

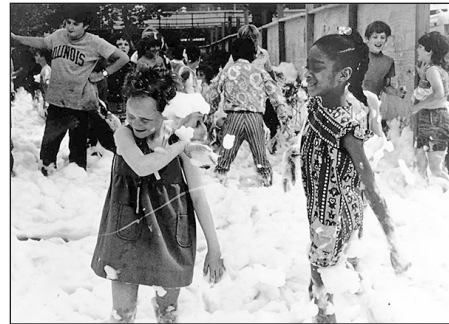
MAY/JUNE 2024

OP/FYI

A NEWSLETTER
FROM THE
VILLAGE OF
OAK PARK

VOLUME 36 · ISSUE 3

A Day in Our Village celebrating 50 years on June 2



An Oak Park celebration five decades in the making is coming Sun., June 2.

The 50th A Day in Our Village festival is set for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue.

The premier community event serves as an annual celebration of Oak Park's diversity and community involvement, and organizers are busy planning a memorable day worthy of this year's half-century milestone.

Live music, food and extensive activities for kids — including the return of fun with foam — are a few of the highlights in store.

At its core, A Day in Our Village has always provided an opportunity to showcase the variety of ways to get involved in community life. In keeping with that tradition, more than 100 activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social



service, educational and religious organizations will fill the park.

A wide array of live music acts ranging from jazz and big band to rock and R&B will perform on the Scoville Park stage. A food court featuring local restaurants will be located near the entrance to the Oak Park Public Library.

Young Oak Parkers will want to check out the activities for kids on the north side of the park along

Ontario Street between Oak Park Avenue and Grove Avenue — which will be closed to vehicle traffic during the event. Families will find other activities for kids throughout the park, including the return of a bubble foam machine managed by the Park District of Oak Park in a nod to A Day in Our Village tradition from previous decades.

Volunteers are needed to assist the day of the event, especially from around 3 to 4:30 p.m. Visit www.oak-park.us/CommunityEvents for more information about signing up to volunteer.

A Day in Our Village is organized and sponsored by the Village and made possible thanks to support from the A Day in Our Village volunteer committee. For more information, call 708.358.5405, email community@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/dayinourvillage.

Blast Off to Kindergarten community event set for May 19

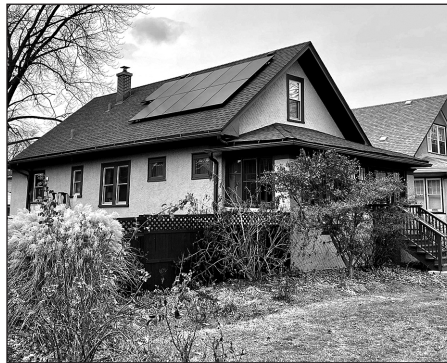
All children and families who will be starting kindergarten at any school in Oak Park this fall are invited to the Blast Off to Kindergarten community event from 10 a.m. to noon on Sun., May 19 at Rehm Park, 1000 S.

Scoville Ave. Hosted by the Collaboration for Early Childhood, the space-themed event is designed to celebrate incoming kindergarteners and connect families to community resources that will help promote a smooth transition to kindergarten for everyone involved. The event will feature early learning programs, after school programs, Oak Park Elementary School District 97 staff, school administrators and staff from Oak Park kindergarten programs as well as parent teacher organizations from local schools. More information about the event is available at www.collab4kids.org/blast-off-to-k.



Neighbor-to-neighbor climate coaching available

Oak Parkers interested in making their homes and properties more climate friendly are invited to access resources and technical support provided by fellow community members. Oak Park's neighborhood climate coaching initiative is a partnership between the Village and the volunteer group Oak Park Climate Action Network (OPCAN) that offers a peer-expert advisory service to help residents navigate various pathways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including home insulation and energy retrofits, heat pumps, rooftop and community solar, geothermal systems and electric vehicle (EV) adoption.



A wide range of resources are available at www.opcan.org, including a roadmap to electrification and in-depth information on cost estimates. The website also includes links to relevant financial incentives, all intended to serve renters, landlords and homeowners at all income levels. Additionally, the OPCAN website serves as a portal to connect community members to individualized neighbor-to-neighbor climate coaching provided by residents with expertise and experience in a range of climate solutions, from home energy assessments to native gardening to EV charging. Village officials say the majority of Oak Park's greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy used to heat and cool homes and buildings in the community. Reducing those emissions not only benefits the environment, it also makes homes and workplaces healthier and more comfortable, while lowering energy costs. Although OPCAN is an organization that operates separately from the Village, and the Village does not endorse any specific contractors listed on OPCAN's website, Village officials nonetheless support community members working together to share resources that can help reduce Oak Park's collective carbon footprint. For more information about the Village's efforts related to environmental sustainability, contact sustainability@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5770.

Vision Zero team working on traffic safety recommendations

The Vision Zero project is midway through the planning process, and the project team is hard at work drafting recommendations for how to improve traffic safety in Oak Park. Findings from crash data, policy review, community engagement and discussions with key stakeholders are all supporting the development of the plan. Learn more about the project's findings under the "Documents" section at www.engageoakpark.com/visionzero.



The planning process will continue into this fall. So far, the project team has gathered and analyzed more than 900 pieces of community feedback through survey responses and open house activities. Residents will have more opportunities to provide feedback on the draft plan before it is finalized. Visit the Public Works Department's booth at A Day in Our Village on Sun., June 2, to learn more about Vision Zero's progress and details about the next public open house.

Village planning Juneteenth, Pride celebrations

The entire community is invited to join in Oak Park's celebration of Juneteenth and Pride Month. The Village is working with community organizers to develop festivities featuring food, entertainment and more for both family-friendly events. Details about the Juneteenth celebration will be posted at www.oak-park.us/juneteenth as they are finalized. Information about the Pride Month event will be posted at www.oak-park.us/pridemonth. For more information or to volunteer to help plan the events, call 708.358.5408, email community@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/communityevents.

Parking restrictions eased for holidays

As a courtesy to residents and their guests, overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during several holidays in the year ahead. Restrictions will remain in effect in areas reserved for overnight permit holders. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. For more information on parking in Oak Park call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us.

- **Memorial Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m. Sat., May 25 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., May 29.
- **July 4** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., July 3 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Mon., July 8.
- **Labor Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., August 31 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., September 4.
- **Thanksgiving** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., November 27 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Mon., December 2.
- **Christmas/New Year** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., December 21 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., January 6.

July 4th parade to showcase diversity

The many dimensions of Oak Park will be on display when the annual July 4th parade steps off at 10 a.m. on July 4 from Longfellow Park at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street. Parade participants march north on Ridgeland Avenue to Augusta Street and disperse at Whittier School. The route offers many viewing opportunities along the way. Local organizations and businesses are invited to bring a float, march, play music, carry banners, ride bicycles, skate, drive vintage cars or just dress up to commemorate the nation's birthday. Groups interested in participating can register on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/parade. For more information or to volunteer to help out at the parade, call 708.358.5408, email community@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/communityevents.



Village hosting martial arts camp

The Village is sponsoring a free Summer Martial Arts Camp for kids ages 6 through 14 who live or attend school in Oak Park. The camp will be held July 10-12 in the Julian Middle School gymnasium. The sessions will be conducted by experienced instructors with years of experience teaching martial arts who will focus on physical fitness and discipline. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information and to access a registration packet, visit www.oak-park.us/MAcamp, call 708.358.5630 or email youth@oak-park.us.

Compost program diverts waste from landfills

The Village offers a food scrap composting collection program for residential households of up to five units. Participants receive a gray 96-gallon cart for weekly collection of organics, a three-gallon food scrap kitchen pail and a sample of compostable bags for food scraps. Both yard waste and food scraps may be placed in the organics cart, eliminating the need to purchase yard waste stickers. An organic cart subscription costs \$16.31 per month, which is about the cost of one yard-waste sticker and one yard-waste bag per week. Residents can share an organic cart with one other neighbor to reduce the monthly cost. More details and an online registration form are available at www.oak-park.us/compostable. For more information, email compostable@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5700.

Composting for apartment dwellers...In an effort to encourage composting among all residents, the Village has kitchen compost pails available for purchase for \$10 per pail at the cashier's window at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The pails help simplify collection of food scraps for disposal at one of five free compost drop-off locations in the community. Each pail includes a screen-printed list of acceptable and unacceptable items and a vented lid that provides maximum odor control and air circulation. While the CompostAble collection program is only available to residential households of up to five units served by the Village's waste-hauling contract, residents who live in multifamily buildings or are otherwise not enrolled in the program may leave food scraps in the clearly labeled carts at one of five locations in the Village. Visit www.oak-park.us/compostmap for a printable map of the drop-off locations:

- **102 N. Lombard Ave.** – Adjacent to Central Water Pump Station
- **1125 Ontario Ave.** – Holley Court Parking Garage at the Marion Street entrance/exit near the bicycle racks
- **720 North Blvd.** – Avenue Parking Garage near main entrance
- **1010 N. Ridgeland Ave.** – North Water Pump Station near corner of Ridgeland and Berkshire Street
- **207 Garfield St.** – Adjacent to the South Water Pump Station

OPRF hosting community block party

Join Oak Park and River Forest High School for an exciting day featuring the legendary alumni band The Jade 50's, a variety of food trucks, face painting, bounce houses and numerous other family-friendly activities from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sun., May 19. The fun will take place on the west side of the OPRF building, 201 N. Scoville Ave., where attendees will have a chance to take a lap on the school's new track. The event is being held as part of the ongoing celebration of OPRF's 150th anniversary.

What's Blooming on Harrison...The Oak Park Arts District's annual What's Blooming on Harrison street festival is taking place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sat., May 18. The family-oriented event will once again feature an art fair, children's carnival, music stage, food and more. Find more information at www.oakparkartsdistrict.com.

Thursday Night Out...Downtown Oak Park's popular dine-around series Thursday Night Out is set to take place from 5 to 9 p.m. every Thursday from June 6 to August 29. The event features restaurants in the downtown business district along Lake and Marion streets offering a variety of drinks, appetizers, entrees and desserts on the Thursday Night Out menu, with the option of eating in or carrying out. Tables are also set up along Marion Street for patrons to enjoy dining al fresco. More information is at www.thursdaynightout.com.

Construction updates

Lot 10 upgrades underway...Changes are coming to Lot 10, the frequently-used parking lot situated along North Boulevard between Marion Street and Forest Avenue in the Downtown Oak Park business district. Construction began this spring with sidewalk replacement along the business frontage north of the parking lot that will be followed by a 4-6 week closure of the lot as crews install water permeable brick pavers at the site as part of green infrastructure upgrades. When work is complete, the lot will feature a new traffic pattern with cars entering from Forest and traveling west toward Marion. New angled parking will allow more sidewalk space along the business frontage to better accommodate outdoor dining, sidewalk sales and other special events that occur in Lot 10 throughout the year. The project will also include the resurfacing of North Boulevard between Marion and Forest. Officials anticipate Lot 10 will reopen this summer prior to special events scheduled for August and September.

Oak Park Avenue project coming in 2025...The Village continues to move forward with planning and design for the streetscape and utility infrastructure project on Oak Park Avenue in the Hemingway Business District. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2025 and be substantially completed in November 2025. The project will bring much-needed water, sewer and infrastructure improvements and a new streetscape on Oak Park Avenue generally between Pleasant Street and Ontario Street. The project will include new sidewalks, roadways, lighting and furniture and will create new public gathering spaces. The design team is progressing on the infrastructure and streetscape design after engaging with the Hemingway Business District, Chicago Transit Authority and Union Pacific on proposed improvements. The Village has also begun working with artists from across the nation to explore art installations for the project. The Village will host its second open house related to the project in June and will also be at A Day in Our Village on Sun., June 2 in Scoville Park to share the latest project design and field questions from the community. More information about the project is at www.renewtheavenue.com.

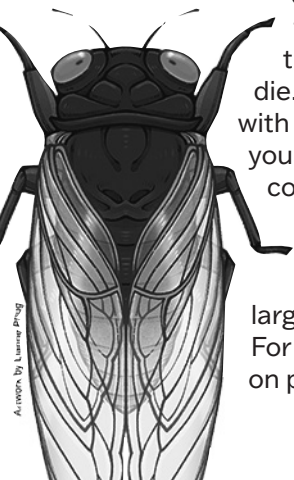
Keep track of construction progress online...Keep track of the latest information regarding construction projects in the Village at www.oak-park.us/construction. Simply click the project updates tab at the top of the page for regular updates on specific projects. The site also includes an interactive map that residents can use to track major construction work.

Cicadas are coming!

Periodic cicadas will return to Oak Park this spring. The notoriously noisy insects have been living underground for the past 17 years. Their emergence is a highly coordinated, natural phenomena in our region during which large numbers of cicadas appear around the same time in May and early June. While cicadas do little damage, the noise produced by large numbers

of cicadas can be quite noticeable. While adult cicadas don't feed on trees, they do repeatedly drill into small stems to lay their eggs. Occasionally, this can cause smaller branches to die. This rarely impacts a tree's health unless it is small in size with few branches and a trunk less than 2 inches in diameter. If you have a small tree that you are concerned about, consider covering it with fine netting prior to the cicadas emerging.

Planting small trees can also be delayed until after the cicada emergence is over. Almost all of the trees that are part of the Village's spring tree planting program will be large enough in size to withstand the emergence of the cicadas. For more information about the care of the nearly 18,000 trees on public property, visit www.oak-park.us/trees.



Vehicle license sales underway

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local vehicle license before July 15. The rate increases by \$20 after the deadline. Vehicle licenses must be renewed annually. Renewal applications are mailed in May to residents who previously registered vehicles in Oak Park. Failure to purchase a license also could result in a ticket. A current vehicle license is needed to purchase a parking permit. Windshield decals are no longer issued as parking enforcement officers now use remote electronic recognition technology to scan license plates to ensure compliance. Vehicle license rates vary by type of vehicle, with discounts for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and active-duty veterans. For more information call 708.358.7275, email parking@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/vehiclelicenseinfo.

Pet license registration available online

A telephone call from Animal Control is all it takes to reunite lost or strayed pets with their owners — provided those pets have been licensed and are wearing tags. All dogs and outdoor cats in Oak Park are required to be licensed annually. Owners must show proof of a current rabies inoculation before a license will be issued. The annual license fee of \$25 is reduced to \$10 for a spayed or neutered animal. Residents can register online at www.oak-park.us/villageview. The Village has implemented a new animal licensing system, so pet owners who are renewing their license will be required to register each pet for this first year of implementation. For more information, call 708.358.5486, email health@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/animalcontrol.



Village implements Urban Forest Management Plan

Earlier this year the Village Board approved Oak Park's first Urban Forest Management Plan. The plan is intended to serve as a living document that will guide the Village Forestry Division's actions for the next 20 years. Goals include increasing the community's tree canopy cover, maximizing the benefits parkway trees provide, mitigating the effects of climate change and ensuring tree equity throughout Oak Park. The creation of the Urban Forest Management Plan also satisfies a goal spelled out in the Climate Ready Oak Park plan adopted in 2022. Residents are invited to read the Urban Forest Management Plan at www.oak-park.us/ufmp.

Tree City USA recognition...The Arbor Day Foundation named Oak Park a 2023 Tree City USA recipient for its commitment to managing its urban forest. This is the 40th year the Village has been recognized for this achievement. Additionally, the Village received a Growth Award for the 17th time for continuing to grow its forestry program. Steps taken by the Village in the past year include updating Oak Park's parkway tree inventory, planting more trees than were removed and maintaining the community's younger trees. For more information about how the Village cares for the nearly 18,000 trees on public property, visit www.oak-park.us/trees.

News You Can Use

Water quality report available online...Oak Park residents interested in knowing about the quality of the water they drink can find the latest annual report at www.oak-park.us/waterqualityreport. Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires communities to provide details on the quality of the local drinking water. In addition to analysis results for regulated and unregulated substances in the water, the report also includes facts about the community's drinking water delivery system and source. An archive of past water quality reports is posted at www.oak-park.us/waterquality. For more information about Oak Park's drinking water or to request a paper copy of the annual water report, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Fire Department offers CPR training...The Oak Park Fire Department offers a variety of life-saving classes, including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Classes are held in the Fire Department's American Heart Association-certified community training center at the main fire station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. All courses are taught by an AHA-certified instructor. Fees vary by type of class and residency. In-person registration is required, and class sizes are limited. Find the class schedule and more information about the various types of training at www.oak-park.us/cpr.

Free mediation services available...The Village offers free mediation services to help landlords and tenants, as well other residents, resolve issues that may be disrupting quality of life. Cases can include disputes about a lease violation, a dispute with a noisy neighbor or even a dispute over property lines. Participation is voluntary. Agreements are made between the parties and are not enforced by the Village. To learn more, email DEI@oak-park.us.

Public Health News

Opioid overdose prevention...The Oak Park Public Health Department is celebrating one year of its Opioid Overdose Prevention project, an initiative that aims to make the life-saving medication Naloxone (commonly known as Narcan) freely available to the community. One way to access free Narcan in Oak Park is via the project's seven boxes around the Village, most of which are accessible 24 hours a day. Over the course of the past year, community members have taken more than 700 opioid overdose prevention pouches from the boxes, totaling more than 1,400 doses of Narcan. Public Health Department staff have also hosted trainings for community groups and organizations that focus on how to administer Narcan and the principles of harm reduction. Including trainings and community events, the project has distributed more than 950 kits since its launch. As the project heads into its second year, public health staff encourage individuals, organizations or businesses interested in a training or obtaining free Narcan to contact 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us. More information about the project, including a map of where to obtain free Narcan, is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/overdoseprevention.

Blood donations needed...The U.S. is experiencing a national blood shortage and facing the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. The Oak Park Public Health Department is encouraging as many Oak Parkers as possible to give blood. Blood donations are needed now to alleviate the shortage and ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not delayed. One donation can save up to three lives. The Public Health Department along with other Village of Oak Park partners will be hosting blood donation events throughout the summer and fall. Check for upcoming dates on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/blood-drive. Individuals willing to donate blood can also find nearby donation sites and dates by visiting the Red Cross website at www.redcross.org/give-blood.

View with a smartphone camera.



Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Village President Vicki Scaman
Trustees
Susan Buchanan
Lucia Robinson
Chibuike Enyia
Brian D. Straw
Ravi Parakkat
Cory J. Wesley
Village Clerk Christina M. Waters
Village Manager Kevin J. Jackson

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



OP/FM

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Farmers' Market begins 49th season on May 18

The Oak Park Farmers' Market returns for its 49th season on May 18. The Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from opening day through October in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot, 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. More than two dozen independent farmers and producers participate in the Farmers' Market, offering everything from fresh fruits and vegetables to meat, fish, cheese, eggs, flowers, bread, grains and honey. The Market also features donuts made on-site, fresh coffee and live bluegrass music. Non-profit bake sales are offered most Saturdays. A majority of vendors accept credit/debit cards, as well as WIC and senior coupons. All vendors accept LINK cards. Special events are held throughout the season, starting



with Go Green Days on opening day and May 25 highlighting sustainability efforts in Oak Park. Support for Market administration comes from sales of a variety of items available at the information tent, including reusable shopping bags and t-shirts. For more information call 708.358.5780, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Volunteers needed...Volunteers are essential to helping ensure the

smooth running of the Farmers' Market throughout the season. Referred to as Friends of the Market, these volunteers typically serve two-hour shifts on Market days. Volunteer tasks include staffing the on-site information booth, assisting with special events, answering shoppers' questions, helping sell Market merchandise and directing visitors around the site. For more information about becoming a Friend of the Market, call 708.358.5780 or email farmersmarket@oak-park.us.

Make parking simpler with the ParkOakPark app

A one-stop shop for all things related to parking in Oak Park is available via ParkOakPark, a custom mobile application that centralizes Oak Park parking services. The app, powered by Passport Parking, includes mobile pay-by-license-plate parking, permit and vehicle license sales, parking citation payment/management and an EV charging station locator. The app is available for download from the App Store or Google Play. Parkers familiar with Passport Parking may continue to also utilize the Passport Parking app for pay-by-license-plate parking sessions. The one-stop ParkOakPark app was designed to empower users to conveniently access various parking services in one easy-to-use app on their smartphone, whether they utilize public parking on a daily basis or for occasional visits to Oak Park's business districts. For more information, visit www.parkoakpark.org or email parking@oak-park.us.