

New service offers doorstep collection of household waste, electronics

Residents in single-family homes and buildings with five or fewer units can now safely dispose of common hazardous household waste and unwanted electronics without a trip to a collection site.

A new contract with refuse hauler Waste Management includes at-home pickup for materials such as garden chemicals, automotive fluids, paint products and household cleaners as well as electronic items like televisions, computers, fax machines, printers and cell phones.



Under the new system, residents can schedule the service online at www.wmatyourdoor.com, via email to atyourdoor@wm.com or with a toll-free call to 1.800.449.7587.

Collection kits sent by U.S. Mail include instructions on how to package the materials and where to place them safely for pickup on the scheduled date. Residents need not be home at the pickup time.

Once collected, materials are sent to various processing facilities, with the emphasis placed first on recycling and treatment, then incineration and when necessary safe disposal in secure landfills.

While there is no limit to the number of times a qualifying household can use the service, residents are discouraged from requesting collection of very small quantities such as a single can of paint. Instead, consider working with neighbors to combine items for a single pickup.

The new service is part of the Village's regular weekly garbage and recycling collection programs. Residential waste collection fees are \$21.93 per month for a 64-gallon cart and \$25.93 per month for a 96-gallon cart, up \$1.64 and \$1.21 per month respectively from last year. Refuse and recycling fees are paid quarterly as part of the water bill.

Thanks to the convenience of the new at your-door-collection service, the Village will no longer need to host dedicated electronics and paint recycling events, and most residents won't have to take an out-of-town trip to safely dispose of hazardous household waste.

However, officials say plans are still in the works to host two paper shredding events this year to help residents safely dispose of documents containing personal information such as credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information.

Residents of multifamily buildings not served under the municipal refuse hauling program are encouraged to contact their building's refuse service provider about recycling options.

For more information about the Village's refuse and recycling services — including items eligible for at-you-door collection — visit www.oak-park.us/recycling.

Early childhood support available

Families with young children can look to the *Collaboration for Early Childhood* for information about early development and resources, finding child care or preschool and parenting support. The organization, funded in part by the Village and school districts 97 and 200 to serve children at their most critical development stage, offers free coaching for parents of infants and toddlers, and free preschool for three- and four-year-old children whose families meet eligibility criteria. Parents concerned about their child's physical, social or emotional development also can look to the Collaboration for screening and referrals to additional services. In addition, the Collaboration publishes an *Early Childhood Resource Directory* both online and in print that lists child care centers, preschools and family child care programs in the community. Neighbors are encouraged to spread the word about these free services to families living on their block or to those who are new to Oak Park. For more information on local early childhood resources, including eligibility for programs, call 708.613.6122, email info@collab4kids.org or visit collab4kids.org.

Art directory is online

The Oak Park Area Arts Council has launched a comprehensive online arts directory that lists available classes, camps, lessons and events in Oak Park and River Forest. The goal, officials say, is to engage youth in the arts through easily accessible opportunities. The project was funded by a grant from the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation's Women Leaders in Philanthropy. View the directory at www.artopedia.org.

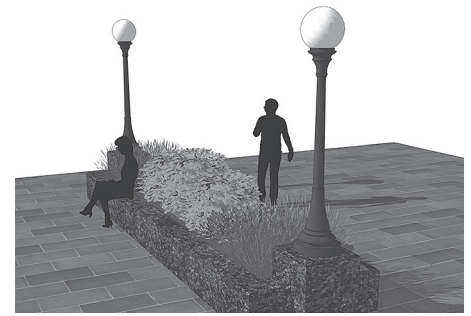
Target to open downtown store

Target will open a new store in downtown Oak Park on Lake Street just east of Harlem Avenue. The 22,000-square-foot, *flexible-format store* will be part of the discount retailer's growing number of smaller locations customized for urban and densely populated suburban areas. The new Target location, set to open in October, will anchor the mixed-use Elevate Oak Park project that includes 270 apartments, 26,000 square feet of retail space and a 424-space parking garage within a five-story building on Lake Street and a 20-story building on North Boulevard. The project also includes a new block of Maple Avenue on the Lake Street site's western edge. The location will offer Target high-visibility space on both streets and easy customer access, including for those using the multi-mode public transportation station on North Boulevard that links the CTA, Metra and Pace. Elevate Oak Park is one of four major construction projects either nearing completion, well underway or soon to begin within blocks of Lake Street. When the construction ends, these four projects will add more than 830 residential units, 65,000 square feet of retail space and 1,400 new parking spaces from \$242 million in private investment. More information on these development projects is posted at www.oak-park.us/development.



Madison Street new investment frontier

With the economic heart of downtown Oak Park beginning to pump new blood into every part of the community, eyes now are on the next investment frontier — the Madison Street corridor. A private developer selected through a competitive bid has agreed to an innovative Village concept to slightly bend the street northward between Wesley and Oak Park avenues to create a parcel large enough to attract a major retailer that could become a catalyst for new investment all along Madison Street. Reconfiguring the street also offers an opportunity to dramatically enhance safety for all who use the busy, historically auto-centric roadway. Getting the nearly 20,000 drivers who regularly travel along Madison Street at average speeds approaching 40 miles an hour to slow down is a key benefit of the plan. Under the proposal, which has just begun the comprehensive public review process, the Village likely will be expected to fund traditional public costs related to infrastructure like water and sewer lines and sidewalk and street improvements. But these costs could be largely underwritten through the Madison Street Tax Increment Finance District and by incorporating publicly owned parcels into the project. The redevelopment costs, including property purchases and construction, would be borne by the developer whose plans and approaches would be thoroughly vetted through a vigorous public process managed by the citizen volunteers on the Plan Commission. Preliminary estimates are that the Village tax base could grow about \$3 million in the first full year of development — a nearly 20-fold increase over the property taxes currently generated on the corridor. Beyond tax revenue and improved services, officials say the project also would bring vitality, a new image and an improved retail environment that would benefit those who live, work and shop on Madison Street, as well as the residents in the adjacent neighborhoods. For more information on this and other development projects visit www.oak-park.us/development.



Planning begins for Lake Street updates

Planning will begin this year to replace critical infrastructure that is at the end of its life cycle along Lake Street from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Actual construction would likely not occur until 2018. The project also envisions new concrete and asphalt roadway surfaces, lighting and signal improvements, as well as sidewalks designed for increased walkability, curb and street crossing upgrades to better accommodate persons with disabilities, and improved signal timing to help keep traffic flowing smoothly, especially in the business districts between Harlem and Euclid avenues. Streetscape enhancements also will be considered, including high-quality street furniture, enhanced street and pedestrian lighting, and informational wayfinding signs for visitors. In addition, decorative sidewalk and crosswalk materials could be used to highlight major intersections and enhance pedestrian safety at Maple Avenue, Marion Street, Forest Avenue, Kenilworth Avenue and Oak Park Avenue. Construction would be completed in phases to allow the Village to first replace and refurbish old water and sewer lines at various locations, including between Grove and Euclid avenues, as well as new water mains and service lines to buildings between Oak Park and Euclid avenues. Officials say these projects ultimately would improve traffic circulation and capacity, enhance pedestrian linkage between retail districts, replace the aging roadway and utilities, promote private investment and economic development, and strengthen Lake Street's role as the community's central tourism and retail corridor. For more information about the project, visit www.oak-park.us/lakestreetimprovements.

2017 budget focuses on public safety, infrastructure

Maintaining public safety and improving vital public infrastructure will continue to be priorities in the year ahead, as the 2017 budget takes effect on Jan. 1.

The largest share of general fund expenditures will be on critical public services, including police, fire and public works, which together represent some 75 percent of Village spending budgeted for 2017.

Oak Park Police respond to about 35,000 calls for service each year, typically arriving on the scene of high-priority calls within minutes. The Oak Park Fire Department fields about 6,000 calls each year, about two-thirds for emergency medical services often in life-and-death situations.

For the Public Works Department, the job is maintaining more than 600 alleys, 240 lane miles of streets, 105 miles of water mains and 110 miles of sewer pipe. The Village has a multiyear commitment to infrastructure improvements that will continue into 2017 and

beyond with planning based on five-year cycles to better manage costs of what are often major construction projects.

Property taxes will remain a key source of revenue to fund municipal services, representing about 43 percent of general fund revenues expected in 2017. The Village's share of the property tax bill will remain about 15 cents of each dollar homeowners pay, third behind school districts 97 and 200.

Through its legal authority as a home rule government, the Village will continue to rely on a diverse mix of revenue streams to lessen the reliance on property taxes. This approach includes fees like those charged for residential garbage and water and sewer services, which unlike property taxes, are based on use and offer opportunities for individuals and families to reduce what they pay.

The 2017 budget was crafted over several months, with public meetings hosted by the Finance Committee of the Village Board in October followed

Financial Docs Online www.oak-park.us/financial-reports

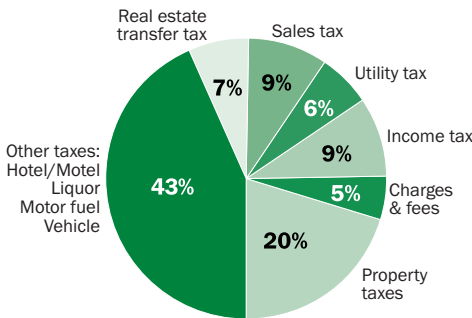
- Annual Budgets
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- Quarterly Financial Reports
- Single Audit Reports
- Tax Increment Finance Annual Reports
- Tax Increment Finance Historical Reports
- Total Compensation Reports

by reviews by the full Village Board in November. The budget was adopted at a public meeting in December.

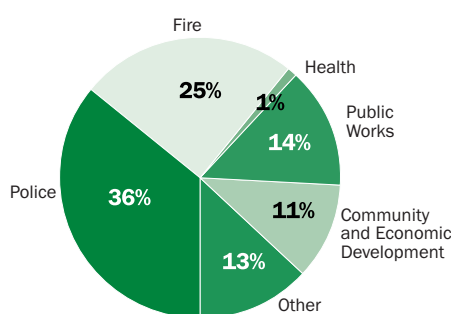
Residents are invited to review the 2017 budget document, as well as budget summaries from past years at www.oak-park.us/budget.

2017 Village budget at a glance

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



HOW PROPERTY TAXES ARE DISTRIBUTED



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.

Make way for 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 as the winter trimming cycle continues through mid-April. The areas scheduled for pruning this season are between North Boulevard and Chicago Avenue from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue and between Chicago Avenue and Division Street from Austin Boulevard to East Avenue. 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 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 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 inspectors will spot-check the progress of private contractors. 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 the nearly 19,000 trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.



Park District News

www.pdop.org

WinterFest...Celebrate winter from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Jan. 28, in Austin Gardens, 167 Forest Ave. This free event will feature outdoor ice skating (weather permitting), games and music. Limited skate rental will be available for \$1 per pair.

Camp information...The annual camp guide will be available beginning Jan. 17 online at www.pdop.org. Registration for residents begins Sat., Feb. 4 online and in-person at Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex (RCRC), 415 Lake St., and the Gymnastics and Recreation Center, 21 Lake St. An open house to learn about camp opportunities is scheduled for 8 a.m. to noon, Feb., 4 at the RCRC.

Local bands wanted...Local bands are needed for the 2017 summer concert in the park series. To be considered, provide a demo CD or video/audio link and a minimum of two references by Tues., Jan. 31 to Susan Crane, Park District of Oak Park, 218 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302 or susan.crane@pdop.org. Candidates will be notified in late February.

Cigarettes and planters don't mix

Recent fires on the wooden back porches of multifamily buildings has Oak Park Fire Department officials urging residents not to extinguish cigarettes in pots containing soil mixes, mulch or dried vegetation. Potting mixes typically contain highly flammable materials like peat moss, dried bark and pellets that will burn when introduced to a heat source like a smoldering cigarette butt. Smokers may think a butt is out, only to have a fire start several hours later. Officials urge using caution when smoking and have an ashtray nearby at all time. Visit www.oak-park.us/fire for more information on fire safety.

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.oprfs.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

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Coyotes a part of Oak Park Life

With an estimated 30,000 coyotes currently living in Illinois, like it or not, coyotes are a permanent fixture in Oak Park. Seeing a coyote does not necessarily mean a dangerous situation for humans or domestic animals. If approached by a coyote, do not run — make yourself appear larger by yelling, standing up straight, clapping your hands and waving your arms. You can even throw something at the coyote. Your actions not only will scare the coyote, but will discourage it from approaching humans in the future. In the unlikely event that a coyote is aggressive or shows its fangs, growls or approaches, get to safety and contact Village Animal Control at 708.358.5680 to provide details including the date, time and address of the event. In the meantime, discourage coyotes from being attracted to your property by following these tips:

- **Do not feed coyotes.** This means limiting unintentional outdoor food sources like pet food and ripe fruit. Bird food, for example, attracts rodents, which coyotes feed upon.
- **Do not leave small pets** — especially cats — unattended outside.
- **Install a fence at least four feet high** to prevent coyotes from entering your yard.
- **Keep garbage stored securely.** While coyotes are not likely to eat garbage, they may be to be attracted to the rodents that do.

For more detailed information on living with coyotes and other wildlife, visit web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife.

Life-saving CPR/AED classes offered

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 from 6 to 10 p.m. 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. Classes are \$35 for Oak Park residents and \$60 for nonresidents, plus a \$15 textbook fee. A healthcare provider course is \$50 for residents and \$70 for non-residents, plus a \$15 textbook fee if required. Payment must be made by check, money order or cash in exact amount. In-person registration is required. Class size is limited to eight students for infant/child classes and nine students for all other classes. The 2017 class schedule is posted online at www.oak-park.us/cpr. For more information, call 708.358.5605 or email cpr@oak-park.us.

Forecast key to planning 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. 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 will be made to post timely information to 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.

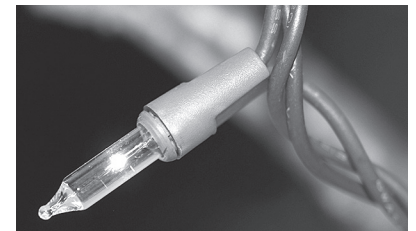
Sidewalk shoveling required

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. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help resources, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Holiday recycling services

Holiday trees...Holiday trees will be collected the weeks of Jan. 9 and 16. Be sure to remove all decorations and stands, and place the tree in the regular collection area. Since the trees are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment, please do not leave them in plastic disposal bags. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker be attached. Stickers are available at most local grocery and hardware stores, as well as at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. for \$2.25 each. 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 publicworks@oak-park.us.

Lights and cords...Recycle unwanted holiday lights and extension cords from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. through 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.





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



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Peter Barber
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Collette Lueck
Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Map-based information inventory continues to grow

The range of information tied to specific property addresses now available online is growing through the Village's participation in the GIS Consortium, a collective of local governments working together to develop and implement new technologies they can share. Simply by entering an Oak Park address on the Village website, users can see how their property is zoned or if it is in a historic district, information that can prove useful to remodeling and rehabilitation projects. Users also can identify a safe walking route to a neighborhood school, get detailed information about every parkway tree and find the nearest permit parking site. Future additions will offer information about voting precincts, school boundaries and refuse hauling dates, with the details

displayed tied to a specific address. The geographic information systems capabilities also are helping improve the delivery of municipal services. Location-based data is helping Village departments allocate resources more efficiently for services such as plowing snow, repairing streets and replacing burned out street lamps. Public safety officials also are able to tap a growing range of databases not viewable by the public for a wide range of critical facts such as fire hydrant locations and flow rates, registered residents whose special needs could affect emergency medical response strategies and police resource allocation tactics. Also on the drawing board is a new public portal that will improve data navigation through more intuitive landing pages

that will allow users to view specific data without turning on or off layers of unrelated information. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/maps.

How to Search

Go to www.oak-park.us/maps, type an Oak Park address in the window on the page and click find. The results will open in a new browser tab or window, displaying a location pin on a map in MapOffice, the proprietary application developed for the GIS Consortium. Click on the layers tab at the upper right corner of the page, choose Oak Park from the drop-down menu and check the options you wish to display. Zoom in or out and chose a map, photo or terrain view for the underlying image.

High-tech signal improves bicycle, pedestrian safety

A new hybrid street crossing signal has been installed on Chicago Avenue at Harvey Avenue to improve safety for both pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the heavily traveled roadway. The high-intensity activated crosswalk beacon, or HAWK, gives Chicago Avenue motorists a red light when activated by a pedestrian button or electronic detection of a bicycle attempting to cross at Harvey. In addition to the red signal for motorists, walk indicators are displayed for crossing pedestrians and bicyclists. The signal heads facing traffic on Chicago Avenue remain dark until the signal is activated. Officials say this type of dedicated crossing signal, among the most advanced on the market, likely is a first in the Chicago area, although it is fairly common in states like California, Oregon and Washington where protecting pedestrians and bicyclists has long been a top priority in traffic management strategies. Community response to the new approach to crossing signals, and a study of its effectiveness, could lead to similar applications at other high-traffic crossings in the community. For more information on traffic signals and other public safety equipment, email publicworks@oak-park.us.

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 4. A variety of volunteers are 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.