

JUNE 2015

OP/FYI

A NEWSLETTER
FROM THE
VILLAGE OF
OAK PARK

VOLUME 27 • ISSUE 5

July 4th parade to showcase Oak Park's rich diversity

The many dimensions of diversity in Oak Park will be on display when the 10th annual July 4th parade steps off at 10 a.m., Sat., July 4 from Longfellow Park at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street.

This year's route will be about two blocks shorter due to construction on Ridgeland Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Augusta Street, where sewers — some dating back to the 1890s — are being replaced.

As in past years, the parade will march north on Ridgeland, but this year it will end near Chicago Avenue. Check for updates to the route at www.oak-park.us as the date of the parade nears.

The route will offer many viewing opportunities along the way. Residents typically bring chairs and blankets to sit on the parkways and curbs as they enjoy the old-fashioned, small-town display that suggests simpler times in the nation's history.

More than 80 groups participated in the parade last year, including social and special interest groups, community groups, athletic teams, politicians, businesses, service organizations, children's groups, animal lovers with their pets and musical groups.

This year's event is expected to be even bigger. Some participants will bring floats and drive vintage cars.



Others will play music, carry banners, ride decorated bicycles and skate. Most will dress up in all manner of red, white and blue to commemorate the nation's birthday and to celebrate Oak Park's rich diversity.

Of course, the Police and Fire Departments will be part of the parade, too, with vehicle lights flashing and sirens.

The parade also will feature the award-winning Freedom Marching Band, an ensemble that evolved from the original Chicago Gay Pride Band formed in 1979 as one of the first LGBT bands of its kind.

A fireworks display organized by the local nonprofit Great American Light Show Association (GALA) typically begins at dusk in the football stadium of Oak Park and River Forest High School, near East Avenue and Lake Street. Check www.oak-park.us/calendar for any schedule changes.

The parade is organized by the citizen volunteers of the Community Relations Commission. For more information or to volunteer to help out at the parade, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

A Day in Our Village festival is June 7

The 42nd annual A Day in Our Village festival celebrating diversity and community involvement is scheduled for Sun., June 7. Activity booths representing Oak Park and Austin neighborhood civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will fill Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. along with live performances and a food court featuring local restaurants. Rehm Park & Pool, Garfield Street at East Avenue, also will offer many activities from 1 to 6 p.m., with \$10 wristbands for unlimited access to carnival games, rides, entertainment, inflatables, pool and the trains. An Oak Park Township mini-bus will provide free transportation between venues. For more information, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.



About that garage sale...

Oak Parkers seeking to declutter, while making a few extra dollars, can host a garage sale twice each year without a permit or permission from the Village. However, a few rules must be observed:

- Sales are limited to the daylight hours of no more than three consecutive days.
- Items must be displayed within a garage, residence, carport and/or rear yard, unless it is a neighborhood sale.
- Advertising signs may be displayed only on the property where the sale is held, and only while the sale is in progress.
- Signs may not be larger than eight square feet or displayed on public property including light poles, sign posts or on or above the public parkways or sidewalks.

Garage sales are intended for disposing of personal property, not for merchandise purchased for resale or on consignment. And keep in mind that the individual conducting the sale and the owner or tenant of the premises where the sale is being held are responsible for maintaining order and may be subject to penalty for any violations of garage sale rules. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Recycle unwanted electronics

Oak Park residents are invited to recycle old electronic equipment on the last Saturday of each month through October. Items can be recycled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. These items are banned by state law from Illinois landfills. The program is sponsored by Keep Oak Park Beautiful, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Vintage Tech Recyclers. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Tips for planning a great block party



The Village encourages block parties as a way to build community spirit, meet neighbors and have fun. Each block may sponsor two block parties per year, but since some weekends fill quickly, plan early to get preferred dates. A petition signed by at least 10 separate addresses on the block is required to schedule a block party. Approved petitions allow the neighborhood to close off a street to vehicle traffic for the

entire day. Petitions must be returned two weeks before the date of the block party. Block party organizers are urged to remember the following rules:

- **Include everyone on the block** — especially renters in multifamily buildings.
- **Use a north-south block.** Due to public safety and traffic considerations, block parties are not allowed on east-west streets.
- **Make sure emergency vehicles can get through if needed.** Tables, chairs or other items should not project more than six feet from the curb. And don't stretch wires, ropes, nets, lights, banners or other items across the street.
- **Supervise children at all times.** Even though the street may be closed, accidents can happen.
- **Use only street barricades provided by the Village.** Cars parked in a street as a barricade may impede emergency vehicles, and could be ticketed.
- **Do not plan a party for an alley.** Alleys provide important access for utility companies and other services.
- **Keep sidewalks clear.** Sidewalks are public ways that may not be obstructed even during a block party.
- **If alcohol is present, keep it on private property.** Alcohol may not be sold.

For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. An information packet is posted at www.oak-park.us/blockparties.

Free rain barrels available

Oak Park residents who disconnect downspouts from the sewer system may be eligible for free rain barrels and installation hardware. So far this year, more than 350 rain barrels have been distributed to nearly 200 Oak Park households through a partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago. 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. Each eligible household can receive up to four barrels. 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. That's why rain barrels are a cornerstone of the MWRD's regional strategy to divert rainwater that would otherwise end up in the sewer system. Barrels allow backyard gardeners and eco-conscious homeowners to capture and store the fresh, abundant rainwater that falls on Oak Park each year. Each barrel is made of recycled material and has a specially designed label that summarizes its environmental benefits. Being willing to disconnect downspouts is the first step. Even if you don't qualify under this program, homeowners are urged to consider installing them to reduce basement backups and sewer overflow. For more information on the program, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Farmers' Market celebrates 40 years

The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open for business from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through October. Now in its 40th season, the venerable market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and cut flowers, bedding plants, honey and cheeses from Illinois and neighboring states, the market also offers warm donuts made on-site, juice and coffee, and live bluegrass music. Regional vendors featuring sustainable, organic and locally sourced goods are participating again this season as well, including several offering heirloom products. Non-profit bake sales are there, too, along with chefs from local restaurants cooking up demonstration dishes using fresh items purchased at the market. To help support market administration, several items are sold at the information tent, including reusable shopping bags. A majority of the vendors now accept credit/debit cards as well as Link cards. More information on the Oak Park Farmers' Market is posted at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Oak Park Farmers' Market



Celebrating 40 years of freshness

Police offer tips to deter bicycle thieves



Bicycle thefts tend to increase during warmer weather. Following these steps, police say, can help deter bicycle thieves:

- **Don't leave your bike unlocked or unattended.**
- **Lock your bike** even when it is stored in a closed garage, enclosed porch or basement common area.
- **Never let anyone you do not know take your bike for a ride.**
- **Be cautious of two people on one**

bike. Bicycle thieves often travel in pairs this way.

- **Trust your instincts.** If you feel someone is going to take your bicycle, shout for help.
- **Stay in the company of friends** — there usually is safety in numbers.
- **Think twice about resisting** — your bike can be replaced.
- **Call the police immediately** if you see anyone suspicious hanging around a bike rack, in a neighbor's yard or near a garage.
- **Register your bike with the Village.** Should your bike be stolen and later recovered the registration provides information about its rightful owner.

Police urge parents to share these tips with their children. For more information, call 708.386.3800, email police@oak-park.us or talk to your Resident Beat Officer (RBO).

Bicycles and sidewalks

Riding on a sidewalk by anyone of any age is not allowed in the business districts. And only those under 15 years of age may ride on a sidewalk anywhere else in the community. Youngsters riding on sidewalks always must yield to pedestrians. For more information on bicycle rules and safety, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Protect your trees — don't mound the mulch

Residents who pile mulch or build planters around the base of their parkway trees may be setting the stage for their slow death from root strangulation, rot and insect infestation. The base of a tree, known as its root flare, needs to be exposed to ensure healthy growth. The too-common practice of piling mulch around the base of a tree in a volcano-like configuration can promote irregular root growth and bark rot, which is a sure way to attract potentially harmful insects. Mulching with wood chips up to four inches deep is beneficial to trees, but only if a space of two-to-three inches is created so that the chips don't touch the bark. Think of mulching as creating a donut around the tree, rather than a volcano. Planters that create raised beds covering the root flare of a tree are very harmful as well. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Owners responsible for private property storm debris disposal

When severe weather creates debris from trees on private property, owners are reminded not to bring limbs or brush to the curb, but make other arrangements for its disposal. Public Works crews only pick up debris from parkway trees. However, brush from private property will be treated as yard waste if it is tied into bundles, each tagged with a green yard waste sticker and placed in the regular refuse pick-up area. Each bundle should be no larger than two feet in diameter, four feet in length and not exceed 50 pounds. Yard waste stickers are \$2.40 each and are available at most Village grocery and hardware stores, as well as in the cashier's office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The Village's contract refuse hauler also will come to a home and estimate the cost for removing larger, unbundled quantities of yard waste — call 888.656.5350. For more information on refuse hauling, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Nominations sought for historic preservation awards

Nominations for the 2015 Historic Preservation Awards Program are now being sought by the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission, citizen volunteers who advise the Village Board on historic preservation issues. August 28 is the deadline for submissions.



Single-family residences, apartment buildings, commercial buildings, public/institutional buildings and religious structures may be nominated in the categories of restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use and additions/new construction. Additional awards are presented for stewardship, detail and design. Projects must be located within the boundaries of the

Village and should have been created within the past five years. Nominations need not be in an historic district. Interior work also may be considered in conjunction with exterior work. The Historic Preservation Commission and the Environment & Energy Commission also are seeking applicants for a joint award for projects that address both historic preservation and sustainability issues. Any resident, owner or tenant of eligible structures, members of local preservation and historical societies, and members of local boards and commissions may make nominations. The judges' decisions will be based upon the Historic Preservation Commission's Architectural Review Guidelines, which are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, as well as considerations of contextual and design appropriateness. Nominations may be submitted online, in person, by U.S. Mail or via email. Nomination forms are available in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., by calling 708.358.5417 or by email to historicpreservation@oak-park.us. For more information, call 708.358.5417 or email historicpreservation@oak-park.us.

Free concerts, movies in the park

Concerts...The Park District of Oak Park's free summer concerts features a variety of local and well-known bands beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sunday evenings in Scoville Park, Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue. Weather-related cancelations will be posted at [facebook.com/parkdistrictofoakpark](https://www.facebook.com/parkdistrictofoakpark).

- **June 14** - Bopology (swing, big band)
- **June 21** - Out of Favor Boys (blues)
- **June 28** - Mickeys (folk, Americana)
- **July 5** - Dave Rudolf (beach music)
- **July 12** - Saturday June Band (rock)
- **July 19** - J & T Band (country)
- **July 26** - Replays (rock)
- **Aug. 2** - Deep Fried Pickles (jug band, kids)
- **Aug. 9** - Lowdown Brass Band (funk)

Movies...Bring your picnic blanket and snacks and enjoy free movies in the parks all summer. Visit www.pdop.org for more details.

- **June 6** - Lilo and Stitch, 8:30 p.m., Field Park, 935 Woodbine Ave.
- **July 7** - Earth to Echo, 8:30 p.m., Andersen Park, 824 N. Hayes Ave.
- **Aug. 8** - Batteries Not Included, 8 p.m., Lindberg Park, 1151 N. Marion St.
- **Sept. 9** - Close Encounters of the Third Kind, 8 p.m., Carroll Park, 1125 S. Kenilworth Ave.



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
Village President & 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

School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	434.3107

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...

- oak-park.us
- [facebook.com/vopnews](https://www.facebook.com/vopnews)
- twitter.com/vopnews
- [pinterest.com/oakparkil](https://www.pinterest.com/oakparkil)
- [youtube.com/vopnews](https://www.youtube.com/vopnews)

West Nile Virus threat returns

As temperatures increase so does the threat of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. State public health officials reported 42 human cases and four deaths last year.

Take precautions...Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by wearing long sleeves and pants, limiting time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and wearing insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.



Eliminate breeding sites...Residents are urged to eliminate potential

mosquito breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, storing containers upside down and emptying birdbaths every few days.

Report dead birds...If you see a dead bird call the West Nile Virus Hotline 708.358.5694. Depending on the bird's condition and species, a Health Department staff member may pick up the carcass for testing.

Prevention efforts...The Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District will treat all street catch basins with larvicide every seven to 10 days during the mosquito-breeding season. The abatement district also will treat catch basins on private property by request and pick up old vehicle tires. Call 708.447.1765 or visit www.desplainesvalleymad.com for more information.

Spraying notification...Residents who wish to be notified when the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement



District has scheduled spraying for adult mosquitoes can sign up at www.oak-park.us. Registrants will be notified by an automated telephone system, e-mail or text message as soon as possible following a decision to spray in Oak Park. Individuals without computer access may call 708.358.5694 to leave their phone number for telephone notification only. Visit www.desplainesvalleymad.com for information on spraying.

For more information...Call the West Nile Virus Hotline 708.358.5694, visit www.oak-park.us or email health@oak-park.us.

Township News

www.oakparktownship.org

Senior lunch hours extended...Township Senior Services lunch program hours are now 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, providing more seniors, 60 years or older, the opportunity to socialize while enjoying a meal. Offered at 130 S. Oak Park Ave., the suggested donation is \$1.50 per meal. Oak Park Township offers many programs for seniors, including case management, transportation, caregiver support and chore services. Call 708.383.8060 or visit www.oakparktownship.org/departments/seniors for more information.

Summer youth guidance...Township youth interventionists can help young people at risk of becoming involved in gang activity, violence or substance abuse. Working closely with local schools, law enforcement agencies, libraries, parks and municipal governments, services include outreach to family members and counseling to address self-destructive or anti-social behaviors. Help with parenting skills, conflict resolution, substance abuse and other youth issues also is available. For more information or service, call 708.445.2727 or visit www.oakparktownship.org/departments/youth.

Sculpture walk comes to Chicago Avenue

The Oak Park Sculpture Walk returns for a fourth season with 12 sculptures on view in the eclectic Chicago Avenue Business District. This year's event will begin just east of Ridgeland Avenue and follow along Chicago Avenue to Austin Boulevard and back again. The sculptures were chosen by a juried competition and vary in materials including steel, wood, granite and recycled objects. Brochures with details about the art and the artists will be available on site, at Oak Park libraries, area businesses along the route and online at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk. The Sculpture Walk is organized by the Public Art Advisory Commission, citizen volunteers who promote the acquisition and placement of public art that reflects diversity and artistic expression, and enhances the aesthetic environment of the Village. For more information, email sculpturewalk@oak-park.us.

Volunteers sought for boards and commissions

Residents with specific backgrounds, including dentistry and fire protection, are being sought to serve on the Village Board's many advisory boards, commissions and committees. These citizen volunteers conduct in-depth studies, evaluate research and hold meetings that create the public record so critical to Village Board actions. A varied group of volunteers is sought to represent the Village's diversity, and renters as well as homeowners are encouraged to apply. Openings are available now for the Board of Health, Building Codes Advisory Commission, Housing Programs Advisory Commission, Civic Information Systems Commission, Community Relations Commission and Public Art Advisory Commission. For more information on volunteering, visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.



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

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



Postal Carrier
 Pre-Sort

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

Vehicle stickers on sale; discount for online renewals

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase and display a vehicle sticker annually by July 15. Anyone who misses the deadline must purchase a sticker and pay a \$20 late fee. Failure to display a valid Village sticker by the deadline also may result in a \$50 ticket.



Residents whose vehicles already are registered with the Village can save 10 percent by renewing online at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices rather than via mail or in person at Village Hall.

Renewal forms mailed to current sticker holders include a unique web identification number that allows a vehicle owner to correct or update most data online, including address and telephone

number, and add vehicle information. Anyone who loses the renewal notice can look up their web ID number using the email address or telephone number included in the previous year's application.

Online payments require an email address and a credit or debit card. The sticker is delivered via U.S. Mail, typically within a few days of purchase. Residents who would like to renew online, but don't have access to a computer can come to Village Hall where a computer is available to the public for official business. Computers also are available at public library branches.

The online option is for renewals only. First-time vehicle sticker purchasers must come to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. A lease, utility bill or other government-issued proof of residency is required. A current vehicle sticker is needed to purchase a parking permit.

In-person sticker purchases and renewals are available at Village Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Village Hall will be open for vehicle sticker purchases and renewals from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Sat., July 11, but will be closed on Fri., July 3. Individuals renewing in person are urged to bring their renewal notice to speed up processing.

The online renewal system will continue to be available through July 14, but will automatically assess the late fee at the midnight deadline.

Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. More information, including rates for various types of vehicles, is posted at www.oak-park.us/parking. Information also is available by calling 708.358.7275 or email to parking@oak-park.us.

Village Hall visitors invited to rate the experience



Anyone who comes to Oak Park Village Hall, 123 Madison St., now can provide feedback about their visit via an electronic survey. Two touch-screen tablets installed on the reception center desk near the main entrance offer visitors the opportunity to anonymously rate the quality of the service received. The brief survey also allows visitors to submit contact information should they wish to discuss their experience further. While the survey is not a scientifically valid poll of customer satisfaction, officials say results should provide indications of where and how the customer experience at Village Hall can be improved. Comments also can be shared via email to village@oak-park.us. For more information on Village government programs and services, visit www.oak-park.us.