

When minutes count, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1



Telecommunicator Kelvin Mason at his console in the dispatch center.

In an emergency such as a fire, minutes count. While one's instinct might be to immediately try and help, calling 9-1-1 first usually proves to be the most effective action.

Oak Parkers who call 9-1-1 get more than just a dispatcher. The telecommunicators who answer the phones in the dispatch center Oak Park shares with Elmwood Park, Park Ridge and River Forest have been trained to help callers deal with a variety of police, fire and medical emergencies.

The dispatchers in the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC) are certified in CPR and have completed the Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols from the Priority Dispatch System, a program that teaches how to guide callers through basic medical procedures until paramedics arrive to take over.

When you dial 9-1-1, don't be surprised that the dispatcher will do most of the talking. The questions they ask are critical to a proper emergency response. But don't worry — even while questions are being asked, emergency personnel are already on their way.

Here's some of the needed information:

- **Where** – the incident is occurring: address, intersection, or if unsure, the relationship to your location, inside or outside, front or rear, house or apartment building, in a vehicle or on the street.
- **What** – is happening. Be clear and concise. This information will determine how many emergency units are sent and the call priority.
- **When** – did this happen? Is it going on right now, did it happen within the last 10–15 minutes, or at an unknown time?
- **Welfare/Weapons** – is anyone hurt? Are there any weapons involved?
- **Who** – is involved and how many? Can you describe the suspects or vehicle?

For more information or to discuss how a call was handled, contact the executive director or supervisor of the WSCDC at 708.771.9110. More information on the center is posted at www.wscdc.org.

Emergency response volunteers sought

Volunteers now are being sought to join the community emergency response team — or CERT — that helps support response efforts after an emergency or natural disaster. Working with the Police, Fire, Public Works and Public Health departments, Oak Park's CERT provides not only required assistance, but the leadership and organization ability that can help fill the gap between the number of people who need emergency assistance and the resources available within the community and their own neighborhoods. CERT volunteers are trained in a range of skills, including basic firefighting, search and rescue, emergency triage and first aid. These local volunteers have assisted surrounding communities and even helped out at the Chicago Marathon. The team also is ready to play a critical role in assisting the Red Cross and other relief organizations in the event of an actual emergency. Oak Park's CERT is registered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist public safety officials in the Village and surrounding communities. The local team can be deployed as one large group or split up into several smaller response teams as needed. Volunteers with a variety of backgrounds are needed, including health care and public education.

Required training sessions...

Prospective volunteers must attend training sessions scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturdays, May 9 and 16, and 8:30 to 1:30 p.m., Sun., May 17. For more information or to sign up, call 708.358.5488 or email msnow@oak-park.us.

Yard waste collection begins

Collection of yard waste will begin April 6. Bundled brush no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs and vines will be picked up on regular refuse



collection days. A green yard waste sticker must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container. Stickers are \$2.40 each. Residents are urged to look for alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or backyard compost piles. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Where to Buy Yard Waste Stickers

- **Village Hall**, 123 Madison St.
- **Jewel Food Stores**
438 Madison St.
7036 Roosevelt Road
7525 Lake St. (River Forest)
- **Dressel's Ace Hardware**
1137 Chicago Ave.
- **Fair Share Finer Foods**
6226 Roosevelt Road
- **Walgreens**, 811 Madison St.
- **Schauer Ace Hardware**
7449 Madison St. (Forest Park)

Volunteers needed for youth, senior programs

Applications are now being accepted for three-year terms on the Oak Park Township Youth Services and the Senior Services advisory committees. The Youth Services Committee, which meets the first Wednesday of each month, advises the township board on funding for local agencies that sponsor programs for youth, especially those at risk of involvement in harmful or illegal activities. The Senior Services Committee, which meets quarterly, monitors and makes recommendations about services and programs for senior citizens. Interested residents should have a special interest in, and experience with, youth or senior needs in the community. Applications are available at www.oakparktownship.org, from the Township office, 105 S. Oak Park Ave., or by calling 708.383.8005. The application deadline is Fri., April 10.

Tuesday lectures tackle environmental issues

The annual *Green Tuesdays* public lecture series returns to the Oak Park Public Library in April to take on a range of important environmental challenges and issues specifically relevant to the community. All lectures will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. The program, now in its 10th year, is sponsored by the Village's Environment & Energy Commission. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

- **April 7** – State of the Environment: Oak Park 2015
- **April 14** – Environmental Potpourri: native plants, pesticide avoidance, gardens, backyard composting and the Village organics collection program
- **April 21** – Talk About Trees: urban forestry programs and the new parkway tree inventory
- **April 28** – Storm water management, free rain barrel program

Survey essential to protecting local water supply

A survey arriving soon in the mailboxes of all Oak Park property owners is essential to protecting the community's drinking water. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires communities to survey all its water customers every two years to identify and eliminate connections that could allow contaminants to accidentally flow back into the drinking water from sources such as fire protection sprinkler systems, boilers, lawn sprinklers and swimming pools. The short survey can be completed online or returned via fax, email or U.S. Mail. Oak Park's cross-connection control program is managed by Elgin-based Aqua Backflow, which will gather and compile the survey information. Respondents who have or require backflow protection, may be contacted for testing, repair or installation. For more information call 847.742.2296 or email info@aquabackflow.com.

Recycling opportunities ahead

publicworks@oak-park.us

Paint exchange...Safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint or get free paint at the Great Paint Exchange, scheduled for Sat., April 11, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Half-to-full cans of latex paint will be accepted from 9 to 11 a.m. Anyone in need of paint may pick it up from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Paper shredding...Help prevent identity theft by shredding documents containing personal information at a free

recycling event scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., April 18, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes. Only items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information will be accepted. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted.

Old clothing...The Public Works Department has partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation to collect clothing and apparel of all types and in any condition from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., April 18, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Items, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels, will be sent to developing nations to repurpose. The Epilepsy Foundation also offers residential pickup – visit www.epilepsyichicago.org or www.donateillinois.org for more information.

Police News

Cell phone use regulations enforced...Oak Park Police aggressively enforce state laws that make it illegal to use a hand-held cell phone while driving. Under state law, motorists are prohibited from using a cell or smart phone while driving unless via a hands-free device. With research supporting that all cell phone use is equally distracting once a conversation begins, Oak Park Police urge motorists to put their devices aside while driving.

Concealed-carry...Oak Park Police routinely work with local businesses and organizations to help them understand their rights and responsibilities under the state's concealed-carry law. Carrying a concealed firearm is prohibited in most public buildings and gatherings, including schools, parks, playgrounds and government facilities such as Village Hall, as well as establishments where more than 50 percent of the gross receipts are from alcohol sales. Property owners who wish to prohibit patrons from carrying a concealed firearm on their premises must display a state-approved sign. For more details on the new law, including sign specifics, call 708.386.3800 or visit www.isp.state.il.us and click on firearms under the agency links tab.

Police escort...Any resident uneasy about walking to or from a public transit stop, public garage or other site in the community may contact the Police Department for an escort from dusk until dawn. Residents are asked to consider seeking assistance from friends and family first, since officers may be needed for emergency calls. Call 708.386.3800 for information or an escort.

Get to know your resident beat police officer...The Resident Beat Officer Program emphasizes the value of open communication between the Oak Park Police Department and the community by assigning sworn officers to work from their homes in the community. Each Resident Beat Officer — or RBO — works directly with neighbors to identify and address local problems. All RBOs can be reached by telephone or email. For information on your neighborhood's RBO, visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Crime Tip Hot Line...Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activity to the Police Department's Crime Tip Hot Line at 708.434.1636. All callers remain anonymous. Anonymous tips also can be made at www.oak-park.us/police. In an emergency, always call 9-1-1.

Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1...Oak Park's community policing approach relies on residents taking an active role. If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately. For more information on the Community Policing Program, or to contact your Resident Beat Officer, call 708.386.3800 or visit www.oak-park.us/police.

Farmers' Market seeking volunteers

Volunteers are now being sought to become Friends of the Oak Park Farmers' Market, with plans well underway for the May 23 opening of the 40th season. The annual Friends' of the Market recruitment night is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Thurs., May 14 at the main Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. These volunteers become part of this quintessential Village summer experience by helping out at the Commissioners' Booth on Saturday mornings, volunteering at special events and contributing to the smooth running of the market. The market is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., every Saturday morning, from opening day through October, in the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake St. For information on volunteering, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us, call 708.358.5780 or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

News for Renters

Discrimination complaints...Village Code defends the rights of individuals within the protected classes of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status or disability in the purchasing, leasing, securing a loan, renting or occupying housing or other real estate. Any person otherwise qualified who is denied or discriminated against in these processes should call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us for more information, conciliation or to file a formal, written complaint.

Interest rates on security deposits...Tenants of apartment buildings containing four or more units are entitled to interest on their security deposits. Interest must be paid or applied toward rent within 30 days of the expiration of each 12-month period. The security deposit must have been held for at least six months and the rent must be current to be eligible for interest. Call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us for more information.

Tenant handbook...A free handbook outlining rights, responsibilities and regulations is available online at www.oak-park.us or from the Community Relations Department in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The handbook does not offer legal advice, but does contain helpful hints and tips for positive landlord/tenant relationships. For more information call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Daylight Saving Time returns

Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 a.m., Sun., March 8. Clocks should be set ahead one hour. The Oak Park Fire Department recommends using the time change as a convenient reminder to replace the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but one-third are estimated to have dead or missing batteries. For more information, call 708.445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.



Earth Fest set for April 25

The Village's sixth annual celebration of green living — Earth Fest — is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., April 25, in the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. This year's event will include food trucks, vendors and information booths highlighting local environmental organizations and initiatives. The event also will feature an open house of the LEED® Gold-certified facility, with a behind-the-scenes look at public service delivery and opportunities for children to sit in the big trucks and other cool equipment. Visit www.oak-park.us/earthfest for more information.

Earth Hour is March 28... Oak Parkers are invited to turn off their lights for one hour beginning at 8:30 p.m., Sat., March 28, to stand up, take responsibility for and get involved in working toward a sustainable future. Since Earth Hour was launched in 2007, it has become the world's largest voluntary action with people, businesses and governments in 135 countries across every continent coming together to celebrate a commitment to the one thing that unites us all — the planet. For more information, visit www.earthhour.org.

Free rain barrels available

Oak Park residents who disconnect downspouts from the sewer system are eligible to receive up to four rain barrels and hardware from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. With roofs representing more than 40 percent of the impervious surfaces in Cook County, diverting water for reuse rather than allowing it to flow into the sewer system can help reduce basement backups and sewer overflow. Program application forms are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. and online at www.oak-park.us/rainbarrels. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Have an opinion on single-use bags?

Oak Park residents and business operators are invited to share their views on regulating single-use plastic shopping bags in our community as has been done in Chicago and Evanston. Residents are invited to take an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/community-bag-survey. Business operators are invited to take an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/business-bag-survey. Members of the Environment & Energy Commission have gathered information on the topic from across the country for discussions at their regular meetings. Before making a recommendation to the Village Board on possible action, they want to have a broader discussion with the community, beginning with the survey. The brief survey takes only a few minutes and responses are confidential. For more information, email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Local groups, volunteers needed for A Day in Our Village

Planning is well underway for the 42nd annual A Day in Our Village, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement, scheduled for Sun., June 7. Local groups wishing to attract volunteers, clients or new members, and civic-minded volunteers are invited to participate. Last year more than 100 Oak Park organizations set up activity and information booths in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue, local restaurants sold food nearby and the Park District of Oak Park sponsored activities in Rehm Park. In addition to participants, volunteers are needed to donate an hour or two of time well before the event, distributing promotional literature and hanging posters around the community. Volunteers also are needed to help on the day of the event. For more information on participating or volunteering to help with the 2015 A Day in Our Village celebration, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
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
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Day Parking Passes	option 3
Extended Pass	option 4
Parking Permits	option 5
Snow Hotline	option 1
Vehicle Stickers	option 5
Village Board	358.5784
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
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School District 200

www.oprfhs.org

Administration	434.3107
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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

Stay connected...

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-  youtube.com/vopnews

Housing News

Residential rental licenses required... All rental property in Oak Park must be licensed annually by the Village as part of the Crime Free Housing Program, which offers a powerful tool to help reduce the chances of criminal activity in individual rented units. Property owners must include a crime-free addendum with all leases and attend a training seminar each year. Visit www.oak-park.us/rentalseminar to sign up for a seminar time that best fits your schedule. Owners without computer access can register by calling 708.358.5410. Pre-registration is required.

Single-family rehab loans... No interest loans of up to \$25,000 are available to single-family homeowners to correct health and safety issues and building code violations. No monthly payments are required. Loans are repayable after 20 years or when the property is transferred. More information on the program is posted at www.oak-park.us/housing. Call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us with questions.

Free water-saving kits... Oak Parkers interested in saving water and energy are eligible for free water saver kits that can save up to 57 gallons of water per person per day. Each kit contains a low-flow shower head, low-flow kitchen and bath faucet aerators, and a toilet tank displacement device that can make any toilet a low-flow unit. Kits must be picked up in person at the Housing Programs Office in Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

Sewer backup protection grant applicants sought... Applications are now being accepted for a program that provides financial assistance to property owners who install an overhead sewer system or a backflow prevention system to protect their homes from sewer backup during a heavy rain event. Anyone who meets the program guidelines can apply, regardless of income. Eligible homeowners may qualify for a grant of 50 percent of the total cost of sewer backup prevention improvements, up to a maximum of \$3,500. Details on the program, including the application materials, are posted at www.oak-park.us/sewergrant. Call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us for details.

Local Election News

In-person registration... Oak Parkers planning to vote in the April 7 municipal election can register from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., through Tues., March 11 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Voter registration also is offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. and at the main Library, 834 Lake Street – call 708.383.8200 for registrar availability. Anyone who misses the deadline can take advantage of grace-period registration during early voting hours. Voter registration requires two types of identification, at least one with the current address. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill.

Online registration... Voter registration is offered online through the county – visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/register tovote for details.



Vote by mail... Registered voters can request a mail ballot for the local election at www.cookcountyclerk.com/votbymail. This site also provides sample ballots and profiles of some candidates.

Early voting... Early voting will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from March 23 through April 4 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Grace-period registration will be available.

News for pet owners

Renew licenses online... Oak Park pet owners who receive an animal license renewal notice via email are encouraged to renew online by following the included link. Pet owners without an email address or who do not respond to the electronic renewal reminder will receive a notice via regular mail urging them to renew at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices. The online portal also allows owners to delete pets they no longer own and add new ones. Payment is made with a credit card, a receipt sent via email and the actual tag delivered in the U.S. Mail. Pet owners will still have the option of mailing in their payment or coming to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. All dogs and outdoor cats are required to display a current animal license by May 1. The license fee is \$10 for a neutered/spayed dog and all cats, and \$13 for any non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Proof of a current rabies inoculation and spaying/neutering is required for a new license. For more information call 708.358.5680 or email health@oakpark.us.

Picking up a must... Responsible pet owners agree that picking up after one's dog is the right thing to do. Dog excrement is not only a nuisance, it's unhealthy and against the law. Anyone observing someone not picking up after a dog should call 708.358.5680 or email health@oak-park.us.

Leash required... All dogs that use any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public area within the Village must be on a leash controlled by the owner. The leash can be no longer than eight feet. For more information call 708.358.5680 or email health@oak-park.us.

Dogs restricted in parks... Pet owners who walk their dogs in any Oak Park park must keep them on a leash no longer than eight-feet long, the same rule that applies to all public areas including streets, sidewalks and parkways. Police may ticket and fine owners who allow their dogs to run off leash. And only service animals are allowed in park playgrounds. The Park District of Oak Park offers two areas where dogs can run off leash, however. Visit www.pdop.org for the details.



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



Village President Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Peter Barber
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Colette Lueck
Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

News You Can Use

Report graffiti...Graffiti can be reported online at www.oak-park.us/reportgraffiti or by calling 708.358.5429. Village staff will remove graffiti from Village-owned properties. A removal solution will be provided at no cost to private property owners. Email community@oak-park.us to learn more.

Signs prohibited...Placing any type of sign in the public right of way such as the parkway space between the sidewalk and the curb is prohibited. The prohibition includes, but is not limited to garage sale signs, political signs, open house signs and contractor signs. For more information call 708.358.5430 or email building@oak-park.us.

Film permits required...A permit is required for any residential or commercial property to be used as a location for a television commercial or other filming. Neighbors must be notified by flyer as to when and where the shoot is to occur. If police presence is required, services of off-duty police must be paid by the film crew. For more information call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Quit smoking help...Free nicotine replacement patches are available through the Illinois Department of Public Health Tobacco Free Communities fund. Residents age 18 and over are eligible. To register, call the Illinois Quitline at 866.784.8937. Information also is posted at www.quityes.org.

Backing into stalls prohibited...Backing a vehicle into a parking stall in a Village lot or garage is prohibited because permit decals must appear in the rear window and be visible to enforcement officers. Violators may be ticketed. Email parking@oak-park.us for more information.

Stop solicitors...To discourage door-to-door solicitors, obtain a no soliciting sticker from the Village Clerk's office in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., to place on or near the front door. Call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us for more information.

Avoid parking ticket paperwork and late fees...Parking citations can be appealed and paid on-line at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices. Payment may be made with Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Visit www.oak-park.us/adjudication or email adjudication@oak-park.us for more information.

Overnight parking restricted...Parking is prohibited on all Village streets from 2:30 to 6 a.m., seven days a week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass. Up to 10 on-street overnight passes are allowed for each vehicle every month — the first three are free, and additional passes are \$7 each. If you have guests, consider parking in one of the Village's three public garages. For more information about parking, visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Deadline nears for health award nominations

March 13 is the deadline to nominate someone for a Fitzsimmons Award, which honors those who made exceptional contributions to improving the health of Oak Parkers during 2014. The Oak Park Department of Public Health will honor those individuals and organizations with the William Fitzsimmons Award during 2015 Public Health Week, April 6-12. A nomination form is posted at www.oak-park.us/healthawards. Forms also are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Completed forms should be mailed to or dropped off at the Oak Park Department of Public Health, Village Hall, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302, Attn: Public Health Awards. Nominations also may be sent via email to health@oak-park.us. Nominations submitted via email should include responses to all fields listed in the original nomination form. The Fitzsimmons Award is named for local physician and humanitarian William Fitzsimmons who served as the Health Department's medical consultant from 1976 to 1992. For more information on the awards program, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.