

## Revamped Fall Leaf Collection Program in effect

The Village's Fall Leaf Collection Program is underway, with weekly pickups planned for each section of the Village through the week of Dec. 9-12. The key change this year is that residents will no longer place leaves directly in the street. Instead, they can choose from a variety of leaf collection options:

• **Place leaves in a bag or bin...**

Fallen leaves can be placed in yard waste bags and/or rigid containers and left in the parkway as close to the curb as possible for pickup. Weekly pickups are planned for each section of the Village on the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Green yard waste stickers are

NOT required during the six-week Fall Leaf Collection Program and residents may put out an unlimited number of bags and/or rigid containers in the parkway on their designated collection day. The Village's waste hauler Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) will transport the leaves to a compost facility.

• **Compost leaves...**Residents who participate in the Village's CompostAble program can discard leaves in their 96-gallon gray organics cart along with food scraps and other yard waste throughout the year. Find more information about the program and sign up to participate at [www.oak-park.us/compost](http://www.oak-park.us/compost).

• **Mulch the leaves...**Residents are encouraged to consider mulching leaves with a mower and/or leaving them on the lawn or in garden beds to promote soil health. This option offers an opportunity to support regional biodiversity and save money on fertilizer by allowing leaf litter to decompose naturally. It also aligns with the Village's Climate Ready Oak Park plan.

The changes to the Village's Fall Leaf Collection Program are intended to address potential safety hazards created in the past by large leaf piles, minimize confusion over leaf collection parking restrictions and provide environmental benefits from mulching and reduced greenhouse gas emissions due to decreased truck traffic.

As has always been the case, commercial properties and large multifamily buildings with six or more units do not participate in the Vil-

		<b>NORTH AVE</b>			
		<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
<b>HARLEM AVE</b>		Nov. 6	<b>EAST AVE</b>		Nov. 7
		Nov. 13			Nov. 14
		Nov. 20			Nov. 21
		Nov. 27			Nov. 29*
		Dec. 4			Dec. 5
		Dec. 11			Dec. 12
				<i>*delayed one day by Thanksgiving holiday</i>	
		<b>SOUTH BLVD</b>			
		<b>TUESDAY</b>			
<b>HARLEM AVE</b>		Nov. 5	<b>EAST AVE</b>		Nov. 4
		Nov. 12			Nov. 11
		Nov. 19			Nov. 18
		Nov. 26			Nov. 25
		Dec. 3			Dec. 2
		Dec. 10			Dec. 9
				<b>ROOSEVELT RD</b>	

LEAF COLLECTION MAP

lage's refuse program and continue to be responsible for their own leaf collection and disposal.

For more information about the Village's Leaf Collection Program, visit [www.oak-park.us/leafcollection](http://www.oak-park.us/leafcollection), call 708.358.5700 or email [public-works@oak-park.us](mailto:public-works@oak-park.us).

**Assistance available...**The Village is coordinating an online portal where Oak Parkers who are willing to volunteer to help rake leaves can be connected with residents who are seeking assistance. Visit the leaf collection assistance section at [www.oak-park.us/leafcollection](http://www.oak-park.us/leafcollection) to sign up to volunteer and to request assistance.

**LEAVE.  
BIN.  
BAG.**



 **MULCH THE LEAVES TO ENRICH YOUR SOIL**

 **COMPOST IT & LET NATURE DO THE REST**

 **BAG IT UP & LEAVE IT AT THE CURB**

# Mental health crisis resources abound

## Understanding the differences between 988, 911 and the Thrive Counseling Center crisis line

When you or a loved one are in crisis, there are several ways to get the help you need. Depending on the urgency and severity of the situation, there are a variety of community resources ready to help. The introduction of 988 as the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, alongside the longstanding 911 emergency system, and specialized local resources like the Thrive Counseling Center Crisis Line, offers a more refined approach to crisis intervention, depending on the immediate needs of an individual in distress.




**988 — National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline...** Launched in 2022, 988 is a nationwide three-digit dialing code designed to provide 24/7, confidential support to individuals experiencing mental health crises, suicidal thoughts or emotional distress. The benefit of 988 lies in its focus on mental health, substance

use and suicide prevention. It connects callers to trained counselors who can provide immediate support, de-escalation techniques and resources to address underlying mental health concerns. Callers are connected to a counselor specifically trained to handle emotional and psychological distress. While 988 is effective for mental health crises, it's important to note that it is not meant for life-threatening situations requiring immediate medical intervention or law enforcement involvement, when 911 should still be the primary contact.

**911 — Emergency response for medical and safety crises...** 911 remains the go-to emergency number for life-threatening situations where immediate physical safety or medical intervention is required. The purpose of 911 is to dispatch emergency responders — including

police and firefighter/paramedics — to provide immediate assistance in a wide range of urgent situations. Its scope is broader than mental health crises, focusing on any emergency that requires physical, on-site intervention.

**Thrive Counseling Center Crisis Line...** Thrive Counseling Center, located in Oak Park, offers its own free, local crisis line at 708.383.7500 extension 1. The local crisis line is open 24/7 for individuals in the community who are struggling with mental health challenges or emotional distress. Thrive's crisis line offers a more personalized, long-term approach for individuals seeking support beyond an immediate crisis. While it operates similarly to 988, its localized nature makes it especially beneficial for those living Oak Park who want continuity of care.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOTLINES?		Suicide Prevention: Triggers and Warning Signs	
 <b>988</b>	<b>Suicide Prevention &amp; Mental Health Crisis Lifeline</b> <small>Free, confidential, and available 24/7/365</small>	<p>Recognizing the triggers and warning signs of suicide is key to effective prevention. Common triggers include major life changes, such as the loss of a loved one, financial hardship, or significant emotional or physical pain.</p> <p><b>Warning Signs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expressing feelings of hopelessness or having no reason to live.</li><li>• Talking about being a burden to others.</li><li>• Withdrawing from family, friends and activities.</li><li>• Increased use of alcohol or drugs.</li><li>• Sudden mood swings, from extreme sadness to calmness, indicating a potential decision to follow through on suicidal thoughts.</li><li>• Researching methods of suicide.</li><li>• Giving away prized possessions.</li></ul>	
 <b>911</b>	<b>Medical &amp; Public Safety Emergencies</b> <small>Free and available 24/7/365</small>		
 <b>Thrive Crisis Team</b> <b>708-383-7500</b>	<b>Community Mental Health Center</b> <small>Free, confidential, and available 24/7/365</small>		

## Public Health Department news

**Opioid overdose prevention training...** The Oak Park Public Health Department is hosting a free, in-person training on opioid overdose prevention and the use of Narcan nasal spray from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 23 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph St. The training covers harm reduction principles, signs and symptoms of opioid overdose, how Narcan works in the body, hands-on practice with Narcan nasal spray and time for questions and answers. Participants will also receive a free opioid overdose prevention kit to take home. Sign up at [www.oak-park.us/communitytraining](http://www.oak-park.us/communitytraining). While this is the final training date this year, stay tuned for additional training opportunities in 2025. For more information about opioid overdose prevention in Oak Park, visit [www.oak-park.us/overdoseprevention](http://www.oak-park.us/overdoseprevention).

**Health Beat monthly e-newsletter...** Stay informed about the latest public health information in Oak Park by subscribing to the Health Beat monthly e-newsletter. The e-newsletter spotlights local health issues and initiatives, Public Health Department programming updates, volunteer opportunities and more. Sign up at [www.oak-park.us/signup](http://www.oak-park.us/signup) or by contacting 708.358.5480 or [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

## Provide feedback to help shape policymaking

### Electric shuttle feasibility...

The Village and its Environment & Energy Commission are seeking feedback about current transportation options in Oak Park, with a specific focus on whether an electric shuttle could help meet the community's transportation needs. An online survey is available at [www.engageoakpark.com/electric-shuttle](http://www.engageoakpark.com/electric-shuttle). Climate Ready Oak Park, the community's climate, sustainability and resilience plan, includes a goal to shift from personal vehicles to active transportation and transit. One of the high-impact actions identified under this goal is to assess the feasibility of reintroducing the Oak Park shuttle with an all-electric fleet. Feedback gathered from the survey will help shape future policymaking around this issue.

### Consolidated plan for housing and community development...

The Village is seeking input from the community as it develops a five-year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. Any resident or community stakeholder interested in helping to shape how the Village uses federal funds to assist low- and moderate-income persons, including individuals experiencing homelessness, is invited to complete an online survey at [www.engageoakpark.com/consolidated-plan](http://www.engageoakpark.com/consolidated-plan). The survey takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete and will help Village officials establish budget and program priorities.



Scan this code to view these and other projects on the Engage Oak Park website at [www.engageoakpark.com](http://www.engageoakpark.com).

## Tracking energy efficiency progress through benchmarking



Oak Park is following a best practice to improve commercial and multifamily energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower utility costs through the process of annual energy and water benchmarking. The Village's Energy and Water Benchmarking ordinance requires that all buildings over 10,000 square feet

report their annual energy and water usage through the EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. Benchmarking compares each building with similar buildings and ranks performance against a national median. Benchmarking alerts a building manager if their building is underperforming, allowing them to make upgrades or repairs and offers the ability to track progress resulting from efficiency actions and investments. When benchmarking data is made public, as it is in Oak Park, it allows renters and tenants to choose locations that are higher performing and will have lower utility costs.

**How does your building measure up?...** If you live in a multifamily property with more than four units or are a tenant in a commercial building, it is likely that your building is required to benchmark. Visit [www.oak-park.us/benchmarkingmap](http://www.oak-park.us/benchmarkingmap) to see how your building's efficiency compares.

**Don't see your building on the map or there is no score?...** It is possible that your landlord has not finished submitting data or they have not yet complied with the ordinance. Let them know you would like them to participate! Send them to [www.oak-park.us/building-benchmarking](http://www.oak-park.us/building-benchmarking) to learn how. For more information about benchmarking, email [sustainability@oak-park.us](mailto:sustainability@oak-park.us).

## Free climate coaching available

Interested in making your home more climate friendly but not sure where to start? Visit the Oak Park Climate Action Network website at [www.opcan.org/climate-coaches](http://www.opcan.org/climate-coaches) to sign up for a free 30-minute coaching session with Oak Park neighbors who have experience with a range of topics such as:

- Electrifying a home (replacing a gas furnace with a heat pump that both heats and cools, replacing gas stoves and hot water heaters with clean electric models, electrical upgrades, insulating and weatherizing, and more)
- Installing solar panels
- Subscribing to community solar: no rooftop panels needed!
- Purchasing and owning an electric vehicle
- Planting native gardens and reducing flooding

Oak Park's neighborhood climate coaching initiative is a partnership between the Village and the volunteer group Oak Park Climate Action Network (OPCAN). For more information about the Village's efforts related to environmental sustainability, contact [sustainability@oak-park.us](mailto:sustainability@oak-park.us) or call 708.358.5770.



Scan to request a climate coach at [www.opcan.org/climate-coaches](http://www.opcan.org/climate-coaches)

## Fire Department seeks help keeping the wreath green

Family gatherings, colorful decorations and elaborate meals are the hallmarks of the holiday season, but the tidings of the season also can pose a risk when it comes to fire safety. That's why the Oak Park Fire Department is renewing its annual Keep the Wreath Green holiday safety campaign. From Nov. 29 until Jan. 1, a wreath hanging at the Central Fire Station will be adorned with green lights. For every holiday related fire in Oak Park, a bulb will be changed from green to red as a reminder of the risks. By following these simple rules, you can help the Fire Department keep the wreath green this year:

- Water your Christmas tree daily
- Check holiday lights for frayed ends
- Keep your tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources
- Never leave a lit candle unattended
- Keep close watch on your stove or oven when cooking
- Test smoke detectors throughout your home regularly

For more information about the Oak Park Fire Department, visit [www.oak-park.us/fire](http://www.oak-park.us/fire) or email [fireprevention@oak-park.us](mailto:fireprevention@oak-park.us).

## Community forum to address panhandling in Oak Park

The Village is hosting a community forum on Nov. 18 to discuss constructive approaches to addressing the root causes that create the motivation for panhandling. The forum will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Veterans Room on the second floor at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. More information, including a list of the participating panelists, is available at [www.oak-park.us/forum24](http://www.oak-park.us/forum24).

## Police Department offers seasonal crime prevention tips

With the holidays approaching, the Oak Park Police Department is working to raise public awareness of some common crimes of the season by offering the following tips to help reduce the chances of becoming a victim:

- **Package theft...**Residents ordering online and expecting deliveries should make arrangements with friends, family or neighbors so that packages will not be left out where thieves can get them. Sign up for delivery notification or request a signature upon delivery if you are working from home. Check with your online retailer as some offer options to deliver your packages to a business or secure location, such as a locker.
- **Pickpockets and thieves...**If you are out shopping or dining, take care to protect purses, bags and wallets when in public. Thieves like bags and purses hanging on chair backs, left in shopping carts, sitting unattended or simply set down while the owner answers a telephone or is otherwise distracted.
- **Auto burglaries...**Packages and valuables left visible in an automobile — even if it is locked — are an invitation to thieves who may be willing to damage your vehicle to get them. And if you have to make multiple trips from your car to your home to unload, be alert — especially if the car is left unattended.
- **Robberies...**Don't be distracted with cell phones while walking or waiting for public transportation. Pay attention to your environment and what's around you. If you think someone acting suspiciously is approaching you or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place. Obey an offender's instructions — property can be replaced, you cannot.
- **Motor vehicle theft...**Many autos are reported stolen during colder months after being left unattended to warm up, unlocked and running with the keys in the ignition. This can happen on the street, in a garage, while making a quick stop at a store for a carryout order or at a gas station. Leaving a running vehicle unattended not only increases its risk of being stolen, it also is a violation of state law.
- **Sign up for a vacation watch...**If you have a vacation coming up, officers can provide periodic checks of your residence for peace of mind. To schedule a vacation watch, email [police@oak-park.us](mailto:police@oak-park.us) with your name, address, phone number, dates of vacation, emergency contact information and if you have an alarm, pets or lights on a timer.

Residents are urged to report any suspicious activity to the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800. And if you see a crime taking place, or about to take place, always call 911. More information about the Police Department is available at [www.oak-park.us/police](http://www.oak-park.us/police).

## Yard waste collection ends

Regular yard waste collection ends the week of Nov. 25–30 for bundled brush and containers of yard waste with a green sticker attached. Yard waste is picked up by appointment only during the winter months. To arrange a special yard waste pick-up call LRS, the Village's waste-hauling contractor, at 844.633.3577 or email [Service@LRSrecycles.com](mailto:Service@LRSrecycles.com).

**Bi-weekly compost collection...**Compost collection also switches to a bi-weekly schedule at a discounted rate during the winter months. Visit [www.oak-park.us/compost](http://www.oak-park.us/compost) to see the winter collection schedule and for more information about the Village's food scrap composting program.

## News you can use

### Landlords required to provide heat...

Landlords must furnish heat to all Oak Park rental dwelling units from Sept. 15 through May 15. An average minimum temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit must be maintained from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., and 65 degrees Fahrenheit from 11 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Complaints may be made by contacting 708.358.5410 or [propertyissues@oak-park.us](mailto:propertyissues@oak-park.us). More information is posted at [www.oak-park.us/housing](http://www.oak-park.us/housing).

### Overnight, on-street parking eased for holidays...

Overnight, on-street parking restrictions are eased to accommodate visitors and guests during major holidays, including Thanksgiving and Christmas. Restrictions will be lifted from 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 27 until 2:30 a.m., Mon. Dec. 2, and from 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 21 until 2:30 a.m. Mon., Jan. 6. However, parking restrictions will remain in effect during these times in overnight permit parking zones where residents have purchased quarterly passes. Other parking regulations, such as posted day-time, safety and snow restrictions, also will remain in effect.

**Holiday hours...** Village Hall will be closed all day Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving, starting at noon, Tues., Dec. 24 through Wed., Dec. 25 for Christmas, and on Wed., Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. Regular Village Hall hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. More information is posted at [www.oak-park.us/villagehall](http://www.oak-park.us/villagehall).

### Provide feedback on economic vitality...

The Village is currently seeking input to help shape the future of economic vitality in Oak Park. With strategic planning already underway, an anonymous survey is now available that will allow residents and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the community's current business composition and environment, as well as ways to improve the existing mix. To complete the brief survey, please visit [www.bit.ly/vopev24](http://www.bit.ly/vopev24).

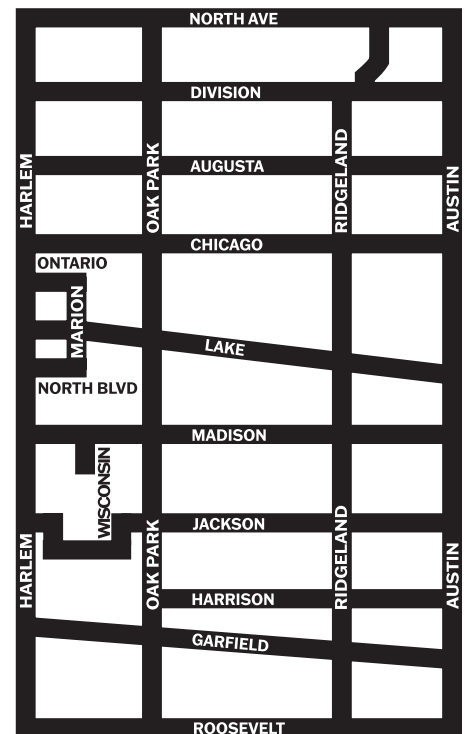
## Sidewalk shoveling required

Residents and businesses are urged to help improve walking conditions and public safety by removing snow and ice from sidewalks after a storm. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. If the snow or ice has become too hard to remove without damaging the sidewalk, sand, salt or other abrasive material may be used to make pedestrian travel reasonably safe. Being a good neighbor is important, too, so property owners are urged to help those who may need help clearing a sidewalk. Failure to clear a sidewalk fronting or abutting one's property could lead to a ticket and fine. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help finding resources, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

## Snowfall may trigger parking restrictions

After a two-inch snowfall, the Emergency Snow Removal Parking Plan goes into effect and the following parking rules are enforced seven days a week, including holidays:

- Main streets posted as snow routes must be cleared of all parked cars. These include Augusta Street, Austin Boulevard, Chicago Avenue, Division Street, Garfield Street, Harlem Avenue, Harrison Street, Jackson Boulevard, Lake Street, Madison Street, North Avenue, Oak Park Avenue, Ridgeland Avenue, Roosevelt Road and Wisconsin Avenue from Madison Street to the emergency entrance of Rush Oak Park Hospital.
- Non-snow route streets allow parking between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the side of the street with even numbered addresses on even days and the side of the street with odd numbered addresses on odd days.
- Designated commercial parking areas as posted follow the odd/even rule from midnight to 8 a.m. Snow parking rules do not override other parking regulations, such as time limitations and prohibitions.
- Vehicles parked in violation of the snow restrictions are subject to ticketing and towing.



**SNOW ROUTES**

The purpose of the plan is to ensure access for emergency vehicles, improve traffic movement and allow snow removal equipment to operate quickly and efficiently. Residents are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly. Residents also can sign up to receive alerts when snow-related parking restrictions go into effect at [www.oak-park.us/notifyme](http://www.oak-park.us/notifyme). Efforts also are made to post timely information to the Village's social media sites, [www.facebook.com/vopnews](https://www.facebook.com/vopnews) and [www.x.com/vopnews](https://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](http://www.oak-park.us/snow).

View with a smartphone camera.



Village of Oak Park

Village Hall

123 Madison Street

Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President Vicki Scaman

Trustees

Susan Buchanan Lucia Robinson

Chibuike Enyia Brian D. Straw

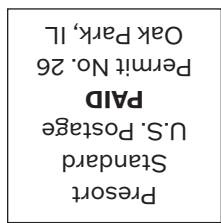
Ravi Parakkat Cory J. Wesley

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters

Village Manager Kevin J. Jackson

Residential Customer Local  
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier  
Pre-Sort



## Updated Village logo generations in the making

The Village of Oak Park is pleased to introduce an updated version of the Village logo developed as part of a recent initiative to refresh the municipal government's brand.

Like the Oak Park community as a whole, the updated logo is generations in the making, inspired by the original people tree logo developed in 1973 and later updated in the 1990s.

The latest iteration of the Village logo was created using familiar elements such as human figures linked together to form a community while also depicting the outreaching and supportive role of Village government.



As the Village resets its overall look and feel, it seeks to strike a balance between embracing the community's historic past and supporting its thriving present as a diverse, welcoming, inclusive and integrated community while also building the future for the next generation.

The updated Village logo will be phased in over the coming weeks and months. A new and improved Village website is on schedule to launch before the end of the year, and the new logo will increasingly appear on official correspondence from the Village and other signifiers of municipal government property and assets throughout 2025.

For more information about the updated Village logo and its use, contact [vopnews@oak-park.us](mailto:vopnews@oak-park.us).

## Shop local, park for free

Shopping local will be made even easier beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving on Nov. 29 and continuing every Saturday through Dec. 21 when parking will be free in the three Village-operated public garages and for two hours at pay-by-plate parking spaces downtown and in the vicinity of south Oak Park Avenue. Parking is always free on Sunday throughout the year. Village officials say they hope this small gesture will benefit both customers and the businesses they patronize. For more information about parking in the Village, email [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us) or visit [www.oak-park.us/parking](http://www.oak-park.us/parking).

## Not too late for a flu, COVID vaccine

Getting vaccinated against the flu and COVID-19 in November or even December is not too late. Public health officials recommend that everyone older than six months get a flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine every year. In addition to your healthcare provider, the 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 3 years and older. For younger children, it's best to make an appointment with a health care provider. The COVID-19 vaccine is offered at most of the same locations as the flu shot, along with your local health care provider. For questions and information about accessing a flu or COVID-19 vaccine, contact [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) or 708.538.5480.

### Assistance for homebound residents...

While the Oak Park Public Health Department does not provide vaccines for homebound individuals, public health officials urge residents to contact Age Options at 708.383.0258 for assistance. This organization will help set up an appointment for a medical professional to administer vaccines to residents who are homebound.