



OP/FYI

A NEWSLETTER
FROM THE
VILLAGE OF
OAK PARK

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Extended Farmers' Market season begins May 23



The Oak Park Farmers' Market will open on Saturday, May 23, continuing its tradition of providing fresh, local food and a hub for social connection for more than 50 years. Patrons will have the opportunity to enjoy the Market for an additional two weeks this year, as the Village has opted to keep the Market open for 26 weekends, extending the season until Saturday, Nov. 14. The Market takes place from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday of the season at its longtime home in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot at 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. More than two dozen local independent farmers and producers will participate in the 2026 Market, offering seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, mushrooms, meat, fish, cheese, eggs, flowers, bread, grains and honey. The Market also features donuts made on-site, fresh coffee and live bluegrass music.

Non-profit bake sales are offered on most Saturdays. Most vendors accept credit/debit cards, as well as senior coupons. All eligible vendors accept LINK. The Market will continue hosting its popular special events throughout the season, starting with Go Green Days on opening day and May 30. These eco-focused Market days highlight sustainability organizations and initiatives in Oak Park. The Village's Office of Sustainability & Resilience will be giving away 200 one-gallon tree saplings at the Market on May 23 as part of its Climate Ready Canopy program. Support for Market operations comes from sales of a variety of items available at the information tent, including t-shirts, sweatshirts and totes. For more information call 708.358.5780, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.



July 4th parade to showcase diversity as U.S. turns 250

The many dimensions of Oak Park will join together to commemorate America's 250th anniversary when the annual July 4th parade steps off at 10 a.m. on July 4 from Longfellow Park at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street. Parade participants march north on Ridgeland to Augusta Street and disperse at Whittier School. The route offers many viewing opportunities along the way. Local organizations and businesses are invited to bring a float, march, play music, carry banners, ride bicycles, skate, drive vintage cars or just dress up to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial. Groups interested in participating can register on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/parade. For more information or to volunteer to help out at the parade, call 708.358.5405 or email community@oak-park.us.





Be prepared for severe weather

Spring in Illinois can bring with it severe weather in the form of storms, tornadoes and other weather events. Find information on how to prepare for severe weather at www.ready.gov. Important steps you can take include:

- Understand the risks in our area.
- Make sure you have a way to receive emergency weather alerts. The Village's emergency notification system provides this information. Sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme.
- Build a preparedness kit that includes items you need in case the power goes out, or you need to leave your home quickly.
- Make sure your family has plans for evacuation, shelter and communications in the event of a severe weather event.

Know the terms...A tornado watch means severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are possible over the next few hours, so be prepared. A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted by a trained storm spotter, or intense rotation that will likely produce a tornado has been detected by Doppler radar — get to a place of safety immediately.

Local warning siren...The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center, the emergency 911 hub for Oak Park and other nearby communities, sounds a warning siren when a tornado is sighted within a 10-mile radius. The sirens also are activated at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month as part of a regular statewide test.

Sign up for monthly community cleanup events

The Village Clerk's Office is coordinating Oak Park Neighborhood Clean-Up events on the first Saturday of each month through October. This community-driven initiative invites residents, families and local groups to come together to help keep Oak Park clean, vibrant and welcoming. Clean-up events take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon, in different Oak Park neighborhoods each month. Volunteers who participate will receive a complimentary t-shirt as a token of appreciation for their service. Find more information and sign up to volunteer at www.oak-park.us/cleanup26.

Organize your own clean-up event...Residents and not-for-profit organizations located in Oak Park are also invited to organize their own neighborhood clean-up event. As part of its neighborhood clean-up kit, the Village provides heavy duty trash bags, gloves, pink refuse stickers and more. Visit www.oak-park.us/NeighborhoodCleanUp for more information and an online sign-up form.



Celebrating centenarians



The Village continues to celebrate centenarians as a way of highlighting these extraordinary residents who age within the community. This spring, the Village is recognizing 104-year-old Herta Lisicic. Born in Poland in March 1922, Herta grew up in a German household before World War II reshaped the course of her life. Read about her immigration story and her lifetime of resilience, cultural heritage and community involvement at www.oak-park.us/Lisicic.

Calling all 100-year-olds...Do you know an Oak Parker who is 100 or will soon reach the milestone? Help the Village celebrate these individuals who demonstrate extraordinary resilience by completing an online form at www.oak-park.us/100. For more information about the initiative, contact the Village's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office at DEIO@oak-park.us.

Village planning Juneteenth, Pride celebrations

The entire community is invited to join in Oak Park's celebration of Juneteenth and Pride Month. The Village is working with community organizers to develop festivities featuring food, entertainment and more for both inclusive events.

Juneteenth...The Village's Juneteenth celebration kicks off with a flag-raising ceremony on Wednesday, June 10 and continues with a community cookout on Saturday, June 14. Both events will take place at Village Hall. Find more information at www.oak-park.us/juneteenth.

Pride Celebration...Don't miss Oak Park's Pride celebration taking place in conjunction with Downtown Oak Park's Thursday Night out on Thursday, June 11 near Lake Street and Marion Street. More information will be posted at www.oak-park.us/pride as details become finalized.

Sharps disposal now available at Village Hall

Village Hall is now accepting sharps from community members so that these items, including medication syringes, epi pens, lancets and infusion sets, can be disposed of properly. Sharps should not be thrown in the trash along with other typical household items. Proper disposal of sharps protects sanitation workers and helps reduce the spread of communicable disease. Community members are welcome to bring in sharps contained in thick-walled plastic containers, such as a detergent bottle or medical sharps container, to Village Hall, 123 Madison St., during regular business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Upon arrival, individuals should come to the Welcome Center on the first floor, and a trained staff person from the Public Health Department will be called down to assist residents with disposal. Learn more about the program at www.oak-park.us/sharps or contact health@oak-park.us for more information.



Safe drug disposal...Residents can safely dispose of expired and unwanted prescription medicines 24 hours a day in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department at Village Hall. A disposal box is also in the Oak Park Township parking lot located at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. Safe disposal of drugs is increasingly important, as trace residues of some medications can turn up in the water supply when prescription drugs are flushed down a drain or toilet. For more information on the drug collection service, visit www.oak-park.us/SafeDrugDisposal, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

A Day in Our Village returns June 7



Mark your calendar for the 52nd annual A Day in Our Village festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. The premier community event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 7 in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue. Activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will fill the park along with live entertainment and a food court featuring local restaurants. The Park District of Oak Park is coordinating fun activities for kids, including the return of its bubble foam machine. Additional kids activities will be stationed on the north side of the park along Ontario Street. A Day in Our Village has long provided an opportunity to showcase the diversity and variety of ways to get involved in community life. Organizations or businesses interested in hosting a booth can register at www.oak-park.us/dayinourvillage. Volunteers are needed to assist the day of the event, especially from around 3 to 4:30 p.m. Visit www.oak-park.us/CommunityEvents for more information about signing up to volunteer. A Day in Our Village is sponsored by the Village and made possible thanks to organizing support from the A Day in Our Village volunteer committee. For more information, call 708.358.5405 or email community@oak-park.us.

E.C.H.O. Exchange coming to local coffee shops

E.C.H.O. Exchange, a new community engagement initiative designed to foster open dialogue between residents and public safety professionals, invites residents to



connect with the E.C.H.O. team and members of the Oak Park Police and Fire Departments over coffee at local coffee shops in business districts throughout the community. Residents can ask questions, share concerns, learn about available resources and hear directly about how Oak Park is evolving its approach to public safety. Upcoming sessions will be held from 9-11 a.m. on May 22 at Wise Cup, 1018 Lake St., and 9-11 a.m. on June 26 at The Onion Roll, 6935 North Ave. For the full schedule and more information, please visit www.oak-park.us/exchange.

Canopy Connection: Where Oak Park neighborhoods grow together

The Village is launching Canopy Connection, a neighborhood registry program designed to support resident-led neighborhood groups and strengthen connections between neighbors and local government. The program provides a pathway for residents to formally organize, define neighborhood boundaries and partner with the Village. Registered groups gain access to resources such as Village staff support, neighborhood grants and tools for outreach and engagement. Canopy Connections is rooted in building relationships and fostering trust while helping build stronger neighborhoods across Oak Park. Residents interested in forming or registering a neighborhood group are encouraged to visit www.oak-park.us/CanopyConnection to learn more. For questions or to get started, contact NeighborConnect@oak-park.us.



Support Oak Park Avenue businesses during construction

The Renew the Avenue construction project continues to move forward throughout the Hemingway Business District as crews work to replace 100-year-old water and sewer infrastructure before moving to streetscaping improvements. Oak Park Avenue is closed to traffic from Lake Street to Randolph Street through November. East-west traffic along Lake Street, North Boulevard and South Boulevard remains open through the construction zone. Residents are encouraged to support Hemingway District businesses while construction is ongoing. Sidewalk access to businesses remains open, and free 90-minute parking is available every day at the Avenue Garage, 720 North Blvd. Visit www.renewtheavenue.com for the latest project information and to sign up to receive weekly project updates.

Other construction projects ongoing...

In addition to the Renew the Avenue project, other construction work is ramping up in locations across Oak Park as the weather warms. Keep track of the latest information regarding road construction projects in the Village at www.oak-park.us/construction. Simply click the project updates tab at the top of the page for regular updates about specific projects. The site also includes an interactive map with details about projects planned for this year. For information about any specific construction work, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

News you can use

Gas-powered leaf blower ordinance enforcement...Residents may notice an increased presence of Village code officials on Saturdays enforcing the Village's gas-powered leaf blower ordinance. This initiative reflects the Village's continued commitment to promoting a more environmentally friendly community. Property owners and landscapers are reminded that the use of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited, and compliance is required all year round. More information about the Village ordinance is available at www.oak-park.us/leafblowers.

Water quality report available online...Oak Park residents interested in knowing about the quality of the water they drink can find the latest annual report at www.oak-park.us/water-quality-report. Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires communities to provide details on the quality of the local drinking water. In addition to analyses of substances in the water, the report also includes facts about the community's drinking water delivery system and source. An archive of past water quality reports is posted at www.oak-park.us/waterquality. For more information about Oak Park's drinking water or to request a paper copy of the annual water report, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Tips for picking a building project contractor...It's easy to get a building permit. And it's an easy way to make sure the people working on your house have insurance. Your home is probably your largest investment, so please protect yourself. Applying for a permit online at www.oak-park.us/villageview doesn't take long, and Village staff members are available to help. All you need to start is the contractor's contact information. The contractor must supply proof insurance, similar to the proof of insurance drivers are required to carry in their vehicle. If a company or contractor isn't insured, don't hire them. It's just that simple. For more information about building permits, contact permits@oak-park.us or 708.358.5430.

Tune into the Inside Oak Park podcast...The Village recently launched the Inside Oak Park podcast, which takes listeners from Village Hall to neighborhood streets and business districts to showcase the people, projects and events shaping Oak Park. Initial episodes include discussions about the Renew the Avenue project, the role of the Oak Park Public Health Department, the Village's new Office of Economic Vitality and the E.C.H.O. community safety initiative. Episodes are available through Spotify and on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/podcast.

Share input about Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Plan

The Village is developing a new Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Plan, and your input is needed. This plan will provide a roadmap for achieving the community's goal of establishing 30% of Oak Park's land as green infrastructure or enhanced management for native plants, wildlife and people by 2030. Your perspective is vital to developing successful strategies that create a more climate-resilient community.

Please visit www.engageoakpark.com/green-infrastructure to learn more, take our community survey and find details on upcoming open houses and pop-up events this spring and summer.



Vehicle license sales underway

All Oak Park residents who own or lease a motor vehicle are required to purchase a local vehicle license by July 15. A \$20 late fee will be applied after this deadline. Vehicle licenses must be renewed annually. Renewal applications are mailed in May to residents who previously registered vehicles in Oak Park. Maintaining a current vehicle license helps avoid citations and provides other important benefits for residents, including:

- Eligibility to purchase residential parking permits and passes
- Access to overnight parking options throughout the Village
- Daytime parking restriction overrides based on your registered address

Windshield decals are no longer issued, as Parking Enforcement Officers now utilize electronic license plate recognition technology to verify compliance. Vehicle license rates vary based on vehicle type, with discounts available for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, disabled veterans and active-duty military. For more information call 708.358.7275, email parking@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/vehiclelicense.

Parking restrictions eased for 2026 holidays

As a courtesy to residents and their guests, overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced on most streets in Oak Park during select holidays throughout the year. Please note that restrictions will remain in effect in areas reserved for overnight permit holders, including Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and designated overnight parking zones. All other parking regulations will continue to be enforced, including posted daytime restrictions and regulations related to traffic flow and public safety. For more information on parking in Oak Park, call 708.358.7275 or email parking@oak-park.us.

- **Memorial Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m. Sat., May 23 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., May 27.
- **July 4** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., July 1 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Mon., July 6.
- **Labor Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Sept. 5 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., Sept. 9.
- **Thanksgiving** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 25 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Nov. 30.
- **Christmas/New Year** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 19 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Jan. 4, 2027.

Tell us about parking enforcement issues

Keeping Oak Park safe, accessible and easy to navigate is a shared effort. If you notice parking concerns such as ongoing violations, blocked access or abandoned vehicles, we encourage you to let us know. Your feedback helps the Village's Parking Enforcement team respond more effectively and ensures Oak Park's streets remain fair and accessible for everyone.

How to share a parking concern:

- Email parkingenforcement@oak-park.us
- Include the location, time and a brief description of the issue
- Photos are helpful, but not required

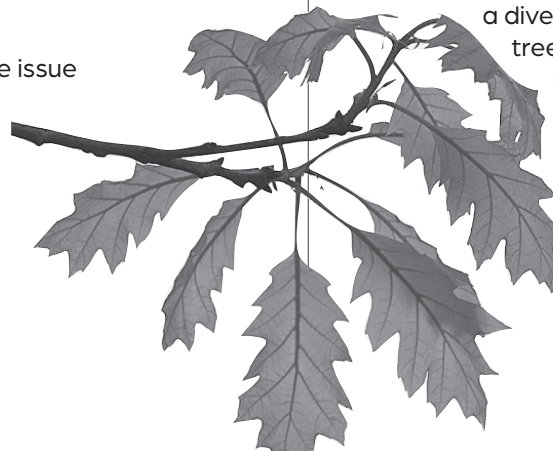
Every report contributes to a better understanding of community needs and helps guide enforcement efforts where they're needed most. While response times may vary, your input plays an important role in supporting a well-managed parking system.



Touch-a-Truck event set for May 19

In celebration of National Public Works Week (May 17–23) and this year's theme, "Rooted in Service, Powered by Community," the Village's Public Works staff is hosting a Touch-a-Truck event on Tuesday, May 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. Residents of all ages are invited to visit the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., to enjoy light refreshments and get up close to some of the equipment and vehicles used to keep Oak Park running every day.

Tree Talk & Stroll on May 27... The Village is partnering with the Oak Park Public Library to host a Tree Talk & Stroll from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27. Join Village Forestry Superintendent Grant Jones and Trinity Pierce of Chicago Region Trees Initiative as they discuss trees in our neighborhood, the economic, environmental and health benefits of trees, and ways to support green spaces. The event starts and finishes at the Dole Branch Library, 255 Augusta St., home to a diverse collection of trees. Registration is required via the Oak Park Public Library website. Visit www.oak-park.us/TreeTalk for more information and the link to register.





Village of Oak Park
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O/P/F/YI

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Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

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

Energy grants and rebates available

Assistance is available to Oak Park residents looking to manage utility costs and improve their homes. Income-eligible households can receive up to \$25,000 to make eligible improvements such as installing solar panels or changing a gas appliance to electric. Rebates are also available to residents who purchase these three electric appliances:

- \$300 rebate for a heat pump clothes dryer
- \$400 rebate for induction cooktops
- \$500 rebate for saddle-style window heat pumps.

In addition to this Village rebate, the Oak Park Climate Action Network is offering a group-buy offer that could result in additional savings of up to \$600. More information is at www.opcan.org/updates.

Not sure where to start? Options are available to help guide your home improvement journey:

- **OPCAN climate coaches...** Sign up for a free 30-minute session with a Climate Coach through the Oak Park Climate Action Network at www.opcan.org/climate-coaches. This peer-to-peer mentoring program can answer your questions and help you decide where to start.



- **Home energy audit...** Use energy grants to pay for a home energy audit. Residents can hire a contractor to complete a full assessment and use the Village's Energy Grants to pay the costs.
- **Oak Park Energy Navigator...** Income-eligible single-family homeowners and multi-family building owners can sign up at www.oak-park.us/open to receive a full home assessment, roadmap and guided assistance from an energy navigator through project implementation and

financing. Due to high initial interest, the Oak Park Energy Navigator (OPEN) program is no longer able to serve single-family homeowners who are not income eligible. Some single-family homeowners who previously applied will be placed on a waitlist.

Visit www.oak-park.us/energy to explore all of the Village's energy efficiency programs available to residents. For questions, contact the Village's Office of Sustainability & Resilience at sustainability@oak-park.us or 708.358.5770.



Blast Off to Kindergarten on May 17

All children and families who will be starting kindergarten this fall are invited to the Blast Off to Kindergarten community event from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, May 17 at Rehm Park, 515 Garfield St. Hosted annually by the Collaboration for Early Childhood in partnership with Oak Park Elementary School District 97, the Park District of Oak Park, the Village of Oak Park and other local community partners, the event connects families with the people, programs and resources that support a smooth start to school. The event will feature after-school programs, Oak Park Elementary School District 97 staff and administrators, and staff from Oak Park kindergarten programs as well as parent teacher organizations from local schools. More information is available at www.collab4kids.org/blast-off-to-k.