

New virtual vehicle licenses greener, more efficient

Oak Parkers who renew or purchase annual vehicle licenses beginning in mid-May may notice a major change to the decades old system — the new licenses will be in a database at Village Hall, with nothing to apply to the windshield.

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a vehicle license before July 15 to get the lowest rate, which increases by \$20 after the deadline. Failure to purchase a license also could result in a \$78 ticket. A current vehicle license is needed to purchase a parking permit.

Vehicle license fees help support a wide range of critical public services, including street and alley improvements.

Beginning with 2019/2020 season, vehicle licenses will be issued through a new automated system that allows parking enforcement officers to use electronic license plate recognition technology to scan a plate and know if the owner is in compliance with the local vehicle registration law.

The new stickerless vehicle licenses are part of a broader move to eliminate all physical vehicle-related decals, including those for parking permits and passes, a move that improves operational efficiencies and supports the community's environmental sustainability goals.

Renewal notices sent to current license holders include instructions on how to setup an account in the new parking system. A unique identification code provided in the notice allows a vehicle owner to import and verify most data, including address and telephone number, and vehicle information.

Owners also can help the Village reduce its impact on the environment by opting out of all paper correspondence in favor of electronic communications.

In a change from previous years, first-time vehicle license purchasers also will be able to complete the process

online via a link at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices, which they must do within 30 days of moving to Oak Park or having purchased a new vehicle.

First-time vehicle license purchasers must provide proof of residency, such as a signed lease, utility bill or other government-issued item. A driver's license and vehicle information also are required.

Vehicle license rates vary by type

of vehicle. Persons age 65 and older, and anyone who has a state-issued handicapped license plate or placard, can apply for a discount. Disabled and active-duty veterans with the proper documentation can apply for free vehicle licenses.

For more information, call 708.358.7275, visit www.oak-park.us/parking or email parking@oak-park.us.

Technology to make stickers obsolete



A parking enforcement vehicle equipped with license plate recognition technology.

With the implementation of new unified parking technology, the days of removing and replacing vehicle and parking permit stickers on windows and windshields will be over. Licenses will go virtual beginning in mid-May. But all parking permits and passes — including day, night, 24-hour and medical passes — eventually will be tied to a license plate number. Parking enforcement officers will then use mobile readers to scan license plates while driving by at up to 15 miles per hour. The new system will be phased in for passes and permits as 2019 renewal dates occur. By eliminating stickers, the Village will save on the costs of production and postage to mail stickers, as well as support environmental sustainability. But the change also will save time for residents who will be able to purchase permits, reserve passes, pay parking meters and renew vehicle licenses from any smartphone or mobile device through a new Oak Park parking app that will be available later this year. For more information, call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us.

Registration open for Junior Citizen's Police Academy

Boys and girls interested in learning about law enforcement and careers in public safety are invited to register for the Junior Citizen's Police Academy hosted by the Oak Park Police Department and River Forest Police Department this August. The free program is available to boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15 who live or go to school in Oak Park and River Forest. The Junior Citizen's Police Academy will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the week of Aug. 5 – 9. Participants will participate in a wide range of activities related to community policing and public safety. Applications are available at the Oak Park Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information, call 708.358.5542 or email rygh@oak-park.us.

Parking restrictions eased for holidays

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

- **Memorial Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m. Sat., May 25 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., May 29
- **July 4** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., June 29 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Sat., July 6
- **Labor Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Aug. 31 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., Sept. 4
- **Thanksgiving** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 27 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Dec. 2
- **Christmas/New Year** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 21 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Jan. 6

Free concerts, movies in the park

Families are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets for feature films set to begin May 18 in Scoville Park on Lake Street, just west of Oak Park Avenue. In addition, the Park District of Oak Park hosts free Sunday concerts in Scoville Park beginning June 9 that feature a variety of local and well-known bands that cover a wide range of music from oldies and rockabilly to blues, folk and rock. For details on the movies and bands, visit www.pdop.org where rain dates also will be posted.

Movies

- Sat., May 18** – Ralph Breaks the Internet
- Thurs., June 20** – Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse
- Thurs., July 18** – The Sandlot
- Thurs., August 15** – Crazy Rich Asians
- Sat., September 14** – Mary Poppins Returns

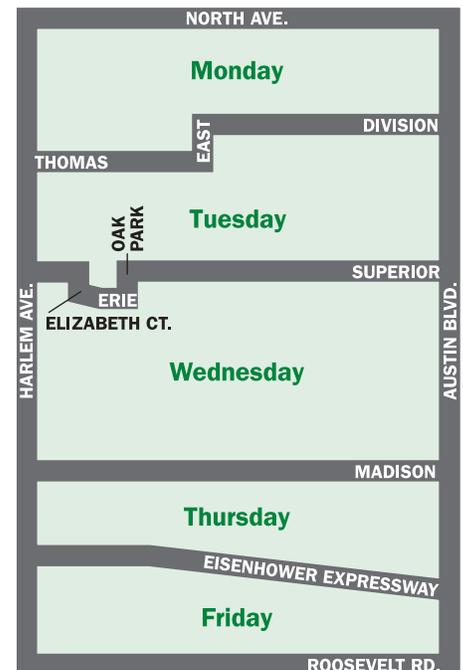
Concerts

- June 9** – Kettlestrings, bluegrass and Americana
- June 16** – Hurricane, reggae
- June 23** – Sons of Chicago, blues, soul, rock

- June 30** – The Millenials, rock
- July 7** – The Long Lost, folk rock
- July 14** – The Hoyle Brothers, retro honky-tonk country
- July 21** – Chicago Latin Groove, Latin music
- July 28** – The Associates Band blues, Motown and dance music
- August 4** – June's Got the Cash, Johnny Cash experience
- August 11** – Nine Worlds Ensemble, world music
- August 18** – Marlon and the Shakes, rock, dance, pop, blues

Refuse collection schedule

The Village provides refuse collection services once a week for all residential buildings with five or fewer units. Owners of larger multifamily dwellings and commercial buildings must contract directly with private refuse haulers. All trash, recyclables and yard waste are scheduled to be picked up on the same day of the week. For more information, call 708.358.5700, email publicworks@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/refuse.



Local curfew applies to minors

Local law requires anyone under the age of 18 to be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or school official in Oak Park between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. weekdays and between midnight and 6 a.m. on weekends. Exceptions do apply, including attending an official school, religious or other recreational or political activity supervised by adults who take responsibility for the minors at the event and as they travel to and from the event. Police may stop and detain persons to verify their identity and reason to be out after curfew. Violations are subject to a minimum \$25 fine. For more information, contact your neighborhood beat officer at www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Waste hauler to enforce stricter recycling rules

Oak Parkers are being challenged to step up their recycling game as new, stricter cart contamination rules go into effect in May.

Waste Management, which provides refuse and recycling services for all Oak Park residential properties of five or fewer units, will stop emptying recycling carts that contain common contaminants such as plastic bags, soiled food containers and non-recyclables like Styrofoam, garden hoses and propane tanks.

Beginning May 6, warning stickers will be applied to recycling carts that contain items that can't be recycled. After a two-week warning period, haulers will not empty carts until the contaminants are removed by the resident — ideally by the next weekly collection cycle.

Contamination woes

Contaminants in recycling carts are making it increasingly difficult for haulers to offer the service as the market for the raw materials keeps getting smaller. While people may think they are doing the right thing by tossing anything paper, plastic or metal into the recycling cart rather than the trash, they actually may be creating big problems for commercial recyclers that could eventually be forced to reduce services or charge more.

Residents role

While Oak Park officials say they are committed to making sure recycling remains an affordable part of the community ethos, residents will have to do their part to help keep costs down.

This means making sure that all packaging and containers are not only recyclable, but also clean and dry before they go into the cart. Just one or two soiled or non-recyclable items can contaminate the entire contents of a cart.

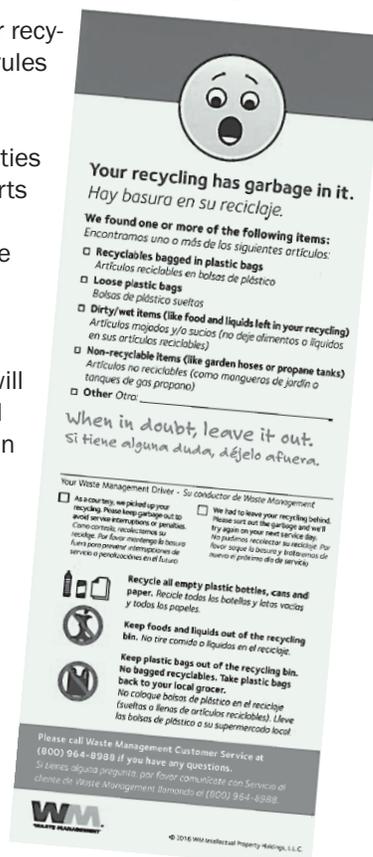
Residences served by the Village's waste hauler pay either \$25 or \$27.51 per month, depending on the size and number of refuse carts. The municipal hauling contract includes unlimited recycling services, with most properties having a single 64-gallon recycling cart.

The Village currently is in the second year of a five-year contract with Waste Management, with fees appearing on property owner's quarterly water bills.

For more information on how to recycle right, including tips, fact sheets and links to how-to videos, visit www.oak-park.us/recycling.

Recycling options abound

Oak Park residents served under the Village refuse hauling contract have more options available than most communities to help reduce the typical contaminants found in recycling carts, including At Your Door pick up of electronics and common hazardous household waste such as cleaning solutions and vehicle fluids. In addition, Oak Park offers a fee-based composting program that allows participants to toss most soiled paper and food containers like pizza boxes into a special cart. Foam containers and plastic bags remain a challenge, officials say, but clean plastic bags can be returned to most major grocery and big-box stores for proper recycling. The Village also has a bag fee to encourage residents to rely on reusable bags. Last year in Oak Park, haulers collected about 4,300 tons of household recyclables and 3,600 tons of food scraps and yard waste for composting. Another 78 tons of household hazardous waste materials were collected from more than 1,900 At Your Door pickups. More information is posted at www.oak-park.us/recycling.



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. Unsolicited resumes not identifying a specific job opening are not accepted or acknowledged. The application process for police officers and firefighter/paramedics uses a different application form that will be posted as needed for specific recruitment efforts. For more information on Village hiring policies and procedures, email hr@oak-park.us.

Follow policymaking online, on demand

Residents interested in keeping up with local municipal policymaking can follow Village Board meetings at www.oak-park.us/boardtv, where meetings are streamed live and archived for on-demand viewing. The online meetings database even offers the option to search the meetings archive using key words to find a particular topic of interest and sign up for alerts by topic. Users also can select a video by meeting date and then choose to view only the portion of the meeting that addresses the topic of interest just by clicking on the agenda item. Village Board meetings continue to be broadcast live on VOP-TV, which is available to Comcast subscribers on channel 6 and AT&T Uverse customers on channel 99. For those residents who want to dig even deeper into the details, complete board packets — the materials trustees use to prepare for meetings — are posted on the board TV web page as well, along with the approved minutes of past meetings, which are the official record of Village Board actions. The page also links to information on how to contact officials by telephone and email. For more information on Village board practices and processes, email village@oak-park.us.

Police work to build private camera network



Fresh off the launch of a new online tool for citizens to upload videos that might help solve neighborhood crimes, Police are taking the next logical step — urging citizens to register their cameras and help create a community-wide network. Looking for nearby private cameras has become routine for officers when they canvas a neighborhood after a crime has been

reported. By setting up a more formal, but voluntary camera registration process, Police say investigators would know almost immediately if video evidence might be available at a particular location and who to contact to retrieve it. Both residential and commercial property owners are invited to register their surveillance cameras. Police say registrant information and any video files they provide will be kept confidential and only be used in crime investigations. To register a camera with the Police Department or to upload a video directly to investigators, just go to **www.oak-park.us/policevideo** and follow the instructions.

Lawn sprinkling, water heating systems require backflow preventers

As Oak Parkers get ready to put their lawn sprinkling systems back online for the season, they are reminded that federal, state and local regulations require a device that prevents any water from flowing back into and possibly contaminating the municipal water supply. Cross connections between in-home devices and the public water supply typically are protected by a valve called a backflow preventer. Property owners are required at their own expense to have these valves installed and checked annually. Most plumbing contractors can install backflow preventers and are certified to test them. But it is not just water irrigation systems that require backflow-prevention valves. Residential backflow preventers typically are found on systems for filling swimming pools and water features, and on fire sprinkler systems. If your heat is supplied by radiators, the hot water boiler should have a backflow preventer, too, as should a water softener. Toilets, bathtubs, sinks, hot water heaters and other standard plumbing fixtures do not require backflow preventers. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email **publicworks@oak-park.us**.

Water quality report is online...Oak Park residents interested in knowing about the quality of the water they drink need go no further than **www.oak-park.us/waterqualityreport** to read the latest report. Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires communities to prepare a Consumer Confidence Report that provides information on the quality of the local drinking water. In addition to detailed analyses of substances in the water, the report also includes facts about the community's drinking water delivery system and source, which is Lake Michigan for Oak Park. The Village is dedicated to supplying drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. An archive of past water quality reports is posted at **www.oak-park.us/waterquality**. For more information on Oak Park's drinking water or if you would like a paper copy of the annual water report, call 708.358.5700 or email **publicworks@oak-park.us**.

Watering restrictions in effect...As part of the interstate compact for preserving the Great Lakes, summer watering restrictions are in effect May 15 through Sept. 15. Outdoor water use is limited Mondays through Fridays to even-numbered street addresses on even-numbered days, and to odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days. Newly planted grass seed, sod, trees and shrubs are exempt from the restrictions for their first 30 days of growth. Call 708.358.5700 or email **publicworks@oak-park.us** for more information.

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

Construction news

Village Hall parking lot closed for construction...Residents planning to visit Village Hall this spring are encouraged to allow extra time to find parking as the Village Hall parking lot undergoes extensive reconstruction. The lot will be closed for at least four weeks starting the week of May 6. Limited two-hour parking for visitors and residents will be available adjacent to Village Hall on Lombard and Taylor avenues throughout the project. Parking for persons with disabilities also will be maintained by the accessible entrance to Village Hall on Lombard Avenue. A map outlining temporary parking availability at Village Hall is posted at www.oak-park.us/vhparking. In addition to a long overdue resurfacing of the parking lot, the project will include new lighting, several new electric vehicle charging stations and enhancements to bring the parking lot up to compliance with standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Madison Street improvements...Construction is underway to convert Madison Street into three lanes from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard and incorporate a range of pedestrian-friendly features. Commonly referred to as a road diet, the project will reduce the roadway to one lane in each direction, with a shared center lane for turns. Pedestrian-friendly features will include accessible ramps, marked crosswalks, corner curb bump-outs to reduce distances at crossings, mid-street pedestrian refuges and enhanced crossing signals. To learn more about the project and sign up for construction updates, visit www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

Construction updates...With warmer weather comes construction as crews make needed improvements to vital infrastructure like water and sewer lines, streets, alleys and sidewalks. An interactive map of all construction projects planned for 2019 and scheduled through 2023 is available at www.oak-park.us/construction, which also includes regular project updates. For more detailed information about specific construction projects, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Senior News

Report abuse...Residents age 60 and over and persons with disabilities who may be victims of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation are urged to call the Oak Park Township at 708.383.8060, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. Reports also may be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the Illinois Department on Aging at 866.800.1409.

Memory Café...Individuals living with memory loss and their care givers are invited to connect, share a meal and enjoy recreation and educational opportunities at the Memory Café in the Oak Park Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. The café is open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., on the third Tuesday of each month. Call 708.383.8060 or email memorycafe@oakparktownship.org for more information. Volunteer opportunities also are available.

Reduced rate transit cards...Seniors 65 years old and older and persons with disabilities can apply for reduced-rate public transit fare cards from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. The cards offer half-price rides on public transportation. First-time applicants may be required to pay \$3.50 for transit card photographs. Identification is required to apply. Call 708.383.8005 for more information.



July 4 parade to showcase Oak Park diversity

The many dimensions of Oak Park will be on display when the annual July 4th parade steps off at 10 a.m., Thurs., July 4 from Longfellow Park at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street. Parade participants march north on Ridgeland Avenue to Augusta Street and disperse at Whittier School. The route will offer many viewing opportunities along the way. More than 75 groups typically participate in the parade, including social and special interest groups, community groups, athletic teams, politicians, businesses, service organizations, children's groups, animal lovers with their pets and musical groups. Some participants bring floats and drive vintage cars. Others play music, carry banners, ride decorated bicycles and skate. Most dress up in all manner of red, white and blue to commemorate the nation's birthday and to celebrate Oak Park's rich diversity. Of course, the Police and Fire departments always are part of the parade, too, with vehicle lights flashing and sirens blaring. Weather permitting, a fireworks display typically begins at dusk in the football stadium of Oak Park and River Forest High School near East Avenue and Lake Street. Groups interested in participating in the parade can register through June 14 at www.oak-park.us/paraderegistration. For more information or to volunteer to help out at the parade, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Free youth skills workshops return

Residents ages 15 to 18 are invited to learn skills and techniques that can help them find and keep a job at annual workshops presented by the Community Relations Department. This year's workshops are scheduled for 2 to 5 p.m., June 10 – 14 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Participants learn skills such as resume writing, interviewing, career path development and interpersonal relations. Guest speakers and representatives from local businesses help participants learn to take charge of their lives by developing critical job seeking and retention skills that can be carried throughout adulthood. These local employers also offer opportunities for individuals who complete the workshop to interview for available positions. The number of participants is limited. Register online at www.oak-park.us/community by June 4 or call 708.358.5407.

Scan with a
smartphone QR
app for more
information



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



OP/FYI

Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews
Dan Moroney
Simone M. Boutet
Jim Taglia
Susan Buchanan
Arti Walker-Peddakotla

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

Farmers' Market to begin 44th season

The Oak Park Farmers' Market returns for its 44th season on Sat., May 18. The Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from opening day through October in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot, 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. More than two dozen independent farmers and producers partici-



pate in the Farmers' Market, offering everything from fresh fruits and vegetables to meat, cheese, eggs, flowers, bedding plants, dairy products, bread, grains, honey and maple syrup. The Market also features donuts made on-site, fresh coffee and live bluegrass music. Non-profit bake sales are offered most Saturdays. A majority of vendors accept credit/debit cards, as well as WIC and senior coupons. All vendors accept LINK cards. Special events are held throughout the season, starting with Go Green Days on opening day and May 25 highlighting sustainability efforts in Oak Park. This year's Go Green Days theme is cross-pollination, with the goal of encouraging synergy among various disciplines, organizations and businesses contributing to the greening of Oak Park. Market-goers will be able to gather information from a range of local environmental organizations as part of Go Green Days. Support for Market administration comes from sales of a variety of items available at the information tent, including reusable shopping bags, t-shirts and travel mugs. For more information call 708.358.570, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

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

A Day in Our Village festival is June 2

The 46th annual A Day in Our Village festival celebrating diversity and community is scheduled for Sunday, June 2. Activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will fill Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. along with live performances and a food court featuring local restaurants. The Park District of Oak Park will also offer old-fashioned carnival activities from 1 to 5 p.m. at Mills Park, 217 S. Home Ave, with \$5 wristbands offering unlimited access to all the activities. For more information, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Be prepared for severe weather

The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC), the emergency 911 hub for Oak Park, River Forest, Elmwood Park and Park Ridge, sounds a warning siren when a tornado is sighted within a 10-mile radius. The sirens also are activated at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month as part of a regular statewide test. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/beprepared. Information on severe weather also is posted by the National Weather Service at www.spc.noaa.gov.