

*New campaign launched***Village program supports energy efficiency to lower costs, help environment**

With the goal of improving energy efficiency across the community, the Village has launched the *Better Homes, Better Planet* campaign to link property owners to information, financial support and other resources that can help them plan for a more sustainable future.

Officials hope that by focusing on making homes more energy efficient, Oak Parkers can do their part to help combat climate change and reduce the community's carbon footprint, while also saving money by lowering their utility bills.

The *Better Homes, Better Planet* campaign is anchored by a new website at www.sustainoakpark.com.

In addition to website information on grants, loans and other locally administered programs, Village staff also can provide information on regional and national programs Oak Parkers can explore for ideas on how to make their homes more energy efficient.

Oak Park residents have a range of options for improving the energy efficiency of their homes — whether they be a homeowner or renter living in a single-family home or multifamily building.

Just by signing up for *Community Solar* at www.sustainoakpark.com, for example, residents can help support a regional solar farm and receive guaranteed monthly savings on electricity through net metering credits for the solar electricity they helped generate.

Residents who want to take the step of adding solar panels to a rooftop can tap into the Village's energy efficiency grant program



Jim Doyle, Ana Garcia Doyle and their daughter Claudia in front of the solar array on the garage of their Oak Park home.

that covers 50 percent of the installation cost up to \$10,000.

The local energy efficiency grant program also provides up to \$10,000 to homeowners to cover all or part of the cost for improving the heating, air conditioning and weatherization of their homes.

Eligible improvements include sealing and repairing walls, windows and doors, and properly insulating attics, walls and pipes, simple steps that can help residents save money by using less energy to heat and cool their homes.

Residents who meet certain income levels may qualify for even more financial support beyond what the Village can provide directly.

A free home energy assessment is the first step. An energy assessment professional will recommend

ways to save energy. Assessments also include installing free or discounted energy-saving products such as LEDs, programmable thermostats and faucet aerators.

Answering a few short questions on the website is all it takes to get started unlocking cost savings and helping protect the environment.

For more information, visit www.sustainoakpark.com or email sustainability@oak-park.us.



Scan with a smartphone to visit
www.sustainoakpark.com

Residents urged to support local businesses

Choosing to shop at an Oak Park business this holiday season helps strengthen the local economy and even reduces the community's carbon footprint by reducing travel distances. Retail sales benefit not only local retailers, but the entire Village since 2 percent of every retail sale comes back to municipal coffers to fund vital public services. For many retailers, the holiday season is the most important time of the year.

Find local shopping options

online...Get inspired and plan for your holiday shopping by visiting www.pickoakpark.com, an online directory that offers information on more than 800 local licensed businesses by type and district. The website also offers a listing of initiatives unique to the community, like the *Downtown Oak Park's Shopper's Rewards* program.

Free holiday weekend parking...

Shopping local will be easier than ever beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving through Dec. 25 when parking will be free Saturdays in public garages and for two hours at pay-by-plate stations and marked meters downtown and in the vicinity of south Oak Park Avenue. Parking is always free on Sunday. Village officials say they hope this small gesture will

increase sales as well as create goodwill among the businesses and their customers. For more information on parking in the Village, email parking@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Many ways to reduce spread of COVID-19

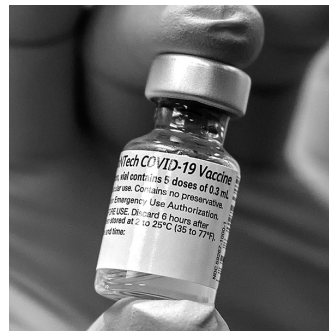
Public health officials continue to call on residents to work together to limit COVID-19 related disruptions in the community, particularly in schools where students who test positive miss out on in-person instruction if quarantined. Layering proven COVID-19 mitigation strategies is the key to ensuring that kids stay in school. As the highly contagious virus continues to spread, the following recommendations can help limit the number of new cases in the community:

- Get vaccinated
- Limit high-risk exposures
- Test at the sign of any symptom
- Quarantine and isolate when necessary
- Wear masks indoors and in crowded outdoor settings
- Maintain social distance
- Willingly participate in contact tracing
- Work in distinct groups or from home to limit exposures
- Increase air flow and ventilation in shared spaces

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/covid19 or email health@oak-park.us.

COVID-19 vaccinations remain essential

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and free. Getting vaccinated helps protect against severe disease and death, including from variants such as the highly-transmissible Delta variant. Health officials say side effects are normal after vaccination and should go away within a few days.



Booster shots...Booster shots of all COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for those eligible. Visit www.oak-park.us/vaccine for the latest local vaccination information.

Vaccines for kids...Should federal authorization of a coronavirus vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old come, parents are urged to carefully monitor *official information* from federal, state and local public health organizations and make decisions accordingly.

Ways to get vaccinated...COVID-19 vaccines are widely available through most national pharmacy chains and healthcare providers. A range of vaccination options in and around Oak Park are posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/vaccine along with the latest local vaccination information. Individuals can also find a COVID-19 vaccine by visiting www.vaccines.gov, texting their ZIP code to 438829 or calling 1.800.232.0233. Oak Park residents who need assistance getting a vaccine can contact the Oak Park Department of Public Health by emailing covid19vaccine@oak-park.us or calling 708.358.5499.

Help with Medicare

Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities seeking assistance with enrollment in a Medicare Part D prescription plan can schedule an appointment through Oak Park Township Senior Services' Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). The enrollment period is open until Dec. 7. Call 708.383.8060 to make an appointment with a counselor. Visit www.oakparktownship.org/departments/seniors for more information on senior services.

Options under consideration for allocating federal relief funds

Village officials plan to use feedback provided by residents to help determine how best to address the local impact of COVID-19 using federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act. Comments, suggestions and questions can be sent via email to ARPAComments@oak-park.us. Use of the federal dollars allocated under the ARP Act must fall within general guidelines set by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Approved uses include supporting the public health response, replacing lost public sector revenues that fund important services, investing in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure, addressing negative economic impacts from the pandemic and providing premium pay for essential workers. The Village Board will evaluate all available information, including community input, and determine priorities for allocating the funds. A first review of the public input is planned for November. For more information on the local effort, including a breakdown of how ARPA funds have been allocated to date, visit www.oak-park.us/arpa.

Community service dog joins Police Department

The Oak Park Police Department has expanded its ranks to increase community engagement and assist with officer wellness with its newest member, Pawfficer Howie. Howie is the new Oak Park Police Community



Community Policing Sergeant Samantha Deuchler and Pawfficer Howie.

Service Dog. The 2-year-old former rescue has had more than 1,250 hours of service training including in deep pressure therapy, which involves a dog using its weight to apply pressure to the person who is petting him. The pressure increases endorphin levels and releases serotonin and dopamine, hormones that stabilize moods and feelings of well-being. Howie assists with victim comfort services following traumatic incidents and joins sworn officers at community events to help bring awareness to the many outreach programs the police department offers. Howie's home is in the Police Department at Village Hall, where he has a dedicated room as well as many dog beds located throughout the station. Employees are encouraged to interact with him as he roams freely. A rotation of trained employees is responsible for his care and feeding. As a former rescue, his breed is unknown. But officials think Howie is a Labrador mix with traces of St. John's Water Dog, due to the whiteness around his face that gives him a distinguished air for his fairly young age. For more information about the Oak Park Police Department, visit www.oak-park.us/police or email police@oak-park.us.

Online survey gathering public views on parking pilot program

An online survey to gather public input on Oak Park's parking pilot program is now open at www.oak-park.us/parkingpilotsurvey. Residents are asked to weigh in on the various policies enacted within the pilot parking area such as standardized parking limits, exemptions, meter time extensions and graduated pricing at pay stations. Survey results will be used to help determine if aspects of the pilot program should remain in place and/or implemented in other areas of the Village. The Village Board approved the pilot program in 2019 to test ways to simplify Oak Park's parking restrictions and regulations. The parking pilot area is bound by Harlem Avenue east to Oak Park Avenue and South Boulevard south to Harrison Street, including portions of the adjacent business districts. While the online survey is directed to those who park within the pilot area, the survey is open to the entire community. For more information on parking in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Residents urged to respond promptly to water meter notices

Property owners who receive a letter from the Village asking them to call a private vendor or visit the company's website to set up an appointment to upgrade a water meter are urged to respond without delay. The 30-minute process does not require any plumbing changes although the water will be turned off temporarily during the upgrade. The new water meters feature integrated radio technology and can log data for a 90-day period to greatly enhance the efficiency and accuracy of the usage reading. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Snowfall may trigger parking restrictions

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

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

Residents are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly. To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 708.358.7669 for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOP-TV, available on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. Residents also can sign up for alerts at www.oak-park.us/notifyme. Efforts also are made to post timely information to the Village's social media sites, www.facebook.com/vopnews and www.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... Residents and businesses are urged to help improve walking conditions and public safety by removing snow and ice from sidewalks after a storm. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. If the snow or ice has become too hard to remove without damaging the sidewalk, sand, salt or other abrasive material may be used to make pedestrian travel reasonably safe. Being a good neighbor is important, too, so property owners are urged to help those who may need help clearing a sidewalk. Failure to clear a sidewalk fronting or abutting one's property could lead to a ticket and fine. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help finding resources, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Snow Route Map

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

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Public Works Center home to certified Monarch butterfly waystation

The Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., is now home to a certified Monarch butterfly waystation. The area behind the Center is planted with milkweed and native nectar plants to provide migrating Monarchs essential nutrients as they make their annual trip from the U.S. and Canada to the mountains in central Mexico. The project grew from the Monarch pledge, which originally was part of a wider effort to encourage municipalities to support these important pollinators by creating, conserving and protecting their habitats. In addition, the Public Works site serves as a bioswale, capturing stormwater runoff and allowing it to be absorbed slowly and naturally to reduce impact on nearby properties. For more information, email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Text 911 now available

Anyone within the area served by the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center, which provides emergency response services in Forest Park, Oak Park and River Forest, can now text 911 from a cell phone to report an emergency. Texts should be brief and include the location and type of help needed. Users also should be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the dispatch center. A call is still more effective for current location technology, officials say, but the text option is there for those who may need it. A text to 911 cannot include another recipient, may not be available if roaming and may take longer to reach the dispatch center. Texting should only be used when unable to make a 911 voice call. Texting while driving is against state law. For more information, call 708.771.9110 or visit www.oak-park.us/text911.

News You Can Use

Yard waste collection ends...Regular yard waste collection will end on Fri., Nov. 26. Yard waste will be picked up by appointment only during the winter months. To arrange a special yard waste pick-up call Waste Management at 800.796.9696. For information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Holiday hours...Village Hall will be closed all day Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving, from noon, Thurs., Dec. 23 through Fri., Dec. 24 for Christmas, and on New Year's Eve, Fri., Dec. 31. Regular Village Hall hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., More information is posted at www.oak-park.us/villagehall.

Heat required...Landlords must furnish heat to all Oak Park rental dwelling units from September 15 through May 15. An average minimum temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit must be maintained from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., and 65 degrees Fahrenheit from 11 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Complaints may be made by calling 708.358.5430 or email to housing@oak-park.us. More information is posted at www.oak-park.us/housing.

Fire Department seeks help keeping the wreath green

Family gatherings, colorful decorations and elaborate meals are the hallmarks of the holiday season. But the tidings of the season also can pose a risk when it comes to fire safety. That's why the Oak Park Fire Department has launched the holiday safety campaign, *Keep the Wreath Green*. From Nov. 26 until Jan. 2, a wreath hanging at the Central Fire Station will be adorned with green lights. For every holiday-related fire in Oak Park, a bulb will be changed to red from green as a reminder of the risks. By following these simple rules, you can help the Fire Department keep the wreath green this year:

- Water your Christmas tree daily
- Check holiday lights for frayed ends
- Keep your tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources
- Never leave a lit candle unattended
- Keep close watch on your stove or oven when cooking
- Test your smoke detectors throughout your home regularly

For more information on the Oak Park Fire Department, visit www.oak-park.us/fire or email fireprevention@oak-park.us.

Nature museum activities

Cook County's Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave., in River Forest, offers a range of programs for children and adults alike, including nature stories, fitness hikes and close-up visits with the Thatcher Woods' many inhabitants. For more information, visit the Museum or call 708.366.6530.



View with a smartphone camera.



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

OP/FM

Village President Vicki Scaman

Trustees

Susan Buchanan
Lucia Robinson
Chibuke Enyia
Jim Taglia
Ravi Parakkat
Arti Walker-Peddakortla
Christina M. Waters
Lisa Shelley

Village Clerk
Interim Village Manager

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

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 during the winter pruning cycle. One third of the Village's 18,000-plus parkway trees are scheduled to be pruned this winter. The focus will be trees located between Roosevelt Road and Madison Street. However, some trees — mostly oaks and elms — north of Chicago Avenue not pruned last winter while the trees were dormant also will be included in the upcoming work. 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, tree canopies raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and appropriate clearances created for adjacent structures and signs. Younger trees also will be pruned to develop good structure and reduce problems as they mature. While the pruning may initially appear 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 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 the nearly 18,000 trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.

Fall leaf collection continues

The annual fall leaf collection program will continue through the week of Dec. 6. Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Residents are urged to consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

		NORTH AVE			
		WEDNESDAY Nov. 3 Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24 Dec. 1 Dec. 8	THURSDAY Nov. 4 Nov. 11 Nov. 18 Nov. 25 Dec. 2 Dec. 9		
HARLEM AVE	TUESDAY Nov. 2 Nov. 9 Nov. 16 Nov. 23 Nov. 30 Dec. 7	EAST AVE	MONDAY Nov. 1 Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 22 Nov. 29 Dec. 6	AUSTIN BLVD	ROOSEVELT RD

Search underway for new Village Manager

The Village Board of Trustees has contracted with GovHRUSA to provide executive search services and support a robust search for a diverse pool of highly qualified candidates to fill the position of Village Manager. The Village Manager is appointed by the Board of Trustees and serves as the administrative head of the Village of Oak Park municipal government, responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the municipal organization. For weekly updates about the search, visit www.oak-park.us/managersearch. For more information about the Village Manager form of government, visit www.oak-park.us/villagemanager.