

Police resident beat officers working to enhance digital presence

Oak Park's resident beat officers, or RBOs, are working to improve their connections with residents at the neighborhood level, especially via digital channels.

Each RBO publishes a regular newsletter, hosts monthly beat meetings and maintains an email news list. But they also are seeking opportunities for online networking through neighborhood email lists and social media groups.

The seven police officers who make up the RBO program play an important role in crime prevention by spreading information and gathering feedback throughout the year.

These officers live in the Village and keep their finger on the pulse of their assigned beats by hosting safety programs at schools, hosting neighborhood meetings and joining in block party activities.

In addition, RBOs are available to visit local clubs, neighborhood groups and nonprofits organizations interested in learning more about how citizens can help

police prevent crime.

To help them build their digital presence, residents are encouraged to contact their RBOs about opportunities for online networking.

RBOs are the cornerstone of the Oak Park Police Department's community policing strategy. This close-up, personal approach also relies on officers stationed in the middle and high schools, which help create even more opportunities for officers and the residents they serve to connect one-on-one to improve overall neighborhood safety.

For more information on the Village's community policing program — or to connect with your RBO — visit www.oak-park.us/police or email police@oak-park.us.

Solar panel program may offer savings

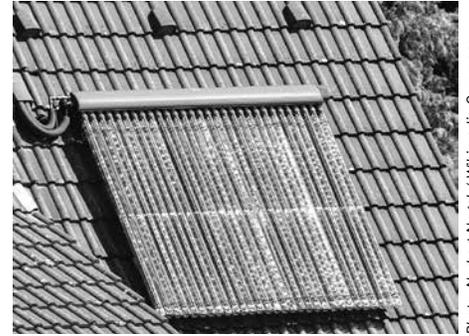


Photo: Norbert Nagel / Wikimedia Commons

Homeowners interested in installing solar panels on their homes are eligible to join a new bulk purchasing program through the City of Chicago and area partners, including the Village of Oak Park. The *Solar Chicago* program offers discounted pricing to participants by pooling their collective buying power for solar panel purchases and installations. The program offers a tiered volume rebate, which may provide additional rebates to homeowners based on how many people subscribe to the program. Officials say the more residents who sign up, the more affordable the program will be for everyone involved. Interested homeowners can learn more at www.mygroupenergy.com/group/solarchicago, which also provides real-time statistics on the number of sign-ups, as well as the latest energy price that the program will be able to offer. Solar Chicago offers a free site analysis to prospective participants as well. The two vendors providing the panels, Juhl Renewable Energy Systems and Microgrid Solar, were chosen through a competitive bid process. The deadline to apply to be part of the program is Sept. 30. This program is separate from Oak Park's *Smart City USA* pilot project. For more information on Oak Park's involvement in Solar Chicago, call 708.358.5791 or email village@oak-park.us.

HARLEM AVENUE	OAK PARK AVENUE	NORTH AVENUE		RIDGELAND AVENUE	AUSTIN BOULEVARD
		 Zone 2 Dave Jacobson jacobson@oak-park.us 708.358.5519	 Zone 1 Anthony Coleman coleman@oak-park.us 708.606.1938		
CHICAGO AVENUE					
 Zone 3 Raphael Murphy rmurphy@oak-park.us 708.305.9779					
TRAIN TRACKS					
 Zone 4 Robert Primak primak@oak-park.us 708.305.9780					
MADISON STREET					
 Zone 5 Paul Razzino razzino@oak-park.us 708.305.9781					
 Zone 6 Mark Scott scottm@oak-park.us 708.305.9792					
EISENHOWER EXPRESSWAY					
 Zone 7 John Rumoro rumoro@oak-park.us 708.305.9782					
ROOSEVELT ROAD					
 Zone 8 John Rumoro rumoro@oak-park.us 708.305.9782					

Active redevelopment period ahead for downtown area

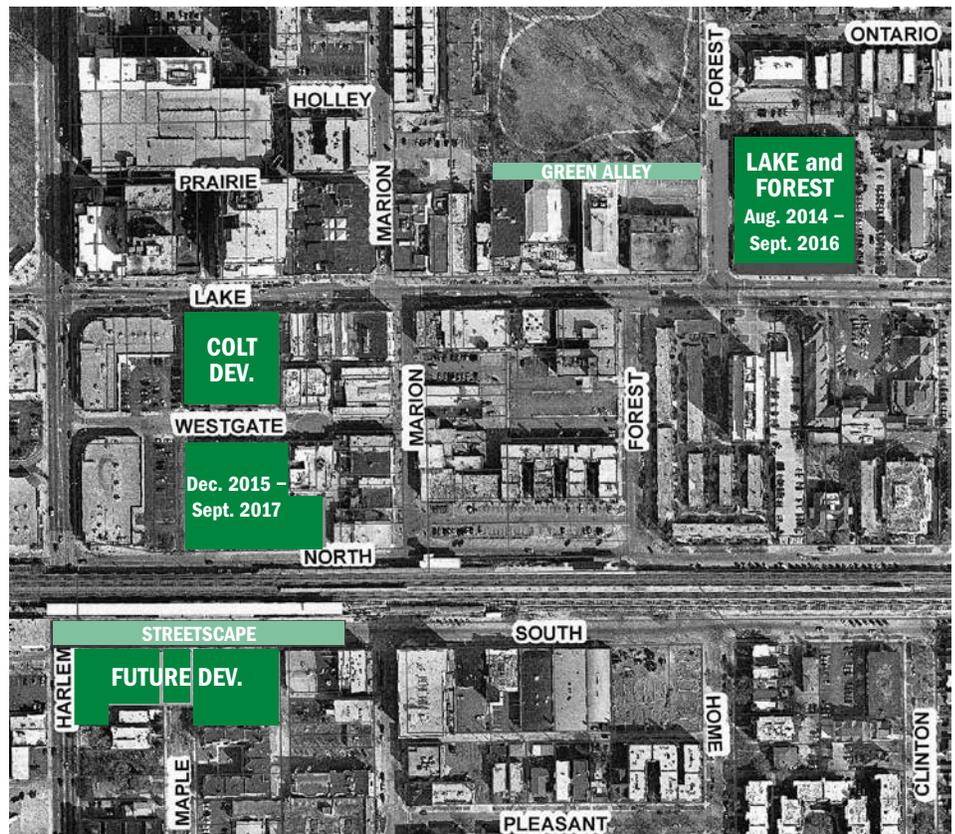
New projects are under development throughout the community, but the downtown area will be especially active. Parking and traffic will be affected as these and other projects get underway...

Lake & Forest Construction of a 21-story mixed-use building at the high-profile corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue is poised to begin. The development will include 270 rental apartments, 25,000 square feet of ground-level retail and an integrated garage with 588 parking spaces. Demolition of the aging public parking garage currently on the site is the first step in the project. Once the site is cleared, construction is expected to take about 18 months to complete. Parking permit holders, visitors, shoppers and employees who used the Lake & Forest Garage have been directed to the Holley Court Garage a few blocks to the west of the project and accessible from both Marion and Ontario streets. The Avenue Garage east of Oak Park Avenue at North Boulevard also is a nearby parking option. A Village-sponsored valet parking service is available directly across the street from the old garage site.



South Boulevard & Harlem Avenue Negotiations are underway with a company chosen through a competitive bid to redevelop the Village-owned property on South Boulevard, east of Harlem Avenue. Preliminary plans are for a mixed-use structure with about 250 residential units, 10,000 square feet of retail space and parking for about 150 vehicles. The project also will include five affordable units and a pedestrian walkway on what is now Maple Avenue, as the structure would span the street to connect two property parcels. While details are still being negotiated, and Plan Commission review required, construction could begin as early as the spring of 2015.

Lake Street Colt Site Project
A mixed-use residential, retail and parking project featuring two new buildings



has been proposed for the Village-owned site where surface parking lots now sit between Lake Street and North Boulevard just east of Harlem Avenue. Plans call for constructing a six-story building fronting Lake Street and an 11-story building facing North Boulevard. The two buildings would be connected by a pedestrian bridge over Westgate Street. Combined, the buildings would include about 26,000 square feet of new retail space, 248 apartments and a five-level parking garage. Pending Plan Commission review, construction could begin in the spring of 2015, with the first retail tenants opening in the fall or winter of 2016.

South Boulevard Streetscape
With the help of a federal grant, the Village is planning to extend the Marion Street palette west on South Boulevard from Marion to Harlem Avenue. In addition to the much-needed underground infrastructure improvements, the Marion Street Gateway Project includes enhancing pedestrian and cyclist access with

wider sidewalks, shorter intersection crosswalk distances, improved lighting and public seating. The project also will more effectively connect and integrate the multimodal public transportation station with the downtown area. The project is scheduled to begin in late summer 2015 and be completed by early spring 2016.

More information and updates are posted at www.oak-park.us/projects.

Valet parking available

A new valet parking service is up and running in downtown Oak Park offering a convenient option to motorists affected by the coming redevelopment of the parcel of land at Lake Street and Forest Avenue. Now that the nearby parking garage has closed, the valet parking service, located on the south side of Lake Street just east of Forest Avenue, operates from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is \$5 for up to three hours and \$12 for three or more hours until closing.

Election News

Oak Parkers planning to vote in the November 4 General Election may register from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Voter registration also is offered at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. In-person 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. To learn more about voting and the election, including verifying registration, early voting, voting by mail, identifying polling places and reviewing candidates on your ballot, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Online voter registration...Online voter registration will be offered for the first time this year to anyone who has an Illinois drivers' license. Those without an Illinois drivers' license may download the registration form and mail it to Cook County. Visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/register tovot e.

Vote by mail...Voting by mail is an option for anyone who prefers to complete the ballot at home. For more information, visit cookcountyclerk.com/vot eby mail.

Old electronics? Recycle them

Oak Park residents can comply easily with the state law prohibiting electronics in landfills by taking advantage of a Village recycling program. Items can be dropped off from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., on the last Saturday of the month through October. The next opportunity is Sept. 27. 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/players, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. For more information, call Public Works at 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

The ins and outs of parking in Oak Park

The same neighborhood elements that make Oak Park such a great place to live also can make parking a tricky prospect – especially for multifamily dwellers.

The village was completely built out by the 1930s, well before automobile ownership became commonplace. As a result, Oak Park's available neighborhood parking supply has remained more or less static for the last 70 years, while the number of residents with automobiles has increased dramatically.

Just like any limited resource, parking in Oak Park must be carefully managed to ensure the supply meets the needs of everyone – residents, visitors, workers and emergency response vehicles.

Most single-family homes have detached garages located in the rear of the property. Some multi-family buildings may offer parking, but chances are if you are a renter, you'll have to apply for a municipal parking permit and follow zone-specific rules.

Generally, parking is prohibited on all streets from 2:30 to 6 a.m., seven days per week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass.

Vehicles with permits are allowed to park on the street overnight in designated areas, except in front of churches, schools and parks and on blocks where housing is more than 50 percent single family.

Parking near business districts and public areas also is carefully regulated to balance the needs of business owners, their employees and customers with those of nearby residents.

Other common restrictions include limited-duration parking on major streets, parking bans related to weather events such as snow and brief, regular prohibitions for cleaning.

Many Oak Park streets are on-street parking zones that allow parking for permit-holders. If you are a renter, your landlord is required by Village ordinance to provide information on parking restrictions.

You also can check with the Parking Services Center at Village Hall to find out if your block is zoned for overnight parking, and if so, how you can obtain a permit.

For special occasions, the Village can help residents with temporary parking passes to cover a variety of situations, such as guests staying overnight.

In addition, temporary, overnight parking passes are available for on-street parking. Vehicle owners can request up to 10 passes per month – three are free and the other seven are \$7 each. Passes can be requested online at www.oak-park.us/parkingpass.

For more information on specific parking needs, email parking@oak-park.us or call 708.358.7275.

Rebates offered for water efficiency measures



Residents who install low-flow toilets with the WaterSense label may qualify for a \$100 rebate. The program is funded by the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation and administered by the Village. For details, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

Free help available to quit smoking

Residents age 18 and older may be eligible for free nicotine replacement products available through the Illinois Department of Public Health Tobacco Free Communities fund. Call the Illinois Quitline 866.784.8937 to register. Information also is posted at www.quityes.org. Smoking is prohibited in most public places in the Village. To file a complaint about a violation of the Village's Clean Indoor Air Act, email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5489.



Shots recommended as flu season approaches



As the flu season approaches, local public health officials are reminding residents that shots are recommended for everyone older than 6 months. Flu vaccine is offered at numerous commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area. Most of these sites accept private insurances and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Many sites will vaccinate children as young as 18 months. Help finding a flu shot provider is available at flushot.healthmap.org. Residents also can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5483 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

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/community 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.

Dispute resolution...Free mediation services are available to help landlords and tenants resolve issues that may be disrupting quality of life. Participation is voluntary and agreements made are between the two parties and not enforced by the Village. To learn more, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Park District News

Free fall festival...The Park District of Oak Park's 3rd Annual Fall Fest will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun., Sept. 28 at Rehm Park and the Oak Park Conservatory on Garfield Avenue, at East Avenue. The free family event will feature a pumpkin patch, hay rides, live entertainment and concessions from local vendors. For more details, visit www.pdop.org.

Wright Races...Registration is now open for the 28th Annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races, which will wind through the Village on Sun., Oct. 19. The popular races will feature a 10K run, 5K run/walk and youth mile. Visit www.flwraces.com for more information and to register.

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
Night Parking Pass	option 2
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

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Shred sensitive paper, recycle old clothing in one place on same day

The Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., will be a busy site from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 13, as vendors will be on hand shredding documents and recycling old clothing that otherwise might end up in a landfill.

Residents are invited to bring up to two bags or small boxes of documents containing personal information such as canceled checks, credit card or social security numbers, or medical information. Since the idea is to help residents prevent identity theft, materials such as newspapers, magazines, chipboard or junk mail will not be accepted — just place them in the recycling cart or bin. Representatives of Epilepsy Foundation also will be on site collecting apparel of all types in any condition for recycling, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Single-family rehab loans available

No-interest loans of up to \$25,000 are available to income eligible 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. For details, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

The Great Paint Exchange is coming

Residents are invited to safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint — or pick up free paint — at The Great Paint Exchange, scheduled for Sat., Sept. 20 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Half-to-full cans of paint can be dropped off from 9 to 11 a.m., and anyone in need of paint can choose from the paint collected from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Only latex paint will be accepted. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Tune in to Village TV on cable and online

Cable television subscribers can learn about Village government and life in the community by tuning in to VOP-TV. Oak Park's municipal television station is available to Comcast subscribers on channel six and AT&T subscribers on channel 99. VOP-TV broadcasts original programming at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 6 p.m., and 10 p.m. Regular Village Board meetings are broadcast live at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Mondays, and replayed at 11 a.m., Sundays and Tuesdays, and 7 p.m., Wednesdays. Days and times of live cablecast of other meetings vary, but they are replayed at 11 a.m., Thursdays and Saturdays, and 7 p.m., Tuesdays. Village Board meetings also are streamed live and archived at www.oak-park.us/boardtv. A wide range of original programming created by VOP-TV also can be viewed online at youtube.com/vopnews.

Village on lookout for swings in parkway trees

If you are one of the Oak Parkers with a child's swing in a parkway tree, the Village Forester has a message for you — please take it down in the best interest of the tree and the child who uses it. Swings and ropes hanging from parkway trees create a risk to the public using the sidewalk, the children using the swings and the trees from which they hang. The Village will begin an active enforcement process this fall, asking property owners whose parkway trees have swings or other items attached to remove them. If property owners fail to comply, Village crews will remove and dispose of the items. For more information on tree care and safety, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

West Nile Virus threat continues

While mosquitoes are likely to become less active as summer heat diminishes, the threat of West Nile Virus could continue as late as mid-October. Public health officials urge residents not to become complacent and to continue taking precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. The most effective precautions include 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. Visit www.oak-park.us/fighthebite or email health@oak-park.us for more information.

Farmers' Market season winding down

A changing array of produce appears at the Oak Park Farmers' Market as the season winds down toward Nov. 1, when stone soup announces the last market of the year. Most vendors now accept credit cards, as well as supplemental food assistance Link cards. Many vendors also accept the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program \$3 coupons — inquire with the vendor directly. The Oak Park Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from mid-May through the end of the growing season. Now in its 39th year, the market is held in the Pilgrim Church parking lot just west of the intersection of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5780.



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

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 stop in 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 en route 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.



Cells phone use prohibited while driving...Unless you are using a hands-free device, talking on a cell phone while driving is illegal in Illinois. Fines start at \$75. Distracted motorists who harm other drivers face fines up to \$2,500 and a year of jail time. Drivers involved in fatal accidents could be fined \$25,000 and face up to three years in jail. With research contending that all cell phone use is equally distracting once a conversation begins, Oak Park Police are urging motorists

to put their devices aside while driving. For more information on the dangers of distracted driving, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Bicycles and sidewalks...Riding on a sidewalk by anyone of any age is prohibited 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.

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

Township program can help with youth substance abuse

Parents and guardians of middle school or high school aged youth are invited to enroll in *FACE-IT* (Families Acting Collaboratively to Educate and Involve Teens), a program that provides a confidential group setting to learn about and discuss the legal and health effects of substance abuse. Topics covered include communication, handling stress and underage drinking. Two-hour weekly sessions are held from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursdays. Enrollment typically is for five to 12 sessions. For more information, call 708.445.2727 or visit www.oakparktownship.org.

What participants say

Parents:

- I liked sharing with other families...
- My son and I have better communication...
- I learned alcohol and drug awareness and positive ways to deal with stress...

Youth:

- I learned how to stay calm in bad situations...
- I became a lot more honest and open with my family...
- I learned a lot and will keep it in my heart...