

Follow policymaking online, on demand



The coming months will see Oak Park’s Village Board of Trustees continue to work toward its goals around affordability, safety, equity, vibrant neighborhoods and sustainability with a series of key policy discussions.

Included among the topics coming before the Village Board are reparations and a comprehensive review of policing. The Board is also engaged in discussions surrounding the implementation of Oak Park’s climate plan and the Village’s parking pilot program and will soon begin reviewing budget plans for next year.

Residents interested in keeping up with local municipal policymaking can follow Village Board meetings at www.oak-park.us/boardtv, where meetings are streamed live and archived for on-demand viewing.

The online meetings database offers the option to search the meetings archive using key words to find a particular topic of interest and sign up for alerts by topic.

Users also can select a video by meeting date and then choose to view only the portion of the meeting that addresses the topic of interest just by clicking on the agenda item.

In addition to streaming online, Village Board meetings are broadcast live on VOP-TV, which is available to Comcast subscribers on channel 6 and AT&T Uverse customers on channel 99.

For those residents who want to dig even deeper into the details, complete board packets — the materials trustees use to prepare for meetings — are posted at www.oak-park.us/boardtv, along with the approved minutes of past meetings, which are the official record of Village Board actions.

The page also links to information on how to contact officials by telephone and email.

For more information on Village board practices and processes, email village@oak-park.us.

Commenting on agenda items...

Every Village Board meeting includes an agenda with details on all items being considered. Residents are invited to review and submit comments, viewpoints and suggestions by email or telephone. Simply send a request to submit a public comment by 5 p.m. the day of the Village Board meeting to publiccomment@oak-park.us or by calling the Village Clerk’s Office at 708.358.5672.

Volunteers always needed...

As part-time lawmakers, the Village president and trustees rely on 20 advisory boards, commissions and committees to do much of the review work associated with particular issues. For more information on volunteering, visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Free youth skills workshop returns

Residents ages 15 to 18 are invited to learn skills and techniques that can help them find and keep a job at the Community Relations Department’s annual *Youth Skills Workshop* from 2 to 5 p.m. July 25-29 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake Street. Participants in the free workshops learn skills such as resume writing, interviewing, career path development and interpersonal relationships. The number of participants is limited. Visit www.oak-park.us/community for the online registration link or contact 708.358.5405 or community@oak-park.us for more information.



Mobile response van brings health services to community

The Oak Park Health Department is taking its mobile response van into the community to provide health checks and free COVID-19 testing and vaccinations. Be on the lookout for the mobile response van at community events such as the Oak Park Farmers' Market and Downtown Oak Park's Thursday Night Out. The mobile response van is available for public or private events that require special use permitting through the Village, such as block parties. The van is also available to provide onsite testing to employees of local businesses upon request. Find more information and submit a request for the mobile response van at www.oak-park.us/mobilevanrequest.

Health Department news

Childhood vaccines available... Be on the lookout for opportunities to access vaccinations for children from the Oak Park Health Department. As kids prepare to head back to school and participate in sports programs, the Health Department can provide COVID-19 vaccinations and booster shots. Find information about local COVID-19 vaccination opportunities at www.oak-park.us/vaccine. The Health Department can also provide back-to-school vaccinations required by public schools for those that are 18 and younger and uninsured or underinsured. To learn more about this program, including details about eligibility and how to receive these vaccines, visit www.oak-park.us/health, email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5480.

COVID-19 testing at summer camps... The Oak Park Health Department is offering free COVID-19 testing to summer camps throughout the community. Regular testing, such as the SHIELD tests provided by local schools during the school year, is key to containing the spread of the virus. By offering this service to summer camps, the Health Department hopes to fill the gap until school resumes in the fall. For more information about setting up free testing at summer camps, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

COVID-19 information... Find the latest information about Oak Park's COVID-19 response at www.oak-park.us/covid19. The page includes the Health Department's weekly status report bulletins with local case updates and links to information about local vaccine and testing clinics.

Help craft health strategic plan

The Oak Park Health Department is hosting a community meeting at noon on Tuesday, July 19 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St., as part of its ongoing effort to build its community health assessment and strategic plan, known as the *IPLAN*. During the meeting Health Department staff will share results of several community assessments and attendees will be able to participate in activities to help choose the topics that will be included in the final plan. Throughout the year, the Health Department provides services including animal licensing and control, health education, restaurant inspections, connections to local health care systems, emergency preparedness management and response, and communicable infection and disease prevention. As a state-certified health department, the Oak Park Health Department completes a community health assessment and strategic plan every five years that serves as a guide to local public health initiatives and programming. Visit www.oak-park.us/iplan22 for the latest updates about the project and information about opportunities for engagement during July and August.

Proper pruning helps ensure safe passage

Property owners are urged to keep their shrubs and trees along sidewalks and alleys properly trimmed to ensure safe passage by pedestrians and motorists. Blocking the public way not only creates hazards, it also is a local ordinance violation. Residents whose plantings create issues are asked to prune them back, but may be ticketed if they don't comply. For more information or to report an issue, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Vehicle license deadline nears

Every resident is required to purchase a license for each owned or leased motor vehicle before July 15. The rate increases by \$20 after the deadline. Failure to purchase a license also could result in a \$78 ticket. A current vehicle license is needed to purchase a parking permit. Vehicle license rates vary by type of vehicle. Persons age 65 and older, and anyone who has a state-issued handicapped license plate or placard, can apply for a discount. Disabled and active-duty veterans with the proper documentation can apply for free vehicle licenses. Purchase and renew online at www.oak-park.us/vehicle-license. For more information, call 708.358.7275, email parking@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Protect your vehicle from catalytic converter theft

The Oak Park Police Department urges residents to take steps to protect their vehicles from catalytic converter theft, which has become increasingly common throughout the region. Catalytic converters are part of a vehicle's exhaust systems. Precious metals used in the devices make them appealing to thieves, who can remove a catalytic converter in minutes, leaving vehicle owners with a costly repair bill. Officials suggest the following tips to help prevent catalytic converter thefts:

- Park in a garage or well-lit area when possible.
- If you park in a personal garage, keep the overhead door closed and lock any service doors.
- If you hear what sounds like an electric saw noise, especially at night, call 911 immediately.
- If you have a vehicle that is high up from the ground, consider having a mechanic install a security device that makes the converter harder to steal.

Police offer tips to deter bicycle thieves



Bicycle thefts tend to increase during warmer weather. Following these steps, police say, can help deter bicycle thieves:

- Register your bike with the Police Department at www.oak-park.us/bikeregistration. Should your bike be stolen and later recovered, the registration provides information about its rightful owner.
- Don't leave your bike unlocked or unattended. Police recommend a U lock.
- Lock your bike even when it is stored in a closed garage, enclosed porch or basement common area.
- Never let anyone you do not know take your bike for a ride.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel someone is going to take your bicycle, shout for help.
- Stay in the company of friends — there usually is safety in numbers.
- Think twice about resisting — your bike can be replaced.

Police urge parents to share these tips with their children. For more information, call 708.386.3800, email police@oak-park.us or talk to your residential beat officer. Contact information is posted at www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Bicycles and sidewalks...Riding on a sidewalk by anyone of any age is not allowed in the business districts, including downtown. And only those under 15 years of age may ride on a sidewalk anywhere else in the community. Youngsters riding on sidewalks always must yield to pedestrians. For more information on bicycle rules and safety, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Helmets required...Bicyclists under age 17 are required to wear a helmet in Oak Park. Enforcement focuses on education rather than punishment, but parents of repeat offenders could face a \$25 fine or be required to do community service. The local law is based on information from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration about injuries and deaths caused by bicyclists who have accidents while riding without a helmet. For more information about the helmet requirement, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Police Department installing automated license plate readers

The Oak Park Police Department is planning to install eight Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) units this summer at various locations in the community. ALPR systems capture an image of a vehicle's license plate, read the image using software, compare the plate number read against databases containing stolen vehicles and, ultimately, alert an officer when the system has captured the license plate of a vehicle of interest. Find more information and details about the Police Department's guidelines for use, privacy and storage on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/ALPR.

Be on alert for spongy moth

Oak Park residents are urged to keep an eye out for spongy moth this summer. The spongy moth is an invasive tree pest that feeds on many tree species but is especially problematic on oak trees. In large numbers they can defoliate a tree, and with several years of defoliation trees can experience severe decline. Oak Park is experiencing an outbreak in the area of Chicago and East avenues. Eggs have hatched and caterpillars are actively feeding. Village Forestry officials anticipate that caterpillars will pupate later this summer and white to tan colored moths will emerge. Females are flightless and can be found on the bark of tree trunks and larger limbs. They lay egg masses that are about 1.5 inches long, fuzzy and tan colored. When numbers are large, spongy moths can be found on other objects such as patio furniture, fences, signs and buildings. Residents can report suspected sightings on parkway trees to the Forestry Division at 708.358.5700 or publicworks@oak-park.us. If spongy moth is suspected on a private tree, please contact a certified arborist or the Morton Arboretum's Plant Clinic to learn more about the many management options. For more information about parkway tree care and maintenance, visit www.oak-park.us/trees.



West Nile threat returns

As temperatures rise, so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. Last year, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 64 human cases, 35 of which were in Cook County, and three deaths.

Take precautions... Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by wearing long sleeves and pants, limiting time spent outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and using insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol. Residents also are urged to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, storing containers upside down and emptying birdbaths every few days. For more information, call 708.358.5694, visit www.oak-park.us/fightthebite or email health@oak-park.us.

Report dead birds... If you see a dead bird call the West Nile Virus Hotline 708.358.5694 or email health@oak-park.us. Depending on the bird's condition and species, a Health Department staff member may pick up the carcass for testing.

Prevention efforts... The Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District treats all street catch basins with larvicide every seven to 10 days during the mosquito-breeding season. The abatement district also will treat catch basins on private property by request and pick up old vehicle tires. Call 708.447.1765 or visit www.desplainesvalleymad.com for more information.

Spraying notification... Residents who wish to be notified when the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District has scheduled spraying for adult mosquitoes can sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme. Registrants will be notified by an automated telephone system, email or text message as soon as possible following a decision to spray in Oak Park. Individuals without computer access may call 708.358.5694 to leave their phone number for telephone notification only. Visit www.desplainesvalleymad.com for information on spraying.

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

-  oak-park.us/enews
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-  youtube.com/vopnews

Block party season in full swing

The Village encourages block parties as a way to build community spirit, meet neighbors and have fun. Each block may sponsor two block parties per year, but the number of block parties on any given day must be regulated to ensure traffic flow. Since some weekends fill quickly, neighborhoods are urged to plan early to get preferred dates. A petition signed by at least 10 separate addresses on the block is required to schedule a block party. Approved petitions allow the neighborhood to close off a street to vehicle traffic for the entire day. Petitions must be returned two weeks before the date of the block party. Reserve a block party date and download the block party petition form on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/blockparties. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Make it green... Oak Parkers are invited to go green at their next block party. Residents who sign up for a green block party receive a kit that includes compostable bags and pop-up waste sorting boxes with signage indicating what waste goes where. More information and an online sign-up form are posted at www.oak-park.us/greenblockparties.

Open windows may invite burglars

Residents who leave their windows and patio doors open overnight to catch a summer evening breeze could unwittingly become targets of burglars. Oak Park Police urge residents to use devices that prevent entry by limiting travel of the sash or door. Making sure patio furniture cannot be used as a makeshift ladder to reach higher windows also is important. Residential Beat Officers are available to provide security tips and even an assessment of one's home. To contact your RBO, visit www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Electricity rates expected to rise

Village officials are alerting residents about an anticipated surge in electricity supply rates that could bring about an increase in electric bills. This summer ComEd's published electricity supply rates are projected to increase 15 to 25 percent from the previous year across northern Illinois. Wholesale fuel supply costs, regional power plant retirements and increased demand for electricity are the main causes for the increase, experts say.

Assistance available... Oak Park residents in need of assistance paying electric utility bills can contact ComEd at 1.800.334.7661 or find information about payment assistance programs at www.comed.com. Income-eligible residents can also receive assistance with electric utility bills through the *Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program* (LIHEAP). For more information and assistance, call 708.383.8060 to make an appointment with an Oak Park Township counselor. Information about LIHEAP and free home weatherization improvements for qualified households is also available at www.cedaorg.net.

Impact on aggregation program... Many Oak Park residents are part of the Village's municipal aggregation purchasing program, which ensures participating residents and small businesses pay the same published tariff rates as ComEd's monthly basic electric service. The electricity supplier for the municipal aggregation purchasing program is mc2. Although there is no risk of paying more than you would otherwise pay as a ComEd tariff supplied customer under the program, residents enrolled in the municipal aggregation purchasing program will nonetheless likely see an increase in electricity costs due to the increase within the ComEd electricity supply rates. Residents are reminded that under Oak Park's municipal aggregation purchasing program there is no cost difference between being served by mc2 or receiving electricity supply service from ComEd's basic tariff, and there are no early termination fees for those who do not wish to be served by mc2 under the aggregation program. More information about the Village's municipal aggregation is available at www.oak-park.us/aggregation.

Community solar helps lower costs... Residents seeking to save money on monthly electricity costs may also participate in the Village's *Community Solar Guaranteed Savings Program*, whereby participating residents save money each month via community solar generation credits that are applied to their monthly ComEd invoices. To learn more about this program, visit oakparksolar.mc2energyservices.com.

Avoid risks around downed power lines



When severe weather brings down power lines, public safety personnel urge residents to be aware of the danger. Their advice — always assume power lines are live, since even momentary contact with a live power line can injure or kill. If a power line comes down, ideally, a firefighter or police officer will stand by the site until utility workers arrive. But when emergency conditions are widespread, personnel may not be available for this level of service. In those instances, affected streets or alleys are blocked and the area around the downed wire isolated by yellow warning tape. Residents who see a downed power line should call 911 right away and report the location. For more information, call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us.

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
Chibuike Enyia
Jim Taglia
Ravi Parakkat
Arti Walker-Peddakortla
Christina M. Waters
Kevin J. Jackson

Village Clerk
Village Manager

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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



spend, they receive a \$1 coupon up to a maximum of \$25 in coupons per cardholder per Market day. Many vendors also accept WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupons. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Transportation available... Curb-to-curb transportation to and from the Oak Park Farmers' Market is available every Saturday. Look for the Oak Park Township bus at the Market entrance during Market hours. The wheelchair-accessible bus will transport shoppers to locations within Oak Park and River Forest. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling 708.383.4806 between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A \$1 donation is suggested.

About the Market... Visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket for updated information about what's coming up at the Market, including information about bake sales and special events. The webpage also features information about all of the Market's vendors. The Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine every Saturday through October in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot, 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Ave. For more information, call 708.358.5780 or email farmersmarket@oak-park.us.



New logo... Be on the lookout for the new Oak Park Farmers' Market logo, which was recently unveiled. The logo was developed through a process overseen by the Village's Farmers' Market Commission. The logo is featured on souvenir merchandise available at the Market's information tent. Sales of the merchandise helps support the operation of the Market.

Corn roast... The Farmers' Market's annual corn roast is set for Aug. 6. Guests can enjoy fresh-picked corn sold by the ear hot off the roaster from about 9 a.m. to noon. Be sure to bring cash as credit cards are not accepted when purchasing roasted corn.

SNAP/LINK among payment options... Making fresh produce affordable for all patrons is a priority at the Oak Park Farmers' Market, which has been providing SNAP/LINK card processing since 2011. The Market also offers matching value coupons throughout the season. For each dollar SNAP/LINK participants