

Village readies launch of program to eliminate single-use bags

Beginning Jan. 1, Oak Park shoppers in many of the larger retail stores will be charged 10 cents for every single-use bag the store provides to carry home their purchases.

The new local law, which applies to retail stores of 5,000 or more square feet, is intended to reduce the negative impact single-use bags have on the environment.

The fee applies to paper as well as plastic, officials say, because paper bags consume enormous amounts of natural resources to manufacture and create their own type of environmental issues when not disposed of properly.

Once collection of the fee begins, the retailer will retain half of the fee to help offset costs of implementing the program, with the other half remitted to the Village to fund local environmental initiatives.

Changing behavior

The goal of the program is not to generate revenue, officials say, but to change behavior.

As many as 50 percent of Oak Park residents already rely on reusable bags, a practice the citizen volunteers on the Environment & Energy Commission who recommended the new law hope will grow once the fee goes into effect.

Exemptions apply

Exemptions to the fee will apply, including for bags provided by a pharmacist to contain a prescription drug and for plastic bags intended for a specific use, such as for dry cleaning, garbage, pet waste or yard waste.

Bags given at the point of sale at a seasonal event, such as a farmers market, street fair or yard sale, also will be exempt from the fee, as will bags provided by a restaurant for carryout or used by a grocer to package a bulk item or wrap a perishable item, such as meat.

Help for consumers

Over the next few months, the Village will be working with retailers to provide reusable bags to those individuals who may not be able to afford to buy them.

More information will be posted at www.oak-park.us.

Community survey now underway

Surveys have been delivered to the mailboxes of Oak Park residences selected at random to help the Village gauge citizen views on a wide range of community aspects and issues.

While taking only about 15 minutes to complete, survey responses will help policy makers better understand priorities for government action and citizen opinions on quality of life and public services. Oak Parkers who receive a survey are urged to promptly complete and return the document to ensure their viewpoints are part of the final tabulation. *National Research Center, Inc.* (NRC), a social science research firm whose core business is community surveys, was hired to ensure the scientific validity of the survey results. NRC assisted with surveys here in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2013 and 2015, standardizing questions for accurate comparisons of findings over the years. Results of these past surveys are posted on the Village web site at www.oak-park.us/communitysurveys.

Through its collaboration with the *International City Managers Association*, NRC has developed a national database of community surveys and survey questions, which allow the Village to compare many of its results with those from similar communities in Illinois and across the country. Surveys in 2000 and 2004 were conducted by telephone. But with telephone response rates plummeting across the industry and costs rising, mail has proven to be a more cost-effective and broader reach approach. In addition, officials say mail responses tend to be more candid than those gathered by a telephone interviewer. For more information about the community survey, call 708.358.5770 or email village@oak-park.us.

Impact of Single-Use Bags

- Americans use an estimated 100 billion plastic bags a year, or about 360 bags for every man, woman and child. If tied together, those 100 billion plastic bags would reach around the Earth's equator 773 times.
- High-density polyethylene plastic bags, which are made from non-renewable fossil fuels, take more than 200 years to degrade. As polyethylene breaks down, toxic substances leach into the soil and waterways, and enter the food chain.
- Paper bags have a higher carbon footprint than plastic because more energy is required to produce and transport them.





Parking options abound in downtown Oak Park

When it comes to the downtown business districts, the numbers reveal parking options abound.

With the opening of a new public parking garage last month at The Emerson development near Lake Street and Harlem Avenue, drivers now have nearly 2,500 parking spaces spread across four public garages located a short walk from businesses on and near Lake Street.

Factor in more than 300 additional spaces in nine surface parking lots, dozens of on-street parking spots, three electric car charging stations, two car sharing locations and valet parking, and it's easy to see why officials say parking downtown has never been easier.

Garage upgrades

The Village operates three facilities — the Holley Court Parking Garage at 1125 Ontario Ave., the Lake & Forest garage at 938 Lake St. and The Avenue Garage at 720 North Blvd. The garage in the new development is privately run, but still open to the public with access from North

Boulevard and Westgate Street, just west of Marion Street.

The Village-operated parking garages have recently undergone a series of upgrades, including new LED lighting, high definition security cameras and state-of-the-art intercoms that connect customers with on-site security personnel.

Pay-by-plate technology

Customers soon will purchase parking time using their license plate number rather than a space or meter number, eliminating the need to display a receipt on the dashboard.

Paying by license plate number is easy — simply use the PassportParking app or walk up to the nearest pay-by-plate machine, enter a license plate number and make a payment. Parking enforcement officers are equipped to scan any license plate and determine the payment status of a vehicle.

The PassportParking app will continue to be available at meters as well. Frequent Passport users also will be able to program a wallet feature within

the app, which will offer \$27 worth of parking for \$25 or \$55 worth of parking for \$50.

Valet parking expands

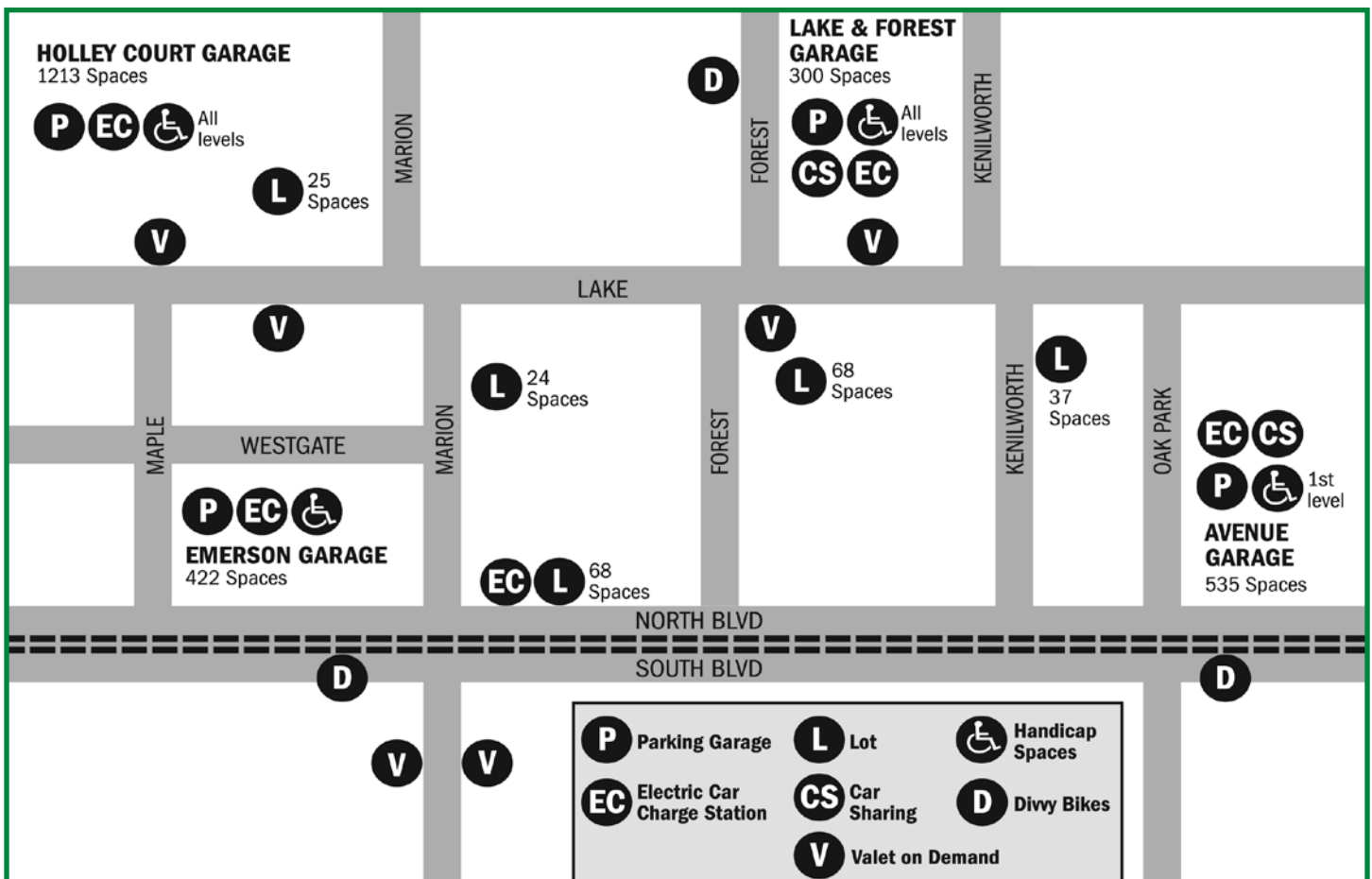
Oak Park also is eyeing expansion of the valet parking service to even more locations throughout the downtown business districts by incorporating an on-demand feature.

Drivers will be able to choose from stopping at a valet stand or pulling into a reserved Valet Oak Park parking space, calling the number on the sign and having a valet attendant come to them. When ready to leave, customers just reverse the process from any valet site in the downtown area.

Valet Oak Park operates downtown from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The cost is \$5 for up to three hours and \$12 for more than three hours until close.

For more information

More information on parking in Oak Park, is posted online at www.oak-park.us/parking.



Shop local, park free

Shopping local will be easier than ever beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving when parking will be free in public garages and for two hours at pay-by-plate stations and marked meters downtown and in the vicinity of south Oak Park Avenue. Parking also will be free in garages every Saturday and for two hours at these sites through Dec. 23. Parking in Oak Park is always free on Sundays. The program is intended as a thank you for residents and visitors who shop locally. 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. Village officials say they hope this small gesture will increase sales as well as create goodwill among the businesses and their customers. For more information on parking in the Village, email parking@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

On-street parking rules 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. 22 until 2:30 a.m., Mon. Nov. 27, and from 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 23 until 2:30 a.m. Wed., 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 and safety restrictions, also will remain in effect. Visit www.oak-park.us/parking for more information.

Yard waste collection ends

Regular yard waste collection will end on Fri., Dec. 1. Yard waste will be picked up by appointment only during the winter months. To arrange a special yard waste pick-up call Waste Management at 800.796.9696. For information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Developments bring vitality to downtown

Development is continuing to bring vitality to downtown Oak Park, underscoring the community's status as a desirable destination for new residents and businesses.

Four major construction projects are either nearing completion, well underway or soon to begin within blocks of Lake Street, adding new residential units, retail space and public parking to the mix of Oak Park's central business districts.

Contractors are putting the finishing touches on the Emerson development a block east of Harlem Avenue. The project rises five stories on Lake Street, then steps back into a 20-story structure on North Boulevard.

Anchoring the retail space in The Emerson is a 22,000-square-foot Target store that opened last month at the site, which includes another 4,000 square feet of retail space, a 422-space parking garage and 271 residential units. The project also includes a new block of Maple Avenue on the site's western edge.

Just beyond the railroad tracks to the south work is progressing on the 12-story Lincoln development at the corner of Harlem Avenue and South Boulevard. When completed in 2019, the building will feature 263 residential units, 10,000 square feet of retail space and parking for 398 vehicles.

Construction continues on the five-story District House development at the corner of Lake Street and Euclid Avenue. The project will house 28 condominiums and 4,500 square feet of retail space when completed in 2018.

In addition to these ongoing projects, officials recently approved plans for a 19-story development at the northwest corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2018, and when completed in 2020 the building will include 265 residential units and approximately 6,300 square feet of retail space.

This new project is located across the street from the 21-story Vantage Oak Park Building, which opened in 2016 with 270 residential units, 300 public parking spaces and 25,000 square feet of retail space.

When construction wraps up on these new downtown developments, more than 1,000 residential units, 71,000 square feet of retail space and 1,400 new parking spaces will become a permanent part of the local tax base, and produce an estimated \$4.5 million in annual property and sales tax revenue.

For more information on development in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/development.



Child safety seat inspections offered by appointment

Parents of young children can email carseat@oak-park.us to request an appointment for a child's car safety seat inspection. Parents will need to bring their vehicle owner's manual and car seat manufacturer's manual to the appointment, along with the seat they wish to have inspected. Residents are asked not to come to the Fire Department for an inspection without an appointment. As on-call firefighter/paramedics, the technicians may not be available if duty calls.

Common child car seat errors

- Turning seat forward facing too soon
- Not adjusting harness snugly
- Not securing seat properly in vehicle
- Not using lower anchors/latch system properly
- Not using top tether on forward-facing seat
- Forgetting to register car seat for recall notifications
- Moving to next size car seat or booster seat too soon

Police offer crime-prevention tips



Nearly 90 percent of all crime in Oak Park is against property, with garages and bicycles the most frequent targets of burglars and thieves. But sharing a border with the nation's third largest city means that more violent crimes such as armed robberies and vehicle hijackings do sometimes occur in Oak Park. The best defense, Oak Park Police say, is to try to avoiding being an easy victim.

Police recommend the following:

- Report any suspicious activity or person immediately by calling 911.
- If possible, don't walk alone during late-night hours — there is safety in numbers.
- Let a family member or friend know your destination and your estimated time of arrival or return so police can be notified as quickly as possible if there is a problem.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible, avoiding alleys and secluded areas that are not heavily traveled.
- Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible, staying close to the curb, avoiding doorways, bushes and other potential hiding places.
- Walk confidently, directly, and at a steady pace, and don't stop to talk to strangers.
- Always be aware of your surroundings — if you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you cannot hear outside noises.
- If you observe another vehicle or people in the alley when parking in your garage, continue driving and call 911.
- When parked, be aware of your surroundings — if someone approaches your vehicle drive off immediately.
- Trust your instincts — if something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.
- If someone tries to rob you, don't resist, but try to note details about your attacker that may help Police make an arrest.

More information on the Oak Park's approach to community policing is posted online at www.oak-park.us/police.

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.

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

Licenses required for smaller rentals

Landlords and managers of single-family homes or apartment buildings of three or fewer units, and owners who rent their condominium units to tenants, must be licensed, and a copy of the license certificate attached to a copy to the signed lease agreement. License fees are \$10 per unit and must be renewed by December 31 of every year. The residential rental license application is posted online at www.oak-park.us/forms. For more information, email housing@oak-park.us.

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instagram.com/oakparkil

pinterest.com/oakparkil

twitter.com/vopnews

youtube.com/vopnews

Public invited to learn more about D200 facilities planning

Imagine OPRF, High School District 200's community-based team working on a long-term facility plan, will host



a community conversation from 7 to 9 p.m., Wed., Nov. 15, in the cafeteria of Oak Park and

River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave. Residents are invited to learn about the team's work to date, discover the characteristics of future-ready learning spaces and share views on facilities investments they think important. Free babysitting will be available if requested by Wed., Nov. 8 – call 708.434.3692 or email lhayes@oprfs.org.

Youth scholarships available

A limited number of Financial Assistance Scholarships (FAS) are available for youth in low-income families through the Oak Park Township. Funds may be used towards registration and participant fees in local activities and programs. A counselor, dean, social worker or referral agency representative must complete the application. For more information, including guidelines and qualifying programs, call 708.445.2727 or visit www.oakparktownship.org/services/scholarships.

Divvy offers discount

Getting around Oak Park by bike is easy for residents and visitors alike thanks to the Divvy bike share program. Oak Parkers can take advantage of a special offer through December and pay only \$59.99 for an annual membership, a savings of nearly \$40 off the regular membership price of \$99. To receive the discount, go to www.divvybikes.com and use the coupon code **VOPDIVVY** when making the purchase. For more information about Divvy in Oak Park and the 13 stations located throughout the Village, visit www.oak-park.us/divvy.

Snowfall may trigger parking restrictions

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

- Main streets posted as snow routes must be cleared of all parked cars. These include Augusta Street, Austin Boulevard, Chicago Avenue, Division Street, Garfield Street, Harlem Avenue, Harrison Street, Jackson Boulevard, Lake Street, Madison Street, North Avenue, Oak Park Avenue, Ridgeland Avenue, Roosevelt Road and Wisconsin Avenue from Madison Street to the emergency entrance of Rush Oak Park Hospital.
- Non-snow route streets allow parking between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the side of the street with even numbered addresses on even days and the side of the street with odd numbered addresses on odd days.
- Designated commercial parking areas as posted follow the odd/even rule between midnight and 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.

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.

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 so hard that it cannot be removed without damaging the sidewalk, then 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.

Make way for tree pruning

Residents are urged to move their cars from the streets when temporary no-parking signs go up to allow private contractors to prune parkway trees quickly and safely as the winter trimming cycle begins. Areas scheduled for pruning this season are between North Avenue and Division Street from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue and between Chicago Avenue and Division Street from Harlem Avenue to East Avenue. Crews follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines for tree care to address three key issues – tree health, resident safety and protecting property from damage. Dead or dying limbs are removed and canopies raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and create appropriate clearances for adjacent structures and signs. While the pruning can seem excessive when no leaves are on the limbs, crews work to ensure that pruning is just right as foliage returns in the spring. With a program that aims to prune every tree on public property once every four years, plans must consider that parkway trees can grow up to two feet each year – or eight feet between pruning cycles. The Village's pruning program has proven very successful in minimizing storm damage and reducing ongoing pruning requests. Residents are urged to call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us with questions or concerns about the type or quality of work being performed by contractors. More information on the care of the nearly 19,000 trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.



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



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews
Dan Moroney
Simone M. Boutet
Jim Taglia
Andrea Button
Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Medicare enrollment help offered

Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities can get assistance enrolling in a Medicare Part D prescription plan through the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) administered by the Oak Park Township. Counselors are available by appointment to help recipients review existing coverage and select a drug plan that meets their individual needs. During the enrollment period, which lasts until Dec. 7, Medicare recipients can:

- Change from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan
- Change from a Medicare Advantage plan to original Medicare
- Join, drop or switch Medicare Part D drug plans
- Switch Medicare Advantage plans

To schedule an appointment for Medicare enrollment assistance, call 708.383.8060. Information on Township Senior Services programs is posted online at www.oakparktownship.org/departments/seniors.

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 from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., and 65 degrees Fahrenheit from 11 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Complaints may be made by calling 708.358.5430 or email to housing@oak-park.us. More information is posted at www.oak-park.us/housing.

Not too late for a flu shot

Getting vaccinated against the flu in November or even December is not too late. Public health officials recommend that everyone older than 6 months get vaccinated every year. Flu vaccine is offered at numerous commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area. Most of these sites accept private insurances and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Many sites will vaccinate children as young as 18 months. Help finding a flu shot provider is available at vaccinefinder.org. Residents also can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5483 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

Village Hall holiday hours

Village Hall will be closed all day Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving, from noon, Fri., Dec. 22 through Mon., Dec. 25, and on Mon., Jan. 1. Regular Village Hall hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Parking Services Center is open until 7 p.m. on Mondays, except holidays.

Fall leaf collection continues

The annual fall leaf collection program will continue through Nov 30. Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Residents are urged to consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

NORTH AVE			
HARLEM AVE	WEDNESDAY	EAST AVE	THURSDAY
	Nov. 1		Nov. 2
	Nov. 8		Nov. 9
	Nov. 15		Nov. 16
	Nov. 22		Nov. 23
	Nov. 29		Nov. 30
SOUTH BLVD			
HARLEM AVE	TUESDAY	EAST AVE	MONDAY
	Nov. 7		Nov. 6
	Nov. 14		Nov. 13
	Nov. 21		Nov. 20
	Nov. 28		Nov. 27
ROOSEVELT RD			
AUSTIN BLVD			