

Traffic calming toolbox offers remedies for neighborhood issues



With more than 100 miles of local streets in Oak Park, the Village has always relied on residents to help identify neighborhood traffic issues.

But rather than expecting residents to ask for a specific solution such as a new stop sign, the focus now is on residents identifying the problem and the Village relying on a defined process to identify the most effective solution.

The process begins when an Oak Park resident submits a petition asking the Village to address a neighborhood traffic problem. The petition must be signed by residents representing at least 51 percent of the properties along the street frontage affected by the issue.

Residents are not expected to request a specific fix. The Village relies on a list of proven options and analytical tools to come up with the most effective solution for traffic problems common on residential streets.

This *Traffic Calming Toolbox* includes the requisite resident petition to get the process started, a scoring table to help assess the situation analytically and a matrix of tools most likely to offer relief. The toolbox is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/traffictoolbox.

All requests go through a thorough public review before the citizen volunteers on the Transportation Commission, which advises the Village Board on matters related to parking and transportation.

During these public meetings, the Transportation Commission reviews petitions and traffic data, listens to public testimony, discusses the available options and makes recommendations to the Village Board, which must approve any final action.

Village staff can guide residents through the petition and review process. For assistance, email publicworks@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5700 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays and ask for the Engineering Division.

Nominations sought for community awards

Nominations are now being sought for the 2018 accessibility, historic preservation and sustainability awards. Winners will be announced and recognized at a ceremony in December at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

Accessibility – Disability Access Awards recognize businesses, organizations and other entities that provide easy access to people with disabilities, create an inviting physical space and offer a welcoming, helpful, service-oriented attitude. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 13. More details and an online nomination form are at www.oak-park.us/accessawards.

Historic Preservation – Historic Preservation Awards are presented for restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, additions/new construction, stewardship, detail and design. Nominations need not be in a historic district and interior work may be considered in conjunction with exterior work. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 12. More details are at www.oak-park.us/preservationawards.



Sustainability – Green Awards recognize individuals, groups, installations and organizations that have demonstrated leadership as stewards of the Oak Park environment. Each award recognizes a particular project that had an impact on life in Oak Park. Nominations may be submitted on behalf of any person, organization, group or business. The deadline for nominations is Sept. 30. More information and a nomination form are posted at www.oak-park.us/greenawards.

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. 15 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, residents also can recycle all types of old clothing and apparel in any condition, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels. The items 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.

Park District News

Fall Fest...The annual fall fest is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun., Sept. 23 at Rehm Park and the Oak Park Conservatory, by East Avenue and Garfield Street. The event will feature horse-drawn hayrides, games and a host of other activities. Visit www.pdop.org for more details.

Resident meet & greet...Residents can learn about the wide range of Park District programs from 6 to 8 p.m., Wed., Oct. 3 at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. Attendees will receive \$10 off their first program registration. Visit www.pdop.org for more information.

Wright Races street closures...The annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races will mean street closures between 6:30 and 10 a.m., on Sun., Oct. 21. Drivers are urged to obey all no-parking signs and allow extra time to maneuver around the race course. To view the race course route, visit www.flwraces.com.



Farmers' Market news

Harvest season arrives...When fall comes, a changing variety of produce can be found at the Oak Park Farmers' Market. Plums, nectarines, peaches, pears, grapes, apples and cider are just some of the seasonal favorites now available with meats, eggs, honey, cheese and milk from the more than two dozen regular Market vendors.

Stone Soup marks ends of season...The 43rd season of the Oak Park Farmers' Market comes to a close with stone soup served to patrons at the final Market on Oct. 27. 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. Residents are invited to read a popular version of the stone soup tale at www.oak-park.us/stonesoup.

SNAP/LINK among payment options...Making fresh produce affordable for all patrons is a hallmark of the Oak Park Farmers' Market, which has been providing SNAP/LINK card processing since 2011. In that first year, more than \$4,900 in electronic benefit transfer (EBT) sales was recorded. By 2017, the total had increased to nearly \$16,000. The Market also offers matching double-value coupons throughout the season. For each dollar SNAP/LINK card participants spend, they receive a \$1 coupon up to a maximum of \$25 in coupons per cardholder per market day.

When and where...The Oak Park Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through October in the Pilgrim Church parking lot on Lake Street, just west of Ridgeland Avenue. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Police seeking entry-level applicants

Applications for entry-level officers with the Oak Park Police Department will be accepted from Sept. 24 through Oct. 15. Candidates must be at least 21 years of age at the time they apply and no older than 35 on the application closing date. Other requirements include a high school diploma or GED, 60 accredited college semester hours with a minimum C grade-point average, U.S. citizenship, ability to speak and understand English, and a valid Illinois driver's license. Applications and details on the testing and hiring requirements will be posted at www.oak-park.us/jobs and at www.iosolutions.com.

Electric aggregation tied to ComEd rate, supports renewable initiatives

The Village of Oak Park's latest 12-month electricity aggregation contract 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 2018 meter reads, ties the Village aggregation rate to the ComEd basic service rates, which typically change in May and October, but can vary by season. This mc² contract provision 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 renewable energy projects. The Village Board also approved allowing mc² to use a portion of the fee to keep the basic rate unchanged, but still purchase electricity from new regional renewable energy generating facilities that are expected to come on line in 2019. Electricity aggregation, which was authorized by Illinois statute, allows municipalities to bundle residential and smaller business accounts, then use competitive bidding to seek lower rates from alternate suppliers. Voters gave the Village the authority to create a local aggregation program via referendum in 2011 and the first contract began Jan. 1, 2012. 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.

Township News

Township Day...Residents are invited to learn more about locally available services during Illinois Township Day set for 4 to 7 p.m., Fri., Sept. 21 at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. The event also will collect items for the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry. Visit www.oakparktownship.org for more information.

Wellness group...A wellness group for older adults will be held on Tuesdays from Sept. 11 to Oct. 30 on Tuesdays in the Christopher Center #263 at Concordia University, 7400 Augusta St., in River Forest. Separate sessions are set for 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Space is limited. Call 708.383.8060 to sign up. For transportation, call 708.383.4806.

Medicare enrollment...Medicare recipients may make changes to their plans during open enrollment from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. Details are available online at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1.800.MEDICARE (1.800.633.4227). For answers to general questions, call 708.383.8060.

Food containers may send recyclables to landfill

Food containers have proven especially difficult to recycle since they often have remnants of food or liquids that can contaminate an entire load that then ends up in a landfill. Please follow these steps to properly recycle food containers:

- Empty and rinse all food containers before placing them in the recycling cart
- Do not place pizza boxes soiled with grease and cheese in the recycling cart
- Discard foam egg cartons and carry out food containers in the garbage — they are not recyclable
- Remove liners before recycling cereal boxes

For more information on recycling in Oak Park visit www.oak-park.us/recycling.



Police Chief retires after 34 years



Chief Anthony Ambrose



Deputy Chief LaDon Reynolds

After more than 34 years with the Oak Park Police Department, Chief Anthony Ambrose announced his retirement at the end of August. Ambrose, who had been on leave since April, said he wanted to focus his energies on getting well following a successful liver transplant. Ambrose joined the Oak Park Police Department as a patrol officer in 1984. He quickly rose through the ranks to sergeant and commander, before becoming deputy chief in

2005. He was named police chief in 2016, succeeding Rick C. Tanksley who retired after 33 years with the Oak Park Police Department. Ambrose was Oak Park's 12th Police Chief. Deputy Chief LaDon Reynolds will continue to serve in the acting chief role he assumed in April. A community farewell celebration is being planned. Visit www.oak-park.us for more details as they are finalized.

Chief search...A national search is underway to find Oak Park's 13th police chief since the Village was incorporated in 1902. Village Code requires the Village Manager to select the Chief of Police. Current Oak Park police officers and residents will be asked to offer input during the selection process. Residents who wish to contribute are invited to sign up for Village enews at www.oak-park.us/enews and follow the Village on social media at www.facebook.com/vopnews and twitter.com/vopnews for details on how to become involved. Information also will be posted at www.oak-park.us.

Fall leaf collection set to begin in October

The annual fall leaf collection program is scheduled for Oct. 15 through Nov. 29 with seven pickups planned for each section of the Village. Residents should rake leaves 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, and 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. Once the program ends for the season, residents should bag and store the leaves until spring. Cooperation is essential to the success of the program, so please follow these simple rules:

- Consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking.
- Inform landscape services of the leaf collection schedule.
- Rake leaves out the day before the scheduled pickup date.
- 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 ignite the leaves.
- Rake leaves onto side streets whenever possible. Try to avoid 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 leaves being blown by the wind.
- Drive carefully. Leaves are slippery when wet and large piles may hinder visibility.
- Stay alert. Intersections may be closed temporarily to create safe work zones to remove large leaf piles.

For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

NORTH AVE		EAST AVE	
WEDNESDAY	Oct. 17 Oct. 24 Oct. 31 Nov. 7 Nov. 14 Nov. 21 Nov. 28	THURSDAY	Oct. 18 Oct. 25 Nov. 1 Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 22 Nov. 29
SOUTH BLVD		EAST AVE	
TUESDAY	Oct. 16 Oct. 23 Oct. 30 Nov. 6 Nov. 13 Nov. 20 Nov. 27	MONDAY	Oct. 15 Oct. 22 Oct. 29 Nov. 5 Nov. 12 Nov. 19 Nov. 26
ROOSEVELT RD			

Stink bugs invade Oak Park

The brown marmorated stink bug has found a home in Oak Park prompting calls to the Village from residents expressing fear for our trees. A native of China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, the small shield-shaped bug has no interest in trees, but it can damage fruit and vegetable crops. The issue in Oak Park tends to come in the fall as the bugs seek a place to winter. The good news is the nuisance pest does not bite, sting or carry disease, but it will stink if you crush it. With no natural enemies about the only thing a property owner can do is try to keep them outside by caulking cracks and crevices around doors, windows, air conditioners and any other building access points. If they do get inside, remove them by hand and discard outside or into a bucket of soapy water. Larger quantities of bugs can be swept up with a hand-held vacuum and dumped into a bucket of soapy water. For more information call 708.358.5700 email publicworks@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



Open house to highlight Fire Safety Month

Oak Parkers young, old and in between with an interest in modern firefighting and emergency medical services should mark their calendars for Saturday, October 13. That's when the Oak Park Fire Department will open its doors to the public for an open house. The event, held in conjunction with national Fire Safety Month, is set for 11 a.m. to 3 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 also will include tours of the fire house, presentations about safety, refreshments and fun handouts.

About the Fire Department

Always on call, the Fire Department maintains three shifts of more than 20 trained professionals ready to provide around-the-clock protection to residents. All Village firefighters also are paramedics, since delivering emergency medical services is an integral part of the fire department mission. In fact, about 65 percent of calls to the Fire Department are for medical emergencies. In 2017, Oak Park's firefighter/paramedics responded to more than 6,800 calls for fire and emergency medical services. They had another 5,200-plus citizen contacts related to public safety education, including CPR classes and visits to local schools. The Oak Park Fire Department also provides a number of non-emergency programs for the community, including the following:

CPR/AED, first aid training – The 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 main fire station and cost \$35 for Oak Park residents, plus a \$15 textbook fee. Visit www.oak-park.us/safetytraining for a registration form and list of class dates.

Child safety seat inspections – The Fire Department has child safety seat technicians available to check your seat for safety and proper installation. To schedule a safety inspection, email carseat@oak-park.us. Each request for an appointment will be followed up within 48 hours.

Fire prevention and inspections – Fire Department personnel inspect all public buildings and commercial establishments in Oak Park at least once a year to ensure safety. Inspections range from complex medical centers and high-rise residences for the elderly to traditional offices and shops. The Fire Department also reviews all building blueprints for fire alarm and sprinkler system installations prior to construction to ensure the systems meet or exceed current fire code regulations.

More information about the Oak Park Fire Department is posted online at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Village Hall to host early voting

Suburban Cook County voters can cast an early ballot for the Gubernatorial General Election from Oct. 22 through Nov. 5 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Village Hall hours for early voting will be as follows:

- Monday – Saturday, Oct. 22 – 27: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 28: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Monday – Friday Oct. 29 – Nov. 2: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 3: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 4: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 5: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Village Hall also will offer grace-period registration during early voting hours for those individuals who missed the registration deadline. Valid identification is required to register during the grace period and a vote must be cast immediately after registration. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill with the current address. For more information on the Nov. 6 Gubernatorial General Election, including polling sites by address, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections.

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.

Scan with a
smartphone QR
app for more
information



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



OP/FYI

Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews Dan Moroney

Simone M. Boutet Jim Taglia

Andrea Button Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman

Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Early childhood support available

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 preschool and Head Start programs. Parents concerned about their child's physical, social or emotional development also can look to the Collaboration for screening and referrals to additional services. 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 also 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.



Drivers urged to take extra care



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.

Tree planting focuses on species diversity

With the impact of Dutch elm disease and emerald ash borer still being felt in urban forests across the country, Oak Park is focused on species diversity as new trees are selected and planted on parkways across the community. The more than 300 new trees being planted this fall in the Village include more than 40 different species, an approach arborists have resoundingly recognized as the best way to avoid future blights that can sweep through a single species with devastating results. The Village Forester, certified a Master Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture, manages when, where and what trees will be planted. While requests for specific species are considered, the Village cannot provide a list of available tree species from which a resident can select since site conditions and species availability vary greatly from season to season. The overall goal of the careful species selection process is to have a healthy, sustainable urban forest for future generations to enjoy. New trees planted in Oak Park typically are 10 feet to 15 feet tall with a two-inch trunk diameter and a 36-inch root ball. Each new tree is planted and mulched, and a watering bag attached that is refilled regularly during the first growing season. For more information on tree care in the Village visit www.oak-park.us/trees.