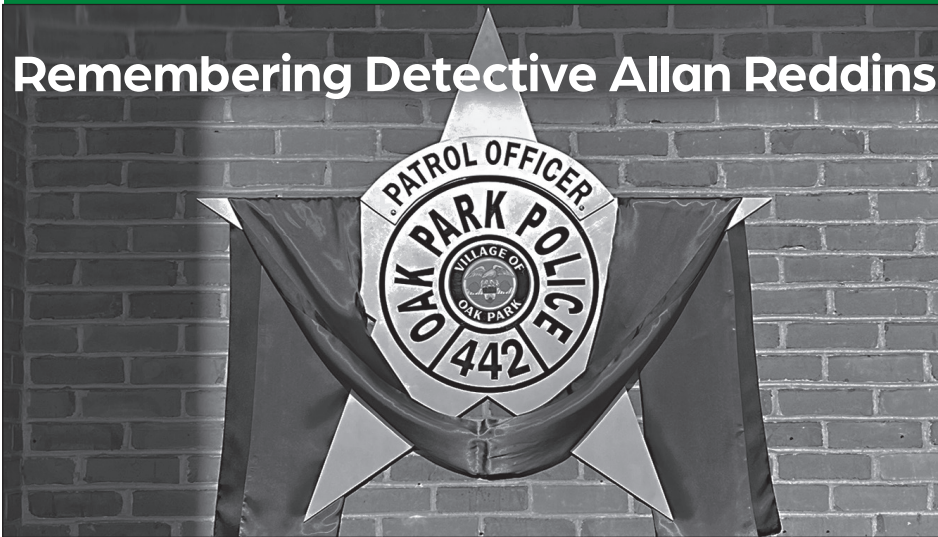


Remembering Detective Allan Reddins



The Oak Park Police Department thanks the community for the outpouring of support it received following the tragic death of Detective Allan Reddins, who was killed in the line of duty the morning of Nov. 29 while responding to a call involving an armed individual.



Although public memorials for Det. Reddins have come and gone, the Police Department and Village of Oak Park continue to mourn his loss and honor his service. Det. Reddins was 40 years old and a Chicago native. He was sworn in as a member of the Oak Park Police Department in May 2019 and is remembered as a humble and dedicated public servant committed to his role of helping protect the community.

A 37-year-old Chicago man with an extensive criminal background was charged with the first-degree murder of Det. Reddins. The man was also charged with attempted murder of a peace officer, possession of a stolen firearm and unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

Det. Reddins is the seventh member of the Oak Park Police Department to die in the line of duty and first since 1938.

The loss of Det. Reddins has had a deep impact on Oak Park's tight-knit Police Department. Yet in the midst of the unspeakable loss of their colleague, the men and women of the Police Department have continued to serve the community by providing high-quality law enforcement services around the clock.

Det. Reddins' death serves as a heart-wrenching reminder of the inherent risks first responders face when they report for duty. And while the senseless violence that took Det. Reddins' life is all too common in American society, it undoubtedly creates a deep sense of sorrow and concern when it strikes so close to home.

Nonetheless, Police Chief Shatonya Johnson reinforced the Police Department's determination to keep the community safe while addressing attendees at Det. Reddins' funeral last month.

"With this tragic loss, there will be a void that will feel impossible to fill...but we are unbreakable," Chief Johnson said. "We all remember the impact Allan had on our lives, the sacrifice he made and the legacy he leaves behind. I guarantee we will emerge stronger and wiser."

More information about the case and a recording of Det. Reddins' funeral is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/reddins.

Safe storage of firearms required

Firearm storage practices play a vital role in reducing the risk of gun violence, including the prevention of unintentional shootings, gun suicides and gun theft. The tragic death of Oak Park Detective Allan Reddins underscores this point as he died after being shot by an armed individual in possession of a stolen gun. Best practices for safe storage include storing guns unloaded, locked and separate from ammunition. Village ordinance requires the following:

- All firearms within the Village of Oak Park must be secured by a locking device.
- Only the person authorized to carry or control the firearm may know the combination or the location of the key of the locking device.
- A firearm unattended in a vehicle within plain view is not considered secure.



Free gun locks available at various locations...

The Oak Park Public Health Department has free gun locks available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Gun locks are also available at the Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. and the Community Mental Health Board office located in the Park District's Community Recreation Center, 229 Madison St.

For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/gunsafety or contact the Public Health Department at 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us.

2025 budget continues to focus on services, advance priorities

The municipal budget for 2025 focuses resources on continuing to deliver essential services to Oak Park community members while also advancing key priorities laid out by the Village Board.

The 2025 budget is comprised of numerous funds totaling \$172.1 million in expenditures, excluding interfund transfers.

The budget's \$114 million general fund, which supports most day-to-day municipal operations, allocates a large share of spending to the critical services provided by the Police, Fire and Public Works departments. This year's budget also includes an interfund transfer of \$32.8 million that will go from the Village's fund balance reserves to the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan to support scheduled infrastructure upgrades.

Many projects in the budget for 2025 were included with the intent of furthering the Village Board's goals in the following areas:

- Community affordability
- Community health and safety
- Racial equity
- Vibrant, Diverse, Connected Neighborhoods
- Sustainability & Resiliency
- Economic Vitality

Expenditures are supported by a number of sources including property taxes, sales taxes, user fees, utility taxes and real estate transfer taxes.

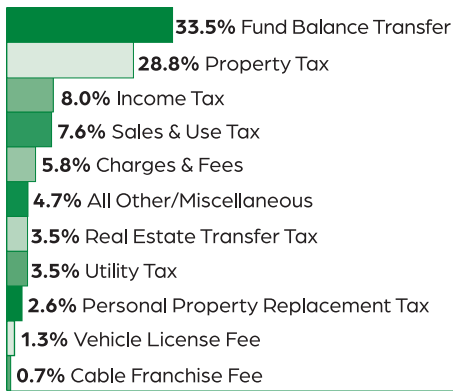
Property taxes will contribute to 28.8% of the Village's General Fund expenditures in 2025. Based on current available data, approximately 15% of an Oak Park property owner's tax bill goes toward funding the Village's municipal services and State-mandated Police and Fire pensions.

Refuse collection rates will remain flat in 2025. However, this year water rates increase to \$11.37 per 1,000, up from \$9.33. Sewer rates, which are based on water use, are now \$3.26 per 1,000 gallons of water used, up from \$3.13. The majority of water and sewer fees cover the cost of purchasing Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago, with a share also helping fund maintenance and improvements to the local water delivery systems.

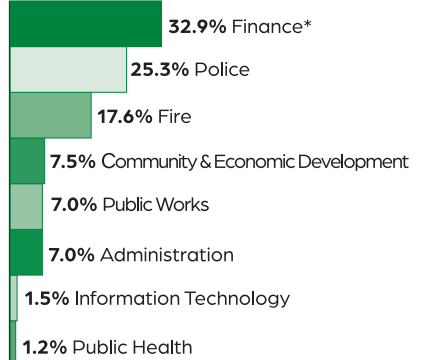
Information on the budget process and copies of the Fiscal Year 2025 and past year's budgets are available at www.oak-park.us/budget.

2025 Budget at a Glance – General Fund

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



* Includes interfund transfer for capital improvement

HOW PROPERTY TAXES ARE DISTRIBUTED



Financial documents available online

The Finance Department ensures the fiscal integrity of the Village of Oak Park by developing, maintaining and administering all programs related to the accounting of municipal revenues and expenditures. This critical municipal government role results in a wide range of financial documents available for public view online at www.oak-park.us/financial-reports. Among the documents readily assessable online are the following:

- Annual Budgets
- Management Letters
- Bond Rating Service Reports
- Capital Improvements Plans
- Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports
- Financial Reports
- Single Audit Reports
- Tax Increment Finance Annual Reports
- Tax Increment Finance Historical Reports
- Total Compensation Reports

For more information on the role and duties of the Finance Department, call 708.358.5460, email finance@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/finance.

RENEW *the* AVENUE

Oak Park Avenue renewal coming later this year

Preparation is underway for the Renew the Avenue streetscape project that will revitalize Oak Park Avenue through the Hemingway Business District this year with new brick roadways, bluestone sidewalks, safety improvements and the replacement of aging water and sewer infrastructure. The construction schedule is still being finalized but work could begin as soon as March. Find the latest information related to the project and spotlights of businesses that call the Hemingway Business District home at www.renewtheavenue.com.

Fire Department offers life-saving CPR/AED classes

The Oak Park 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 Fire Department's certified American Heart Association community training center in the main station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. All courses are taught by an AHA-certified instructor. Fees vary by type of class and residency. In-person registration at the main station is required, and class sizes are limited. The 2025 class schedule is posted online at www.oak-park.us/cpr. For more information, call 708.358.5605 or email cpr@oak-park.us.

Making Oak Park homes, buildings more energy efficient

The majority of Oak Park's greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy used to heat and cool homes and buildings in the community. Reducing those emissions not only benefits the environment, but it also makes our homes and workplaces healthier and more comfortable, while lowering energy costs.

Village Board funds energy efficiency grants...When the Village Board approved the 2025 budget, it included a total of \$750,000 in funding for energy efficiency grants. Stay tuned for more information about how residents can tap into this grant funding to weatherize their homes and switch to more efficient electric appliances.

Free advice for making your home climate ready...The Oak Park Climate Action Network offers neighbor-to-neighbor Climate Coaches who volunteer their time to provide practical advice on a variety of topics related to improving energy efficiency in Oak Park homes. From insulation and energy retrofits to heat pumps and geothermal systems, Climate Coaches are standing by to help answer questions and set Oak Parkers on the path to improved energy efficiency. This free service is a great first step before applying for an energy efficiency grant. Request a Climate Coach at www.oak-park.us/climate-coaches.

Thank you for benchmarking...The second deadline for building energy benchmarking was Dec. 31. Village officials thank all of the building owners and managers who submitted their data. Check out the status of your building on the Village's benchmarking map at www.oak-park.us/benchmarkingmap. If your building didn't make the Dec 31 deadline, it is never too late to start the process. Reach out to sustainability@oak-park.us for help getting started. Benchmarking is a first step towards building decarbonization. By measuring the performance of buildings over 10,000 square feet, building managers get valuable information on how their building could be more efficient, and the Village has the information to create better policies and programs to assist in improving building performance. More information is at www.oak-park.us/building-benchmarking.

For more information about ways the Village is working to improve energy efficiency in buildings and homes, contact sustainability@oak-park.us.



Black History Month celebration planned

The Village is hosting its third annual Black History Month Honors Celebration on Feb. 8 at the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association, 178 Forest Ave. The event features speakers, performers, interactive

activities, music, refreshments and more while highlighting the 2025 Black History Month theme: African Americans and Labor. The Black History Month Honors Celebration is free to attend, but space is limited. Visit www.oak-park.us/BHM or email DEI@oak-park.us for more information and details about how to reserve a seat.

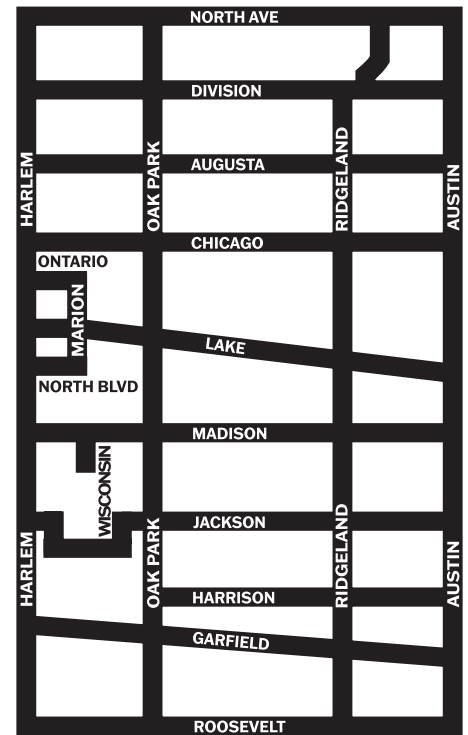
Holiday tree collection schedule

Holiday trees will be collected the weeks of Jan. 6 and Jan. 13 from residential properties of five or fewer units served by the Village refuse hauling contractor. Be sure to remove all decorations and stands, and place the tree in the regular collection area before your regular collection day during these two weeks. If your regular collection point is in an alley, be sure to place the tree in the alley and not in the parkway in front of your residence. Since the trees are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment, please do not leave them in plastic disposal bags or they will not be collected. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker to be attached. Stickers are available for \$3.25 each at most local grocery and hardware stores, as well as at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Wreaths and garlands cannot be collected for recycling because they contain wire — please place them in the trash container.

Holiday light recycling...Oak Park residents can recycle holiday lights by dropping them off in a bin located in the lobby of the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. The bin will be available during regular business hours Monday through Friday through Jan. 31. Residents served by the Village's waste-hauling contract can also schedule an e-waste pickup at www.irsrecycles.com/oakpark. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at publicworks@oak-park.us or 708.358.5700.

Plan for parking when it snows

The Village has specific rules that govern parking when it snows — rules that are enforced seven days a week, including holidays. Residents are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly. When snow exceeds two inches, all parking is prohibited on the main streets posted as snow routes. Parking on other streets is restricted to one side from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in residential areas and from midnight to 8 a.m. in designated commercial districts, the side determined by the date. Park on the even-address side of the street on even dates and on the odd-address side on odd dates. Residents are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly. Community members who sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme will be alerted when the emergency snow parking rules are in effect. Efforts also are made to post timely information to the Village's social media sites, www.facebook.com/vopnews and www.x.com/vopnews. The snow emergency parking rules and a list of frequently asked questions also are posted at www.oak-park.us/snow.



SNOW ROUTES



Sidewalk shoveling required...Property owners who shovel their sidewalks are doing more than making it safer for pedestrians of all ages — they also are complying with the law. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. Being a good neighbor is important, too, so property owners are urged to help those who may need help clearing a sidewalk. And remember to clear the crossing ramps to ensure safe travel by individuals with disabilities, especially those in wheelchairs who face extraordinary challenges navigating snow-clogged sidewalks. For more information on the shoveling requirement or assistance, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Warming center available when temperatures plunge

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph St., serves as Oak Park's primary warming center when outdoor temperatures drop below 20 degrees and/or extreme snow and ice shut down public facilities or transportation for an expected period of four hours or more. All three branches of the Oak Park Public Library also serve as warming centers during regular business hours. Visit www.oppl.org for hours and locations. Find tips for staying safe in cold weather on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/coldweathersafety.

Volunteers needed...The Village is seeking volunteers to help manage Oak Park's warming center, which typically operates during overnight hours when temperatures are their coldest. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum four-hour shift and complete training on administering Narcan, a medication that stops an opioid overdose. Volunteers of all backgrounds are welcome, but in particular the Village is seeking individuals with experience in medical services, social services or related fields or prior experience assisting at shelters for the unhoused. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to contact Lee Christenson, the Village's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at lchristenson@oak-park.us.

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 become lethal 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. Property owners must supply and install all required alarms. Landlords must ensure that alarms are operable on the date a lease is initiated. Carbon monoxide detectors are not a substitute 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.

Blood donation as important as ever

January is National Blood Donor month, and it is important as ever to donate blood if you're able. Donated blood is used in a wide variety of medical situations, including supporting chemotherapy patients, people who have been in car accidents, those living with sickle cell disease, people with birth complications and end-of-life care. Your single donation can be used to save as many as three lives. The Oak Park Public Health Department is working with community partners to increase the opportunities for Oak Parkers to donate blood in 2025. Stay up to date with the latest opportunities at www.oak-park.us/BloodDrive.

Physical activity key to heart health



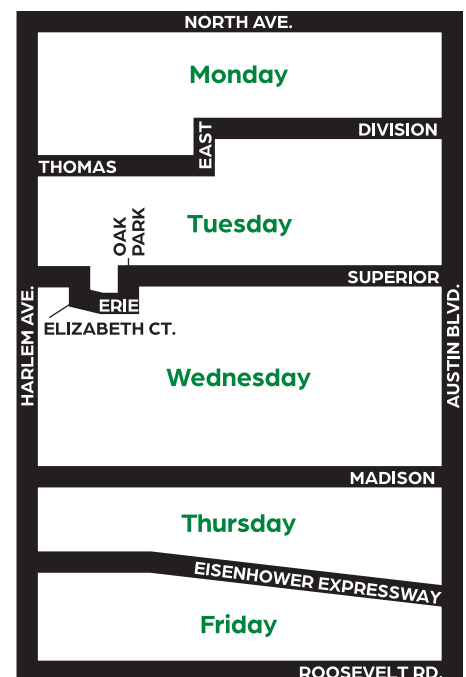
February is American Heart Month, and the Oak Park Public Health Department is highlighting ways to maintain a healthy heart. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, but you can take steps to reduce your risk. One way to increase heart health is to maintain regular physical activity, which can be as simple as going for a walk with a friend or while listening to music. Oak Park residents can walk the track at the Community Recreation Center at 229 Madison St. for free, a warmer option during the winter months. Learn more about the indoor track at www.pdop.org/crc/indoortrack.

More heart healthy tips:

- Commit to a walking schedule or other regular physical activity with a friend or family member, even if you can't do it together. Text or call each other with updates or challenges.
- Try a new heart-healthy recipe each week. Ask friends and family to share their favorite low-sodium or healthy recipe with you, or look up even more recipes at healthyeating.nhlbi.nih.gov.
- Make a request to the Public Health Department to give a presentation to your organization about ways to prevent heart disease. Contact the department at 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us.

Refuse and recycling collection schedule

Refuse and recycling is collected each weekday based on the location in the map. Refuse is not collected on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas, with collection typically delayed by one day for the remainder of a week following a major holiday. Green refuse and blue recycling carts should be placed out for collection no later than 7 a.m. on the morning of collection day. Carts placed at the curb must be removed by 10 p.m. Compost is collected on a bi-weekly basis during the winter months and weekly from April through November. The Village provides waste hauling services to single-family homes and multifamily dwellings with five or fewer units. Owners and managers of larger multifamily buildings negotiate separate contracts with private companies. For more information about the Village's refuse and recycling programs, visit www.oak-park.us/refuse or email publicworks@oak-park.us. Residents can contact LRS, the Village's waste hauling contractor, by calling 844.633.3577, emailing service@LRSrecycles.com or visiting www.lrsrecycles.com/oakpark.



View with a
smartphone
camera.



Village President Vicki Scaman

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

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters

Village Manager Kevin J. Jackson

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois



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

OP/FYI

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Technology helps prevent water leaks

The Public Works Department's Water & Sewer Division is responsible for maintaining Oak Park's aging 105-mile network of pipes that deliver 1.7 billion gallons of safe, drinkable water to residents each year.

In recent years 20% of the treated water the Village purchases from the city of Chicago was lost through leaks, in part because some infrastructure dates to the late 19th century. Village officials set the goal of reducing the water loss, but faced challenges given that leaks are difficult to spot.

To address the problem, the Village recently launched a project to install environmental monitoring technologies that can listen for leaks in the network.

As of last summer, 545 sensors called loggers were placed throughout Oak Park's water network, attached to pipes with magnets. These loggers pick up the smallest sounds made by water leaks. As soon as the tell-tale noise of a water leak – similar to the sound of a flute – is detected, the sensor converts it into a digital signal and alerts the system.

From there, Village staff can access a digital map of all possible water leaks, helping prioritize what needs to be fixed, ensuring that resources are deployed effectively.

For more information about the Village's Water & Sewer Division, visit www.oak-park.us/publicworks, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Make way for winter tree pruning

A portion of the Village's nearly 18,000 parkway trees are scheduled to be pruned this winter. The focus will be trees located south of I-290 expressway. Additionally, trees in the section of Oak Park south of Madison Street, west of East Avenue and north of I-290 will also be pruned. 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 during the winter pruning cycle. Crews and staff 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, tree canopies raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and appropriate clearances created for adjacent structures and signs. Younger trees will also be pruned to develop good structure to reduce problems as they grow and mature. While the pruning may be more noticeable 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 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.