

Snowfall may trigger parking restrictions

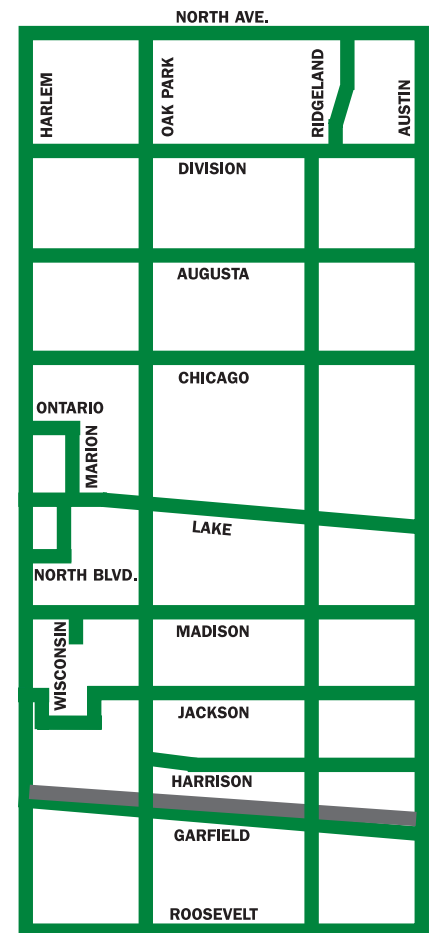
With winter weather on the way, now is the time to brush up on the Village's Emergency Snow Removal Parking Plan. After a two-inch snowfall, the following parking rules are enforced seven days a week, including holidays:

- 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.

The purpose of the plan is to ensure access by emergency vehicles,



improve traffic movement and allow snow removal equipment to operate quickly and efficiently. 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.



Snow Route Map

Landlords required to provide heat

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 inside the apartment 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 contacting 708.358.5410 or housing@oak-park.us. More information is posted at www.oak-park.us/housing.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers 24/7 support

A new three-digit number is now available for all Illinoisans experiencing a mental health crisis or those seeking other kinds of support related to suicide, mental health or substance use. By dialing 988, a caller will be connected to information, support and compassionate care from trained experts, either from one of six call centers in Illinois, or affiliates from a national network of providers. 988 callers will have the option of being connected to the Veterans Crisis Line, Spanish Language Crisis Line or the Illinois Lifeline to receive specialized, individualized support by call-takers trained in suicide prevention, de-escalation and stabilization. 988 is confidential, free, and available 24 hours a day. In the coming months, there are plans for text and chat services as well. Visit www.988lifeline.org for more information.



Carbon monoxide detectors save lives

An investment of about \$30 for a detector can be the difference in life and death when it comes to deadly carbon monoxide, an odorless and tasteless gas that can leak into one's home from a malfunctioning gas appliance, such as a furnace or water heater.

Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. That's why state law requires homeowners and landlords to install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping.

Alarms can be battery powered, plug-in with battery backup or wired into the AC power line with a secondary battery backup. The alarm also can be combined with a smoke detector if the unit complies with established standards and the alarm differentiates the hazard.

The property owner must supply and install all required alarms. Landlords must ensure that alarms are operable on the date a lease is initiated. While tenants are responsible for testing and maintaining the alarm after the lease commences, landlords must provide written instructions.

Carbon monoxide detectors are not substitutes for smoke detectors, Fire Department officials caution, so both devices are essential.

For more information, call 708.358.5600 or email fire@oak-park.us.

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.



Consideration urged before painting historic masonry

Oak Park is nationally known for its historic buildings, many of which are masonry. These range from courtyard apartment buildings and Craftsman bungalows to designs by Frank Lloyd Wright. Painting masonry has become a popular way to update a historic building, but it may not always be appropriate. Some things to consider before painting:

- Painting masonry that has not historically been painted is not recommended.
- Paint can seal in water, causing the masonry to deteriorate and paint to peel.
- Paint requires its own upkeep and may hinder needed masonry repairs. It may hide structural issues until they become severe.
- Paint is difficult to remove without additional damage. Remove using the gentlest method possible.
- Masonry often features details like decorative patterns and dentils. These showcase your building's design and workmanship and may be obscured by paint.
- If the exterior of a masonry or stucco surface has been compromised, appropriate paint can provide some protection. However, if done improperly, it will cause increased damage.
- Historically painted masonry should be regularly maintained using appropriate preparation, colors, and materials.

Additional information can be found in the Historic Preservation Commission's Architectural Review Guidelines at www.oak-park.us/ARguidelines.

For more information about historic preservation in Oak Park, contact historicpreservation@oak-park.us or 708.358.5440.

Electricity aggregation supports renewable initiatives

The Village has extended its electricity aggregation contract with Chicago-based MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (mc2) through December 2025. The contract ensures aggregation participants will never pay more than those customers whose electricity is supplied by ComEd. In addition, the contract will provide monthly revenue for the Community Choice Aggregation Fund, used to support priority renewable energy and energy efficiency projects identified within Climate Ready Oak Park, the community's sustainability, climate action and resiliency plan.

About aggregation...Electricity aggregation allows municipalities to bundle residential and smaller business accounts, then use competitive bidding to seek lower rates from alternate suppliers. Aggregation does not alter the actual delivery of electricity, which is provided by ComEd. In fact, consumers have the option of choosing from retail electric suppliers approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Officials urge those who elect to choose an electricity provider from the state's list to read the fine print carefully. Contracts may contain unexpected fees and penalties to cancel. Find answers to frequently asked questions related to electricity aggregation at www.oak-park.us/aggregationFAQs.

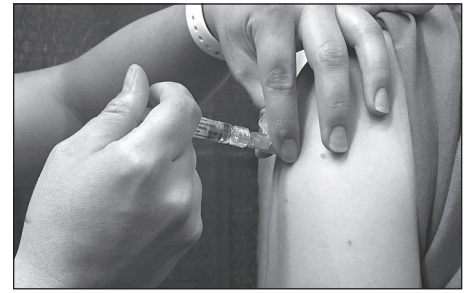
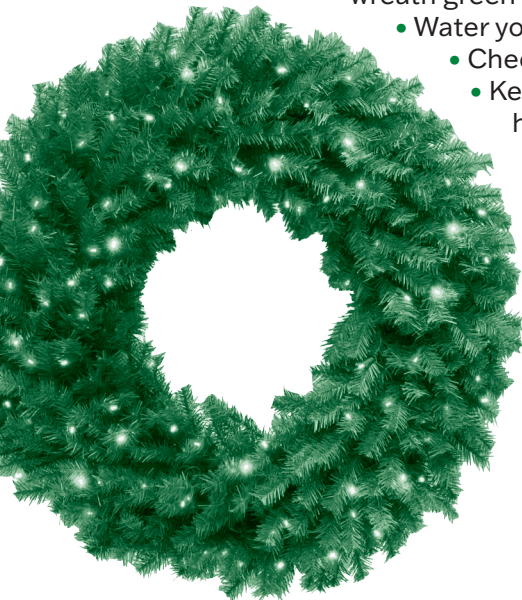
Sign up for Community Solar...Oak Park residents and small businesses can also sign up to participate in the Village's Community Solar program, which allows subscribers to support clean energy generation in Illinois and reduce their monthly electricity bills without installing or maintaining solar panels on their property. Visit www.oak-park.us/communitysolarsignup for more information and to sign up.

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 its Keep the Wreath Green holiday safety campaign. From Nov. 25 until Jan. 1, 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.



Health Department News

Not too late for a flu shot... Getting vaccinated against the flu in November or even December is not too late. Vaccination is a key strategy to reduce the spread of the flu in Oak Park this winter, and health officials recommend that everyone older than six months get vaccinated every year. The flu vaccine is offered at numerous medical providers, commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area. Visit www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines to search for a flu vaccine. Most of these sites accept private insurances and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Residents also can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5480 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

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.

Monkeypox (MPV) information... The Oak Park Health Department has resources and information to keep residents informed when it comes to the monkeypox virus or MPV at www.oak-park.us/communicable-diseases. The page includes the Health Department's weekly status report bulletins and information about symptoms, preventing the spread and how to get a vaccine.

Johnson named Oak Park's first female Chief of Police



Shatonya Johnson was recently appointed as Oak Park Police Chief following a comprehensive national search.

Johnson is the first female to hold the position of Police Chief since the Village was incorporated in 1903. Now in her 23rd year with the Oak Park Police Department, she most recently has served as Interim Chief since April following the retirement of former Police Chief LaDon Reynolds.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected to serve as the first female Chief of Police for the Village of Oak Park," said Johnson. "It is truly historic! I take tremendous pride in serving (the community) with dignity and respect. As a leader, I value community engagement and I will continue to instill this concept of policing within our department. I am excited to embrace my new role alongside the talented men and women of the Oak Park Police Department as we strive to provide excellent police services."

Johnson began serving Oak Park as a patrol officer in 2000. Since that time, she has also worked diligently in the community as a neighborhood resource officer, juvenile specialist, detective, internal affairs sergeant, detective commander, Deputy Chief and Interim Chief.

Prior to arriving in Oak Park, Johnson served in a variety of public service roles, including as a case manager with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, a correctional officer at the Will County Jail, and a patrol officer for the Cook County Forest Preserves. Additionally, Johnson was an adjunct professor of juvenile justice at MacCormac College.

Johnson holds a master's degree in Organizational Behavior/Organizational Development from Benedictine University and a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University. She is also a graduate of the Public Safety Staff and Command School at Northwestern University and the Senior Management Institute of Police in Boston.

More information about the Oak Park Police Department is available at www.oak-park.us/police.

New Chief Communications Officer



The Village filled a key leadership position this October when Dan Yopchick was named Chief Communications Officer. Yopchick has worked in communications for more than 15 years, most recently serving as Senior Associate Athletic Director of Strategic Communications with the University of Illinois Chicago. In addition to his most recent role at UIC, Yopchick previously worked for Northwestern University and held roles with the Chicago White Sox and the Bakersfield Blitz. He

holds a master's degree from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa. Oak Park's Communications Department is responsible for managing all formal conduits of information between the Village organization and the community, playing a critical role in ensuring transparency in policy making, implementation and oversight. The Communications Department oversees external and internal communications using proven public information tools including social media, the web, print and broadcast/streaming media. For more information about the Communications Department, visit www.oak-park.us/publicinformation or contact 708.358.5770 or village@oak-park.us.

Residents urged to support local businesses

Shopping at an Oak Park business this holiday season helps strengthen the local economy and 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...Have you started to plan your holiday shopping? This year, Pick Oak Park and shop local. Get inspired and plan for your holiday shopping by visiting www.pickoakpark.com, an online directory that offers information on more than 900 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.

Shop local, park free

Shopping local will be easier than ever beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving through Dec. 24 when parking will be free Saturdays in the three Village-operated 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 throughout the year. Village officials say they hope this small gesture will benefit both customers and the businesses they patronize. For more information about parking in the Village, email parking@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Police offer tips to help deter package delivery thefts

The popularity of online shopping means there are more opportunities for thieves to steal packages from porches and doorways. The Oak Park Police Department is urging residents to take proactive steps to help prevent package delivery thefts. The increase in package thefts is not unique to Oak Park. Police say communities across the country are grappling with this crime of opportunity. To protect your purchases from getting swiped from your porch or foyer, Oak Park Police recommend taking the following steps:

- If you are expecting deliveries but know you won't be home, make arrangements with friends, family or neighbors so that packages will not be left out where thieves can get them.
- Request a signature required upon delivery if you are working from home.
- Check with your online retailer about options for delivering packages to an affiliated business or secure location, such as a locker.
- Designate packages be delivered to the post office, if the option is available.
- Sign up for delivery notifications via email or through a smart phone app, being sure not to delay picking up your package when a delivery is made.
- Consider shopping locally at retailers offering curbside pick-up and delivery options with personalized service.

Officers on patrol always are on the lookout for criminal activity. Residents also may report unusual activity to the Police non-emergency number, 708.386.3800. And if you see a crime taking place, or about to take place, always call 911. More information about the Police Department is available at www.oak-park.us/police.

News You Can Use

Overnight, on-street parking eased for holidays... Overnight, on-street parking restrictions are eased to accommodate visitors and guests during major holidays, including Thanksgiving and Christmas. Restrictions will be lifted from 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 23 until 2:30 a.m., Mon. Nov. 28, and from 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 17 until 2:30 a.m. Tues., Jan. 3. However, parking restrictions will remain in effect during these times in overnight permit parking zones where residents have purchased quarterly passes. Other parking regulations, such as posted daytime, safety and snow restrictions, also will remain in effect.

Holiday hours... Village Hall will be closed all day Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving, starting at noon, Fri., Dec. 24 through Mon., Dec. 26 for Christmas, and on Mon., Jan. 2 for New Year's. Regular Village Hall hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information is posted at www.oak-park.us/villagehall.

Yard waste collection ends... Regular yard waste collection will end the week of Nov. 21-26. Yard waste is picked up by appointment only during the winter months. To arrange a special yard waste pick-up call LRS at 844.633.3577 or email Service@LRSrecycles.com. Compost collection also switches to a bi-weekly schedule at a discounted rate during the winter months. Visit www.oak-park.us/compost to see the winter collection schedule and for more information about the Village's food scrap composting program.

Winter refuse collection tip... Residents and building owners are reminded to clear snow away from refuse and recycling containers to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible, it will not be emptied. Call 844.633.3577 to report a missed collection at any building served by the Village's refuse hauler.

Pet responsibilities... Dog owners are required to pick up and dispose of dog waste. Owners walking their dogs must carry a bag or other suitable means to pick up dog waste. Call 708.358.5680 to register a complaint about an animal, such as noise, excrement, cruelty or off leash.

Fall leaf collection continues

The Village's annual fall leaf collection program will continue through the week of Dec. 5. 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, email publicworks@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/2022leafcollection.

NORTH AVE	
WEDNESDAY Nov. 9 Nov. 16 Nov. 23 Nov. 30 Dec. 7	THURSDAY Nov. 10 Nov. 17 Nov. 24F Dec. 1 Dec. 8
HARLEM AVE	EAST AVE
SOUTH BLVD	
TUESDAY Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 22 Nov. 29 Dec. 6	MONDAY Nov. 7 Nov. 14 Nov. 21 Nov. 28 Dec. 5
HARLEM AVE	AUSTIN BLVD
ROOSEVELT RD	

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
Cory Wesley

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters
Village Manager Kevin J. Jackson

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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



Village Board returns to in-person meetings

The Village Board of Trustees returned to in-person meetings this fall for the first time in more than two years as local policymaking largely eased back to its pre-pandemic norm.

Regular Village Board meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month in the Council Chamber at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. When a regular meeting falls on a holiday, the meeting typically is held the following night. The Village Board also meets in special sessions, usually on the second and fourth Monday, though dates and times of special meetings can vary.

As was the case prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Village Board meetings are open to the public, but a hybrid option is now available via Zoom to facilitate public comments, remote speaker presentations and any other participant who needs to attend a meeting remotely.

Individuals may request to speak at Village Board meetings by emailing publiccomment@oak-park.us or calling 708.358.5660 no later than 5 p.m. prior to the start of a meeting. Speakers will have the option of appearing in person, addressing the Village Board via Zoom or having their comment read by the Village Clerk.

Village Board meetings continue to be streamed live at www.oak-park.us/boardtv and cablecast on VOP-TV, which is available to Comcast subscribers on channel 6 and ATT Uverse subscribers on channel 99.

Individuals interested in keeping up with local municipal policymaking can visit www.oak-park.us/boardtv, where meeting agendas are posted and recordings of past meetings are archived for on-demand viewing. The online meetings database also offers the option to search the meetings archive using key words to find a particular topic of interest.

Partnership makes it easier for businesses to go green

The Village is partnering with the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) at the University of Illinois to offer the Illinois Green Business Program to Oak Park businesses. The program's goal is to help local businesses discover opportunities to reduce the costs of running their business while becoming more sustainable. The process is simple — SEDAC assists business operators every step of the way to identify solutions that can help a business lower expenses and reduce climate impact. Learn more about the program by contacting Cassie Carroll at 217.300.6477 or ccarrol2@illinois.edu.

