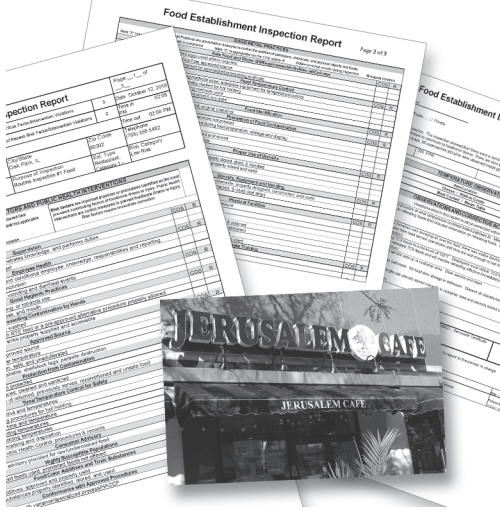


10 restaurants ranked tops for cleanliness



2018 Johnson Award winners

- **Boss Burrito**, 1110 W. Westgate St.
- **Buzz Cafe**, 905 Lombard Ave.
- **Chipotle Mexican Grill**, 1128 Lake St.
- **Happiness Restaurant**, 6222 Roosevelt Rd.
- **Jerusalem Cafe**, 1030 W. Lake St.
- **Lou Malnati's Pizzeria**, 1038 Lake St.
- **Na Siam Thai Restaurant**, 6851 North Ave.
- **New Pot Restaurant**, 727 Lake St.
- **Penny's Noodle Shop**, 1130 Chicago Ave.
- **Sagano Sushi**, 731 Lake St.

Ten Oak Park restaurants received awards from the Oak Park Department of Public Health and Board of Health in recognition of having the highest two-year average inspection scores.

Buzz Cafe was recognized for the fifth straight time, making it the longest running award honoree. Boss Burrito, Jerusalem Café, Penny's Noodle Shop and Sagano Sushi also were honored the last time the awards were presented in 2016.

Each of these restaurants' food service sanitation efforts earned a *Johnson Award*, named for Oak Park's first lunchroom operated in the 1890s at 124 Lake St.

The award is presented to the 10 top-scoring restaurants. This year's *Johnson Award* winners were chosen from 89 eligible restaurants.

The awards are based on scores from a 45-point inspection survey and averaged over a two-year period.

Restaurants eligible for the award are responsible for some of the most complex aspects of food service and meal preparation including cooking, cooling, reheating and serving. Each of these processes must be carried out to the exacting standards mandated by the Illinois State Food Service Sanitation Code.

All licensed food establishments in Oak Park receive detailed inspections and education from the Health Department, as the Village works with all commercial food handlers to help make sure they meet state safety standards.

The Health Department inspects more than 200 food service establishments in the Village every year, from day care centers to senior living facilities and traditional restaurants to cafes. These businesses are divided into three broad categories based on the complexity of their operations.

The *Johnson Award* winners are all restaurants that have fairly complex food service processes and are required to maintain competent management and continuous supervision of every step of their food service operations.

This is the 32rd time the Johnson Restaurant Awards have been presented. Recipients receive a door decal and a recognition certificate from the Health Department.

For more information about the awards, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

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 insurance 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 708.358.5480 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

Vaccination not the only defense...In

addition to getting vaccinated, individuals also can help protect themselves from the flu by following these simple actions to help prevent the spread of germs:

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.
- **Stay home when you are sick** to help prevent others from catching your illness.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- **Wash your hands often**, and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Get plenty of sleep**, engage in physical activity, manage stress, drink water and eat right.

Federal grants provide boost to community

When it comes to building a stronger community, funds from federal housing and development grants have a big impact in Oak Park.

Each year the Village receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs.

The federally funded, but locally administered programs are specifically earmarked to help support and nurture a wide range of programs and services for individuals and families that HUD defines as low and moderate income.

A share of the funds also go for public infrastructure improvements for persons with disabilities and in areas of the Village that meet income-eligibility requirements based on census data.

From direct hunger relief and domestic violence services to emergency shelter for homeless and ADA-compliant crosswalks, federal funds are allocated locally to activities that have a direct impact in the community.

For-profit and certified not-for-profit agencies apply for CDBG grants through the Village each year. Only providers of services that are related to homelessness or homelessness assistance are eligible to apply for Emergency Solutions Grants.

A rigorous application process

managed by professional Village staff and the Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission determines how the money is allocated.

Staff and commission volunteers review all grant applications and make recommendations to the Village Board, which makes the final decisions on funding allocations.

For Program Year 2018, which began in October, Oak Park received more than \$1.8 million in federal CDBG and ESG grants. Funds were allocated locally to 15 Oak Park organizations that serve persons of low and moderate income and to bring sidewalks into compliance with standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. A share of the grants also funded alley improvements in census-defined areas of the community.

In addition, the federal grant money helps fund the Village's housing programs for lead hazard reduction and loans for small rental and single-family rehabilitation loans earmarked for residents whose incomes meet HUD guidelines.

Applications for the 2019 Program Year will be available Jan. 31 and be due in March when the assessment process begins. Allocations typically are announced in October.

For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/cdbg, email grants@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.

Program Year 2018 Grant Recipients

- **African American Christian Foundation** – Youth employment program
- **Alliance to End Homelessness** – Homeless management and information
- **Community Support Services** – Respite and case management
- **Hephzibah** – At-risk services and support
- **Housing Forward** – Emergency shelter, employment readiness, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing and street outreach
- **NAMI-Metro Suburban** – Drop-in center
- **New Moms, Inc.** – Family support
- **Oak Leyden** – Public facilities and improvements
- **Oak Park Regional Housing Center** – Fair housing outreach and administration
- **Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry** – Direct hunger relief
- **Oak Park-River Forest Infant Welfare Society** – Children/youth dental care
- **Sarah's Inn** – Domestic violence services
- **UCP-Seguin Services** – Public facilities and improvements
- **Way Back Inn** – Childcare at Grateful House
- **West Cook YMCA** – Resident program services

Farmers' Market commissioners needed

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Oak Park Farmers' Market Commission. These volunteers work closely with the Market Manager to make the local market one of the most successful in Illinois. Commissioners coordinate special events at the Market, help publicize the Market and volunteer on Market Saturdays.

Members of the commission also recommend changes in operating policies and/or regulations to the Market Manager and Village Board. The Farmers' Market Commission, which is one of nearly 20 volunteer citizen boards, commissions and committees that advise the Village Board, meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/FMcommission. To apply online, visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer.



Get help for emergency repairs

Need to replace a faulty furnace or water heater as winter weather returns? Income-eligible owners of single family homes could be leaving money on the table by not seeking out no-interest loans from the Village of up to \$5,000 that are available for emergency repairs. To qualify, homes must be owner-occupied and household income must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income – for example, \$55,350 for a three-person household. Loan terms are for five years. Contact housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5413 for more information.

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 approach to community policing is posted online at www.oak-park.us/police.

Public health contributors honored with Awards

Five individuals and one local non-profit organization have been honored with the Dr. William Fitzsimmons Public Health Award for their contributions to the health and well-being of Oak Parkers. The Fitzsimmons Award for Excellence in Public Health is named in honor of the Oak Park Health Department's Medical Consultant from 1976-1992. Dr. Fitzsimmons was an Oak Park physician and humanitarian who volunteered his services to the Village for many years. The annual awards are presented by the Board of Health and the Department of Public Health. More information on the award winners is posted at www.oak-park.us/healthawards.

Fitzsimmons Award Winners

- **Dr. Mary Ann Bender**, Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce Health & Wellness
- **Dr. Sanjeed Dwivedi**, Presence Behavioral Health
- **Harriet Hawkins**, Housing Forward Medical Clinic
- **Candice Martin**, Strive For Success
- **Andrea Rossi**, Hatch Elementary School
- **West Cook YMCA**

Discrimination complaints

Village Code defends the rights of individuals within the protected classes of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, gender identity, source of income, military discharge status, gender expression, housing status or disability in the purchasing, leasing, securing a loan, renting or occupying housing or other real estate. Any person otherwise qualified who is denied or discriminated against in these processes should call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Telecommunicators guide callers while help is on the way

Residents who call 911 with a medical emergency get more than an operator. The telecommunicators at the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC) also are trained to provide emergency medical assistance to callers while help is on the way. The instructions telecommunicators provide may range from common sense guidelines such as turning on a porch light and unlocking the door, to more specific medical instructions in situations such as stroke, cardiac arrest, breathing problems, bleeding, loss of consciousness or childbirth. The questions the telecommunicators ask also provide valuable information for the paramedics prior to their arrival on the scene. Located in the River Forest Municipal Complex at 400 Park Ave., the WSCDC uses the latest computer-based equipment available for 911 communications systems to dispatch emergency services resources for Elmwood Park, Forest Park, Oak Park and River Forest. More information is posted online at www.wscdc.org.

Shop local, park free

Shopping local will be easier than ever beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving through December 22 when Saturday 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 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.

Residents urged to respond promptly to water meter notices

Any property owner who finds a notice on the door or in the mailbox from the Village requesting an appointment to inspect what may be a faulty water meter is urged to respond promptly to avoid loss of the water supply. Water meters are designed to be read remotely, but can malfunction, requiring the Village to estimate usage and set up an appointment to inspect the device inside the home. If you receive a notice, contact the Public Works Department at 708.358.5700 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays. Appointments are available on the hour between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Properly functioning water meters can aid in identifying potentially costly leaks.

Water meters upgrades...Property owners who receive a letter from the Village asking them to call a private vendor or visit the company's website to set up an appointment to replace a water meter are urged to respond without delay. The 30-minute process does not require any plumbing changes although the water will be turned off during the upgrade. The new water meters feature integrated radio technology and digital registers that greatly enhance the efficiency and accuracy of the usage reading. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

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.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5630
Development Customer Services	358.5420
Business Services	358.5425
Neighborhood Services	358.5410
Housing	option 1
CDBG	option 2
Property complaints	option 3
Permits & Inspections	358.5430
Planning	358.5440
General questions	option 1
Historic Preservation	option 2
Zoning	option 3
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (nonemergency)	358.5600
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Mayor & Trustees	358.5784
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	725.2000
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015

Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	383.0700

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005
Mental Health Board	358.8855
Transportation	383.4806

 facebook.com/vopnews

 instagram.com/oakparkil

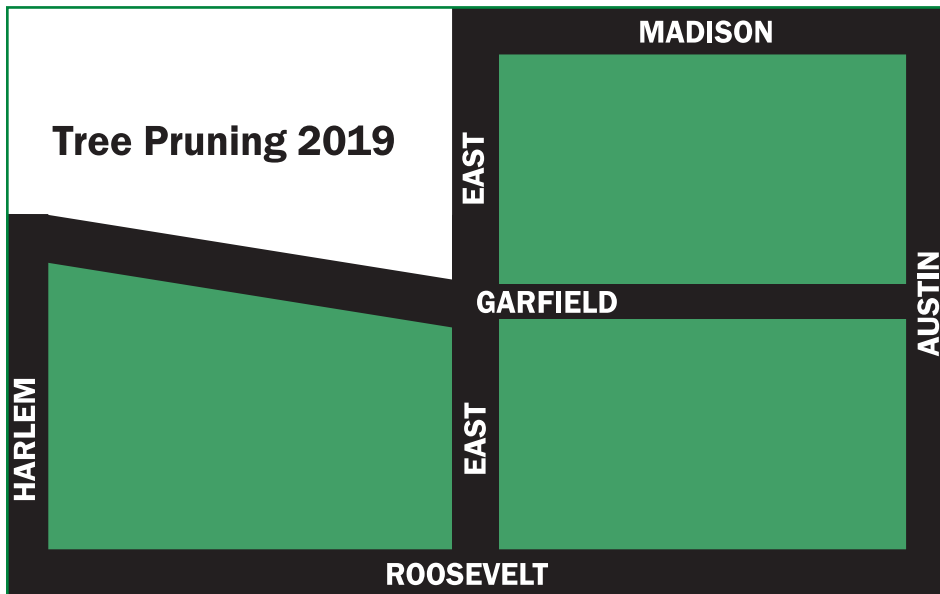
 pinterest.com/oakparkil

 twitter.com/vopnews

 youtube.com/vopnews

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 from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue between I-290 and Roosevelt Road and from Austin Boulevard to East Avenue between Madison Street and I-290. 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 18,000 trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.



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

Youth services scholarships available

A limited number of Financial Assistance Scholarships (FAS) are available for youth in low-income families. Funds available through Oak Park Township may be used towards registration and participation 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.

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.

Scan with a smartphone QR app for more information



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

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

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. 21 until 2:30 a.m., Mon. Nov. 26, and from 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 22 until 2:30 a.m. Wed., Jan. 2. 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/holidayparking for more information.

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 708.358.5700 to report a missed collection.

Extra week added to leaf pick up program

The annual fall leaf collection program has been extended by one week through Dec. 6. 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			
WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
Nov. 7 Nov. 14 Nov. 21 Nov. 28 Dec. 5	EAST AVE	Nov. 1 Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 22 Nov. 29 Dec. 6	
SOUTH BLVD			
TUESDAY		MONDAY	
Nov. 6 Nov. 13 Nov. 20 Nov. 27 Dec. 4	EAST AVE	Nov. 5 Nov. 12 Nov. 19 Nov. 26 Dec. 3	
			Roosevelt Rd

News You Can Use

Yard waste collection ends...Regular yard waste collection will end on Fri., Nov. 30. 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.

Holiday hours...Village Hall will be closed all day Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23 for Thanksgiving, from noon, Mon., Dec. 24 through Tues., Dec. 25 for Christmas, and on New Year's Day, Tues., 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.

Heat required...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.

Crime tips...Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activity to the Police Department's Crime Tip Hot Line at 708.434.1636. All callers remain anonymous. Anonymous tips also can be made at www.oak-park.us/police.