Within Oak Park’s 4.5 square miles live one of the region’s most diverse mixes of cultures, races, ethnicities, professions, lifestyles, religions, ages and incomes. They donate more than 100,000 hours of their time and talents every year, providing opportunities to fellow residents and sharing their most precious gift – themselves.

With this strong of a commitment to making our community strong, it is no wonder Oak Park was named one of the 100 best communities for young people by the America’s Promise Alliance and was named seventh in Money Magazine’s top 25 places for the rich and single.

Oak Parkers have a habit of raising their hand and volunteering to help more than 100 different social service, civic, community response and healthcare causes. Oak Park encourages participation. You can serve on one of nearly two dozen different citizen commissions assisting and advising the Village Board on community relations, energy and the environment, historic preservation and other issues. Offer your green thumb to the Oak Park Conservatory, or get involved in a wide range of community service and not-for-profit social services organizations.

This is a Village that gives back. As a professionally managed municipality, Oak Park offers services that make the community a better place to live and work. Police are responsive, neighborhoods clean, the streets safe, transportation accessible and the quality of life attainable by all.

Oak Park has something for everyone and everyone is encouraged to participate. The common thread – between residents and the Village alike – is the unending sense of giving. And what each gains far exceeds what they give.

Giving Back to the Community

Citizen Boards & Commissions

www.oak-park.us/volunteer

- Building Codes Advisory Commission
- Citizen Involvement Committee
- Citizens Police Oversight Committee
- Civic Information Systems Commission
- Community Design Commission
- Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee
- Community Relations Commission
- Environment & Energy Commission
- Farmers’ Market Commission
- Fire & Police Commission
- Board of Health
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Programs Advisory Committee
- Liquor Control Review Board
- Plan Commission
- Public Art Advisory Commission
- Transportation Commission
- Universal Access Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
Oak Park
ILLINOIS

The neighborhoods of Oak Park are filled with the community’s most compelling asset – people. Oak Park is home to families, children, singles, partners and seniors. These people are different yet united in spirit. They take the time to shop at the Farmer’s Market, watch fireworks on the Fourth of July and shovel each other out in a snowstorm. Oak Parkers aren’t afraid to get their feet wet – together – at Ridgeland Commons or Rehm Park swimming pools. They play games in the streets and barbecue together at more than 300 block parties each summer. Together, these people form the very essence of the Village. They live side by side in neighborhoods where the homes are as varied as the people living within them. You will find painted ladies and prairie style architecture next to neat stucco, frame and brick homes. There are vintage apartment buildings amidst bungalows, along with new construction and ongoing restoration, both inside and out. Like the people who live here, their homes contribute to a unique sense of character to their surroundings.

Oak Park is a leader in environmental consciousness. The state’s first LEED-certified public works building is in Oak Park. The municipal fleet has one of the state’s largest contingents of alternate fuel vehicles. LEDs are replacing traffic signals and streetlights. In addition, a comprehensive bicycling plan and abundant public transportation option make leaving one’s car at home an easier choice.

Perhaps the most telling statement about community is the Village’s policy on maintaining diversity, first authored in 1973 by Village Trustees, then reaffirmed and broadened regularly in the years since. Whether you call it diversity or simply community, it’s what Oak Park is all about.

Geography
Oak Park is located immediately west of Chicago, at 41° 53’ 6” north latitude, 87° 47’ 3” west longitude. The boundary between the two municipalities is Austin Boulevard on the east side of Oak Park and North Avenue on the north side. Oak Park borders Cicero along its southern border, Roosevelt Road, from Austin to Lombard Avenue, and Berwyn from Lombard to Harlem Avenue. Harlem also serves as Oak Park’s western border. On its west, Oak Park borders Forest Park along Harlem between Roosevelt and South Boulevard, and River Forest between North Boulevard and North Avenue. The total land area of Oak Park is approximately 4.7 square miles. The entire Village of Oak Park lies on the shore of the ancient Lake Chicago, which covered most of the city of Chicago during the last Ice Age and is today called Lake Michigan. Ridgeland Avenue in eastern Oak Park marks the shoreline of the ancient lake, and was once an actual ridge. One of North America’s four continental divides runs through Oak Park, approximately from North and Ridgeland avenues, through Taylor Park at Division Street, to Scoville Park at Lake Street, where it veers west to Harlem Avenue. This divide separates the St. Lawrence River watershed from the Mississippi River watershed.

Demographics
52,524 population
(2000 census)
Median age 36 (24.2% under 18; 9.5% over 65)
69% white
22% black
4.5% Hispanic
4.5% Asian, American and Alaskan Indians

Places of Worship
4 Jewish congregations
1 temple and 3 meet in homes
45 Protestant and non-denominational churches (23 denominations)
5 Roman Catholic parishes
4 Buddhist communities

Financial Information
8 banks
10.407% Property Tax Rate (1.288% municipal government share)
Bond rating - Moody’s Aa3; Standard & Poor’s AA

Fire Department
Class 2 rating – three fire stations

Village Hall 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302 708.383.6400 www.oak-park.us
Draw a circle on a map, with Oak Park at the hub. Within 20 minutes, you can be almost anywhere — downtown Chicago, O’Hare or Midway Airports, more than 25 sports facilities, countless suburbs, thousands of restaurants, theatres, hospitals, medical centers, schools, universities.

And you don’t even have to own a car.

Surrounding this enviable location is an abundance of public transportation, letting you get into, out of and around Oak Park effortlessly. With two Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) elevated rail lines (Blue and Green), the Metra (Union Pacific West Line) train and an extensive network of PACE and CTA bus lines, public transit options abound.

Driving? Interstate I-290 runs directly through Oak Park, linking you with major highways into Chicago, the suburbs and beyond.

Oak Park’s great location and superb transit system put neighborhoods within walking distance of multiple transportation access points, enabling college students and business professionals to commute downtown to school or work. It makes Oak Park’s businesses and attractions accessible to employees, tourists and shoppers well beyond the Village’s boundaries.

The very reasons why people live and work in Oak Park — convenience, community culture, opportunity education, recreation and commitment — all add up to a quality of life unique to urban and suburban environments.

Come to Oak Park, Illinois. It’s where you want to be.
Oak Park is the nurturing ground for entire schools of architecture, literature, visual and performance arts. Listen and you can hear the music – jazz, symphonies, folk, alternative, classical. Look and you’ll see dancers move seamlessly before you. Revel in performances by Festival Theatre and the Village Players. Theatre is encouraged at an early age, and both public middle schools and the local high school have acclaimed theatre programs.

Experience the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, the inspiration of Ernest Hemingway. Taste the cuisine of acclaimed local restaurants and intimate cafes. Oak Park has a separate Arts District on Harrison Street, home to many unique galleries, boutiques and restaurants.

This is a Village that appreciates art in so many forms, and spreads it before you in so many ways. The world’s largest concentration of Frank Lloyd Wright homes is joined by dozens of galleries, studios and antique shops showcasing the works of local artisans, clustered in pockets throughout the Village. An active Oak Park Area Arts Council has propelled the arts from an occasional event to an almost daily celebration. Three locations of the Oak Park Public Library, local bookstores and cafes – all havens for author readings, writer workshops, book discussions and literary events.

Oak Park’s culture is so widely known that it attracts more than 200,000 international and local visitors here every year – exploring the Village and its historical attractions on tours from the Frank Lloyd Wright’s Unity Temple and the Oak Park Visitors Center.

Only in Oak Park can you find so many forms of culture – so inviting and alive that you can’t help but ask for more.

Sights & Sounds

Library  www.oppl.org
1 main library and 2 branches

Theatre
Oak Park Festival Theatre
Circle Theatre
Open Door Repertory Company
Lake Theatre
OPRF Performing Arts Center

Museums
Ernest Hemingway Foundation/Museum & Birthplace
Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust
Pleasant Home Foundation
Unity Temple Restoration Foundation
Historical Society of Oak Park-River Forest
Wonder Works Children’s Museum

Oak Park Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitoakpark.com

Local newspapers
Oak Leaves
Wednesday Journal

Arts
Oak Park Arts District
Oak Park Area Arts Council
Oak Park Art League
Public Art Advisory Commission

Music
The Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest
Oak Park Concert Chorale
Oak Park-River Forest Children’s Chorus

Neighborhoods
Block parties
Coffee shops
Street fairs
With an abundance of daycare centers, pre-schools, public and private elementary schools, middle schools, Fenwick and Oak Park and River Forest high schools, plus countless adult and continuing education programs, Oak Park has a curriculum that never ends. What’s common throughout the schools and learning environments in Oak Park is that students are not merely taught, but inspired by teachers who go beyond the basics. These teachers thrive on the academic achievements of their students and the support of schools committed to giving all students of every age the opportunity to learn, grow and excel.

Oak Park’s public school system has embraced the diversity of its student body and focuses on respect and understanding of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Our schools also are on the forefront of sustainability initiatives, many moving towards a zero waste status and actively exploring ways to decrease the use of paper, including online virtual backpacks to communicate with parents.

The force behind our schools is a community that sees education as a shared responsibility. Parents who are as involved in the schools as they are in their own children’s educational development. Business and professional organizations readily volunteering their time and resources, launching programs that give students learning opportunities outside of the classroom. The result is a Village wide commitment to educational excellence.

The educational experience doesn’t end at high school, however. Excellent universities and colleges are just minutes away in all directions. Whether your interest is in continuing education or an advanced degree, Oak Park’s proximity to these institutions makes it easy to achieve any education goal.

All residents of Oak Park benefit by being part of a community that has the vision to take the lead, and the strength to make educational opportunities happen for anyone who wants them.
Shopping, dining and entertainment options abound in Oak Park. With multiple distinct business districts, shoppers and diners can find just about anything they need or want within a short drive, bicycle ride or walk. The Village boasts scores of restaurants, many specialty shops and art galleries, coffee shops, and a mix of both national and local retail stores housed in accessible, attractive and often historic spaces.

The Downtown Business District is among the Village’s largest retail areas, with its combination of local specialty stores and well-known national chain outlets, as well as numerous restaurants and a multiscreen theater. A walk down Marion Street from Lake is a step back to the turn of the 20th century along a brick street, bluestone sidewalks and granite curbs. This block of Marion Street is transformed into a town square with no traffic allowed for various festivals throughout the year. Nearby South Marion Street and Chicago Avenue add to the mix of restaurants and special service retailers in the area.

Meanwhile, a short stroll down Lake Street to Oak Park Avenue adds even more to one’s choices. As Oak Park’s first bonafide restaurant district, the area has an eclectic mix of eateries and neighborhood retail shops. The area is just steps away from Scoville Park, which is the site of weekend activities throughout the warm weather months.

Both the Downtown and Avenue districts also offer quick access to the CTA Green Line and a speedy ride to the City of Chicago and all of its attractions.

Move further south on Oak Park Avenue toward the Eisenhower Expressway and opportunities to shop and eat local are abundant as well. Hungry visitors can choose among several offerings, and later shop for the latest in environmentally friendly home products. This area of town, known by locals as South Town, is steps away from the CTA Blue Line, which whisks riders into the heart of Chicago in less than 15 minutes.

Further east along Harrison Street is the Oak Park Arts District, which offers unique shopping and dining opportunities, including live entertainment while one dines. A repertory theater on Ridgeland Avenue just south of Harrison Street features live stage entertainment, as well as acting classes. This area also is within walking distance of the CTA Blue Line into Chicago.

The Village’s other business districts, especially along Madison Street, Roosevelt Road and North Avenue, offer residents a range of eating choices, products and services as well. Madison Street also is home to the Village’s longest-running stage theater.

Oak Park’s places to go, choices to eat and things to do, are too many list. Better one discovers them on their own. To get started exploring Oak Park, visit the websites of the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce (www.oprfchamber.org), Downtown Oak Park (www.downtownoakpark.net) and the Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (www.visitoakpark.com).

**A Downtown Gem**

The Lake Theater, designed by architect Thomas Lamb, opened in downtown Oak Park in the spring of 1936 with a single screen and 1,420 seats. Over the years, much of the art deco style was painted over and a leaky roof had destroyed large expanses of the intricate plasterwork. An ambitious renovation project began in 1984 to restore the theater to its original charm, an effort that has truly never stopped. Walls have been redone, the vintage ceiling light relamped and additional auditoriums added. Today, the Lake Theater’s lobby rotunda and seven auditoriums are a tasteful mix of vintage style and modern comfort and technology, including 3-D projection. The Lake Theater is a Classic Cinemas property.
Parking space is a scarce resource in the Village of Oak Park, since the community was fully developed by the 1930s long before the widespread dependence on automobiles. This means available space must be managed through regulations intended to balance need with supply.

In densely populated Oak Park – with a human population of 52,000-plus and an automobile population of at least 29,000 – the limited supply of parking must be managed, and that means regulation about where and how parking is allowed, for how long and, in some cases, by whom. By managing the parking supply – most of which is on public property – the Village strives to help Oak Park residents, business owners, visitors meet their parking needs while maintaining the historic character of the community.

Parking is generally prohibited on all streets from 2:30 - 6 a.m., seven days per week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass. This overnight parking restriction dates back to the late 1920s. Cars bearing permits may park on streets in specifically designated areas near multifamily buildings, except in front of churches, schools and parks and on blocks where housing is more than 50 percent single family.

Other parking restrictions are determined by location within the Village, length of parking time and even weather. Multiple restrictions often exist in the same area, but apply only during specific times. Residents are urged to read the signs and comply accordingly.

The Village of Oak Park also has special parking rules that go into effect when it snows. When deemed necessary by the Public Works Director – typically after a two-inch snowfall – parking is banned on major streets posted as snow routes. If a snow emergency is called, parking is restricted on other streets to one side, depending on the date. Details are posted at www.oak-park.us/snow.

For more information about parking in Oak Park e-mail parking@oak-park.us or call 708.358.7275. This e-mail address may not be used to contest a parking ticket. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us/parking.

Vehicle Stickers

Any Oak Park resident who owns a vehicle or any person who uses a vehicle owned by a Village resident, is required to purchase and display a vehicle sticker annually by the midnight, June 30. Failure to display a valid Village sticker also may result in a $50 ticket, in addition to the sticker fee and late-payment penalty. Vehicle sticker rates vary by type of vehicle. Persons 65 years old and older, or who have a state-issued handicapped license plate or placard, receive a discount. New residents are required to purchase a vehicle sticker within 30 days of moving to Oak Park. For more information, including rates for various types of vehicles, call 708.358.7275 or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.
In the Village of Oak Park, four distinct departments of municipal government are charged with the vital task of ensuring public safety. These are the Police Department, Fire Department, Building & Property Standards Department and Department of Public Health.

**Police Department**
The Oak Park Police Department investigates criminal incidents, ensures traffic safety, manages school crossing guards, enforces parking regulations and conducts security examinations of multifamily residences. The Department operates under a community policing strategy that includes resident beat officers (RBOs) who live in the Village, resource officers stationed in the middle and high schools, and co-sponsoring safety programs through neighborhood meetings. The Police Department is located in the lower level of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information on the Police Department – including how to contact your RBO – visit www.oak-park.us/police.

**Fire Department**
The Oak Park Fire Department provides emergency services including fire suppression, basic and advanced life support, hazardous materials mitigation, and fire and special rescue. The Fire Department also provides training and public education on topics such as fire prevention and CPR, pre-fire planning and annual fire inspections of every commercial and public building in the Village. Vehicle child safety seat inspections also are offered by appointment. The Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with other communities that allow for tapping a broad range of additional resources in times of need. The Fire Department operates from three stations – including the main station at 100 N. Euclid Ave. For more information on the Fire Department, visit www.oak-park.us/fire.

**Building Department**
The Building & Property Standards Department develops, maintains and enforces construction and property codes. The department issues construction related permits, inspects all construction projects at specific stages of progress and performs regular property maintenance standards inspections of all multi-family buildings containing four or more units. Through the Neighborhood Walk Program, the Department also conducts exterior maintenance inspections of all structures including single-family and two- and three unit dwellings in the Village. For more information the Village’s building codes, visit www.oak-park.us/building.

**Health Department**
The Department of Public Health strives to assure the health of all members of the community by educating citizens toward improving individual health, preventing disease, injury and disability, and promoting a healthy community. The department works to identify community problems and potential epidemics, and provides a variety of health care services, including assessment and screening, education, immunizations, prevention services, case management, nursing, counseling and linkage with other community resources. The Health Department also coordinates the Village’s emergency preparedness activities. For more information on public health in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/health.

---

### Area Hospitals

**Oak Park residents can choose from among 35 hospitals within a five mile radius. Below are a few of the closest. More information is posted at www.healthcarereportcard.illinois.gov.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gottlieb Memorial Hospital</td>
<td>701 W. North Ave.</td>
<td>708.681.3200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gottliebhospital.org">www.gottliebhospital.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyola University Medical Center</td>
<td>2160 S. First Ave.</td>
<td>708.216.9000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.loyolamedicine.org">www.loyolamedicine.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McNeal Hospital</td>
<td>3249 S. Oak Park Ave.</td>
<td>708.783.9100</td>
<td><a href="http://www.macneal.com">www.macneal.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush Oak Park Hospital</td>
<td>520 S. Maple Ave.</td>
<td>708.383.6200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.roph.org">www.roph.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Suburban Medical Center</td>
<td>Erie at Austin Blvd.</td>
<td>708.383.6200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wsmcrereshealth.org">www.wsmcrereshealth.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westlake Hospital</td>
<td>1225 Lake St.</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.whreshealth.org">www.whreshealth.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois Medical Center</td>
<td>1740 W. Taylor St.</td>
<td>312.996.3900</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uiillinoismedcenter.org">www.uiillinoismedcenter.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Village Hall 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302

708.383.6400

www.oak-park.us
Oak Park
ILLINOIS

Oak Parkers just don’t seem to sit still. They’re too busy sharing common interests like gardening, history or the arts through more than 40 different organizations, service clubs and lifestyle groups. They’re learning new skills in classes held days, nights and weekends for every age, in every neighborhood. They’re playing tennis, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, softball, baseball, football, and hockey. They’re walking, running, biking, skating, blading. You’ll see them in and around the many parks and recreational centers operated by the Park District, as well as in schools, the YMCA, gyms and fitness centers.

This is a Village where children are learning to swim even before they can walk. We’re a community where teens have their own programs, their own outlets for expressing themselves and interacting with others. Seniors can fill their days socializing, traveling, enjoying retirement together. In Oak Park, programs and activities cater to all residents, including those with development or physical disabilities.

And if it isn’t walkable, it definitely is within bike riding distance. Bicyclists find Oak Park a welcoming community. The Grand Illinois Bicycle trail runs through Oak Park and we are less than one mile from the Illinois Prairie Path.

When it comes to recreational opportunities in Oak Park, the question is not what to do, but how do you find the time to do it all?

Park District of Oak Park

The Park District of Oak Park, created in 1912, serves the recreational needs of the 50,000-plus residents of Oak Park by providing more 3,000 recreation programs and special events annually. The district offers two outdoor pools, an indoor ice rink, the Oak Park Conservatory, historic Cheney Mansion and Pleasant Home, a gymnastics center, seven recreation centers and 13 parks on 80 acres of parkland. Visit www.oakparkparks.com for more details.

Village Hall 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302  708.383.6400  www.oak-park.us
The Village of Oak Park’s comprehensive solid waste disposal program is designed to effectively deal with increasing amounts of trash, rising collection and disposal costs, legislative restrictions and growing environmental concerns. A guide to refuse and recycling is published each year and posted online at www.oak-park.us.

Mobile refuse carts, available in two sizes, and large recycling containers, allow residents to choose the level of service that best fits their needs. A private vendor hired by the Village provides collection service once a week for all residential buildings with up to five units. Larger, multifamily buildings hire private waste hauling contractors.

The Village’s single-stream recycling program eliminates the need to separate recyclables. Paper, cans and plastic that meet recycling guidelines can be placed together in the same container. The Village provides mobile carts for recycling, but the amount of recyclable materials set out for collection is not limited.

Trash, recyclables and yardwaste are collected on the same day of the week. Collection days vary by geographic location. Refuse and recycling service costs are calculated monthly and charged quarterly on water bills.

Trash must be placed into the tightly covered container. Loose trash will not be picked up. Trash and recycling containers must be placed out for collection no later than 7 a.m. on the morning of the scheduled collection day. Additional bags of trash or bulk items will be collected if tagged with pink refuse stickers. Stickers may be purchased at locations throughout the Village, including most grocery and hardware stores, and Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

The Village also offers paid programs for yardwaste collection during the growing season. Yardwaste is collected on the same day as trash. A green yardwaste sticker must be attached to each container and bundle of brush. Stickers may be purchased at locations throughout the Village, including most grocery and hardware stores, and Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Yardwaste will be collected for a fee during the winter months by appointment only.

Oak Parkers who choose to rake their leaves rather than compost them can take advantage of the Village’s annual fall leaf collection program, which runs from about mid-October through November. Details on the program, including scheduled pick dates, are distributed prior to the program beginning each year.

For more information on refuse hauling and recycling, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

### Recyclable Items

- Glass bottles and jars (all colors)
- Steel, aluminum and bi-metal cans
- Plastics – check for these numbers on or near the bottom of the container:
  - #1 PETE (plastic soft drink bottles)
  - #2 HDPE (milk or water jugs, detergent bottles)
  - #3 PVC narrow neck containers like household cleaners, health and beauty products
  - #4 LDPE (margarine tubs and plastic rings from beverage cans)
  - #5 PP (yogurt cups, narrow neck syrup and ketchup bottles)
  - #7 OTHER (plastic resin grocery narrow neck containers)
- Aluminum foil and formed containers
- Empty paint cans
- Empty aerosol cans
- Newspapers and inserts
- Magazines
- Telephone books
- Paperback books
- Chipboard (cereal & cracker boxes)
- Wet-strength cardboard (beverage cartons)
- Junk mail
- Office paper
- Gift wrapping paper
- Brown paper grocery bags
- Corrugated cardboard (place small pieces in the cart; cut and flatten larger pieces into three-foot-square pieces and place next to cart)
- Prepare jars & containers for collection by rinseing and discarding all lids.
Something is always going on in Oak Park. Whether it’s the annual Day in Our Village festival, the July 4th parade and fireworks, or just a party on the block, Oak Parkers find plenty of opportunities to celebrate. Below are just a few of the activities new residents might enjoy…

A Day in Our Village
Each year, on the first Sunday in June, the Village sponsors A Day in Our Village, a festival that provides an opportunity for current and prospective residents to discover the diversity and variety of civic, cultural, social service, business, educational and religious organizations/groups in the Village. Activity and information booths fill in Scoville Park near Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue, and local restaurants sell food nearby. In addition, the Park District of Oak Park sponsors activities in Rehm Park, 515 Garfield St. (at East Avenue), including swimming and games. To learn more, e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Oak Park Farmers’ Market
The Oak Park Farmers’ Market offers high quality, locally grown produce in an open air venue at 460 Lake St., just one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. The Market is a step back into simpler times – buying things from the farmers who grow them. Live bluegrass music, and freshly made donuts are featured as well. The Market is open the second to last Saturday of May through October. Market hours are 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket or e-mail farmersmarket@oak-park.us.

Mid-Week Market
More than a farmers’ market, closer to a street festival, the Mid-Week Market features locally grown fruits and vegetables, food vendors offering a wide selection of ready-to-eat items and local retailers selling goods and services – all in the heart of downtown Oak Park on Lake Street, just east of Harlem Avenue. Beer and wine is available for on-site consumption as well. Held each Wednesday from mid-June through mid-September, the Mid-Week Market is open from 4 – 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/midweekmarket or e-mail midweekmarket@oak-park.us.

July 4th Parade and fireworks
The many dimensions of diversity in Oak Park are on display when the annual July 4th parade steps off from Longfellow Park at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street. The parade typically begins at 10 a.m. – except when the 4th is on a Sunday and the parade begins at 1 p.m. Fireworks typically are featured at dusk at Oak Park and River Forest High School stadium, near Lake Street and East Avenue. For more information on the parade e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Block Parties
Block parties are an integral part of Oak Park’s community spirit, as well as a great way to meet neighbors and make new friends. Neighborhoods take over the street for an entire block, eliminating traffic and making the area one big, safe site for socializing, barbecuing and just having fun. The Village provides street barricades and can arrange for visits from representatives of the Police and Fire departments. Because of the impact on traffic, block parties are regulated. For more information on block parties, including an complete information packet, e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.
Globally, Oak Park is known as the home of world-renowned residents like prairie-style architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Nobel Prize winning author Ernest Hemingway. Regionally, Oak Park is recognized as a leader in environmental initiatives.

Potential new residents and visitors alike are invited to experience the thriving, environmentally aware community long-time residents know and love. With its celebrated architecture, eclectic business districts and welcoming accommodations, there is something here for everyone. No carbon emissions are required for enjoyment, as the sights are accessible by public transportation, riding a bicycle or walking the beautiful tree-lined streets.

Oak Park boasts an impressive list of environmentally conscious accomplishments, including building Illinois' first Public Works Center to earn gold certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council. Oak Park also has one of the region’s largest alternative-fuel municipal vehicle pools, uses native plantings in its commercial planters and landscaped areas, and converted its traffic signals and emergency vehicle lighting systems to efficient LED.

Supporting bicycling also is priority in Oak Park. The Village has a bicycling plan that includes identifying safe bike routes, marking streets with bike lanes, increasing the number of bike racks at transportation hubs and encouraging residents to bike to work, school and shopping.

Residents seeking information on community efforts to be more environmentally conscious and links to a variety of organizations that can help Oak Parkers live greener need go no further than www.oak-park.us/environment. The content of the page was created by the Environment & Energy Commission, citizen volunteers whose mission is to address conservation concerns and work for a pollution-free environment in Oak Park.

Urban Gardening

Whether you have a large or small backyard — or even no yard at all — growing vegetables in Oak Park is not only possible, but business as usual for many residents. The Village, in cooperation with the local gardening community, provides an online clearinghouse of resources. Visitors who go to www.oak-park.us/gardening will find links to those entities most cited by local gardeners as the best sources of information, including the University of Illinois Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and even the Centers for Disease Control. The goal of the Village’s grow-local effort is to develop ways to educate and promote urban agriculture as an environmentally friendlier — and tastier — way to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to the dining tables of Oak Parkers. A major benefit of urban gardening is less reliance on mass-produced and imported food, a reduced carbon footprint and savings on grocery bills. For more information on urban gardening in Oak Park, e-mail health@oak-park.us.
commitment

community

convenience

culture

education

entertainment

parking

public safety

recreation

refuse & recycling

special events

sustainability

contact

Village of Oak Park online
Main website: www.oak-park.us
facebook: www.facebook.com/vopnews
twitter: www.twitter.com/vopnews
YouTube: www.youtube.com/vopnews

board@oak-park.us or 708.358.5784 to talk to the Village Board

building@oak-park.us or 708.358.5430 to...
• Learn about building permits
• Report construction without permits
• Report dilapidated buildings/property

clerk@oak-park.us or 708.358.5670 to learn about...
• Business licenses
• Domestic partnership registration
• Freedom of Information Act requests (FOIA)
• Home occupations
• Real estate transfer tax stamps
• Registering a bicycle
• Registering to vote
• Special events coordination
• Discouraging solicitors
• Volunteering for a commission

clerk@oak-park.us or 708.358.5670 to learn about...

community@oak-park.us or 708.358.5407 to...
• File a discrimination complaint
• Learn about tenant rights
• Report graffiti
• Resolve a neighborhood dispute
• Request a new resident packet

health@oak-park.us or 708.358.5480 to...
• Adopt a dog or cat
• Learn about health services
• Report a food-borne illness
• Report a rat sighting
• Report a stray or lost animal
• Schedule a STD/HIV test

finance@oak-park.us or 708.358.5478 to...
• Request water bill information

fire@oak-park.us or 708.445.3300 to...
• Alarm permits
• Find out about CPR/AED training
• Learn about fire safety
• Learn about proper child seat installation

hr@oak-park.us or 708.358.5650 to...
• Find a job with the Village

parking@oak-park.us or 708.358.7275 ...
• Citations – Option 6
• Citation appeals – Option 7
• Daytime pass – Option 3
• Extended/other pass – Option 4
• Meter/pay station problems – Option 9
• Overnight pass – Option 2
• Permits – Option 5
• Snow parking emergency – Option 1
• Towed vehicles – Option 8
• Vehicle stickers

police@oak-park.us or 708.386.3800 to...
• Register a bicycle
• Report an abandoned vehicle
• Seek emergency crisis intervention
• Sign up for the R-U-OK senior telephone service
• Talk to your Resident Beat Officer
• Volunteer to help enforcement

publicworks@oak-park.us or 708.358.5700 to report...
• Damaged trees on public property
• Garbage/debris/junk on private property
• Illegally parked vehicles
• Missed garbage/recycling/yardwaste pickups
• Potholes
• Schedule a block party
• Street or alley light outages

evillage@oak-park.us or 708.358.5770 to talk to the Village Manager

General Info: 708.383.6400
TTY: 7-1-1
Call 9-1-1 in an emergency

Utilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cable television</th>
<th>Local telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT&amp;T 800.288.2020</td>
<td>AT&amp;T 800.331.0500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comcast 800.266.2278</td>
<td>Natural gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.comcast.com">www.comcast.com</a></td>
<td>NICOR 888.642.6748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ComEd 800.334.7661</td>
<td>Village of Oak Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.comed.com">www.comed.com</a></td>
<td>708.358.5476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.oak-park.us/finance">www.oak-park.us/finance</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.oak-park.us/finance">www.oak-park.us/finance</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>