns in the spring. With a program that now aims to prune every tree on public property once every three years, plans must consider that parkway trees can grow up to two feet each year — or six feet between pruning cycles. The Village's pruning program has proven very successful in minimizing storm damage and reducing ongoing pruning requests. Residents are urged to call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us with questions or concerns about the type or quality of work being performed by contractors. More information on the care of Oak Park's urban forest is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.

Warming centers offer relief from cold

Anyone in need of a place to warm up as temperatures dip can find a range of options in Oak Park. Local sites include the following:

- **Housing Forward**, overnight shelters in various locations, 888.338.1744
- **Rush Oak Park Hospital**, 520 S. Maple Ave. — open 24 hours, 708.383.9300
- **Oak Park Township Senior Services**, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. — Ages 60 and over, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, 708.383.8060
- **Village Hall**, 123 Madison St. — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, 708.383.6400
- **West Suburban Medical Center**, 3 Erie Court — 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., 708.383.6200

If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800.



Fire Department offers life-saving CPR/AED classes

The Oak Park Fire Department offers a variety of life-saving classes including CPR and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Classes are held at the Fire Department's certified American Heart Association community training center in the main station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. All courses are taught by an AHA-certified instructor. Fees vary by type of class and residency. Payment must be made by check, money order or cash in the exact amount. In-person registration is required. Class size are limited. The 2020 class schedule is posted online at www.oak-park.us/cpr. For more information, call 708.358.5605 or email cpr@oak-park.us.



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



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews
Dan Moroney
Simone M. Boutet
Jim Taglia
Susan Buchanan
Ari Walker-Peddakotla

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman
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

Recreational marijuana comes to Illinois

Marijuana became legal for recreational use in Illinois on Jan. 1. The new state law allows consumers 21 and older to possess and use marijuana products purchased from licensed sellers without a medical marijuana card. Initially, medical marijuana dispensaries are the only legal sellers of cannabis for recreational use. But by mid-2020, the state is expected to grant additional licenses to dozens of new stores, processors, cultivators and transporters. Oak Park has one medical cannabis dispenser, which is expected to begin selling recreational marijuana this year. However, the Village Board adopted a temporary moratorium until more public input can be gathered on whether or not to allow additional sites. Under state law, Illinois adults may legally possess about an ounce of cannabis flower (30 grams), five grams of cannabis concentrate and cannabis-infused products such as edibles or tinctures with up to 500 milligrams of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Out-of-state visitors are allowed to possess only half of the amounts allowed residents, but will be subject to the laws of any states they enter after leaving Illinois.

Smoking regulations... Illinois law allows adults to use recreational cannabis products in one's own home and on-site in some cannabis-related businesses, but has several prohibitions, including the following:

- In public places such as streets or parks
- In any motor vehicle
- On school grounds
- Near someone under the age of 21
- Near an on-duty school bus driver, police officer, firefighter or corrections officer
- Any person, business or landlord can prohibit use on private property

Growing marijuana... Only medical marijuana patients are allowed to grow plants for personal use. The limit is five plants at a time. Recreational users are not allowed to grow marijuana at home, and could be fined up to \$200 if caught violating the law.

Driving under the influence... Illinois law states that drivers with THC blood concentration of five nanograms or more are guilty of driving under the influence, regardless of whether the driver appears impaired. The Illinois State Police is leading a DUI Cannabis Task Force to examine best practices for roadside testing. The Oak Park Police Department intends to follow guidance developed by the state task force.

For more information... Contact the Oak Park Police Department at police@oak-park.us or 708.386.3800 for information about local enforcement of the state's marijuana laws.

Marijuana use poses real health risks

Oak Park health officials warn that just because marijuana is legal does not mean that it is safe. Under-age marijuana use can lead to particularly negative health consequences related to adolescent development. Consumers also are urged to avoid ingesting cannabis via e-cigarettes until the cause of a dangerous and sometimes fatal lung disease tied to vaping is determined. The Center for Disease Control outlines the following as additional marijuana health risks:

- Daily or near-daily marijuana use can affect memory, learning and attention, effects that can last a week more after use
- Using marijuana during pregnancy or while breastfeeding may harm the baby, just like alcohol or tobacco
- Marijuana use has been linked to anxiety, depression and schizophrenia, but scientists don't yet know whether it directly causes these diseases
- Smoking any product, including marijuana, can damage lungs and cardiovascular systems

For more information about the health risks associated with marijuana use, contact the Health Department at health@oak-park.us or 708.358.5480.