

VOP-TV takes original programming beyond cable

When it comes to telling a story, video offers the opportunity not only to be educational, but also entertaining. That's why VOP-TV, Oak Park's government television station, is such an important tool for disseminating information about municipal programs and services.

Now, thanks to YouTube and other social media, VOP-TV programming reaches audiences far beyond local cable television subscribers. VOP-TV's YouTube channel — www.youtube.com/vopnews — currently hosts more than 150 original videos that have attracted nearly 50,000 views and counting.

Of course, VOP-TV is government-sponsored television under the Federal Communication Commission definition, which means a focus on programs and services that are available to or supported by Oak Park taxpayers.

But that doesn't mean the information is presented in drab, dry video packages. In fact, VOP-TV programs have won numerous national awards for their creativity and high production quality.

Program topics range from purely government information like explaining specific municipal programs to coverage of special events, like the annual *A Day in Our Village* festival and the July 4th

parade. But VOP-TV videos also feature recycling tips, public art and special Oak Parkers.

A new feature recently created in collaboration with local food blogger David Hammond and oakpark.com, explores a single dish at a different



local restaurant each month. Entitled *You Really Should Eat This*, the inaugural program — corned beef hash at George's Restaurant — garnered nearly 800 views in a matter of days.

The majority of the videos are short, a format that seems to work best for online postings. But production quality — lighting, sound and editing — are top tier, thanks to the skills of VOP-TV Manager Joe Kreml, who studied television production at Chicago's Columbia College.

Relying at times on other Communications Department staff for help with

script writing and occasional on-camera appearances, Kreml produces, films and edits the videos, many of which feature municipal employees and residents in a wide variety of roles.

VOP-TV is housed near the Council Chamber in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The station originally was set up to broadcast Village Board meetings, a role that remains an important function. But even the meetings now are streamed live and archived in a searchable database on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/boardtv.

Cable television continues to be an important outlet for VOP-TV programming, including a bulletin board with information about government programs, services and activities. VOP-TV is available to Comcast subscribers on channel 6 and AT&T U-verse customers on channel 99.

Training and equipment for individuals who wish to become public access television producers is available through Comcast, since VOP-TV cannot support private events and activities of not-for-profit or political organizations. Public access programming is broadcast on Comcast channel 19.

More information on VOP-TV — including its mission and policies — is available at www.oak-park.us.

Farmers' Market seeking volunteers

Volunteers are being sought to become Friends of the Oak Park Farmers' Market, with plans well underway for the May 18 opening of the 38th season. Friends of the Market become part of this quintessential Village experience by helping out at the commissioners' booth on Saturday mornings and contributing to the smooth running of the market. The annual Friends' recruitment night is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., May 7 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Attendance is not mandatory. The market is open from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m., every Saturday, from mid-May through October, in the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake St. For information on volunteering, e-mail melissawittenberg@sbcglobal.net, call 708.358.5780 or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.



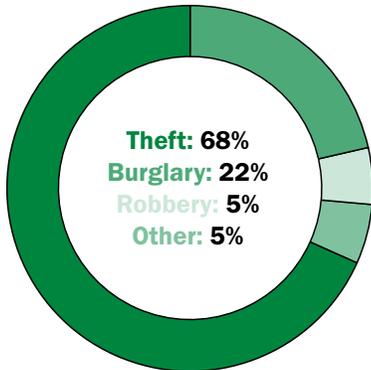
Arrests increase significantly

2012 crime rate up slightly, but remains at record lows

An increase in burglaries and thefts nudged up Oak Park's crime rate in 2012, but robberies, a crime police say most impact public perception of safety, were at the lowest level in the past three years.

Arrests also were up in 2012 as compared to 2011, as police closed significantly more cases.

CRIMES REPORTED IN 2012



■ Theft	1,339	□ Robbery	97
■ Burglary	424	■ Other	99
<hr/>			
Total		1,959	

Oak Park Police investigated 202 more crimes in 2012 than in 2011. The 1,959 crimes reported in 2012 were up about 11 percent over the 1,757 crimes reported in 2011, which was the lowest annual crime rate on the books. Despite the slight increase, the 2012 crime rate still ranks as the third lowest since the Police Department began keeping statistics in 1972.

The increase in crimes reported in 2012 came almost entirely from burglaries and thefts, crimes police say are often more about opportunity, such as unlocked garage doors and unattended personal belongings. The 1,339 thefts and 424 burglaries represented nearly 90 percent of all crimes reported in 2012, a statistic that has varied little over the years, according to police.

Police made 291 arrests in 2012, compared to 205 in 2011, an increase of nearly 42 percent. The majority of arrests were for thefts and burglaries.

The data was compiled under the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting index, a system used by law enforcement agencies to report statistics, with a focus on what are considered the most serious offenses.

2012 Crime Summary

- **Thefts**, typically crimes of opportunity, remained the single largest category of crimes reported in Oak Park. Some 1,339 thefts were reported in 2012, compared to 1,176 in 2011, an increase of 14 percent. Thefts ranged from unattended cell phones and laptop computers to items removed from gym lockers, wallets/purses stolen in restaurants and packages left on front porches. Bicycles remained a favorite of thieves, with 238 stolen in 2012.
- **Burglary** continued to be the second largest single crime category, with 424 cases reported in 2012, compared to 376 in 2011, representing a 13 percent increase. Nearly half of the 2012 burglaries — 204 — were residential burglaries and 128 were garage burglaries. Of the residential burglaries, 94 were to apartments and 110 to single-family homes. In 34 of the residential burglaries, entry was made through an unlocked window or door. Of the 128 garage burglaries, in 101 — or 78 percent of the incidents — thieves entered through an open or unlocked side or overhead door.
- **Robberies**, a crime police say often affects the public's perception of safety, were at the lowest levels in the past three years. Police investigated 97 robberies in 2012, compared to 106 in 2011, 133 in 2010 and 142 in 2009.
- Two **homicides** occurred in 2012 — one on Austin Boulevard at Chicago Avenue believed to be Chicago gang related and one at Oak Park Health Care Center, 625 N. Harlem Ave. An arrest was made in the second case, which was the result of fight between two patients at the facility.
- Five criminal **sexual assaults** were reported in 2012, compared to four in 2011. In two of the cases, the offender was known to the victim.
- Thirty four aggravated **assault/battery** cases were reported in 2012, compared to 24 in 2011. In 14 of the cases, the offender was known to the victim.
- Three **arsons** were reported in 2012, up from two in 2011. The fire at the Velvet Rope Ultra Lounge, 728 Lake St., was the most notable in 2012. The Department is working with the Cook County State Attorney's Office on a resolution.
- Police arrested 115 motorists for **driving under the influence**, up from 111 in 2011. Another 319 arrests were made in 2012 for suspended licenses, compared to 226 in 2011, a 41 percent increase.
- Police responded to 33,521 **calls for service** in 2012, compared to 35,431 in 2011. The average response time in 2012 was three minutes and 35 seconds for high-priority calls; four minutes and 44 seconds for medium-priority calls such as accidents with no injuries; and six minutes and 22 seconds for low-priority calls.

Comprehensive Plan process getting specific

The process to update the Village's 20-year-old Comprehensive Plan soon will move toward a closer examination of specific topics through focus groups, as the effort to help guide the community's long term future direction — Envision Oak Park — continues. Among the wide range of topics being examined as part of the effort to create a plan to help guide policy making are economic development, diversity, education, the environment, neighborhoods and transportation. A visioning event in February helped to set priorities after nearly two dozen workshops with residents, neighbors, businesses and students had identified the key issues facing the Village in the future. Details on the process and future events for citizen involvement are posted at envisionoakpark.com.



Earth Fest 2013 set for April

The Village's fourth annual celebration of green living — Earth Fest — is scheduled for 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sat., April 20, in the LEED® Gold-certified Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. This year's event will highlight organic farmers, eco-friendly landscapers, local chefs and restaurants, games and activities for children, items for sale, and entertainment. In addition, recycling booths will be available for eyeglasses, sun glasses, hearing aids, unused medications, rechargeable batteries, cell phones and old blue jeans. Visit www.oak-park.us/earthfest for more information.

Vendors sought...Vendors are now being sought to display their eco-friendly goods and services at Earth Fest 2013. Special sponsorship opportunities also are available. For more information, call 708.358.5778 or e-mail sustainability@oak-park.us. Applications also are available online at www.oak-park.us/earthfest.

Earth Hour is March 23...Oak Parkers are invited to turn off their lights for one hour beginning at 8:30 p.m., Sat., March 23, to stand up, take responsibility for and get involved in working toward a sustainable future. When Earth Hour was launched in 2007, 2.2 million people took part in Sydney, Australia. Last year, 7,000 cities and towns in 152 countries participated. For more information, visit www.earthhour.org.

Kindergarten, open enrollment offered

Elementary School District 97 will host several kindergarten registration sessions this spring, including from noon – 4 p.m. and 5 – 8 p.m., March 6; 9 a.m. – noon and 1 – 4 p.m., March 7; noon – 4 p.m. and 5 – 8 p.m., April 3; and 9 a.m. – noon and 1 – 4 p.m., April 4. Open registration sessions for all grade levels are scheduled for 9 a.m. – noon, and 1 – 4 p.m., July 11. For more information on the registration process, including required documentation, visit www.op97.org/hr/Registration.cfm.

News for pet owners

Renew licenses online...Oak Park pet owners who receive an animal license renewal application in the mail are encouraged to renew online at www.oak-park.us. Pet owners also can delete pets they no longer own and add new ones. Payment is made with a credit card, a receipt sent via e-mail and the actual tag delivered in the U.S. Mail. Pet owners still will have the option of mailing in their payment or coming to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. All dogs and outdoor cats are required to display a current animal license by May 1. The license fee is \$10 for a neutered/spayed dog and all cats, and \$13 for any non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Proof of a current rabies inoculation and spaying/neutering is required for licensing. For more information call 708.358.5680 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Picking up a must...Responsible pet owners agree that picking up after one's dog is the right thing to do. Dog excrement is not only a nuisance, it's unhealthy and against the law. Anyone observing someone not picking up after his or her dog should call 708.358.5680 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Leash required...All dogs that use any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public area within the Village must be on a leash controlled by the owner. For more information call 708.358.5680 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.



Nominations sought for public health awards

Nominations now are being accepted for an annual award that honors those who made exceptional contributions to improving the health of Oak Parkers during 2012. The nomination deadline is 5 p.m., Fri., March 22. The Oak Park Department of Public Health will honor those individuals and organizations with the William Fitzsimmons Award during 2013 Public Health Week, April 1 – 7. A nomination form may be downloaded at www.oak-park.us/health — look for the link along the right margin. Forms also are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Completed forms should be mailed to or dropped off at the Oak Park Department of Public Health, Village Hall, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302, Attn: Public Health Awards. Nominations also may be sent via e-mail to health@oak-park.us. Nominations submitted via e-mail should include responses to all fields listed in the original nomination form. The Fitzsimmons Award is named for local physician and humanitarian William Fitzsimmons who served as the Health Department's medical consultant from 1976 to 1992. For more information on the awards program, call 708.358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

8 Reading to portray same sex marriage court decision

The Oak Park Community Relations Commission will join the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) to present a reading of 8, a play that portrays the closing arguments of the federal trial that overturned a California constitutional amendment eliminating rights of same-sex couples to marry. The one-night-only event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Sun., March 10, at the Arts Center of Oak Park, 200 N. Oak Park Ave. The presentation will be followed by a discussion of marriage equality in Illinois. For more information, including tickets, visit opalga.org.

ELECTION NEWS

clerk@oak-park.us

Deadline to register... Tues., March 12 is the deadline to register to vote in the April 9 Consolidated Election. Registration is offered from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri. at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., and at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. Two types of identification are required, at least one with the current address. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill. For more information, call 708.358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

Early voting... Ballots for the April 9 Consolidated Election can be cast early at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., beginning March 25. Early voting will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, through April 6. Oak Parkers will choose who sits on the boards of the Village, Park District, Public Library, Township and both school districts. For information, call 708.358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us.

Information online... The Cook County Clerk offers a wide range of information online, including verification of voter registration, polling places and candidates on local ballots – just visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections.

Voting assistance... Voters with a physical disability may request election-day assistance up until the day before an election by contacting the Cook County Clerk's office at 312.603.0906.

Absentee ballots... Voters who prefer to vote absentee may obtain a ballot request form at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., or online at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections.

Park District News

www.pdop.org

Ridgeland Common groundbreaking... The Park District of Oak Park will break ground on the site of the new Ridgeland Common at 9 a.m., Sat. March 9, near Ridgeland Avenue and Lake Street. The Park District's flagship facility will undergo complete reconstruction, including expansion of the ice rink to official size, new locker rooms and new sports field with synthetic turf, lighting and fencing. Residents who want to learn more about the project – including the schedule – are invited to a preconstruction meeting scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., March 5, at Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave.

Registration changes... With the closing of Ridgeland Common for renovation, program registration will be available from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Saturdays, beginning March 9; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays; and 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m., Fridays, at the John L. Hedges Administrative Center, 218 W. Madison St. Registration also is available anytime at www.pdop.org.

Lectures tackle environmental issues

The Environment & Energy Commission has partnered with local organizations to present a series of Green Tuesday lectures focusing on environmental issues. Speakers will provide regional, local and operational insights on each topic. Lectures will be held from 7 – 9 p.m., each Tuesday in April. The April 2 lecture will be at Holley Court Terrace, 1111 Ontario St. The other lectures will be at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	www.oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
Licenses/permits	358.5433
Codes/status of plans	358.5434
Property complaints	358.5443
Inspections	358.5440
Community Planning	358.5420
Historic Preservation	358.5417
Zoning	358.5449
Business Services	358.5648
Housing	358.5410
Community Relations	358.5405
Graffiti Hotline	358.5429
Neighborhood Programs	358.5405
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (non-emergency)	445.3300
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Police (non-emergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Day Parking Passes	option 3
Extended Pass	option 4
Night Parking Pass	option 2
Parking Permits	option 5
Snow Hotline	option 1
Vehicle Stickers	option 5
Village Board	358.5784
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	383.0002
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

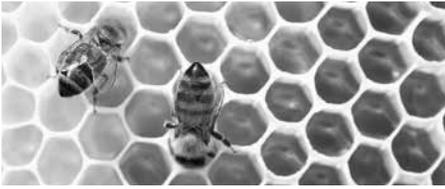
School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	www.oprffhs.org
Administration	434.3107

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005

Stay connected...

-  www.oak-park.us
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-  oak-park.us/boardtv
-  oak-park.us/voptv
-  oak-park.us/news
-  oak-park.us/managersblog
-  oak-park.us/enews



Beekeeping rules protect individuals with allergies

An Oak Park property owner can establish up to two honeybee colonies as long as the apiary meets specific Village code requirements. Beekeepers must register with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, provide an on-site water source for the bees, keep records of hive maintenance, provide a flyaway barrier and surround the apiary with dense vegetation or a fence at least five feet high. Beekeepers also must apply for an annual permit, pay a \$75 fee and have their properties inspected by the Department of Public Health before a permit will be issued. A beekeeping permit will not be issued for an apiary within 150 feet of any address where a resident with an allergy to bee stings documented by a licensed physician has registered with the Village. For more information, call 708.358.5480 or e-mail health@oak-park.us.

Car-sharing opportunities abound

Oak Parkers who would rather share a car than own one have two choices. Zipcar, a for-profit, international car sharing company, and not-for-profit I-GO both offer programs in Oak Park. Zipcar has vehicles in three Oak Park public parking locations — 438 S. Taylor, at the corner of Madison and Taylor streets; 1118 North Blvd.; and 300 South Blvd. I-GO has cars at 833 S. Euclid Ave., near the corner of Harrison Street and Oak Park Avenue; 715 South Blvd.; 331 N. Harlem Ave.; 632 S. Austin Blvd.; 18 Lake St.; and at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Both companies allow users to reserve cars online by the hour, anytime of the day or night. Hourly rates include gas, insurance, reserved parking spaces and all vehicle maintenance. For more information, or to apply for membership, visit www.igocars.org or www.zipcar.com.

News You Can Use

Graffiti hotline...Call the 708.358.5429 to report incidents of graffiti. Village staff will remove graffiti from Village-owned properties. A removal solution will be provided at no cost to private property owners. E-mail community@oak-park.us to learn more.

Signs prohibited...Placing any type of sign in the public right of way such as the parkway space between the sidewalk and the curb is prohibited. The prohibition includes, but is not limited to garage sale signs, political signs, open house signs and contractor signs. For more information call 708.358.5430 or e-mail building@oak-park.us.

Film permits required...A permit is required for any residential or commercial property to be used as a location for a television commercial or other filming. Neighbors must be notified by flyer as to when and where the shoot is to occur. If police presence is required, services of off-duty police must be paid by the film crew. For more information call 708.358.5407 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.



Quit smoking help...Free nicotine replacement patches are available through the Illinois Department of Public Health Tobacco Free Communities fund. Residents age 18 and over are eligible. To register, call the Illinois Quitline at 866.784.8937. Information also is posted at www.quityes.org.

Backing into stalls prohibited...Backing a vehicle into a parking stall in a Village lot or garage is prohibited because permit decals must appear in the rear window and be visible to enforcement officers. Violators may be ticketed. For more information e-mail parking@oak-park.us.

Stop solicitors...To discourage door-to-door solicitors, obtain a no soliciting sticker from the Village Clerk's office in Village Hall, 123 Madison St., to place on or near the front door. Call 708.358.5670 or e-mail clerk@oak-park.us for more information.

Avoid parking ticket paperwork and late fees...Parking citations can be appealed and paid on-line at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices. Payment may be made with Visa, MasterCard and Discover. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/adjudication or e-mail adjudication@oak-park.us.



No swings in trees...Tree swings in parkway trees may appear fun, but they threaten the health of the trees and safety of passersby. That's why it is illegal to attach any rope, wire, nail, sign, poster or any other manmade object to trees and shrubs located on Village property. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Overnight parking restricted...Parking is prohibited on all Village streets from 2:30 – 6 a.m., seven days a week, year around, except when allowed by permit or pass. If you have guests, consider parking in one of the Village's three public garages. For more information about parking, visit www.oak-park.us/parking.



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



OP/FYI

Village President David Pope

Trustees

Glenn Brewer
John Hedges
Ray Johnson
Adam Salzman
Bob Tucker
Teresa Powell
Cara Pavlicek
Village Manager

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Recycling News

Regular yard waste...Collection of yard waste will begin 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 collection days. A green yard waste sticker must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container. Stickers are available for \$2.35 each from Oak Park grocery and hardware stores and the Cashier's Office at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. 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 e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Latex paint exchange...Residents can safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint at the Great Paint Exchange, scheduled for Sat., April 6, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Half-to-full cans of latex paint will be accepted from 9 – 11 a.m. Anyone in need of paint may pick it up from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



Document shredding...Oak Parkers can help prevent identity theft by shredding documents containing personal information at a free recycling event scheduled for 9 a.m. – noon, Sat., April 27, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes. Only items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information will

be accepted. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted. Call 708.358.5700 or publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Old clothing...The Public Works Department has partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation to collect clothing and apparel of all types and in any condition from 9 a.m. – noon, Sat., April 27, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Items, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels, will be sent to developing nations to repurpose. The Epilepsy Foundation also offers residential pickup – visit www.epilepsy.org for more information.

Renters News

Interest rates on security deposits...

Tenants of apartment buildings containing four or more units are entitled to interest on their security deposits. Interest must be paid or applied toward rent within 30 days of the expiration of each 12-month period. The security deposit must have been held for at least six months and the rent must be current to be eligible for interest. Call 708.358.5407 or e-mail community@oak-park.us for more information.



Tenant handbook...A free handbook outlining rights, responsibilities and regulations is available on line at www.oak-park.us/community or from the Community Relations Department in Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information call 708.358.5407 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Dispute resolution...Free mediation services are available to help landlords and tenants resolve issues that may be disrupting quality of life. Participation is voluntary and agreements made are between the two parties and not enforced by the Village. To learn more, call 708.358.5407.



2013 Refuse and Recycling Guide

Residences up to five units

Comprehensive approach

The Village of Oak Park's comprehensive Solid Waste Program is designed to effectively deal with increasing amounts of trash, rising collection and disposal costs, legislative restrictions and growing environmental concerns. Mobile refuse carts, available in two sizes, and large recycling containers, allow residents to choose the level of service that best fits their needs. However, the success of the program depends on citizen participation. Recycling benefits the community in a number of ways by reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfill, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and saving disposal fees. Recycled material, when used in manufacturing new products, saves water, energy and natural resources such as oil and trees. This brochure is designed to help residents make decisions that take maximum advantage of the range of refuse handling options offered by the Village. Please read it carefully – and keep it for future reference. For more information on the Village's refuse and recycling program call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Trash, yardwaste, recycling collection services

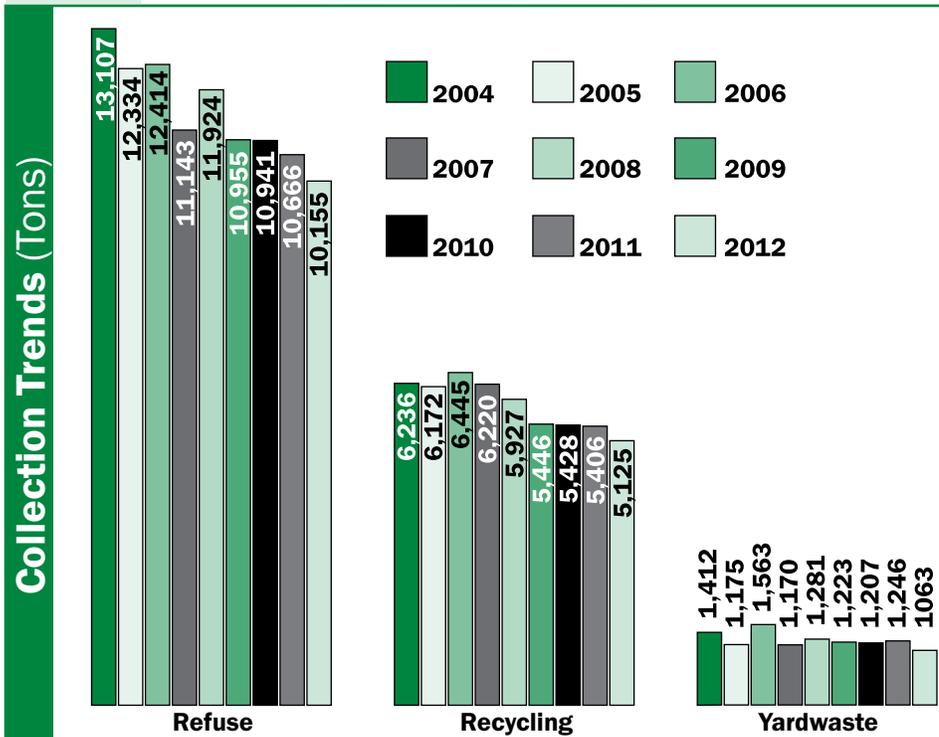
A private vendor hired by the Village provides collection service once a week for all residential buildings with up to five units. Trash, recyclables and yardwaste are collected on the same day of the week. Collection days vary by geographic location (see map inside). Current collection vendor Waste Management provides 64-gallon or 96-gallon mobile carts for trash. The Village provides 64-gallon blue carts for recyclables. Additional bags of trash or bulk items must be tagged with pink refuse stickers. Green yardwaste stickers are required for collection of yardwaste and bundles of brush. Both pink and green stickers may be purchased at locations throughout the Village, including Village Hall, 123 Madison St. If your collection is missed, call Waste Management toll free at 800.796.9696 on the following day.

Holiday collection schedule

If a regularly scheduled collection day falls on one of the following holidays, all subsequent collections that week will be delayed one day:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

For more information about the weekly collection program, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.





Trash

Refuse and recycling service costs are calculated monthly and charged quarterly on water bills. Residents may choose from two levels of service – 96-gallon refuse cart service at \$21.38 per month or 64-gallon refuse cart service at \$18.10 per month. Requests for changes in service level are accepted during the month of April. Call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us for details.

Disposal guidelines

Trash must be placed into a tightly covered container. Loose trash will not be picked up. Place trash and recycling containers out for collection no later than 7 a.m. on the morning of the scheduled collection day. Containers placed out for collection at the curb should be removed by 7 p.m. that night. Residents are urged to help care for refuse carts in the following ways:

- **Spring** – Check for damage. If carts have broken wheels or holes in lids, call 708.358.5700 for a replacement.
- **Summer** – Wash cart with mild detergent to prevent odors and insect problems.
- **Fall** – Check for damage. If carts have broken wheels or holes in lids, call 708.358.5700 for a replacement.
- **Winter** – Clear snow and ice away from carts so containers can be rolled and collections made.

Prohibited items

The following items are either prohibited by landfills or unacceptable for collection:

- Acid
- Anti-freeze
- Automotive batteries
- Car parts
- Concrete
- Dirt and soil
- Gasoline
- Motor oil
- Paint in liquid form
- Pesticides
- Pool chemicals
- Tires

If any of these items are mixed with trash, collection will not be made.

Extra trash

Occasional extra trash should be put into plastic bags and placed in a container you provide. Each container may hold up to 32 gallons and must

have one pink refuse sticker attached. Extra trash with stickers is collected on the regular collection day. Anyone regularly requiring additional space should consider requesting another refuse cart. A container will be delivered and the additional charge included in the quarterly bill.

Bulk items

Each residential unit may place out one bulk item per week. Two pink refuse stickers must be attached. Bulk items include discarded furniture, household appliances, water tanks capable of being handled by one person and trash items not weighing more than 50 pounds. Rolls of used carpeting also may be placed for collection. Each roll must not weigh more than 50 pounds, be longer than four feet when folded over and have two pink refuse stickers attached. Additional bulk items, construction materials from non-contractor home improvement projects and general waste over the allowable one bulk item per week require a special pick-up or small dumpster rental and prior arrangements. Cost is based on volume and will be estimated within 24 hours of a request for a special pickup. To arrange for estimating and pick up, call Waste Management toll free at 800.796.9696.

Refuse stickers (\$2 each)

Where to Buy

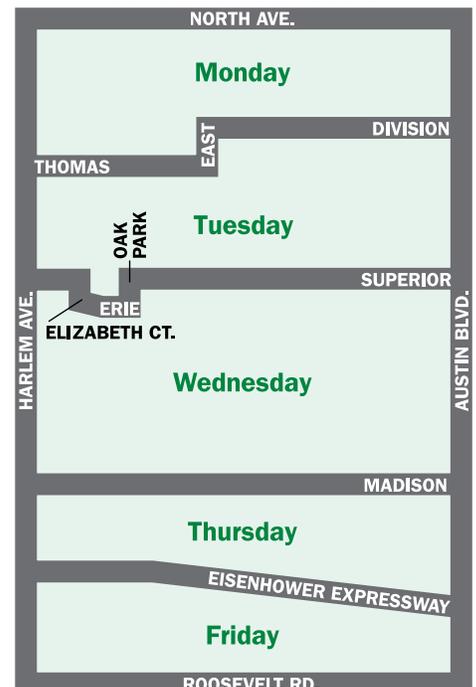
- Village Hall Cashier's Office
123 Madison St.
- Jewel Food Stores
438 Madison St.
7036 Roosevelt Road
7525 Lake St. (River Forest)
- Dominick's Finer Foods
259 Lake St.
7501 North Avenue (River Forest)

- Dressel's Ace Hardware
1137 Chicago Ave.
- Fair Share Finer Foods
6226 Roosevelt Road
- Schauer Hardware (yardwaste only)
7449 Madison St. (Forest Park)

Bagster Service

Bagster provides a disposal solution for home renovation projects, seasonal cleanup projects or any other activities that generate large volumes of trash, but not enough to require a commercial dumpster. Bagsters, which can be purchased at home improvement stores, hold three cubic yards and up to 3,300 pounds. Bagsters should not be placed in alleys where the crane that retrieves them may not be able to operate. A Village right-of-way permit is required for Bagsters placed in the street. Collections can be scheduled online at www.thebagster.com or by phone at 877.789.2247. A collection fee applies.

Collection Schedule





Yardwaste

The Village offers several programs for yardwaste collection. However, residents are encouraged to look for alternatives such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders and backyard compost piles. For more info on backyard composting, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Yardwaste

Yardwaste includes any greenery produced from gardening or landscaping, such as grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush, shrubs and vines. Illinois was the first state in the nation to ban yardwaste from landfills. Regularly scheduled yardwaste collection begins the first full week of April and ends the week of November 30.

Yardwaste is collected on the same day as trash if placed at the collection point by 7 a.m. Yardwaste will be collected for a fee during the winter months by appointment only. To make an appointment for collection in the winter, call Waste Management toll free at 800.796.9696. Any yardwaste mixed with trash will not be collected.

Yardwaste stickers

(\$2.36 each)

A green yardwaste sticker must be attached to each:

- Paper bag up to 32 gallons
- Rigid container up to 32 gallons
- Bundle of brush no larger than two feet in diameter, four feet in length and weighing no more than 50 pounds

Yardwaste stickers may be purchased where you buy refuse stickers. Free *Yardwaste Only* container labels are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

Unbundled brush

Unbundled brush is collected year round for a fee. Branches and limbs up to three inches in diameter and four feet in length may be placed in the regular collection area without an attached sticker. Brush must be in neat, manageable piles. To make an appointment for estimating the brush removal cost, call Waste Management toll free at 800.796.9696.

Fall leaf collection

The Village provides a free six-week leaf collection program each fall. Regularly scheduled leaf collection begins in mid-October and typically lasts through November. Leaves in each section of the Village are picked up six times during the special collection period. Leaves should be raked into the street 18 inches from the curb, but not more than a day or two before the scheduled collection. The collection schedule is published prior to the program beginning. Anyone unable to have leaves collected during the special collection period should bag the leaves, attach a green yardwaste sticker to each bag and call Waste Management toll free at 800.796.9696 to have them picked up.

Holiday trees

The Village collects holiday trees during the second and third weeks of January. All collected trees are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment. Trees are collected on the regularly scheduled refuse pick-up day as long as they are free of plastic bags, decorations and stands, and placed at the regular collection point. Wreaths and garlands should be placed in the trash container because the wire

used to form them prevents mulching. After the collection period, one pink refuse sticker will be required to have a holiday tree removed.

Holiday lights

Holiday lights are collected for recycling during December and January. Vintage Tech Recyclers has partnered with the village to sponsor the program. Mini, C7, C9, rope and LED lights as well as extension cords are accepted. A drop-off box is available from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.



Cleaner alleys make safer alleys

The Alley Clean-Up Program, developed by the Keep Oak Park Beautiful Committee, provides a kit containing plastic bags, refuse stickers, disposable rubber gloves and information on organizing a successful and safe event. Residents are encouraged to work with friends and neighbors to organize an alley clean up. For more information, call Public Works at 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.



Curbside Recycling

The Village's single-stream recycling program eliminates the need to separate recyclables. Paper, cans and bottles that meet recycling guidelines can be placed together in the same container. The amount of recyclable materials set out for collection is not limited. The Village provides blue 64-gallon mobile carts. To order additional or replacement carts, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

What can be recycled

All items, including paper, may be placed together in the blue recycling container. Many containers note if they are recyclable. These items are recyclable:

- Aluminum foil and formed containers
 - Brown paper grocery bags
 - Chipboard, such as cereal and cracker boxes
 - Clean plastic bags — bundle into one bag
 - Corrugated cardboard, cut and flattened into 3' by 3' pieces
 - Empty aerosol cans
 - Empty paint cans
 - Gift wrapping paper
 - Glass bottles and jars — all colors
 - Juice boxes and gable-topped cartons, such as cream and fabric softener — rinse and flatten
 - Junk mail, including window envelopes
 - Magazines
 - Newspapers and inserts
 - Office paper
 - Paperback books
 - Steel, aluminum and bi-metal cans
 - Telephone books
 - Wet-strength cardboard, such as beverage cartons
 - Plastics — look for these names or numbers surrounded by chasing arrows on or near the bottom of the container:
- #1 (PETE)** Includes soft drink bottles, some salad dressings, some produce containers
- #2 (HDPE)** Includes milk or water jugs, detergent bottles, some dairy or deli containers
- #3 (PVC)** Narrow neck containers only, such as household cleaners, health and beauty products
- #4 (LDPE)** Grocery containers such as margarine tubs or frozen dessert cups and plastic rings from beverage cans

#5 (PP) Grocery containers such as yogurt cups, and narrow neck syrup and ketchup bottles

#7 (Other) Plastic resin grocery narrow neck containers

General recycling guidelines

- Material must be clean and free of food waste. Rinse bottles, jars and cans. Discard caps and lids.
- Do not use plastic bags to hold paper or containers
- Automobile fluid containers are not accepted
- Polystyrene (#6 plastic) products are not accepted
- Plastic toys and furniture are not accepted
- When in doubt, throw it out

Battery disposal

- Non-rechargeable batteries commonly used in toys and flashlights should be placed in the regular trash container.
- Car batteries should be taken to local automotive service stores — call first.
- Rechargeable batteries may be recycled at the Public Works Service Center. Call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Beyond the Bin recycling guide

Residents may find recycling opportunities for items not accepted in the weekly collection program in the *Beyond the Bin Recycling Guide* posted at www.oak-park.us/publicworks.

Electronics Recycling

Electronic items may be dropped off at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., on the last Saturday of the month May through October. Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries,

printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, videocassette recorders/players, digital videodisk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. The program is sponsored in part by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, West Cook County Solid Waste Agency and Vintage Tech Recyclers. For more information call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

Telephone Books

To control or eliminate delivery of unwanted telephone books visit www.YellowPagesOptOut.com. The service is easy, secure and free.



Adopt a block

Residents, community groups or business owners are invited to adopt a block by committing to removing litter from their area at least once a month for a year. Keep Oak Park Beautiful will provide trash bags, refuse stickers, gloves, safety vests and an adopt-a-block sign listing the name of the participating individual or group.

For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.