

Naloxone project launching in Oak Park

The Oak Park Department of Public Health is launching a new initiative aimed at preventing deaths caused by opioid overdoses.

Emergency opioid overdose boxes will be installed in seven easily accessible, public-facing locations throughout Oak Park. Each box contains several pouches with doses of naloxone and instructions on how to administer the potentially life-saving medication, which is designed to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

The boxes will be accessible 24 hours a day, and anyone who wishes to take one or more of the free pouches may do so anonymously. Locations of the boxes are being determined based on local overdose data, and will be posted on the project webpage at www.oak-park.us/naloxone.

What is naloxone?

Naloxone, also commonly referred to as the trademarked name Narcan, is a safe medication that works to reverse the effects of an overdose from opioids such as heroin, prescription painkillers and fentanyl.

Individuals concerned that someone is experiencing a drug overdose should immediately call 911, administer naloxone following the easy-to-use instructions included with the kit and stay on scene until emergency responders arrive.



Naloxone has no adverse effects, even on children. Naloxone is an opioid blocker, so it will not have an effect, positive or negative, on anything other than an opioid overdose.

Addressing opioid overdoses

Oak Park is no different than many communities across the country that have seen an increase in opioid overdoses in recent years. In 2022, 151 people experienced overdoses in Oak Park throughout the course of the year.

Across the United States, more than 500,000 people have died since the 1990s from opioid overdose involving both illegal and prescription drugs.

Project expenses are funded by the Illinois Opioid Allocation

Agreement, through which settlement funds from opioid manufacturers and distributors are distributed to states for use in combatting the opioid epidemic.

More information

Anyone needing help with opioid use disorders, including families of anyone affected by the disease, can get help 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 883.234.6343, a hotline hosted by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Find more information at www.ilhelpline.org.

More information about Oak Park's naloxone program, including a list of frequently asked questions, is available at www.oak-park.us/naloxone.



Police Department deploys body cameras

Field officers in the Oak Park Police Department are now equipped with officer-worn body cameras. The Village Board approved the purchase of the cameras last year as part of a comprehensive technology platform that includes new in-car video systems and tasers. The platform allows digital evidence to be reviewed by officers, with footage and live streams viewable in one central location, making it easier to proactively respond to threats, manage evidence and get a more comprehensive picture of an incident. Due to a nationwide chip shortage, delivery of the in-car systems has been delayed until later this year. The body-worn cameras automatically activate when an officer's weapon is unholstered. Otherwise, officers must activate the cameras. Once the new in-car video systems are implemented, the recordings will become even more automated as body-worn cameras will also be activated automatically when a police vehicle reaches a certain speed or its lights are turned on. The rollout of the body-worn cameras fulfills a state law that requires law enforcement agencies to implement their use. For more information about the Police Department, visit www.oak-park.us/police or email police@oak-park.us.

Vehicle license sales underway

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local license before July 15. The rate increases by \$20 after the deadline. Vehicle licenses must be renewed annually. Renewal applications are mailed in May to residents who previously registered vehicles in Oak Park. Failure to purchase a license also could result in a ticket. A current vehicle license is needed to purchase a parking permit. Windshield decals are no longer issued. Parking enforcement officers use remote electronic recognition technology to scan license plates to ensure compliance. Vehicle license rates vary by type of vehicle, with discounts for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and active-duty veterans. For more information call 708.358.7275, email parking@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Benchmarking ordinance aims to reduce energy use in buildings

The Village Board recently adopted an energy and water benchmarking ordinance to assist owners and managers of large commercial buildings in better understanding and improving their building's performance. Benchmarking entails measuring a building's energy and water use and comparing it to the use of similar buildings, its own historical output or a reference performance level. The energy used by commercial buildings in Oak Park is estimated to create one-third of the community's greenhouse gas emissions, which trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere and lead to climate change. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that buildings that practice benchmarking achieve an average annual energy savings of 2.4%. The Village is working closely with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) to collect data and offer workshops for building owners and managers to receive hands-on training and support for data collection. The ordinance and the practice of reducing building energy use is a critical step that the Village can take to address climate change and reach the community's Climate Ready Oak Park goals. More information is at www.engageoakpark.com/building-benchmarking.

DEI resources available

The Village's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is available to engage with members of the community around topics related to diversity, equity and inclusion. If you would like to comment on current DEI initiatives, voice concerns or simply discuss DEI efforts in Oak Park, email DEI@oak-park.us.



A Day in Our Village returns June 4

The 49th annual A Day in Our Village festival celebrating diversity and community involvement is scheduled for Sunday, June 4. The premier community event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue. Activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will fill the park along with live performances and a food court featuring local restaurants. A Day in Our Village has long provided an opportunity to showcase the diversity and variety of ways to get involved in community life. Organizations or businesses interested in hosting a booth can register at www.oak-park.us/dayinourvillage. For more information, email community@oak-park.us.

July 4th parade to showcase diversity

The many dimensions of Oak Park will be on display when the July 4th parade steps off at 10 a.m. on 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 offers many viewing opportunities along the way. Local organizations and businesses are invited to bring a float, march, play music, carry banners, ride bicycles, skate, drive vintage cars or just dress up to commemorate the nation's birthday. Groups interested in participating can register on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/parade. For more information or to volunteer to help out at the parade, call 708.358.5408 or email community@oak-park.us.

Sustainability news

Geothermal group purchasing program...Residents and businesses throughout the Chicagoland area are invited to participate in Grow Geo, a group purchasing program designed to pool buying power and secure discounts for geothermal heating and cooling systems. More information is available at www.growgeo.org. Anyone interested in the program is encouraged to participate in any of the free informational Geo Power Hours held virtually and in locations throughout the region. You'll learn about the basics of geothermal, its financial implications for a household and how the Grow Geo program works. After the session, participants can receive a free, no-obligation site assessment from an installer.

Solar group purchasing program...The Citizens Utility Board and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association are continuing their solar group purchasing program this summer under the new name Solar Switch Chicagoland. The grassroots residential and small commercial group purchasing program launches June 5 and is available to property owners throughout Cook, Will, DuPage, Lake, and Kane counties. To learn more about solar and to the ways pooling buying power can secure significant discounts that make installing solar more affordable, visit www.growsolar.org/chicagoland/sign-up.



Green businesses bloom in Oak Park...The Oak Park Green Business Program, in partnership with the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) at the University of Illinois, has provided more than 20 green assessments for local businesses to identify cost savings and ways to help the environment. Green business assessments review a business' operations, utilities and equipment to identify low to no-cost savings opportunities that benefit a business' bottom line and the environment. A report is provided that outlines unique cost and environmental savings opportunities, as well as connects businesses to utility incentive programs. Beyond Properties Realty and the Downtown Oak Park business association have already reached Illinois Green Business Certification across six areas of sustainability. SEDAC is still accepting participants in the Oak Park Green Business Program. Interested business operators are encouraged to visit www.sustainoakpark.com/greenbusinessprogram or contact ccarrol2@illinois.edu or 217.300.644 for more information.

Village hosting youth martial arts camp

The Village is sponsoring a free, one-day Summer Martial Arts Day Camp for kids ages 6 through 14 who live or attend school in Oak Park. The camp will be held the morning of July 12 in the Julian Middle School gymnasium. Sessions will last one hour and will be broken up by age. The Village is working with local martial arts schools to bring the program to the community. The Summer Martial Arts Day Camp will help kids develop skills around discipline, confidence, awareness, personal edification and self-defense, including forms of conflict resolution and techniques for identifying danger. Other skills include learning about blocks, kicks, punches, falls and throws. The camp will also focus on physical fitness, flexibility, endurance, strength, concentration and coordination. The Village's Adjudication Office is coordinating the camp. The registration packet and additional details are available online at www.oak-park.us/MACamp. For more information, call 708.358.5630 or email youth@oak-park.us.

Construction project updates online

A busy construction season is in full swing across Oak Park. Keep track of the latest information regarding road construction projects in the Village at www.oak-park.us/construction. Simply click the project updates tab at the top of the page for regular updates on specific projects. The site also includes an interactive map that residents can use to track major construction projects. High-profile projects currently underway include street resurfacing along Roosevelt Road overseen by the Illinois Department of Transportation and construction along Division Street to replace water and sewer mains and resurface the roadway. Both the Roosevelt and Division projects will touch every section of the east-west roadways in Oak Park between Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Other projects on the horizon this spring include water and sewer replacements on Euclid Avenue from South Boulevard to Lake Street near the main fire station and on Augusta Street between Austin and Lombard Avenue. Sewer work will also be part of a streetscape project this summer on Madison Street between Oak Park and East avenues, and a streetscaping project is coming to Forest Avenue near Ontario Street in the coming months. Motorists should anticipate delays due to temporary lane shifts or road closures and are reminded to drive safely in construction zones.

Gas-powered leaf blowers on the way out

Earlier this spring the Village Board took action that will impact lawn maintenance and landscaping practices in Oak Park moving forward. Effective June 1, 2025, no gasoline-powered leaf blower may be operated in Oak Park at any time. Currently, gas-powered leaf blowers may be operated only between October 31 and May 31. Electric leaf blowers may be used year-round. Per Village ordinance, the operation of all leaf blowing equipment is allowed between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. These hours differ and are more restrictive than those listed in the Village Code's noise ordinance, which applies between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. The use of any leaf blower in excess of more than 65 decibels, as rated by manufacturer's specifications, is also prohibited at any time under the current Village Code. The prohibition of gas-powered leaf blowers is one step the Village is taking to achieve the goals to decrease greenhouse gas emissions set forth in the Climate Ready Oak Park plan.

Impacts for landscaping businesses... Any contractor owning or operating any lawn maintenance or landscaping business that does work in the Village must now obtain a license to do so. Information about obtaining a lawn maintenance license will be available and shared with local landscaping companies. To learn more about the business licensing process, lawn maintenance or landscape business operators are encouraged to contact the Village's Development Customer Services department at business@oak-park.us. More information is also available at www.engageoakpark.com/landscaping-practices.

Light fixture upgrades coming to alleys

More than 1,000 lights mounted on power poles in alleys throughout the Village are in line for an upgrade this summer. Crews will be replacing the old mercury vapor lights with new LED bulbs that will reduce energy consumption, provide better lighting levels and reduce maintenance costs. The new light fixtures are also designed to direct light to the ground rather than into the sky, making them dark sky compliant since they do not contribute to light pollution. For more information, email publicworks@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5700.

Bike the Beat returns

The Oak Park Police Department's community policing initiative, Bike the Beat, is returning this season to a zone near you. Residential beat officers will be biking through an area, or zone, and stopping to engage with residents during each Bike the Beat. The RBOs ride along the streets to meet with residents, answer questions about the community, listen to feedback and even register bikes on-site. Officers are assigned to serve as RBOs for eight geographic zones throughout the Village. More information about Bike the Beat, including dates for upcoming rides, is available at www.oak-park.us/biketthebeat.



Save the date for Juneteenth, Pride celebrations

The entire community is invited to join in Oak Park's celebration of Juneteenth on June 18 and Pride Month on June 24. The Village is working with community organizers to develop festivities featuring food, entertainment and more for both family-friendly events. Details about the Juneteenth event will be posted at www.oak-park.us/juneteenth as they are finalized. Information about the Pride Month event will be posted at www.oak-park.us/pridemonth.

Pick Oak Park supports local business community

Oak Park is home to many independently owned restaurants, boutiques and health and fitness studios offering everything you, your kids and even your pet may need. Local businesses are owned by neighbors and friends who care about their customers and are invested in the well-being of the community and its future. Pick Oak Park is a Village-wide campaign to support the more than 1,200 local businesses that call Oak Park home. When considering shopping online or in person, residents are encouraged to look first at local businesses. Visit www.pickoakpark.com and follow Pick Oak Park on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about Oak Park's creative, innovative, diverse and committed business community. The Pick Oak Park website also includes a directory of local businesses sorted by business district.

Collaboration Corner

Park District, Township prioritize mental health

As the Community Recreation Center (CRC) prepares to open its doors this month, the Park District of Oak Park has worked closely with the Community Mental Health Board (CMHB) to continue the critical work of destigmatizing mental health. During the planning process for the facility, the entities entered into an agreement to house the CMHB inside the CRC offering access to mental health resources in a comfortable and convenient environment. Closely aligned more than ever, the Park District and CMHB will continue to explore and offer mental health events and programming based upon community need and interest.

Collaboration Corner is a recurring feature offering readers updates on initiatives cooperatively designed by Oak Park's six local government agencies to improve the quality of life for everyone in Oak Park.

Parking restrictions eased for 2023 holidays

As a courtesy to residents and their guests, 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 27 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., May 31
- **July 4**– Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., July 1 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Thursday, July 6.
- **Labor Day**– Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Sept. 2 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., Sept. 6
- **Thanksgiving**– Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 22 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Mon., Nov. 27
- **Christmas/New Year**– Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 16 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Jan. 3

Recycle electronics, hazardous household waste



Residents in single-family homes and buildings with five or fewer units can schedule a special collection of electronic and hazardous household waste. Examples of hazardous household waste that can be safely disposed of include oil-based paints, aerosols, household cleaners, lawn chemicals and automotive chemicals. Electronic waste such as portable electronics, computer items and TV items will also be collected.

Find more information and schedule a pickup at www.LRSrecycles.com/oakpark or by calling 844.633.5377. Residents of large multifamily buildings not served under the municipal refuse hauling program are encouraged to contact their building's refuse provider about recycling options. A list of additional electronic and hazardous household waste recycling resources is posted on the Village website www.oak-park.us/ewaste.

Sign up to host a Green Block Party

Cut down on waste at your next block party by making it a Green Block Party event. Residents who sign up to host a Green Block Party are provided boxes to separate trash, recyclables and organic waste. The initiative is focused on educating residents on waste reduction and diversion, and why it is important for the health of our community and environment. Fun, interactive, and kid-friendly activities are also available upon request via local non-profit Green Community Connections. Visit www.oak-park.us/greenblockparty for more information and to fill out a Green Block Party request form.

View with a smartphone camera.



Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272

OP/FM

Village President Vicki Scaman

Trustees

Susan Buchanan Lucia Robinson

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Oak Park, IL
Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Oak Park Farmers' Market to begin 48th season

The Oak Park Farmers' Market returns for its 48th season on Sat., May 20. 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 participate in the Farmers' Market, offering everything from fresh fruits and vegetables to meat, cheese, eggs, flowers, bread, grains and honey. 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 27 highlighting sustainability efforts in Oak Park. Support for Market administration comes from sales of a variety of items available at the information tent, including reusable shopping bags and t-shirts. For more information call 708.358.5780, 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.



ParkOakPark app launches

A one-stop shop for all things related to parking in Oak Park is now available via ParkOakPark, a new custom mobile application that centralizes various parking services. The app, powered by Passport Parking, includes mobile pay-by-license-plate parking, permit and vehicle license sales and parking citation payment and management. It is available for download from the App Store or Google Play. Parkers familiar with Passport Parking may continue to also utilize the Passport app for pay-by-license-plate parking sessions, even as custom ParkOakPark signage is rolled out in the community's paid parking zones. Officials say ParkOakPark is intended to improve the user experience when parking in the Village by empowering users to conveniently access various parking services in one easy-to-use app on their smartphone. For more information, visit www.parkoakpark.org, email parking@oak-park.us or call 708.358.7275.