

Fire Department open house returns

October is Fire Safety Month, and to mark the occasion the Oak Park Fire Department is hosting an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 14 at the main fire station located at 100 N. Euclid Ave. The event returns this year to allow residents of all ages to get up close to equipment and talk to the firefighter/paramedics who keep the community safe. In addition to touching the cool equipment essential to the mission of a modern fire department, the event also will include tours of the fire house, presentations about safety, refreshments and fun handouts. To help supply local community blood centers, a Vitalant blood drive will be held during the open house. For more information about registering for the blood drive, visit www.oak-park.us/blooddrive.

About the Fire Department

Always on call, the Fire Department maintains three shifts of more than 20 trained professionals ready to provide around-the-clock protection to residents.

All Village firefighters also are paramedics, since delivering emergency medical services is an integral part of the Fire Department mission. In fact, about 65% of calls to the Fire Department are for medical emergencies. In 2022, Oak Park's firefighter/paramedics responded to more than 8,500 calls for fire and emergency medical services.

The Oak Park Fire Department also provides a number of non-emergency programs for the community, including the following:

CPR/AED, first aid training...The Fire Department offers a variety of life-saving classes including CPR



and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Classes are held at the main fire station. Visit www.oak-park.us/cpr for a registration form, list of class dates and information about class fees.

Child safety seat inspections...

The Fire Department has child safety seat technicians available to check your seat for safety and proper installation. To schedule a safety inspection, email carseat@oak-park.us.

Fire prevention and inspections...

Fire Department personnel inspect all public buildings and commercial establishments in Oak Park at least once a year to ensure safety. Inspections range from complex medical centers and high-rise residences to traditional offices and shops. The Fire Department also reviews all building blueprints for fire alarm and sprinkler system installations prior to construction to ensure the systems meet or exceed current fire code regulations.

More information about the Oak Park Fire Department is posted online at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Village seeks feedback about housing in Oak Park

The Village is partnering with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to conduct a community survey to examine key housing challenges and priorities within Oak Park. All residents and community stakeholders are invited to take part by completing a community survey and participating in a public meeting planned for 7 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 20 at Village Hall. Visit www.engageoakpark.com/housingsurvey to take the online survey and for more details about the public meeting. Feedback gathered will help identify top housing issues within the community and will be used to develop goals against which Village officials can evaluate housing programs, policies and development outcomes. For more information, contact planning@oak-park.us.

Fall leaf collection program returns in late October

The annual fall leaf collection program is scheduled for Oct. 30 – Dec. 8 with six pickups planned for each section of the Village. Residents should rake leaves into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Leaves raked into the street will be pushed into piles by Public Works crews during the night to reduce impact on traffic and parked cars. The piles of leaves are then collected the following day. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep their leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Sweepers will be scheduled to run at the end of the collection program to clean up residue. Cooperation is essential to the success of this operation, so please follow these simple rules:

- Consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking.
- Rake leaves out the day before the scheduled pickup date.
- Leaves only — do not add brush, grass clippings or yard waste.
- Do not park on or near a pile of leaves, which can hinder leaf removal operations. Heat from a car also could ignite the leaves.
- Rake leaves onto side streets whenever possible. Try to avoid major thoroughfares where piles of leaves might create traffic hazards.
- Do not rake leaves into or close to cul-de-sacs or traffic diverters. The equipment needs room to operate.
- Keep catch basins clear of raked leaves to avoid flooding.
- Inform landscape services of the leaf collection schedule.
- Obey all parking restrictions. Regulations will be strictly enforced.
- Dampen piles after raking to avoid leaves being blown by the wind.
- Drive carefully. Leaves are slippery when wet and large piles may hinder visibility. Note that crews will create safe work zones and close intersections for a few minutes while removing large leaf piles.

For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Drivers urged to take extra care

With the new school year now underway, the Oak Park Police Department urges motorists to stay alert — especially when driving in school zones. Motorists need to be focused and avoid distractions like talking on cell phones, police say, as well as come to a complete stop at intersections and not block crosswalks. Drivers and pedestrians must obey the signals of crossing guards and drivers should never attempt to pass a stopped school bus with lights flashing. To protect the many students who typically trek along Oak Park streets to their neighborhood schools, police have stepped up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. For more information, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Trick-or-treat hours

Each year, the Village Board sets the official hours for Halloween trick or treating. Typically, the hours are 4 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 31. Parents are urged to accompany young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. Other safety tips include:

- Use make-up instead of masks
- Choose flame-retardant costumes
- Wear light-colored clothing at night or add reflective tape to dark colored costumes
- Give and accept only wrapped and packaged candy
- Go out in daylight and carry a flashlight in case of delay
- Stay within your neighborhood and visit only homes you know

For information on Halloween safety, email fire@oak-park.us or police@oak-park.us.

Vision Zero project to focus on traffic safety

The Village is launching its Vision Zero initiative this fall to work toward eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries. The strategies developed in the Vision Zero plan will strive to make mobility in the Village safer, healthier and equitable for all. The planning process will be collaborative with a variety of public engagement efforts to gather feedback from residents and relevant stakeholders, along with an analysis of current safety issues. Public input is key to ensuring that the recommendations in the plan improve safety for everyone in Oak Park, whether traveling by foot, bike, car or transit. Public outreach will begin in the fall. Check the project website at www.engageoakpark.com/visionzero for information about upcoming event details.



NORTH AVE	
WEDNESDAY Nov. 1 Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 22 Nov. 29 Dec. 6	THURSDAY Nov. 2 Nov. 9 Nov. 16 Nov. 24 Nov. 30 Dec. 7

SOUTH BLVD	
TUESDAY Oct. 31 Nov. 7 Nov. 14 Nov. 21 Nov. 28 Dec. 5	MONDAY Oct. 30 Nov. 6 Nov. 13 Nov. 20 Nov. 27 Dec. 4

HARLEM AVE

EAST AVE

AUSTIN BLVD

ROOSEVELT RD

Voter registration event set for Sept. 19

The Village Clerk's Office is marking National Voter Registration Day by hosting a registration event from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 19 in the courtyard at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. During the event, Village Clerk Christina M. Waters will register new voters and also assist those who may be new to Oak Park or have recently changed addresses within the community. In addition, a voter registration table will be set up during the Oak Park Farmers' Market from 10 a.m. to noon on Sat., Sept. 23 at 460 Lake St. As many as one in four eligible Americans is not registered to vote. Since 2012, more than 5 million Americans have registered to vote on National Voter Registration Day. For more information about the Village Clerk's Office, visit www.oak-park.us/clerk, call 708.358.5672 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

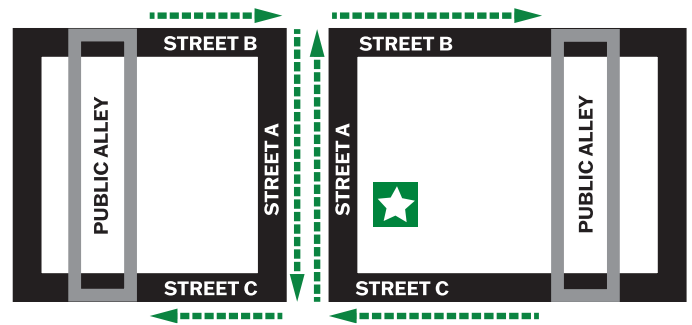
Single-use bag fee ordinance amended

Since 2018, retail stores in Oak Park that are 5,000 square feet or larger have charged customers 10 cents for each single-use paper or plastic bag provided at checkout. The program is intended to encourage customers to bring their own shopping bags to avoid taking a single-use, disposable bag, the use of which can be detrimental to the environment. Half of the fee is remitted to the Village to support the community's Sustainability Fund, while retailers retain the other half. In July, the Village received input from local retailers and neighboring jurisdictions and the Board approved an exemption from this fee for any persons participating in a governmental food assistance program such as LINK, SNAP and WIC. The exemption took immediate effect. Reusable bags are always available free of charge in the lobby at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/bringyourbag.

Changes to daytime parking rules take effect

Oak Park residents with an active Village vehicle license can now override daytime parking restrictions posted on the blocks where they live. The new exemption from daytime parking restrictions is intended to provide relief to residents from undue burden created by parking restrictions that are intended to regulate parking for non-residents and commuters. The daytime parking exemption does not override other posted regulations related to traffic, public safety, permit parking and other paid parking zones. The new exemption was approved by the Village Board earlier this year following an extensive parking pilot program. For more information, contact parking@oak-park.us or 708.358.7275.

The diagram below illustrates how the exemption applies to a typical residential block face, with the star representing a residence and the dotted lines representing the street frontages on which a resident is exempt from applicable daytime restrictions.



Sustainability News

Fall migration... Early September is the peak migration period for monarch butterflies passing through Oak Park from Canada on their way to Mexico for the winter. Visit www.sustainoakpark.com/community-events for events to celebrate and support monarch butterflies. Fall bird migration is also approaching, and you can help keep birds safe by turning off lights by 11 p.m. Many birds fly during the night, and city lights can be disorienting, often causing collisions with buildings.

Support biodiversity... There are several ways you can help support local biodiversity, including providing and protecting habitat for native species. Pledge to maintain a pesticide-free lawn and garden by filling out the online form at www.oak-park.us/PesticideFreePledge. Residents are also invited to complete the community biodiversity survey to share details about projects at home such as butterfly gardens, rain gardens and native landscaping. The survey is available online at www.oak-park.us/biodiversity.

For more information... Visit www.sustainoakpark.com to learn about the Village's Climate Ready Oak Park plan, opportunities for home energy and cost savings and the various rebates available, and upcoming sustainability events in the community.

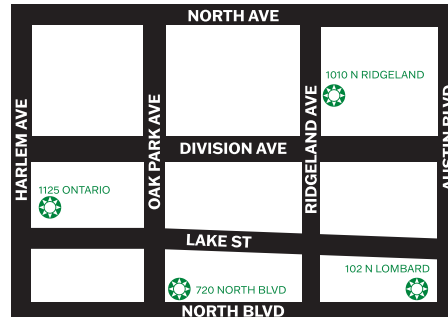
Let's talk about gun safety

With the new school year kicking off, many Oak Park families are meeting new friends, neighbors and families for playdates and babysitting jobs. As part of its injury prevention initiative, the Oak Park Public Health Department wants to help reduce accidental injuries via firearms, and encourages safe gun storage practices. Need help starting gun safety conversations with new friends? Check out the conversation-starters and safe storage tips from the Public Health Department at www.oak-park.us/safestorage.

Compost pails available for purchase

In an effort to encourage composting among residents, the Village is making 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 four 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 four locations in the Village:

- **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



Any large multifamily or condo association can also contract independently with the Village's contractor LRS or another provider for composting service. Building owners and condo associations can contact compostable@oak-park.us for assistance with the compost contracting process.

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 \$15.68 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.

Be cautious of electricity scams

If someone calls or knocks on your door promising a better deal on electricity, be cautious — you could be misled into switching to a supplier that will cost more. Salespeople who offer to save you money may ask for your account number or to see your bill. Most likely they are selling a low introductory rate or trying to get your account number so they can switch you to a different provider without your permission. Each year the Village bundles residential and small business electric accounts and seeks competitive bids from electricity suppliers. The state law that gave the Village this authority also allows companies to market their programs directly to consumers. While these companies may be approved by the state, high-pressure salespeople often are accused of misleading consumers about the costs and risks of signing up. Representatives from the Village or its electricity supplier, MC Squared Energy, never solicit door-to-door or by telephone. For more information on the Village's electricity aggregation program, visit www.oak-park.us/aggregationfaqs.



Paper shredding and foam recycling event planned

Oak Parkers are invited to safely dispose of sensitive documents and foam products with the No. 6 symbol at a free paper shredding and foam recycling event scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 23 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd.

Paper shredding...Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes of paper items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted.

Foam recycling...Foam products with the No. 6 symbol are not accepted as part of the Village's single-stream recycling program with waste hauler LRS. To fill the gap, the Village has scheduled Dart Container Corporation to collect foam products. Please follow these guidelines:



- Deposit foam products in a clear or translucent bag.
- Make sure foam has the No. 6 recycling symbol on it.
- Rinse or wipe foodservice containers.
- No straws or lids.
- No foam packaging peanuts.

For more information, contact publicworks@oak-park.us or 708.358.5700.

Immunization encouraged as fall approaches

With school back in session, flu season approaching and indoor gatherings increasing, local public health officials are reminding residents about annual immunizations that can help keep our community as healthy as possible.

Flu shots...Flu shots are recommended for everyone older than six months. 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 insurance and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Many sites will vaccinate children as young as 18 months. Residents can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5480 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot. For more information from the CDC about the flu vaccine and preventing seasonal flu, visit www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent.

COVID-19 information...Find the latest information about COVID immunizations, booster shots and clinics hosted by the Public Health Department on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/vaccine. Anyone needing assistance finding a COVID shot or test is encouraged to contact the Health Department at health@oak-park.us or 708.358.5480.

Back-to-school vaccines...Let's catch up! If your child or children have fallen off their routine immunization schedule required for school, now is the time to get back on track. Routine immunizations are a great tool to keep kids healthy, in school and ready to learn. If you need to know which immunizations are required for your child or need assistance accessing vaccines, reach out to health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5480.

Oak Park first to adopt all-electric new construction ordinance

Earlier this year the Village Board adopted an all-electric new construction ordinance as part of Oak Park's building code. According to the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, this makes Oak Park the first municipality in Illinois and all of the Midwest to pass an electrification ordinance. The new ordinance applies only to newly constructed residential and commercial buildings and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2024. Some of the requirements spelled out in the ordinance include the stipulation that heating and air conditioning be provided by cold climate air source or ground source heat pumps and that energy recovery ventilation systems be installed in all newly constructed buildings. An electric vehicle charging station is also required for any newly constructed building that includes a parking space or garage. Electrification is one of the steps identified as necessary to achieve community-wide net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as set forth in the Climate Ready Oak Park plan adopted last year. For more information and to submit questions related to the new ordinance, visit www.engageoakpark.com/electrification or email permits@oak-park.us.

Anyone interested in learning more about Oak Park's all-electric new construction ordinance is invited to participate in any of the following upcoming events:

Codes & coffee chats...Join Village staff for an informational open house and conversation on the adopted building codes. Two separate chats will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Sept. 20 and Dec. 13. Both events will take place at Village Hall in Room 101.

Building electrification seminar...Join Village staff, MEEA, ComEd and Slipstream to learn about designing for greater building performance and the financial and technical assistance programs offered for new construction and major renovations. The seminar will take place Oct. 5, with a webinar offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and an in-person session held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St.

More information is at www.engageoakpark.com/electrification.

Hispanic Heritage Month events planned

The Village will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs annually from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, with a host of new community events in 2023. Author Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez will visit the Veteran's Room at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. on Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. for a discussion on her book "For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts," and more. Later that week, on Sept. 28, there will be a community roundtable discussion centered around the theme of prosperity, progress and power, also in the Oak Park Public Library's Veterans Room at 6 p.m. Complimentary refreshments will be served. In October, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is hosting a community conversation on the Village's language access needs on Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Fun for the whole family awaits at the Village's ¡Viva! Festival planned for Oct. 7 on the south lawn at Village Hall. The daytime event will feature food, entertainment, activities for kids and more. Finally, the Village's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration will wrap up the evening of Oct. 13 with an outdoor screening of Disney's Encanto on the south lawn at Village Hall. For more information about Hispanic Heritage Month and these upcoming events, visit www.oak-park.us/HispanicHeritage or email DEI@oak-park.us.

View with a smartphone camera.



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



Village President Vicki Scaman

Trustees
Susan Buchanan
Lucia Robinson
Chibuike Enyia
Brian D. Straw
Cory J. 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

Municipal jobs posted online

Residents interested in working for the Village of Oak Park can keep track of job openings at www.oak-park.us/jobs, where descriptions and qualifications are posted for specific positions. Most open positions require applicants to fill out an employment application and equal employment opportunity form, which can be submitted digitally. Separate forms must be submitted for each position since applications are not retained once a job is filled. For more information on Village hiring policies and procedures, email hr@oak-park.us.

Frank Lloyd Wright races to close streets temporarily

The Park District of Oak Park's 47th Frank Lloyd Wright Races are planned for the morning of Sun., Oct. 15. Several streets will be closed and traffic flow on others restricted to one way from about 6 to 11 a.m. the day of the race. The event features a 10K, 5K, and youth mile and typically welcomes more than 2,000 participants along the tree-lined streets of Oak Park. Find more information and a map of the race route at www.pdop.org/flw.



Fall at the Oak Park Farmers' Market

With fall comes a changing variety of produce at the Oak Park Farmers' Market. Plums, nectarines, peaches, pears, grapes, apples and cider are just some of the seasonal favorites now available along with meats, eggs, honey and cheese from the more than two dozen regular Market vendors.

Stone Soup marks end of season... The Oak Park Farmers' Market season comes to a close with stone soup served to patrons at the final Market on Oct. 29. The tradition of serving stone soup at the last market of the season was inspired by a European folk tale that has, for hundreds of years, called on people to live generously, even in times of need. Residents are invited to read a popular version of the stone soup tale at www.oak-park.us/stonesoup.

When and where... The Oak Park Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through October in the Pilgrim Church parking lot at 460 Lake St., just west of Ridgeland Avenue. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.