

Farmer-customer connection runs deep at Farmers' Market

Live bluegrass music and fresh donuts certainly help make the Oak Park Farmers' Market special, but the lifeblood of the Market is undeniably the more than two dozen independent farmers and producers who serve their customers week after week.

The Oak Park Farmers' Market that began in 1976 with one farmer has since grown into a dynamic, open-air, producer-only market made up of 28 farmers and producers selling a wide variety of products, including seasonal fruits and vegetables, meat, cheese and eggs, bread, flowers and plants, honey, maple syrup and jarred items, grains and dairy products.

By shopping at the Oak Park Farmers' Market, customers support local farmers and small businesses from the Midwest while helping cut down on the pollution and energy costs of shipping produce long distances.

As demand for local food continues to grow, so too have opportunities for farmers to market fresh food directly to consumers. According to statistics released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farmers' markets and farm stands account for roughly \$2 billion of the \$3 billion that Americans spend annually on farm-direct products.

This revenue, in turn, supports the livelihoods of more than 165,000 mostly small and mid-sized farms and ranches.



Mike Ehlers of River Valley Ranch in Bloomington, Wisc. is one of the more than two dozen independent farmers and producers who are the lifeblood of the Oak Park Farmers' Market.

Produce in supermarkets is often picked seven to 14 days before it becomes available to shoppers and travels an average of 1,200 miles before reaching grocery store shelves. But the locally grown produce sold at farmers' markets is made available at the peak of freshness and nutrient content.

The Oak Park Farmers' Market also offers food that most grocery stores don't stock such as farm-fresh duck

eggs, quail eggs, turkey eggs, soy-free chicken eggs, lamb, duck, goat and heirloom tomatoes.

Many farmers accept credit cards as well as subsidized programs such as SNAP/LINK cards, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons that can help make fresh food affordable.

The Oak Park Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine every Saturday from about mid-May through October in the Pilgrim Church parking lot at 460 Lake St., just one block west of Ridgeland Avenue and two blocks from the Ridgeland Green Line CTA station.

For more information, including details about the Market's vendors, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, call 708.358.5780 or email farmersmarket@oak-park.us.

Stone Soup marks end of season

The 44th season of the Oak Park Farmers' Market comes to a close with stone soup served to patrons at the final Market on Oct. 26. Prepared with ingredients donated by Farmers' Market vendors, the *stone soup* is ladled up free of charge from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty to thank Market customers for their patronage. 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. A popular version of the stone soup tale is posted online at www.oak-park.us/stonesoup.

Annual fall leaf collection set to begin

The annual fall leaf collection program for 2019 is scheduled for Oct. 21 – Dec. 12 with eight pickups planned for each section of the Village. 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. Leaves raked into the street are 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 — inform landscape services of the leaf collection schedule.
- 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 cause a fire.
- Rake leaves onto side streets whenever possible, avoiding 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.
- Do not rake leaves into or close to bus shelters or bicycle racks.
- Keep catch basins clear of raked leaves to avoid flooding.
- Obey all parking restrictions — regulations are strictly enforced.
- Dampen piles after raking to avoid wind-blown leaves.
- Drive carefully — wet leaves are slippery and large piles may hinder visibility.
- Watch for work zones and intersections that may be closed temporarily to remove large piles of leaves.

For more information on the program call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

NORTH AVE	
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Oct. 23	Oct. 24
Oct. 30	Oct. 31
Nov. 6	Nov. 7
Nov. 13	Nov. 14
Nov. 20	Nov. 21
Nov. 27	Nov. 29
Dec. 4	Dec. 5
Dec. 11	Dec. 12

SOUTH BLVD	
TUESDAY	MONDAY
Oct. 22	Oct. 21
Oct. 29	Oct. 28
Nov. 5	Nov. 4
Nov. 12	Nov. 11
Nov. 19	Nov. 18
Nov. 26	Nov. 25
Dec. 3	Dec. 2
Dec. 10	Dec. 9

2019 FALL LEAF COLLECTION MAP

Senior News

Musicians needed...Enthusiastic volunteers are being sought to perform for the senior citizens who attend the lunch program from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays at the Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Just call 708.383.8060 for more information.

Book bike visits...Check out books, movies and music while learning about local library services and programs during visits by the book bike from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., every fourth Thursday weather permitting at the Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Learn more at oppl.org/use-your-library/the-oak-park-book-bike.

Disability consultations...Older adults and individuals 18 and over with a disability can get free assistance with local, state and federal programs from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays at West Suburban Medical Center campuses at Building A, Community Room 1104, 7411 Lake St., or room 1062 at 3 Erie Court. Call 844.794.4301 for a confidential appointment.



Memory café...Individuals living with memory loss and their care partners are invited to spend time at the Memory Café to connect with others, share snacks and enjoy recreational and educational programs in an open-house style. The café will be open from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays Sept. 17 and Oct. 15 at the Township Senior Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Call 708-383-8060 or email memorycafe@oakpark-township.org to register or volunteer.

Rules of the road class...Senior citizens interested in brushing up on their knowledge of driving rules and regulations are invited to a rules-of-the road class scheduled for 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Wed., Oct. 9 at the Township Senior Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. A representative from the Secretary of State's office will present the free class. Space is limited. Call 708.383.8060 to register.

Trick-or-treat hours set

Official hours for Halloween trick or treating are 3 to 7 p.m., Oct. 31. Parents should 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, call 708.445.3300 or 708.386.3800, or email fire@oak-park.us or police@oak-park.us.

Public health resources target opioid abuse

Illinois is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic, according to public health officials. Across the state, opioid overdoses have taken the lives of thousands of residents. The issue has touched virtually every community, including Oak Park, which is why reducing illicit use of opioids was included among the top priorities in the most recent Oak Park and River Forest Community Health Plan released in 2017. The Oak Park Department of Public Health has joined agencies across the state in adopting and promoting programs to help prevent opioid abuse.

Medication lockboxes...Officials recommend storing medications out of reach of children and in a safe space — preferably locked — to prevent access by other family members and visitors. A limited supply of safe storage lockboxes is available to Oak Park residents by visiting the Health Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us for more information and to check on availability. Lockboxes can also be purchased online.

Safe drug disposal options...Safe disposal of unwanted opioids and other prescription drugs is an important step in preventing overdoses. Oak Park Township will collect prescription medication from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 26 at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. as part of National Prescription Take Back Day. In addition, convenient prescription drug disposal is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Needles and other liquid waste are not accepted. For more information on the Village's drug collection service, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Treatment options...Substance use is a chronic disease that can be treated. Officials note that while everyone's path to recovery is different, treatment is the first step. The Illinois Helpline can help anyone struggling with opioid, alcohol and/or other drug use. Call 833.2FINDHELP to talk with a helpline specialist about individualized treatment services. A tailored list of services in the area also is available by answering a few anonymous questions online at www.helplineil.org. In addition, the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township offers a free online tool *The HUB*, www.healthconnectionhub.org that helps connect with a large network of free and/or reduced-cost substance abuse programs and services in the Oak Park area.

More information...For more information about public health initiatives to counter opioid abuse, contact the Oak Park Health Department at 708.358.5480, health@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/health.

Disease-carrying mosquitoes still biting

While mosquitoes tend to become less active as summer heat diminishes, the threat of these disease-carrying pests could continue as late as mid-October. Public health officials advise residents to avoid being bitten by wearing long sleeves and pants, limiting time spent outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and wearing insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol. Residents also are urged to eliminate potential breeding sites by storing containers such as buckets, plant pots and uncovered rain barrels upside down so that they do not hold water. Visit www.oak-park.us/fightthebite or email health@oak-park.us for more information.

Vaccination urged as flu season approaches

As the flu season approaches, local public health officials are reminding residents that 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 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 flushot.healthmap.org. Residents also can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5483 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

Electric aggregation tied to ComEd rate, supports renewable initiatives

The Village of Oak Park has adopted a 24-month electricity aggregation contract that ensures participants won't pay more than the ComEd energy rate and provides support for Illinois-based regional renewable energy facilities. The contract with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (mc2), which will be effective with the October/November 2019 meter reads, ensures aggregation participants will never pay more than those customers whose electricity is supplied by ComEd. In addition, the electricity supply rate includes the three-tenths of one cent per kilowatt hour fee that goes into a Village fund created in 2015 to help support local renewable energy projects. The new contract also includes access by Oak Park residents and small businesses to community solar subscriptions from facilities in northern Illinois that are expected to come online in late 2019 and throughout 2020. More information on this option will be provided by mc2. Electricity aggregation allows municipalities to bundle residential and smaller business accounts, then use competitive bidding to seek lower rates from alternate suppliers. Aggregation does not alter the actual delivery of electricity, which is provided by ComEd. In fact, consumers have the option of choosing from retail electric suppliers approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Officials urge those who elect to choose an electricity provider from the state's list to read the fine print carefully. Contracts may contain unexpected fees and penalties to cancel. For answers to questions about Oak Park's Community Choice Electricity Aggregation Program, call 708.358.5778 or email sustainability@oak-park.us.



Fire Department launches Facebook page



Just a few of the Oak Park firefighter/paramedics who help keep the community safe around the clock.

The Oak Park Fire Department has opened an additional line of communication with the community by launching a new social media presence. Residents can now receive regular updates related to fire safety in Oak Park on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vopfire. Valuable safety tips and information related to Fire Department initiatives will be regularly shared on the new page. The page also will offer a behind-the-scenes look at the Fire Department and officials may use the new Facebook page to share information about major fires or incidents that occur in the Village. In 2018 the Fire Department responded to 7,267 fire and emergency medical service calls. While the new social media initiative is designed to enhance engagement with the community, officials stress that the Facebook page is not the proper channel for reporting an emergency. In the event of an emergency, residents should always call 911. The Fire Department's Facebook page will not be monitored 24/7, but staff will respond to inquiries as time allows. The new Fire Department Facebook page is the latest entrant to the Village's wider social media outreach efforts. The Police Department launched Facebook and Twitter pages last year, and the Village has maintained a Facebook page for more than a decade to go along with Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn accounts. For more information about the Fire Department, visit www.oak-park.us/fire, email fire@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5600.

Fire open house... Oak Parkers of all ages with an interest in modern firefighting and emergency medical services should mark their calendars for Sat., Oct. 5. That's when the Oak Park Fire Department will open its doors to the public for its annual open house. The event, held in conjunction with Fire Safety Month, is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Central Fire Station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. Visitors will be able to get up close to the equipment and talk to the firefighter/paramedics who help keep the community safe. In addition to touching all of the cool equipment



essential to the mission of a modern fire department, the event will include tours of the fire house, presentations about safety, refreshments and fun handouts. For more information, 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
Transportation	383.4806

facebook.com/vopnews

instagram.com/oakparkil

pinterest.com/oakparkil

twitter.com/vopnews

youtube.com/vopnews

Drivers urged to take extra care



Oak Park Police Officer Anthony Coleman on patrol in northeast Oak Park.

With the new school year now underway, Oak Park police are urging 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 also must obey the signals of crossing guards and 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 on the Oak Park Police Department's school programs, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Park District news

Fall fest...The annual fall festival is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun., Sept. 29 at Rehm Park, 515 Garfield St., and the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. A range of free activities are planned, including hayrides, games, contests and a pumpkin patch. Visit pdop.org for more information.

Halloween for adults...Oak Parkers can learn about the strange happenings and rumored haunting of Cheney Mansion from 7 to 10 p.m. Fri., Sept. 27 at the venerable historic manse located at 220 N. Euclid Ave. On Fri., Oct. 4, adults can hop aboard a haunted trolley to solve a traveling murder mystery while enjoying a progressive dinner starting at the Oak Park Conservatory, moving on to Cheney Mansion and finishing the evening at Austin Gardens. The haunted trolleys leave the Conservatory at 6 and 7 p.m. To register or for more information, visit pdop.org.

Wright races registration...Registration is now open for the 43rd annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races scheduled for Sun., Oct. 20. The Races offer something for every member of the family including a 5K walk/run, 10K run and a youth mile. Visit flwraces.com for more details.

Just for new residents...Anyone new to Oak Park is invited to learn about the programs offered by the Park District at a meet-and-greet event set for 6 to 8 p.m., Wed., Oct. 2 at the Gymnastics and Recreation Center, 21 Lake St.

Local support available for early childhood needs

Families with young children can look to the Collaboration for Early Childhood for information about early development and resources, finding child care or preschool and parenting support. The organization, funded in part by the Village and local school districts, offers free coaching for parents of infants and toddlers and works with local organizations to find and enroll eligible children in pre-school and Head Start programs. The Collaboration also trains early learning professionals to help ensure high-quality services are available in Oak Park. Parents concerned about their child's physical, social or emotional development can look to the Collaboration for screening and referrals to additional services as well. In addition, the Collaboration publishes an early childhood resource directory that lists child care centers, preschools and family child care programs in the community. Collaboration ambassadors participate in local events and even go door-to-door to make sure families have the information they need to support their young children. Neighbors are encouraged to spread the word about these free services to families living on their block or to those who are new to Oak Park. For more information on local early childhood resources, including eligibility for programs, call 708.613.6122, email info@collab4kids.org or visit collab4kids.org.

Project planning made easy with online portal

Oak Park property owners planning a project can get the permitting process underway online at www.oak-park.us/villageview. The online system offers users an intuitive, widget-driven website portal for conducting a wide range of property related Village business via a computer, tablet or mobile telephone. The software solution links multiple Village databases and streamlines and automates information processing. A key user-friendly aspect of the system is its ability to provide real-time information as a permit submittal moves through the review and approval processes. The system also allows contractors and DIY property owners to register with the Village and update permit materials. And when fees are due, payment is accepted via credit card. One-on-one help learning to use the system is available from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information, email development@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/villageview.

VillageView Services

- Apply for permits
- Check the status of permit applications
- Schedule inspections
- Register as a contractor
- Check a contractor's license status
- Submit property complaints
- Check on planning applications
- Apply for a business license
- Apply for a multifamily rental license
- Search for property information

Free, pre-construction guidance...

Oak Parkers considering a remodeling project can get advice before starting the permitting process by scheduling a preconstruction meeting with Oak Park's Chief Building Official, Steve Cutaia. Steve can offer guidance on how permitting works, explain the information needed to navigate the process and direct you to other staff with specific skills and knowledge. To schedule a pre-construction meeting, call 708.358.5434 or email scutaia@oak-park.us.

View with a
smartphone camera.



Village Manager
Cara Pavlicek

Village Clerk
Vicki Scaman

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

Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL

PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
Presort

OP/FYI

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272

123 Madison Street

Village Hall

Village of Oak Park



Police embrace principles intended to build mutual trust

The Oak Park Police Department has officially embraced a set of principles geared toward eliminating racial tension by building mutual trust between police and the communities they serve. Developed jointly by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and the Illinois NAACP State Conference, the 10 shared principles include commitments to value life, reject discrimination, support diversity in the police profession and develop relationships at the street and leadership levels. The principles also include an endorsement of the concept of procedural justice, which values fairness, transparency and impartiality. By adopting the shared principles, the Oak Park Police Department has agreed to the following:



Oak Park Police working to build mutual trust include (from left) Officer Michael Murphy, Sgt. Michael Greet, Sgt. Samantha Deuchler, Sgt. Nicholas Velez and Officer Toni Radtke.

- Value the life of every person, the preservation of life being the highest value.
- Recognize that all persons should be treated with dignity and respect.
- Reject discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, nationality, immigrant status, sexual orientation, gender, disability or familial status.
- Endorse the six pillars of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing including the first pillar of building trust and legitimacy.
- Endorse the four pillars of procedural justice, which are fairness, voice, transparency and impartiality.
- Endorse the values inherent in community policing, which includes positive engagement between community and police.
- Develop relationships at the leadership and street levels to eliminate racial tension.
- Accept mutual responsibility to encourage all citizens to gain a better understanding of the law to assist in interactions with police.
- Increase diversity in police departments and in the law enforcement profession.
- Commit to de-escalation training to ensure the safety of community members and police officers.

For more information on the Oak Park Police Department, visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Shred sensitive papers, recycle old clothing



Oak Parkers are invited to shred sensitive papers and recycle old clothing from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 14 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. 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. Through a cooperative program with the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, residents can donate used clothing and apparel of all types including shoes, belts, hats, towels, linens — basically anything textile-related. Donations help fund free programs and services for nearly 140,000 individuals living with epilepsy. Items that cannot be used are sent to developing nations to repurpose. For more information on these events or recycling in Oak Park, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.