

Pilot program seeks solutions to parking challenges

New rules and regulations designed to simplify and streamline Oak Park's parking rules and regulations will be tested this year in one of the Village's most in-demand parking areas — Harlem Avenue east to Oak Park Avenue and South Boulevard south to Harrison Street, including portions of the adjacent business districts.

If the approaches tested in this parking pilot program area prove effective balancing the often competing demands of businesses, employees, customers, single-family residents, multifamily residents and commuters, officials say the simplified and streamlined rules also may work in other areas in Oak Park.

Changes in the following six categories will be tested in the parking pilot program area:

- **Standardized parking limits on residential streets** – Time limits will be standardized to three hours between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Monday through Friday on all streets in the pilot program area that currently have daytime limits or restrictions. This change is intended to provide more consistency than the current regulations, which can vary from block to block. New parking regulatory signage is expected to begin going up in March.
- **Exempt block residents from time-limited restrictions** – Residents whose vehicles display a valid Village vehicle sticker will now be exempt from the time limit if they park on the same block as their home during the day. This change will be effective in March.
- **Extend paid metered parking to 8 p.m.** – Paid parking hours will be extended to 8 p.m. from the current 6 p.m. at meters and pay stations in the parking pilot program area to create more turnover in parking spaces near businesses. This change should particularly benefit restaurants and



their customers by creating more available parking spaces during busy dining hours. This change will be effective in February.

- **Graduated pricing at pay stations** – Vehicle operators will have the option to stay longer than three hours at pay stations in the parking pilot program area if they pay more. The rate at parking pay stations in the pilot area will continue to be \$1 per hour for the first three hours, but rise to \$3 per additional hour with no time-limit. This approach is intended to encourage customers to park at meters and pay-by-plate spaces for shorter durations and encourage long-term parkers to use parking garages, which offer lower, longer-term rates. This change will be effective in February.
- **Introduce pay-by-plate parking on Madison Street** – Pay stations for nearly 100 new pay-by-plate parking spaces will become operational on

Madison Street to create higher turnover near businesses. The new equipment already has been installed.

- **Add additional night permit parking on Madison, Pleasant and Marion** – Permit holders will be allowed to park overnight at designated metered and pay-by-plate spaces on Madison, Marion and Pleasant streets. This change, which is set to begin in February, is intended to create additional inventory of overnight parking spaces in these high-demand areas.

Information about the parking pilot program is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/parkingpilot. Questions should be directed to the Parking Services Division at 708.358.7275 or parking@oak-park.us.

General information about parking in Oak Park is posted at www.oak-park.us/parking.

2019 budget focuses on public safety, infrastructure improvements

The municipal budget for 2019 focuses resources on enhancing public safety and improvements to essential infrastructure, while ensuring fiscal stability.

The 2019 budget is comprised of 35 funds and \$155.8 million in expenditures, excluding Police and Firefighter pensions and the Foreign Fire Insurance Fund, which are governed by separate boards.

The budget's \$62-million general fund, which supports most day-to-day municipal operations, allocates nearly 80 percent of all spending to the critical services provided by the Police, Fire and Public Works departments.

Expenditures are supported by a number of sources including property taxes, sales taxes, user fees, utility taxes and real estate transfer taxes.

While property taxes will fund 47 percent of general fund expenditures in 2019, the Village's share of a local property owner's tax bill represents only 10.9 percent of the total. Police and Fire pensions, which are mandated by state law, comprise 5.5 percent of the levy.

Partnerships with agencies that provide a wide range of social services also will continue in the year ahead, including with the Regional Housing Center, Oak Park Residence Corporation, Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Oak Park Economic Development Corporation and Oak Park Area Arts Council.

Increases in some fees are now effective, including waste collection. Beginning Jan. 1, the monthly cost for a 96-gallon refuse cart is \$27.51, up from \$26.71, and the cost for a 64-gallon refuse cart is \$25, up from \$23.59.

Refuse rates are charged on quarterly water bills. Green yard waste and pink bulk item stickers are now \$3, up from \$2.60 and \$2.35 respectively.

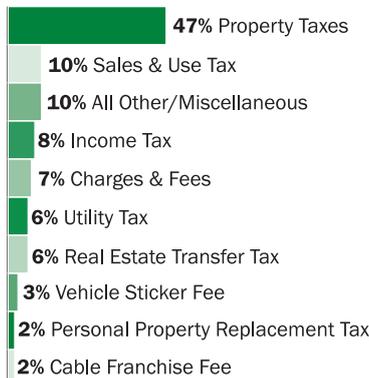
Water rates rose to \$9.52 cents per 1,000 gallons used, up from \$9.33. Sewer rates, which are based on water use, are now \$2.73 per 1,000 gallons of water used, up from \$2.67. The majority of water and sewer fees cover the cost of purchasing Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago, with a share also helping fund maintenance and improvements to the local systems.

Information on the budget process and copies of the FY2019 and past year's budgets are posted at www.oak-park.us/budget.

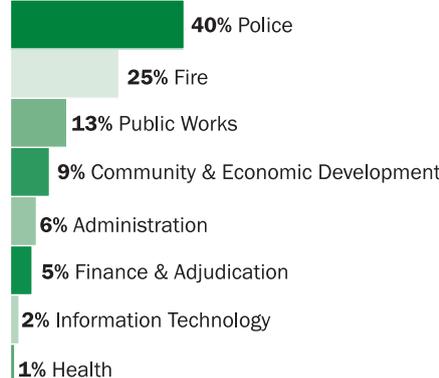
A wide range of financial documents are also available for public view online at www.oak-park.us/financial-reports.

2019 Budget at a Glance – General Fund

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



HOW PROPERTY TAXES ARE DISTRIBUTED



Finance documents available online

The Finance Department ensures the fiscal integrity of the Village of Oak Park by developing, maintaining and administering all programs related to the accounting of municipal revenues and expenditures. This critical municipal government role results in a wide range of financial documents available for public view online at www.oak-park.us/financial-reports. Among the documents readily assessable online are the following:

- Annual Budgets
- Audit Management Letters
- Bond Rating Service Reports
- Capital Improvements Plans
- Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports
- Quarterly Financial Reports
- Single Audit Reports
- Tax Increment Finance Annual Reports
- Tax Increment Finance Historical Reports
- Total Compensation Reports

For more information on the role and duties of the Finance Department, call 708.358.5460, email finance@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/finance.

Police News

Don't hesitate to call 911...If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to call 911 immediately.

Follow the Police...Residents can view regular updates related to public safety in Oak Park on Facebook at www.facebook.com/voppolice and on Twitter at [@VOPpolice](http://www.twitter.com/voppolice).

Get to know your RBO...Oak Park's residential beat officers hold regular meetings in the neighborhoods they serve to discuss issues and crime trends, and answer questions. For more details, including dates, times and locations, call 708.386.3800 or visit www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Crime Tip Hot Line...Suspicious activity can be reported anonymously to the Police Department's Crime Tip Hot Line at 708.434.1636. Anonymous tips also can be made at www.oak-park.us/crimetip.

Crime prevention tips...Nearly 90 percent of all crime in Oak Park is against property, but more violent crime such as armed robberies and vehicle hijackings do sometimes occur here. The best defense, Oak Park Police say, is to try to avoiding being an easy victim. For tips on how to prevent crime, visit www.oak-park.us/preventcrime.

Police escort...Any resident uneasy about walking to or from a public transit stop, public garage or other site in the community may contact the Police Department for an escort from dusk until dawn. Please consider seeking assistance from friends and family first, since officers may be needed for emergency calls. Call 708.386.3800 for information or an escort.

Warming centers offer relief from cold

Anyone in need of a place to warm up as temperatures dip can find a range of options in Oak Park. Local sites include the following:

- **Housing Forward**, overnight shelters in various locations, 888.338.1744
- **Rush Oak Park Hospital**, 520 S. Maple Ave. – open 24 hours, 708.383.9300
- **Oak Park Township Senior Services**, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. – Ages 60 and over, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, 708.383.8060
- **Village Hall**, 123 Madison St. – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, 708.383.6400
- **West Suburban Medical Center**, 3 Erie Court – 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., 708.383.6200

If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800.

Volunteers needed for A Day in Our Village

June may seem like a long way from January, but planning already is well underway for A Day in Our Village, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. This year's event is scheduled for Sun., June 2. A variety of volunteers are needed to help promote and staff the event, which includes activity booths, demonstrations, entertainment and food. Anyone interested in volunteering – or more information – is urged to call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Outdoor skating offered at three sites

When the weather cooperates, free outdoor skating is offered at rinks in Taylor Park, 400 W. Division St., Longfellow Park, 610 S. Ridgeland Ave., and Austin Gardens, 167 Forest Ave. A green flag will fly when the rinks are open and a red one when they are closed. Skaters must bring their own skates. For more details, visit www.pdop.org/outdoorice.

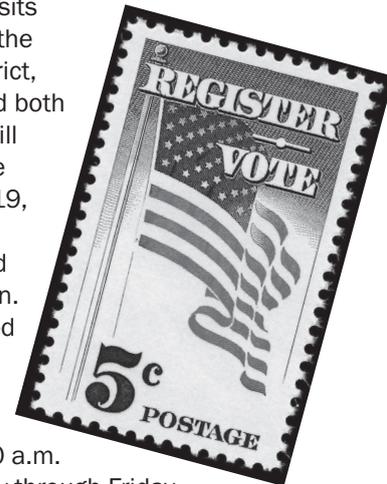
Community awards celebrate stewardship

More than 60 individuals, organizations and businesses were recognized recently for their commitment to protecting Oak Park's heritage and making the Village a vibrant place for residents and visitors alike. Eight Preservation Awards were presented by the Historic Preservation Commission and seven Green Awards were distributed by the Environment & Energy Commission, including a joint award for a project that combined preservation with environmental sustainability. The Disability Access Commission also presented three Disability Access Awards. In addition, the Community Design Commission's Cavalcade of Pride awards were presented for 21 properties whose owners were deemed to have done an exceptional job of maintaining and improving the exteriors of their homes and businesses. The complete list of award winners is posted online at www.oak-park.us/2018stewardshipawards.

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 school districts will have their chance come April 2, 2019, the date for the next Consolidated Municipal Election. But only registered voters can participate.

Registration is offered from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. and online at www.cookcountyclerk.com. In person registration requires two forms of identification, at least one with the current address. For information, call 708.358.5672 or email clerk@oak-park.us. More information on voting and elections is posted online at www.cookcountyclerk.com.



Fire Department offers life-saving CPR/AED classes



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 \$55 for Oak Park residents and \$80 for non-residents, plus a \$5 textbook fee. A healthcare provider course is \$55 for residents and \$75 for non-residents, plus a \$15 textbook fee if required. Payment must be made by check, money order or cash in the 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 2019 class schedule is posted online at www.oak-park.us/cpr. For more information, call 708.358.5605 or email cpr@oak-park.us.

Ask for identification

If you receive an unexpected visit from someone claiming to be an employee of the Village who wants to enter your home, ask to see their official identification. The official ID card features the employee's photo, name and the Village logo on the front. Use the same procedure if someone claiming to be an employee of a utility company, such as Nicor or ComEd, wants to come in your home — ask to see an official ID. If in doubt, call the Police non-emergency number, 708.386.3800. If you feel threatened, call 911.

Stay connected with Village Hall

The Village of Oak Park has a number of communications channels to help residents receive up-to-the-minute information about their community and engage with Village Hall. The Village's social media pages provide residents, businesses and visitors with information about municipal programs, services, projects, issues, events and activities. Feedback is welcome and staff strives to respond in a timely manner to inquiries posted on social media. From daily updates on Facebook (www.facebook.com/vopnews) and Twitter (twitter.com/vopnews) to videos and photos capturing the sights and sounds of Oak Park on YouTube (www.youtube.com/vopnews) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/oakparkil), staying connected has never been easier. Residents are encouraged to share Village posts and tweets.

Application process for federal grants starts Jan. 31

Applications for 2019 Program Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant programs will be available Jan. 31. Applications are due in March when the assessment process begins, with allocations typically announced in October. The federally funded but locally administered programs help support and nurture a wide range of programs and services for individuals and families that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines as low and moderate income. A rigorous application process managed by professional Village staff and the Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission determines how the money should be allocated. For more information, call 708.358.5410, email grants@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/cdbg.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5630
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
Mayor & Trustees	358.5784
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	725.2000
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015

Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	383.0700

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
Transportation	383.4806

-  facebook.com/vopnews
-  instagram.com/oakparkil
-  pinterest.com/oakparkil
-  twitter.com/vopnews
-  youtube.com/vopnews

Yard waste, compost collected bi-weekly during winter

Yard waste and compost collection will continue through the winter on a bi-weekly basis with pick-ups scheduled for every other Wednesday at properties served by the Village's refuse hauler. Residents not enrolled in the Village composting program will need to affix a green sticker to each bundle of brush, bag or container. Green yard waste stickers can be purchased for \$3 each at grocery and hardware stores throughout the Village, as well as Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Collection dates for residences north of the Green Line will be Jan. 9, Jan. 23, Feb. 6, Feb. 20, March 6 and March 20. Collections from residences south of the Green Line will be on Jan. 2, Jan. 16, Jan. 30, Feb. 13, Feb. 27, March 13 and March 27. Residents enrolled in the Village's Compostable program should place yard waste in their gray, 96-gallon cart, which does not require a green sticker. Regular weekly collection resumes in April and continues through November with yard waste and compost pick-ups on the same day as refuse and recycling collection. More information is available at www.oak-park.us/refuse and by contacting Public Works at 708.358.5700 or publicworks@oak-park.us.

Incentive offered to join composting program...Residents who join the Village composting program for the first time will get three months free if they sign up for 12 months of continuous service, a savings of \$44.56. The cost is \$14.85 per month charged on the quarterly water bill, which is about the same as recycling one bag of yard waste per week through the Village's yard waste program that does not accept food scraps and requires a \$3 green sticker be attached to each bag or barrel. Composting subscribers can skip the stickers by putting their grass clippings and other gardening waste right into the organics cart. Residents who maintain backyard compost piles or mulch grass clippings are urged to investigate sharing organics carts and costs with neighbors. Nearly 1,600 households currently participate in the Village program that provides a special 96-gallon mobile cart for organics and an under-sink collection bucket. Sign up for the composting program online at www.oak-park.us/compost. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email compostable@oak-park.us.

Holiday tree collection schedule

Holiday trees will be collected the weeks of Jan. 7 and 14 from residential properties of five or fewer units served by the Village refuse hauling contractor. Be sure to remove all decorations and stands, and place the tree in the regular collection area before your regular collection day during these two weeks. If your regular collection point is in an alley, be sure to place the tree in the alley and not in the parkway in front of your residence. Since the trees are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment, please do not leave them in plastic disposal bags or they will not be collected. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker be attached. Stickers are available for \$3 each at most local grocery and hardware stores, as well as at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Wreaths and garlands cannot be collected for recycling because they contain wire – place them in the trash container. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Safely dispose of unwanted prescription drugs

Residents can safely dispose of expired and unwanted prescription medicines in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Needles and other medical wastes are not accepted. 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 call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Find a safe place at the Memory Café

Individuals living with memory loss and their care givers will have a safe space in the community to connect, share a meal and enjoy recreation and educational opportunities when the Memory Café opens on Jan. 22 at the Oak Park Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park. Ave. The program will be offered at 1:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Call 708.383.8060 or email memorycafe@oakparktownship.org to register. Volunteer opportunities also are available.

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. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information, call 708.725.2400 or visit www.pdop.org and look for a link under the Parks & Facilities tab.

Money management help for seniors, persons with disabilities

Residents age 60 and older and individuals 18 to 59 with a disability who have difficulty managing their financial affairs, may be eligible for help through the Oak Park Township. In addition to help with tasks such as balancing a checkbook or sorting mail, assistance also includes help applying for financial benefits and intervening with creditors. Call 708.383.8060 for eligibility guidelines and more information.

Scan with a smartphone QR app for more information



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



OP/FYI

Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews Dan Moroney
Simone M. Boutet Jim Taglia
Andrea Button Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman
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

Forecast key to planning parking when it snows

The Village has specific rules that govern parking when it snows — rules that are enforced seven days a week, including holidays. Residents are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly. When snow exceeds two inches, 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. to 10 p.m. in residential areas and from midnight to 8 a.m. in designated commercial districts, the side determined by the date. Park on the even address side of the street on even dates and on the odd address side on odd dates. 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. Residents who sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme will be alerted. Efforts also will be made to post timely information to social media sites www.facebook.com/vopnews and twitter.com/vopnews. The snow emergency parking rules and a list of frequently asked questions also are posted at www.oak-park.us/snow.

Sidewalk shoveling required...Property owners who shovel their sidewalks are doing more than making it safer for pedestrians of all ages — they also are complying with the law. 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 help those who may need help clearing a sidewalk. And remember to clear the crossing ramps to ensure safe travel by individuals with disabilities, especially those in wheelchairs who face extraordinary challenges navigating snow-clogged sidewalks. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help resources, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.



Snow Route Map

Parkway trees to be trimmed more often

Beginning this year, one third of the Village's 18,000-plus parkway trees will be trimmed, rather than one quarter as in past years. An analysis of annual requests for pruning beyond the previous four-year cycle found that more than half of the complaints came from the quarter of the Village scheduled to be trimmed in the next cycle. By reducing the time between pruning, Village foresters will evaluate the trees more often and identify potential problem branches before they become issues. More frequent trimming also means the visual impact will be more subtle.

2019 trim area...The new, three-year cycle means that all parkways trees south of Madison Street will be pruned this winter. Crews follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines for tree care to address three key issues — tree health, resident safety and protecting property from damage. Dead or dying limbs are removed and canopies are raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and to create appropriate clearances for adjacent structures and signs. Residents are urged to move their cars from the streets when temporary no-parking signs go up to allow private contractors to prune parkway trees quickly and safely. More information on the care of the trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.