

Responding to 2020 Census important civic duty

Oak Parkers who take a few minutes to answer a series of simple questions for the U.S. Census Bureau will be helping make sure the community gets its fair share of billions of dollars in federal funds distributed each year.

The results of this once-a-decade count also affect a state's voice in Congress by determining the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives where most federal funding decisions are made.

How the Census works

Households will begin receiving mail from the Census Bureau in mid-March. This official correspondence will provide detailed information on how to respond online, by phone or by mail.



Residents who do not return the questionnaire by the end of April can expect a visit from a census taker in May through July as efforts focus on making sure the constitutionally mandated count is as accurate as possible.

How Information is used

All information provided to the Census Bureau is for statistical purposes only, and is strictly confidential under federal law.

The 2020 Census asks for name, gender, age and race for each person living in a household. The questionnaire also asks whether you rent or own your home.

The questions are intended to provide a snapshot of our nation — who we are, where we live and much more.

In addition to federal funding, Census data also are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts and help lawmakers, business owners and many others make critical decisions over the next decade.

Local decision-makers use Census data as well. The data help determine future needs for new schools, clinics, roads and other services for families, older adults and children.

For more information

For more information, including an explanation of why each question on the Census form is asked, visit www.2020census.gov.

Village to reconstruct, restore and renew central corridor

After years of planning and preparation, a project to reconstruct, restore and renew Lake Street from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard is officially a go. Construction crews will



touch every inch of this important east-west commercial and retail corridor over the next few months, but the work — and its impact on motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists — will vary along the route. The project will include new sidewalks, lighting, signals, landscaping and street furniture in the central business district and resurfacing along the entire route across the Village. The focus between Harlem and Euclid avenues will be on creating visual continuity and improving traffic and pedestrian travel in the dense shopping area. Sidewalk clutter will be reduced, pedestrian safety enhanced and accessibility improved. But crews also will be digging deep between Grove and Euclid avenues where the water and sewer infrastructure has not been replaced since it was installed in the 1890s and early 1900s. The remainder of the work — between Euclid Avenue and Austin Boulevard — will primarily be resurfacing. Vehicle access will be maintained where possible, but portions of Lake Street will need to be closed completely between Harlem and Forest avenues. However, access to businesses and nearby parking garages will be maintained. Construction is expected to wrap up in November. Residents are invited to visit www.betterlakestreet.com for complete details and to sign up for timely messages and updates.

Local Census help available

Residents who need assistance completing the 2020 Census questionnaire or who want to respond online but lack internet access, have several local locations where computers and personnel can help during regular business hours:

- **Village Clerk's Office**, 123 Madison St.
- **Oak Park Public Library** — Main Branch, 834 Lake St.; Dole Branch, 255 Augusta St.; Maze Branch, 845 Gunderson Ave.
- **Oak Park Township Senior Services**, 130 S. Oak Park Ave.
- **Oak Park Regional Housing Center**, 1041 South Blvd.
- **Oak Park Residence Corporation**, 21 South Blvd.
- **Oak Park River Forest High School**, 201 Scoville Ave.

2019 By the Numbers: A look at municipal service delivery

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

Oak Park has more than **100 miles of Village-owned streets, 500 alleys, nearly 20,000 parkway trees, 7,000 lighting fixtures, 104 miles of water mains, 110 miles of sewer mains, eight miles of bicycle lanes** and some **4,000 public parking spaces**.

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

Since approved by voters in 1952, Oak Park has operated under the council manager form of government, in which an elected Village Board hires a professional **Village Manager** to oversee the day-to-day operations of municipal services and programs.

Though employees are assigned to different departments, and the jobs performed vary, all have the common mission of serving the many needs of the residents of Oak Park.

From a highly trained and motivated **police force** focused on neighborhoods to **firefighter-paramedics** who routinely eclipse national emergency response times, Oak Park's public safety programs rival those of much larger communities.

The Village's **public works programs** are the core of municipal services. They pump the water, maintain the streets, plow the snow, keep the traffic signals operating, trim the trees and keep a fleet of nearly **250 traditional, hybrid, compressed natural gas and bio-diesel fueled vehicles** running smoothly.

One of only a handful certified by the state, the **Public Health Department** keeps our restaurants clean, pets licensed, childcare facilities safe and the community prepared for emergencies.

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

So how did the Village do in 2019? Here's snapshot of some of their activities from the year just ended...



IMPROVING THE VILLAGE

- 11,831** potholes patched with 178 tons of asphalt
- 5,743** feet of new sewer main installed
- 4,680** sidewalk squares replaced
- 1,754** street lamps replaced
- 1,580** feet of new water mains installed
- 1,384** street signs replaced
- 271** Sidewalk ramps upgraded to ADA standards
- 204** lane miles of streets swept
- 15** alley segments reconstructed
- 4.25** miles of sewer mains cleaned and video inspected — 20 tons of debris removed
- 3.73** miles of streets rebuilt and resurfaced
- 3.6** miles of streets micro-paved



COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

- 1,732,396** website page views — 49.8% on a mobile device
- 199,450** minutes of VOP-TV programming on Village YouTube channel and other social media platforms
- 194,323** engagements with social media posts
- 18,625** online views of Village Board and citizen commission meetings — 65% on a mobile device
- 14,505** Village Facebook followers
- 6,985** Village Twitter feed followers
- 3,859** enews list serve subscribers
- 3,132** Instagram followers



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

- 65,028** Police responses, including calls, traffic stops, vacation property checks and alarm/security checks
- 7,660** fire and emergency medical service calls
- 6,677** trees trimmed, 230 removed and 425 planted
- 5,914** citizen contacts for fire and safety public education, including CPR classes
- 4,390** tons of salt spread during 24 separate snow events
- 2,271** property code violations reviewed
- 1,239** fire hydrants tested, 39 repaired, 6 replaced
- 795** buildings with fire protection systems inspected
- 735** public health inspections performed
- 464** health complaints investigated
- 90** private security cameras registered — 58 videos uploaded for Police review



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

- \$1,885,686** in federal grants distributed to help low- and moderate-income residents and the homeless
- \$537,476** allocated to support affordable housing programs
- 328,042** mobile parking meter transactions processed
- 162,369** overnight parking passes processed online
- 43,201** service requests answered by the Public Works Department
- 11,605** local ordinance and parking citations administratively adjudicated at Village Hall
- 3,700** hours contributed by 138 volunteers on 21 advisory boards, committees and commissions
- 2,353** animals licensed
- 2,020** community relations issues addressed, including tenant/landlord disputes and neighbor conflicts
- 1,355** requests processed under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act
- 676** graffiti hits removed
- 623** rental dwelling licenses issued
- 482** block party requests processed
- 396** animals rescued
- 42** meetings of the Village Board and its committees — more than 460 issues of public policy deliberated
- 16** Sewer Backup Prevention Grants approved for \$54,300



BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

- \$8,405,000** in sales and use taxes generated — \$6,625,000 by local businesses
- \$1,927,085** in building permit fees collected
- 18,156** construction, commercial and residential property inspections performed
- 14,644** property-related inquiries answered
- 5,603** building permit applications submitted — 68% online
- 4,057** zoning-related building permits reviewed
- 1,638** historic preservation property renovation permits reviewed
- 1,202** business licenses issued, including for 125 new businesses
- 104** liquor licenses issued, including 5 new



SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT

- 9,691,316** fewer plastic bags used as result of 10-cent fee
- \$366,065** in disposal fees saved by diverting 46 percent of all residential waste from landfills
- 224,000** gallons of storm water runoff diverted from sewers via 17 grant-funded residential flood control projects
- 9,839** tons of garbage hauled away
- 4,139** tons of household recyclables collected
- 4,101** tons of yard waste and food scraps composted, including from the 1,922 households participating in food scrap collection program
- 82** tons of household hazardous waste materials collected from 2,143 stops

Early voting offered at Village Hall

Suburban Cook County voters can cast an early ballot for the March 17, 2020 General Primary Election at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. from March 2 – 16 during the following hours:

- Mon., March 2 – Sat., March 7: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sun., March 8: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Mon., March 9 – Fri., March 13: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sat., March 14: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sun., March 15: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Mon., March 16: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Village Hall also will offer grace-period registration during early voting hours for individuals who missed the registration deadline. Valid identification is required to register during the grace period and a vote must be cast immediately after registration. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item with the current address such as a lease or utility bill. More information about early voting in Oak Park is available at www.oak-park.us/earlyvoting or by calling 708.358.5670 or clerk@oak-park.us. Information about the 2020 General Primary Election also is available at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections.

Day in Our Village is recruiting for 2020

Local groups and volunteers are invited to participate in the 47th annual *A Day in Our Village*, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. Scheduled for Sun., June 7, the event features activity and information booths in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue, local restaurants, live entertainment and activities in nearby Mills Park. In addition to participants, volunteers are needed to donate an hour or two of time well before the event, distributing promotional literature and hanging posters around the community. For more information on participating or volunteering to help with the 2019 A Day in Our Village celebration, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us. Groups can register for a booth at www.oak-park.us/diovregistration.

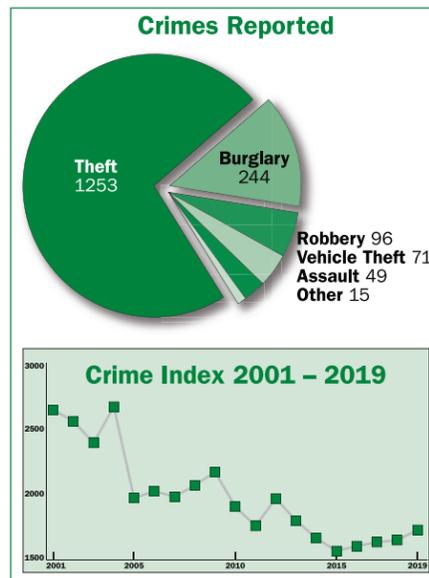
Police release 2019 crime statistics

Oak Park Police investigated 78 more crimes in 2019 than in 2018, nudging the overall crime rate up about 5 percent, according to data compiled by the Police Department for the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program that studies patterns and trends over time. The biggest increase came in the theft category, which historically is the single largest category of crime reported in Oak Park. But the number of aggravated assault and battery cases was up as well, as police investigated 49 incidents in 2019 compared to 31 in 2018. Although the overall crime rate did increase in 2019, Police say the data continue to underscore the fact that Oak Park is a safe place to live and raise a family. Oak Park Police investigated 1,728 crimes in 2019, compared to 1,650 in 2018. Burglaries and thefts, which historically represent the vast majority of crime in the Village, remained the biggest categories at nearly 87 percent of all crimes committed in the community in 2019. Ninety-six robberies and 49 assault/battery reports were investigated in 2019, as compared to 99 robberies and 31 assault/battery cases in 2018. These crimes, more than most, tend to reflect regional challenges, rather than just local ones, according to Police. Thefts were up in 2019 — 1,253 reports compared to 1,077 in 2018 — but burglaries were down — 244 in 2019 compared to 357 in 2018. Locking garage doors and keeping a watchful eye on personal belongings are among the best deterrents to these crimes of opportunity, Police say. Arrests were up in 2019, according to the official report. Oak Park Police arrested 256 suspects in the categories tracked under the crime index reporting system, up from 203 in 2018. Another 45 individuals were arrested for driving under the influence in 2019 and 33 individuals were arrested for drug violations. For more information on the Oak Park Police Department, visit www.oak-park.us/police.

2019 Crime Summary

- **Thefts**, typically crimes of opportunity, remained the single largest category of crimes reported in Oak Park. Some 1,253 thefts were reported in 2019, compared to 1,077 in 2018. Thefts included 126 bicycles, 38 of which were left unlocked and unattended.
- **Burglary** continued to be the second largest single crime category, with 244 cases reported in 2019, compared to 357 in 2018. The burglaries included 83 garages, of which 59 were unlocked.
- Police investigated 96 **robberies** in 2019, compared to 99 in 2018 and 134 in 2017.
- **Vehicle thefts** were up slightly in 2019, as Police investigated 71 incidents compared to 64 in 2018. Twenty-two of the vehicles were unlocked and running, while 20 had keys left inside.
- 49 **aggravated assault/battery** cases were reported in 2019, compared to 31 in 2018.
- 13 **criminal sexual assaults** were reported in 2019, compared to 17 in 2018. In eight of the cases, the victim knew the offender. Four of the incidents didn't occur in Oak Park, but were reported while the victim was in a local hospital
- No **homicides** were reported in 2019, compared to two in 2018.
- 2 **arsons** were reported in 2019, compared to three in 2018. Neither was considered significant.
- Police responded to 65,028 **calls for service** in 2019, compared to 66,286 calls in 2018.

Visit www.oak-park.us/police for more information on the Oak Park Police Department.



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

Residents urged to sign up for emergency notifications

The Village maintains an alert system to notify residents when emergency situations occur. The system requires residents to register. To sign up, just go to www.oak-park.us/notifyme, click on the green *Sign Up for Alerts* button and follow



the instructions. The registration process allows citizens to choose how they wish to be notified — by text, email and/or voice message. Registrants also can indicate the types of alerts they wish to receive and can add an address to receive geographically targeted alerts. Anyone who would like to sign up, but lacks access to a computer can call 708.358.5489 to be added to the voice message alert list. The Village distributes messages only when deemed important, such as alerts about severe weather, snow emergency parking and mosquito spraying. For more information, email prepare@oak-park.us.

Volunteers needed...The Village is seeking volunteers for its Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The MRC unit needs both medical and non-medical volunteers ready to help with logistical planning, records keeping, health awareness campaigns, staffing first-aid stations, providing emergency care, distributing medication and vaccinating residents in emergency situations. CERT volunteers are trained and equipped to play a vital role in local disaster response and recovery activities. Prospective CERT volunteers must complete a three-day training course on first aid, basic firefighting, search and rescue, and other emergency response techniques. Both units meet together bimonthly. Multiple training opportunities are offered, some with continuing education credits. To learn more, or to apply for either unit, call 708.358.5489 or email prepare@oak-park.us.

Special needs registry...Oak Parkers with special needs that should be considered in an emergency situation can register confidentially with the Village to ensure first responders are aware when dispatched via a 911 call. Knowing that they are being dispatched to a home where someone may have a hearing or visual impairment, mobility limitation, cognitive impairment or uses an electrically powered medical device could prove vital to emergency medical personnel. Residents or their caregivers can register online at www.oak-park.us/911registry. A form also is available via email to prepare@oak-park.us or by calling 708.358.5489.

Public invited to Unity Temple celebration

A plaque designating Oak Park's own Unity Temple as part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site will be unveiled at 5:30 p.m., Fri., April 3 at 875 Lake St. In addition to the plaque unveiling, presentations by area leaders, building tours and a reception are planned. The event is free, but donations will be accepted at the door. Unity Temple was among eight Frank Lloyd Wright buildings added recently to the World Heritage list of the planet's most significant cultural and natural sites, which also includes the Taj Mahal, the pyramids of Egypt and the Statue of Liberty. The list is compiled by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which supports international cooperation in education, the sciences and culture. More information about the local event is posted at www.utrf.org/event/unesco-event.

House walk offers glimpse of historic homes...The owners of historic houses designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries will invite the public inside their carefully restored homes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., May 16 for the 2020 Wright Plus Housewalk. This year's walk will feature the Oscar B. Balch House, 611 N. Kenilworth Ave. in Oak Park as well as the Isabel Roberts House, J. Kibben Ingalls House, F. H. Bell House, John A. Klesert House, Henry Einfeldt House, Seth A. Rhodes House and Edward Probst House, all in River Forest. Proceeds from the event help support the education and preservation programs of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust. For more information about tickets, the house walk and its related events, visit www.flwright.org/wrightplus.

Earth Fest returns in April

Oak Park's celebration of green living is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., April 18 as the 11th annual *Earth Fest* returns to the Public Works Center, 201 South Boulevard. The event focuses on green neighborhoods and sustainable lifestyles. Protecting the environment will be paramount this year as Earth Fest commemorates the 50th celebration of Earth Day. Highlights will include dozens of eco-friendly vendors, activities for children, items for sale and live entertainment. Earth Fest also serves as the Public Works Department's annual open house, with tours of the green-built facility. Guests will be able to get an up-close look at the Village's big trucks and other specialized equipment via this behind-the-scenes window into what goes into modern service delivery. More information is available at www.oak-park.us/earthfest. Organizations interested in participating Earth Fest can contact 708.358.5778 or sustainability@oak-park.us.

Owners encouraged to license pets online

With the May 1 deadline approaching for animal license renewals, residents are urged to use the online option at www.oak-park.us/petlicenser renewal, rather than using the U.S. Mail or trekking to Village Hall. Renewing online is quick and easy. You can delete pets you no longer own and add new ones. Payment is made with a credit card, a receipt sent via email and the actual tag delivered to your mailbox. Pet owners whose pets were already licensed and who had emails on file with the Village should receive a notice that includes the required online renewal code. Owners whose pets were registered also can obtain their online renewal code by calling 708.358.5480 or emailing health@oak-park.us. First-time pet owners do not need a renewal number to register pets online. Pet owners still have the option of mailing in a paper renewal notice and payment or coming to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information about owning a pet in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/pets.

View with a smartphone camera.



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



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews
Dan Moroney
Simone M. Boutet
Jim Taglia
Susan Buchanan
Arti Walker-Peddakotla

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Bracelets can help Police address mental health communications issues



Emergency identification bracelets are available to Oak Park residents who could experience distress or disorientation in emergency situations. Residents that may benefit from the program include individuals with autism, Alzheimer's, dementia or other mental health challenges. The bracelets include a metal face plate with a unique identification number and directions for contacting the Oak Park Police Department. No personal information is included on the bracelet, but relevant information that could be helpful to first responders can be added upon request. Applications are available at the Oak Park Police Department, 123 Madison St. More information about the Emergency ID program is available by calling 708.386.3800, emailing police@oak-park.us or visiting www.oak-park.us/police.

Yard waste collection begins

Collection of yard waste for residential dwellings of five or fewer units begins April 1. Bundled brush no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs and vines will be picked up on regular refuse collection days. A green yard waste sticker must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container. Stickers are \$3.10 each. Residents are urged to look for alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or backyard compost piles. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Where to Buy Stickers

Village Hall Cashier's Office,
123 Madison St.

Jewel Food Stores: 438 Madison St., 7036 Roosevelt Road, 7525 Lake St. in River Forest

Pete's Fresh Market, 259 Lake St.

Shred sensitive papers, recycle old clothing

Oak Parkers are invited to shred sensitive papers and recycle old clothing from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., April 25 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes of paper items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted. Through a cooperative program with the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, residents can donate used clothing and apparel of all types including shoes, belts, hats, towels, linens — basically anything textile-related. Donations help fund free programs and services for nearly 140,000 individuals living with epilepsy. Items that cannot be used are sent to developing nations to repurpose. For more information on these events or recycling in Oak Park, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

