

Oak Park launches comprehensive community safety assessment

How effectively and equitably does the Oak Park Police Department deliver services to all members of the community, but specifically to people of color?

The Village Board has commissioned a comprehensive community safety study to answer that question and come up with ways for improving how equitably Oak Park Police deliver services to the diverse taxpayers they serve.

Led by national consultant BerryDunn, the community safety assessment will examine several aspects of the Police Department including its overall operations, internal and external race equity issues, the response-to-calls-for-service model the Department follows and how other communities address policing equity issues.

The process is intended to produce recommendations to improve Oak Park Police Department techniques, policies, and practices, officials say.

Community involvement is key to ensuring residents have a voice in a comprehensive review process some supporters say could shape how the Oak Park Police



Department carries out its mission for decades to come.

Residents are invited to provide feedback by attending community meetings, both in person and virtually, taking online surveys and participating in a variety of other ways via a dedicated web portal at www.oak-park.us/policeassessment.

In addition to interactive opportunities, the web portal also has information on the project, dates of upcoming events and links to feedback opportunities and surveys.

Several citizen engagement opportunities are already on the calendar for March, with more to come.

Residents are urged to monitor the web portal and follow the Village's social media platforms — www.facebook.com/vopnews and www.twitter.com/vopnews — for timely reminders about specific events and opportunities to participate.

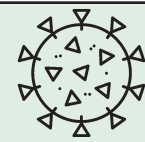
The project is expected to wrap up in late summer or early fall. For more information, email village@oak-park.us.

Housing voucher list opens for first time in 18 years

For the first time since 2004, the Oak Park Housing Authority (OPHA) will accept pre-applications to add 150 new households to the waiting list for the *Housing Choice Voucher Program* that helps very-low-income households pay their monthly rent. Formerly known as Section 8, the voucher program is a locally administrated federal initiative that helps pay a portion of the rent that exceeds about 30 percent of a qualified household's monthly income. The 150 new households added to the Oak Park list will be selected at random from all pre-applications received between 8:30 a.m. on Mon., March 14 and 3 p.m. on Fri., March 25. Pre-applications will only be accepted electronically through an online portal at www.oakparkha.org. Assistance completing the online pre-application is available through social service organizations listed on the Housing Authority website. The federally funded program uses a local preference, with 90 percent of the households on the waiting list being Oak Park residents or current or newly-hired employees of local businesses. The program currently provides vouchers to nearly 600 households within Oak Park. More information is posted online at www.oakparkha.org.

By the Numbers: A look at municipal service delivery in 2021

As COVID-19 continued to dominate the headlines, 2021 was yet another year of anything but business as usual for Oak Park's 350 full-time municipal employees. Even though mitigation measures began to ease the impact of the pandemic on municipal service delivery in 2021, Village employees still had to balance making sure core public services continued, while also keeping themselves, their colleagues and their customers safe. The streets still had to be plowed, water leaks fixed and building permits issued. The Fire and Police departments still had to respond effectively to thousands of requests, including 911 calls related to crimes and medical emergencies. The year also saw the Oak Park Department of Public Health — one of only a handful of state-certified municipal public health departments in Illinois — pivot from the formidable role of tracking and reporting information on positive COVID-19 cases to taking on the daunting task of vaccinating residents. So how did the Village do in 2021 with services beyond the pandemic? Here's snapshot of some of their activities from the year just ended...



COVID-19 RESPONSE

\$533,014 in business grants distributed to local businesses
28,155 vaccines doses provided to local healthcare providers
10,054 adults vaccinated at local clinics
4,468 hours contributed by local public health volunteers
5,238 children 18 and under vaccinated by the Health Department
121 Village-sponsored vaccine clinics held — 7 using the mobile van
27 Village-sponsored booster clinics held



COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

2,266,238 website page views
206,154 minutes of VOP-TV programming viewed on Village YouTube channel and other social media platforms
25,766 Village, Police, Fire and Pick Oak Park Facebook followers
19,462 minutes of video programming produced
11,126 Village and Police Twitter followers
8,194 Village and Pick Oak Park Instagram followers
5,900 enews list serve subscribers — 594,000 message sends



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

52,628 Police responses, including calls, traffic stops, vacation property checks and alarm/security checks
7,983 fire and emergency medical service calls — 4,587 for EMS
5,585 trees trimmed, 307 removed and 419 planted
2,767 tons of salt spread during 18 separate snow events
2,383 property code violations reviewed
1,239 fire hydrants tested, 56 repaired, 3 replaced
808 buildings inspected for fire safety
724 fire safety building plans reviewed
528 public health inspections performed
247 inspections of fire suppression equipment
145 health complaints investigated
11 new private security cameras registered — 134 videos uploaded for Police review (159 cameras registered since 2019)



BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

\$11,300,000 in sales and use taxes generated — \$9,700,000 by local businesses
\$2,197,930 in building permit fees collected
10,430 construction, commercial and residential property inspections performed
5,000 zoning-related building permits reviewed
5,501 building permit applications submitted — 100% online
2,268 historic preservation property renovation permits reviewed
1,107 business licenses issued, including for 100 new businesses
95 liquor licenses issued, including 8 new licenses



IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

4,139 feet of new water mains installed
3,709 potholes patched with 55.6 tons of asphalt
2,466 feet of sewers relined
1,956 sidewalk squares replaced and repaired
1,539 lane miles of streets swept
1,389 feet of new sewer main installed
922 street signs replaced
673 street lamps replaced
83 Sidewalk ramps upgraded to ADA standards
8 miles of bicycle lanes
3.3 miles of streets rebuilt and resurfaced
3.12 miles of sewer video inspected and cleaned — 16 tons of debris removed



SUSTAINING THE ENVIRON- MENT

\$340,500 in disposal fees saved by diverting 46 percent of all residential waste from landfills
236,000 gallons of storm water runoff diverted from sewers via 18 grant-funded residential flood control projects
10,871 tons of garbage hauled away
4,042 tons of household recyclables collected
2,090 tons of yard waste and food scraps composted, including from the 2,451 households participating in food scrap collection program
111 tons of household hazardous waste materials collected from 3,220 stops



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

\$1,889,092 in federal grants distributed to help low- and moderate-income residents and the homeless
\$295,415 allocated to support affordable housing programs
245,817 mobile parking meter transactions processed
114,243 overnight parking passes processed online
73,357 views of Village board and volunteer commission meetings
33,850 service requests answered by the Public Works Department Call Center
8,270 local ordinance and parking citations administratively adjudicated at Village Hall
2,071 requests processed under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act — 747 for Police reports and related documents
1,760 animals licensed
1,592 graffiti hits removed
1,024 community relations issues addressed, including tenant/landlord disputes and neighbor conflicts
287 block party requests processed
206 animals rescued
182 rental dwelling licenses issued
44 Sewer Backup Prevention Grants approved for \$151,882

New refuse hauler begins April 1

For the first time since the 1990s, a new refuse hauler will be in Oak Park's alleys come April 1. That's when Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) will take over the weekly collection of trash and recycling for residential properties with five or fewer units. The change should be seamless for most residents. Collection dates and rates will not change, nor will related services like composting and collection of electronic and hazardous waste, yard waste and bulk items. Even the annual fall leaf collection will continue as in past years. The final transition plans for the carts will be provided to residents in an updated brochure sent directly from LRS to all program participants. For details on the new vendor's collection approach, visit www.LRSrecycles.com/oakpark.

Hazardous waste collection...The special collection of household hazardous waste and latex paint will continue. To schedule a household hazardous waste collection, visit www.LRSrecycles.com/HHW or call 844.633.3577. LRS will begin accepting requests March 14.

Electronic waste collection...Electronic waste collection will be provided the second full week of each month. To schedule an electronic waste collection, visit www.LRSrecycles.com/ewaste or call 844.633.3577. LRS will begin accepting requests March 21.

Requesting changes...Residents may change the size of their garbage cart or request an extra recycling cart by contacting the Public Works Department at 708.358.5700 or publicworks@oak-park.us.

Composting...Residents currently enrolled in the compost program do not need register again and their service will continue uninterrupted. To sign up for the Village's compost program, visit www.oak-park.us/compost.

Yard waste and bulk item stickers...LRS will honor former vendor Waste Management's green yard waste and pink bulk item stickers until Sept. 2, 2022. Green and pink stickers may be purchased for \$3.10 each at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.; Sugar Beet Food Co-Op, 812 Madison St.; Pete's Fresh Market, 259 Lake St.; and Jewel Food Stores, 438 Madison St., 7036 Roosevelt Rd. and 7572 Lake St. in River Forest.

Yard waste...Yard waste is collected beginning the first full week of April through the last full week of November. Yard waste can be stored in a paper yard waste bag or a rigid container up to 30 gallons. Bundles of brush no larger than two feet in diameter, four feet in length and weighing no more than 50 pounds also may be placed out for collection. One green sticker is required per 30-gallon container, paper yard waste bag and bundles.

Bulk items...One pink refuse sticker is required for any additional bag or rigid container 30 gallons or less. Any item not placed inside the refuse cart exceeding 30 gallons is considered a bulk item and requires two stickers to be affixed.

Free 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 30 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 on this paper shredding event or recycling in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/recycling.

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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t twitter.com/vopnews

📺 youtube.com/vopnews



Oak Park vs. climate change: Share your priorities

Community feedback is key to the Village's efforts to develop a comprehensive climate plan that will guide Oak Park's sustainability efforts for years to come. Visit www.oak-park.us/climateplan to leave comments and share ideas related to environmental justice, healthy and sustainable food, open space and biodiversity, energy, housing, stormwater and flooding, transportation and more. The site also includes a wide range of information about the science behind climate change and its potential impacts. If you've already submitted feedback, consider organizing your own conversation about climate change with friends, family or colleagues using the DIY Meeting Kit available on the website. All input collected will be incorporated into the Village's *Comprehensive Sustainability and Climate Action Resiliency Plan* due later this year. Email sustainability@oak-park.us for more information.

Energy efficiency grants available... Up to \$10,000 in grant funds are available to Oak Park residents to reduce their home's consumption of energy. Help fight climate change and reduce monthly utility bills with energy efficient insulation, lighting, water heaters, faucets, air sealing, thermostats and solar panels. Get the process started at www.sustainoakpark.com.

COVID-19 News

The Oak Park Department of Public Health continues to assess various mitigation measures in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 as metrics steadily improve after the surge in cases brought on by the omicron variant earlier this winter. For the latest information about local COVID-19 measures and Oak Park's response to the pandemic, visit www.oak-park.us/covid19.

Minimize transmission...Although cases are declining and COVID-related requirements are relaxing across the state, health officials caution that the virus is still present. To help limit community transmission, Oak Parkers are urged to get vaccinated and boosted; test at the sign of any symptom; quarantine and isolate when necessary; limit high-risk exposures and wear masks in crowded settings.

Vaccination clinics...The Oak Park Health Department hosts COVID-19 vaccine and testing clinics for anyone age 5 and older at various locations throughout the community. Visit www.oak-park.us/vaccine for a list of upcoming clinic dates. The vaccinations are free. Individuals may sign up for their primary vaccine series or for a booster dose if eligible. If coming for a booster dose, be sure to bring your vaccine card. To request a visit from the Health Department's mobile response van, visit www.oak-park.us/mobilevanrequest or email covid19vaccines@oak-park.us.

Free at-home testing kits...Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests from the federal government. Orders made at www.covidtests.gov ship in seven to 12 days. Residents who live in multi-family buildings should include their unit or apartment number in the address line so the system recognizes the address as being different from other units in the building.

Vaccination verification...Illinois residents may download their vaccine record at idphportal.illinois.gov for easy access on the go. Vax Verify is available. To protect confidential health information, a brief, one-time identity verification process is required to gain access to one's immunization history.

Water meter upgrades continue

The Village will be upgrading more than 8,000 water meters that offer enhanced leak detection features and allow for improved remote use readings. The Village has hired Calumet City Plumbing to complete the water meter upgrades. Property owners who receive a letter from the Village asking them to call the company or visit its website to set up an appointment to replace the water meter are urged to respond promptly to get the best time slots. Crews need access to the property to complete the procedure, which should take no more than about 30 minutes. All meter technicians follow current COVID-19 safety protocols and sanitize their equipment daily. All work will be done by appointment and all installation crews will have Village of Oak Park identification badges. The Village has about 12,600 commercial and residential meters on the public water system. For more information on the program call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



View with a smartphone camera.



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



Village President Vicki Scaman

Trustees

Susan Buchanan
Lucia Robinson
Chibuike Enyia
Jim Taglia
Ravi Parakkat
Arti Walker-Peddakortla

Village Clerk

Christina M. Waters
Lisa Shelley

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

Board picks new Village Manager



Kevin J. Jackson has been selected by the Village Board to serve as the next Village Manager. Jackson, who is expected to assume the job on March 21, will be Oak Park's first Black Village Manager. Jackson, who most recently served as Deputy City Manager for Long Beach, Calif., was one of four finalists interviewed to be Oak Park's top municipal government administrator. He succeeds former Village Manager Cara Pavlicek who left in August to take a similar position in Northbrook. Prior to joining the City of Long Beach in 2017,

Jackson had spent more than nine years as Neighborhood Services Director for the City of Champaign, Ill. He holds a Master of Public Administration and undergraduate degrees from Arizona State University. His career in local government spans 25 years. The Village Manager position oversees all municipal government activities on a day-to-day basis and coordinates the operations of all departments. The Village worked with Northbrook-based executive search firm GovHR USA to conduct a national search for its new Village Manager. More information on the role and responsibilities of the Village Manager is posted at www.oak-park.us/villagemanager.

Register to vote at Village Hall

The Village Clerk, as the local election authority, registers voters for local, state and federal elections from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. If a currently registered resident moves even within Oak Park, the registration information must be transferred to the new address. Residents are urged to register in time to vote in the June Gubernatorial Primary. Call 708.358.5672, email clerk@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/clerk for more information on identification requirements. The Cook County Clerk also offers a wide range of election information and services at www.cookcountyclerk.il.gov/elections.



Historic preservation guidelines updated

The local Historic Preservation Ordinance and Architectural Review Guidelines that govern how buildings within Oak Park's three historical districts may be altered during repairs and remodeling projects were updated in February. While a majority of the Village's existing preservation-related requirements remained the same, these latest changes to the guidelines were crafted to provide more clarity and a streamlined review process, as well as additional educational resources to promote best preservation practices. The Village's three historic districts — the Ridgeland/Oak Park Historic District, Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District and Gunderson Historic District — comprise about a third of the Village and are designated locally and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Oak Park also has 11 buildings and one park listed on the National Register, in addition to more than 70 locally designated historic landmarks. For more information on historical preservation in Oak Park and to review the updated guidance, visit www.oak-park.us/historicpreservation.