

Police, citizen partnership leads to record low crime in 2014

Oak Park's 2014 crime rate was the lowest in the 42 years since comparable information has been collected, according to data compiled under the state's Uniform Crime Reporting Index by the Police Department.

Police investigated 1,665 crimes in the Village in 2014, down 7 percent from the 1,798 crimes reported in 2013 and far below Oak Park's crime rates in the 1980s and 1990s that often were nearly double that of the last few years. Property crimes — thefts and burglaries — represented nearly 90 percent of all 2014 crime, a statistic that has remained virtually unchanged for many years.

Officials say the 2014 crime statistics reflect the collaboration of dedicated police officers and an active, engaged citizenry. They credit Oak Park's focus on policing at the neighborhood level for creating an effective crime-fighting partnership that relies on the community's support and active involvement with the law enforcement professionals who work to make the community safe.

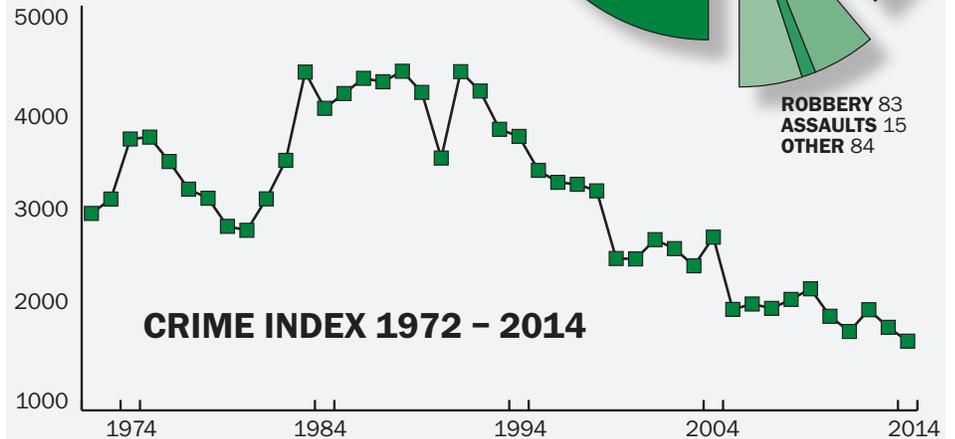
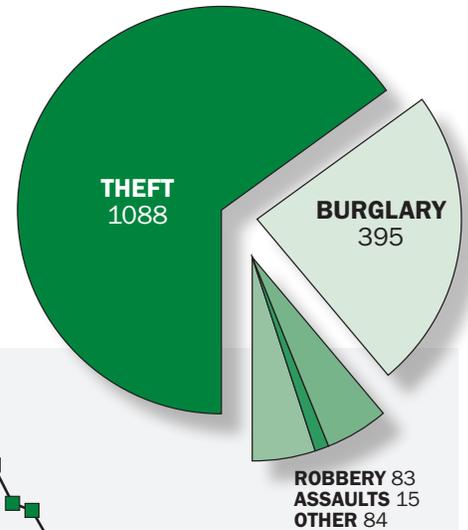
Acknowledging that Oak Park data likely reflects the overall decline in crime nationally, Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley said he firmly believes that the combination of an engaged citizenry and professional, dedicated officers set Oak Park apart from other communities and has played a significant role in the declining local crime rate.

In addition, he said the use of crime data analysis to identify and strategically address emerging trends has led to quick police response times to calls for service and solving crimes at rates above the national average.

The data show that burglaries and thefts of property continued to

See the
Crime Data Summary
inside this issue

CRIMES REPORTED



represent the vast majority of all crimes committed in Oak Park in 2014. These two categories alone comprised nearly 90 percent of all 2014 crimes, with garages as burglars' most frequent targets, police say.

The 83 robberies reported in 2014 — down from the 85 reported in 2013 and 99 in 2012 — were the lowest number of robberies since 1972, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

Arrests also were down in 2014, according to the data, likely reflecting the decline in the overall crime rate. Police made 155 arrests in 2014

compared to 224 in 2013. Nearly three quarters of the arrests were for burglaries, thefts and assaults.

The fact that the overall rate is at its lowest level in years really doesn't mean a lot to a victim of a crime, according to the Police Chief who said that's why the department continually strives to help residents feel safe by providing them the information they need to play a vital role in our crime-fighting initiatives.

For more information on Oak Park's community policing programs, visit www.oak-park.us/police.

2014 By the Numbers: A look at municipal service delivery

With only 4.5 square miles and 52,000 residents, many would say Oak Park is a small town. But the municipal services that make our community such a great place to live, work and do business are anything but small.

Oak Park has more than 100 miles of Village-owned streets, nearly 20,000 parkway trees, 7,000 lighting fixtures, 105

miles of water mains and some 4,000 public parking spaces.

Services are delivered by a workforce of about 350 full-time workers who bring a wide range of formal education, experience and expertise to their jobs.

From a highly trained and motivated police force focused on neighborhoods to firefighter-paramedics who routinely

eclipse national emergency response times, Oak Park's public safety programs rival those of much larger communities.

The Village's public works programs are the core of municipal services. They pump the water, maintain the streets, plow the snow, keep the traffic signals operating, trim the trees and keep a fleet of nearly 250 vehicles running smoothly.

Other municipal services nurture business investment, foster diversity, plan for future development, manage thousands of parking spaces, protect public health and preserve the historic housing stock, one of Oak Park's most valuable assets.

Though employees are assigned to different departments, and the jobs

performed vary, all have the common mission of serving the many needs of the residents of Oak Park. Their efforts are coordinated through a central management system. So how did they do in 2014? Here's snapshot of some of their activities from the year just ended...



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

32,651 calls for Police Service, with an average response time of three minutes and 39 seconds

16,820 citizen contacts for fire and safety public education, including CPR classes

6,419 fire, alarm and emergency medical service calls — average response time of three minutes and 56 seconds

3,458 tons of salt spread during 29 separate snow events

3,147 trees trimmed, 608 removed and 445 planted

1,008 health inspections performed

530 health complaints investigated

50 fire hydrants repaired and 10 replaced



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

\$1,730,365 in federal and county grants distributed to help low- and moderate-income residents and the homeless

23,776 service requests answered by the Public Works Department

7,024 local ordinance and parking citations administratively adjudicated at Village Hall

3,094 animals licensed

3,000 hours contributed by 141 volunteers on 19 advisory boards, committees and commissions

1,693 community relations issues addressed, including tenant/landlord disputes and neighbor conflicts

645 requests processed under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act

460 animals rescued

454 block party packet requests processed

353 multi-family dwelling licenses issued

155 graffiti hits removed

84 meetings of the Village Board — nearly 650 issues of public policy deliberated



IMPROVING THE VILLAGE

10,494 feet of curbs painted

6,000 potholes patched with 250 tons of asphalt

1,378 feet of new water mains installed

1,319 sidewalk squares replaced

798 street lamps replaced

648 street signs replaced

158 ADA ramps upgraded

18 alley segments reconstructed, including 10 with green materials

7.22 miles of sewer mains cleaned and video inspected — 89 tons of sediment removed

5 miles of streets micro-paved

4.26 miles of streets rebuilt and resurfaced

1.62 miles of new dedicated bicycle lanes and 3.38 miles of new shared bike lanes installed



SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT

14,031,000 gallons of water saved with grant-funded low-flow toilets rebates and water saver kits distributed

\$318,876 in disposal fees saved by diverting 46 percent of all residential waste from landfills

144,790 pounds of electronics collected for recycling from 2,415 participants

26,050 pounds of used paint, clothing and paper collected from 737 households for recycling

10,728 tons of garbage hauled away

4,937 tons of recyclables collected

4,034 tons of yard waste and food scraps composted, including from the 760 households and 15 institutions participating in a food scrap collection program



GROWING THE ECONOMY

\$5,295,084 sales taxes generated by local businesses (January – November)

20,907 property and construction inspections performed

6,236 building permits issued

1,235 businesses licensed, including 60 new businesses

835 elevator inspections performed

375 major building plans reviewed

72 historic preservation property requests reviewed



COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

572,827 Village website page views—most popular pages related to parking, online services, Police, recycling and the Farmers' Market

39,602 views of original VOP-TV videos on Village YouTube channel representing 73,279 minutes watched

4,546 Village Facebook fans

3,396 Village Twitter feed followers

2,105 enews list serve subscribers

Crime Data Summary

- **Thefts** of property, typically crimes of opportunity, were the single largest category. Some 1,088 thefts were reported in 2014, compared to 1,148 in 2013, a decrease of 5 percent.
- **Burglary** to property continued to be the second largest single crime category, with 395 cases reported in 2014, compared to 460 in 2013. In more than a third of the residential burglaries and nearly two-thirds of the garage burglaries entry was via an unlocked door or window.
- **Robberies** continued a trend evident over the past several years. Police investigated 83 robberies in 2014, compared to 85 in 2013, 99 in 2012 and 106 in 2011.
- No **murders** occurred in 2014. The last time a murder occurred here was in 2011.
- Five **criminal sexual assaults** were reported in 2014, the same as in 2013. In all five cases the offender was known to the victim, but there was insufficient evidence to prosecute the suspected offenders.
- The 15 reports of **aggravated assault/battery** cases in 2014 was a 58 percent decline from the 36 cases investigated in 2013. In the majority of these cases, victims knew their offenders and were reluctant to prosecute.
- Four **arsons** were reported in 2014, down from five in 2013. One suspect was connected to two of the incidents.
- Reports of 75 **motor vehicle thefts** were investigated in 2014, up from the 59 in 2013. Police attributed the increase to an area-wide organized effort that targeted minivans. Related arrests were made in Chicago, Forest Park and Oak Park.
- Police responded to 32,651 **calls for service** in 2014, compared to 33,155 in 2013. The average response time in 2014 was three minutes and 39 seconds for high priority calls; four minutes and 42 seconds for medium-priority calls such as accidents with no injuries; and six minutes and 20 seconds for low-priority calls.

Block party application cycle begins

Applications for block parties are now being accepted. Some weekends fill quickly so events should be planned early to ensure preferred dates. Block party information and an application packet are posted online at www.oak-park.us/forms. Call 708.358.5700 for details.

Planning a block party? Know the rules

- **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 park cars, 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.
- **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.

Carbon monoxide detectors save lives

An investment of about \$30 for a detector can be the difference in life and death when it comes to deadly carbon monoxide, an odorless and tasteless gas that can leak into one's home from a malfunctioning gas appliance, such as a furnace or water heater. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill before you are aware it is in your home. That's why state law requires homeowners and landlords to install carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping. Alarms can be battery powered, plug-in with battery backup or wired into the AC power line with a secondary battery backup. The alarm can be combined with a smoke detector if the unit complies with established standards and the alarm differentiates the hazard. The property owner must supply and install all required alarms. Landlords must ensure that alarms are operable on the date a lease is initiated. While tenants are responsible for testing and maintaining the alarm after the lease commences, landlords must provide written instructions. Carbon monoxide detectors are not substitutes for smoke detectors, fire officials caution, so both devices are essential. For more information, call 708.445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

Conservatory offers antidote to winter blues



If you are suffering from cabin fever or the winter blues, the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. (at East Avenue, just south of I-290) could be just what you need. Visitors can indulge in the oxygen-rich air, while listening to the sounds of birds and waterfalls, and enjoying scents of Azalea, orange blossoms and orchids. Chicagoland Gardening magazine once described the Conservatory as *small but mighty*, a fitting description of this community gem. The Conservatory is open from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, and 2 to 4 p.m., Mondays. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information, call 708.725.2400.

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

School District 200	www.oprfs.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

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Plan for parking when it snows

Residents who rely on on-street parking are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly when snow is predicted. The Village has specific rules that govern parking when it snows to ensure streets can be properly plowed. When a snow emergency is declared, all parking is prohibited on the main streets posted as snow routes. Parking on other streets is restricted to one side from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. in residential areas and from midnight to 8 a.m. in designated commercial districts, the side determined by the odd/even date. To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 708.358.7669 for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOP-TV, broadcast on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. The snow emergency parking rules are posted at www.oak-park.us/snow.

Sidewalk shoveling required... Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. Being a good neighbor is important, too, so property owners are urged to assist those who may need help clearing a sidewalk. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Warming centers available... Anyone needing relief from the cold can visit a local warming center, including Village Hall, 123 Madison St. West Suburban Medical Center, 3 Erie Court, is open from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Rush Oak Park Hospital, 520 S. Maple Ave. from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both hospitals are open seven days a week and hours may be extended when weather conditions warrant. Village Hall is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. To find out if the warming center is open after hours, call West Suburban Hospital at 708.383.6200 or Rush Oak Park Hospital at 708.660.2211. Oak Park Township is open to persons with disabilities and seniors — call 708.383.8005 for details. If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800.

Nominations sought for public health awards

Nominations now are being accepted for an annual award that honors those who made exceptional contributions to improving the health of Oak Parkers during 2014. The nomination deadline is 5 p.m., Fri., March 13. 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. 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.

Register now to vote in April local elections

Oak Parkers who want to have a say in who sits on the boards of the Village, Park District, Public Library and both local public school districts will have their chance come April 7, the date for the next Consolidated Municipal Election. But to cast a vote, one must be registered by Wed., March 11. Registration is offered from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday 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 at the library. Two types of identification are required, at least one with the current address. For information on registering, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us. Information on elections also is available at www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Earth Fest seeking sponsors

Sponsors are now being sought for the Village's sixth annual celebration of green living — *Earth Fest* — scheduled for Sat., April 25, in the LEED® Gold-certified Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Sponsors not only receive special recognition in event promotional materials, they also help move the community forward toward the important goal of living sustainably. Earth Fest celebrates green living by encouraging and educating people on how to live more sustainably to support a healthier planet. This year's event will again feature booths for recycling eyeglasses, sun glasses, hearing aids, rechargeable batteries and cell phones. Sponsors earn the opportunity to not only educate but also to engage and empower people to make healthier choices for themselves, their families and the planet. Sponsorships range from \$125 to \$1,000. A sponsorship form is posted at www.oak-park.us/earthfest. For more information, call 708.358.5707 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

One Earth Film Festival returns



This year's *One Earth Film Festival* will feature 30-plus environmental documentaries intended to foster understanding of climate change,

sustainability and the power of people to make a difference. Now in its fourth year, the festival, set for March 6 through 8, will screen films at multiple locations around Chicago and the near west suburbs of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park. Most films are free and open to the public. The Festival is a production of Green Community Connections, a grass-roots organization devoted to creating a sustainable future in the Chicago metropolitan area. More information is posted at www.oneearthfilmfest.org.



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

New deputies at Police, Fire departments



Police Department – A law enforcement veteran with nearly four decades of experience has been named the newest Oak Park Deputy Police Chief. Frank Limon joins Anthony Ambrose, who rose through the ranks of the Oak Park Police Department to become Deputy Chief in 2005. Limon is a retired veteran of the Chicago Police Department where during his 37-year career he held a number of command positions including Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Deputy Chief of Patrol, Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Administration and Chief of the Organized Crime Division. After retiring

from the Chicago Police Department, Limon served as chief of the River Forest Police Department before being recruited to lead Connecticut’s New Haven Police Department. Limon holds a Master of Arts degree in public administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. In addition, he has had extensive training in a wide range of law enforcement specialties and is a member of a number of professional law enforcement organizations. More information on the Police Department is posted at www.oak-park.us/police.



Fire Department – Peter Pilafas has been promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief in the Oak Park Fire Department. Pilafas has worked in the field of firefighting for nearly two decades, with the last 15 years spent in Oak Park. In his new position, Pilafas oversees daily operations, including personnel management and budget and policy creation. As the second-in-command at the department, he also will be called upon to direct the department’s command-level response during emergencies. Prior to his promotion, Pilafas oversaw an engine company and coordinated firefighter training, CPR courses and child safety seat inspections. Pilafas

holds a master’s degree in public administration from Governor’s State University and a master’s degree in business administration from Benedictine University. His promotion comes amid several key leadership moves at the Fire Department that are expected to bring in four new firefighter/paramedics by the end of January. More information on the Fire Department is posted at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Life-saving CPR/AED classes offered

The Oak Park 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 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Fire Department’s certified American Heart Association community training center in the main station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. All courses are taught by an AHA-certified instructor. Classes are \$25 for Oak Park residents and \$50 for nonresidents, plus a \$12 textbook fee. The Healthcare provider course is \$40 for residents and \$60 for non-residents, plus a \$12 textbook fee if required. Payment must be made by check, money order or cash in exact amount. In-person registration is required. Class size is limited to eight students for infant/child classes and nine students for all other classes. The 2015 class schedule is posted online at www.oak-park.us/cpr. For more information, call 708.358.5605 or email cpr@oak-park.us.

