

Overnight parking passes available via smartphone app



Reserving an overnight parking pass in Oak Park has gotten even easier for smartphone and tablet users.

In addition to paying for parking at any meter or pay-by-space lot in the Village, residents and visitors now can use the same convenient and easy-to-use Passport Parking app to secure an overnight on-street parking pass.

Users also can reserve passes online via a link at www.oak-park.us/parkingpass or by calling 708.716.0716 and following the automated phone system prompts.

Vehicle owners can request up to 10 temporary, overnight on-street parking passes per vehicle per month — the first

three are free and the other seven are \$7 each.

As with the current automated system used to pay for parking at meters and in lots, users requesting an overnight pass will be required to enter a zone number. For an overnight pass, users will need to enter Zone 206, which encompasses all locations where on-street overnight parking passes are allowed.

Parking officials stress that passes are not valid along specific main routes, by parking meters or in areas with posted restrictions, such as in Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and overnight parking zones where residents have purchased parking permits.

For example, vehicle owners wishing to park on Washington Boulevard or Oak Park Avenue may have to park on a side street outside of an existing permit parking zone or not on a main route.

The individual requesting the overnight pass must be sure to check the signs and not park in a restricted area, including main streets. A map of restricted areas is posted at www.oak-park.us/zone206.

A key benefit of using the Passport Parking app is that a user's information

remains stored for future use, whether to request an overnight pass or pay for a parking meter or pay-by-space lot in Oak Park. The app is available for free download to both Apple and Android devices.

The switch to a completely automated overnight parking pass system comes in the wake of a steep decline in the number of residents who call the Village directly to request a pass from an operator.

Residents who do not have access to a smartphone or internet connection and would like help setting up an account via the automated telephone system also can visit the Parking & Mobility Services Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., or call 708.358.7275 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.







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

Requesting an overnight pass

- **If you already have the Passport Parking app** – log in, enter zone 206 and follow the remaining prompts.
- **If you typically request an overnight pass online** – log in, enter zone 206 and follow the remaining prompts.
- **If you typically request an overnight pass by phone** – call 708.716.0716 and follow the automated phone system prompts. A live operator is no longer available.
- **If you need help setting up an account** – call 708.358.7275 or visit the Parking Services Center at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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 and Twitter to videos and photos capturing the sights and sounds of Oak Park on YouTube and Instagram, staying connected has never been easier. Residents are encouraged to share Village posts and tweets.

-  sign up at www.oak-park.us/enews
-  facebook.com/vopnews
-  instagram.com/oakparkil
-  pinterest.com/oakparkil
-  twitter.com/vopnews
-  youtube.com/vopnews

2016 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, nearly 20,000 parkway trees, 7,000 lighting fixtures, 104 miles of water mains, 110 miles of sewer mains 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.

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 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.

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. So how did they do in 2016? Here's snapshot of some of their activities from the year just ended...



- 8,600** feet of new sewer main installed
- 6,889** feet of curbs painted
- 4,850** potholes patched with 230 tons of asphalt
- 3,050** feet of new water mains installed
- 2,400** sidewalk squares replaced
- 1,042** street signs replaced
- 659** street lamps replaced
- 360** Sidewalk ramps upgraded to ADA standards
- 26** alley segments reconstructed
- 5.6** miles of streets rebuilt and resurfaced
- 5.6** miles of dedicated bicycle lanes maintained
- 5.1** miles of streets micro-paved
- 3** miles of sewer mains cleaned and video inspected — 6.4 tons of debris removed



- 1,612,123** website page views — 45% on a mobile device
- 115,441** views of VOP-TV programming on Village YouTube channel and other social media platforms
- 7,052** Village Facebook fans
- 4,919** Village Twitter feed followers
- 2,974** enews list serve subscribers
- 546** Instagram followers



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

- 65,830** Police responses, including calls, traffic stops, vacation property checks and alarm/security checks
- 6,744** citizen contacts for fire and safety public education, including CPR classes
- 6,716** fire and emergency medical service calls
- 5,609** trees trimmed, 689 removed and 542 planted
- 2,810** tons of salt spread during 25 separate snow events
- 1,240** fire hydrants tested, 38 repaired, 19 replaced
- 984** health inspections performed
- 476** health complaints investigated



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

- \$1,642,881** in federal and county grants distributed to help low- and moderate-income residents and the homeless
- 23,125** service requests answered by the Public Works Department
- 4,733** local ordinance and parking citations administratively adjudicated at Village Hall
- 3,600** hours contributed by 148 volunteers on 19 advisory boards, committees and commissions
- 2,950** animals licensed
- 2,156** community relations issues addressed, including tenant/landlord disputes and neighbor conflicts
- 852** rental dwelling licenses issued
- 740** requests processed under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act
- 572** graffiti hits removed
- 486** block party packet requests processed
- 394** animals rescued
- 57** meetings of the Village Board and its committees — more than 700 issues of public policy deliberated
- 23** nuisance wildlife traps loaned



GROWING THE TAX BASE

- \$5,664,741** sales taxes generated by local businesses (January – November)
- 9,500** construction plans reviewed
- 8,459** property and construction inspections performed
- 3,052** building-related permits issued
- 1,250** business licenses issued, including for 85 new businesses
- 91** historic preservation property renovation requests reviewed



SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT

- 4,324,000** gallons of water saved with grant-funded low-flow toilet rebates and water saver kits distributed
- \$238,135** in disposal fees saved by diverting 43 percent of all residential waste from landfills
- 99,922** pounds of electronics collected for recycling from 2,182 households
- 18,077** pounds of used paint, clothing and paper collected from 939 households for recycling
- 10,679** tons of garbage hauled away
- 4,759** tons of household recyclables collected
- 1,494** tons of yard waste and food scraps composted, including from the 1,104 households and 18 institutions participating in a food scrap collection program

Into numbers? Go online

Oak Park residents interested in diving deep into Village finances need look no further than www.oak-park.us/financial-reports where a wide range of documents is posted. From annual budgets and audits to bond ratings and municipal compensation reports, virtually every document related to how taxes and fees collected by the Village are allocated is available at the click of a mouse — most covering multiple years of activity. Details on the Village's three Tax Increment Finance Districts are available on the web page as well, the data compiled by year for each TIF district since it was created. Residents interested in the Downtown Tax Increment Finance District, for example, can see the data all the way back to 1984. Some of the information is necessarily detailed and complex. Complying with the state, federal and local laws that govern municipal finance require information be presented in very specific ways. But anyone needing help understanding any of the documents may call 708.358.5460 or email finance@oak-park.us for help. And if information is needed that is not readily available online, residents are invited to file a request for public documents under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, at www.oak-park.us/foia. A request for documents and records under the Illinois FOIA sets a process in motion that requires a timely response.

Citizen participation...Residents interested in learning more about how local laws and regulations are made can watch the creation of public policy online via video recordings of Village Board meetings dating back to January 2015 and review meeting agendas and minutes in an archive dating back to 2010 — all available via links at www.oak-park.us/boardtv. Those interested in digging even deeper into the citizen-driven process are invited to learn about the 19 volunteer boards, commissions and committees that create the public record and advise the Village Board on important matters of public policy. These citizen bodies, comprised of volunteers who live in the community, meet regularly. Review their missions, meeting agendas and meeting minutes, or even volunteer to serve, at www.oak-park.us/volunteer.

Municipal jobs posted on website

Residents interested in working for the Village can keep track of job openings at www.oak-park.us/jobs, where descriptions and qualifications are posted for specific positions. Most open positions require filling out an employment application and equal employment opportunity form, which can be submitted digitally. Separate forms must be submitted for each position since applications are not retained once a position is filled. The Village receives a number of applications and does not reply to each submission. Applicants are contacted only if there is interest in the skills and background for the position applied. Unsolicited resumes not identifying a specific job opening are not accepted or acknowledged. The application process for Police Officer and Firefighter/Paramedic uses a different application form that will be posted as needed for specific recruitment efforts. For more information on Village hiring policies and procedures, email careers@oak-park.us.

New police officers sought...The Village is seeking applications for new police officers. Applicants must be 21 to 35 years old, and have at least 60 hours of college credit with a minimum C average. The deadline to apply is 2 p.m., Feb. 10. More details on the qualifications and application process are posted via a link at www.oak-park.us/jobs.

Internet speed survey underway

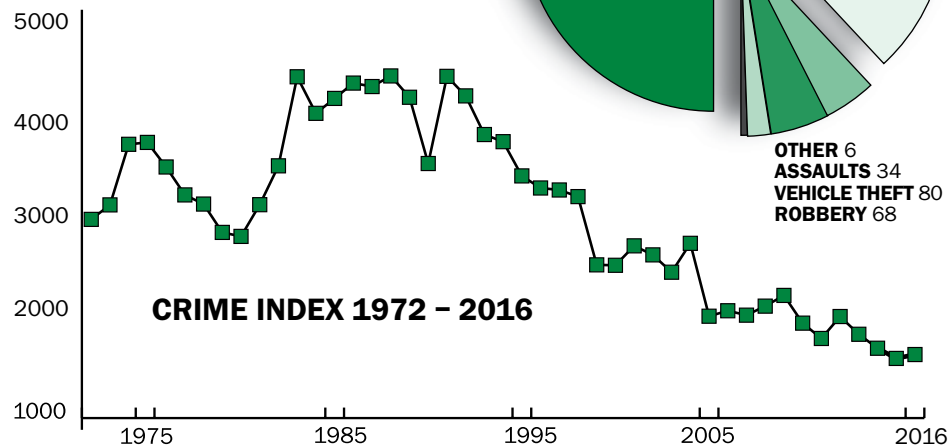
Residents are invited to help the Village learn more about what the community wants in the speed of internet service by taking a brief, online survey at www.oak-park.us/speedsurvey. Information gathered through the survey will help the citizen volunteers on the Civic Information Systems Commission create recommendations the Village Board can use to promote improved internet service in the community.

Police issue annual crime data report

The Oak Park Police department has released the crime data compiled for 2016 for the state's annual *Uniform Crime Reporting Index*.

Police investigated 1,605 crimes in 2016 compared to 1,568 crimes reported in 2015. The number of crimes reported in 2016 remained below the 1,665 crimes reported in 2014 and 1,798 crimes reported in 2013.

The overall trend remains far below annual rates in the 1980s and early 1990s that often were nearly double the rates of recent years.



Police Chief Anthony Ambrose credited the partnership between an engaged citizenry and professional dedicated officers with playing a significant role in helping keep crime low even while the nearby City of Chicago struggled with significant increases in violent criminal activity.

Burglaries and thefts continued to represent the vast majority of all crimes committed in Oak Park in 2016. These two categories alone comprised nearly 90 percent of all 2016 crimes, with garages as burglars' most frequent targets, Police say.

The 1,057 thefts reported in 2016 were up slightly from the 1,043 thefts reported in 2014, while the 360 burglaries reported in 2016 were up from the 337 reported in 2015.

Increases occurred in four of the eight crime categories compiled under the standardized reporting index. In addition to the small increases in thefts and burglaries, 68 robberies were reported in 2016 compared to 65 reported in 2015, numbers still well below the 83 robberies reported in 2014 and 85 reported in 2013.

Police also investigated 34 assault/battery reports in 2016 compared to 21 incidents reported in 2015.

The three criminal sexual assault incidents reported in 2016 were down from the six reported in 2015, crimes Police say typically involve victims who know their assailants.

Motor vehicle thefts were down as well, with 80 vehicles stolen in 2016, compared to 92 in 2015.

Police made 167 arrests in 2016, compared to 164 in 2015. Nearly 80 percent of the arrests were for burglaries and thefts, Oak Park's most frequent crimes.

For more information on Oak Park's community policing programs, visit www.oak-park.us/police.

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

Stay connected...

- oak-park.us
- facebook.com/vopnews
- twitter.com/vopnews
- pinterest.com/oakparkil
- youtube.com/vopnews

Superintendent on listening tour

Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 Superintendent Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Ed.D., is hosting a series of community listening sessions in February and March. Residents are invited to enjoy a complimentary light meal, and then share their thoughts on what the high school is doing well and what it could improve. Information on the tour times, dates and locations are posted under the announcements heading at www.oprfhs.org. For more information, call 708.434.3691 or email ksullivan@oprfhs.org.

Caregiver support available

Those caring for individuals age 60 and older or with disabilities can find help via a Caregiver Support Group. The group meets from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Friday of each month at the Oak Park Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Call 708.383.8060 or email ssmith@oakparktownship.org for more information.

Park District News

Summer jobs...The Park District of Oak Park is now hiring for a variety of summer jobs including camp counselors, lifeguards, cashiers, grounds workers and many more. For more information and to apply, visit www.pdop.org/jobs.

Taylor Park plan community meeting...

A community meeting to discuss future renovations to Taylor Park is set for 7 p.m., Wed., March 8 at Andersen Center, 824 Hayes St. Taylor Park, originally designed by renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen, is the second largest in the local parks system. For more details, visit www.pdop.org.

Scholarships available...Scholarships are available for residents of all ages to be used towards program registrations and to purchase pool and rink passes. More details about the scholarship program, which has been expanded for 2017, are posted online at www.pdop.org.

New Public Health Director named



Michael T. Charley has been named Director of the Oak Park Department of Public Health. Charley, who had served as interim director since October 2015, will oversee an operation that is one of only four municipal health departments in suburban Cook County certified by the state to provide public health programming. Prior to becoming interim director, Charley served as the Oak Park Health Department's Environmental Health Supervisor, a role he assumed in December 2003. Before joining Village staff, he had been an environmental health consultant and worked for a number of local state-certified health departments including DuPage County and the City of Evanston. Charley earned a master's degree in

Environmental Management from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Stuart School of Business and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Health from Illinois State University. He also holds several professional licenses including being an Illinois Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner and an Illinois Licensed Lead Assessor. First certified by the state in 1948, the Oak Park Department of Public Health provides a wide range of services, including health assessments, investigations and screenings, education, prevention services, case management, nursing, counseling and access to other community resources. Health Department staff also inspects restaurants, childcare and long-term care facilities and provides animal licensing and control services. In addition, the department oversees rodent control and the Oak Park Farmer's Market. For more information on the Oak Park Department of Public Health, visit www.oak-park.us/health.

Voter registration offered

Oak Parkers planning to vote in the April 4 Consolidated Municipal Election can register from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Voter registration also is offered at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave., call 708.383.8005 or email town@oakparktownship.org for details. In addition, the main Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St., offers limited registration services — call 708.383.8200 for more information. Two types of identification are required to register to vote, at least one with the current address. March 7 is the last day for in-person voter registration. Anyone who will be 18 by April 4 also can register now. For more information on local voter registration, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Housing News

www.oak-park.us/housing

Rental property rehab loans...Owners of multi-family buildings with seven or fewer units may be eligible for forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 per unit under the Village's Small Rental Rehab Program. Owners need to contribute matching funds of at least 25 percent of the total project cost and agree to rent to income-eligible tenants for two years. Projects eligible for funding include general property repairs, unit upgrades and energy efficiency improvements. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/housing, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

Single-family emergency loans...No-interest loans of up to \$5,000 are available to help income-eligible owners of single family homes make emergency repairs such as replace faulty furnaces or water heaters. To qualify, homes must be owner-occupied and household income must be at or below 80 percent of the area median income — for example \$55,350 for a three-person household. Loan terms are for five years. Email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5413 for more information.



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb
Trustees
Peter Barber
Andrea Button Ott
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Colette Lueck
Bob Tucker
Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

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



Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Safe drug disposal

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 becoming increasingly important, as trace residues of some medications can turn up in the water supply when prescription drugs are flushed. For more information on the drug collection service call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.



Planning a project? Go online

Oak Park property owners planning a project can get the permitting process underway online at www.oak-park.us/villageview. The online system offers users an intuitive, widget-driven website portal for conducting a wide range of property related Village business via a computer, tablet or mobile telephone. The software solution links multiple Village databases and streamlines and automates information processing. A key user-friendly aspect of the system is its ability to provide real-time information as a permit submittal moves through the review and approval processes. The system also allows contractors and DIY property owners to register with the Village and update permit submittal materials. And when fees are due, payment will be accepted via credit card through the VillageView portal. For more information, email development@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/villageview.

Tree pruning continues

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 as the winter trimming cycle continues through mid-April. The areas scheduled for pruning this season are between North Boulevard and Chicago Avenue from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue and between Chicago Avenue and Division Street from Austin Boulevard to East Avenue. 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 raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic and create appropriate clearances for adjacent structures and signs. While the pruning can seem excessive when no leaves are on the limbs, crews work to ensure that pruning is just right as foliage returns in the spring. With a program that aims to prune every tree on public property once every four years, plans must consider that the medium-aged trees that compose a sizeable share of those on Oak Park parkways can grow up to two feet each year – or eight feet between pruning cycles. The Village's pruning program has proven very successful in minimizing storm damage and reducing ongoing pruning requests. Village Forestry inspectors will spot-check the progress of private contractors. Residents are urged to call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us with questions or concerns about the type or quality of work being performed by contractors. More information on the care of the nearly 19,000 trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.

VillageView Services

- Apply for permits
- Check the status of permit applications
- Schedule inspections
- Register as a contractor
- Check a contractor's license status
- Submit property complaints
- Check on planning applications
- Apply for a business license
- Apply for a multifamily rental license
- Search for property information