

## Farmers' Market returns to Pilgrim Church parking lot

The Oak Park Farmers' Market returns for its 46th season on Sat., May 22, back in its regular location in the Pilgrim Church parking lot at 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue.

Patrons will be required to enter on foot through a designated entrance on Lake Street and mandatory COVID-19 safety measures will be in place, including face coverings and proper social distancing.

Market officials say they will follow the latest public health guidance related to outdoor gatherings, which includes limiting the number of patrons allowed within the sales area at one time and one-way travel among the farmers' stands.



### Online ordering offered

The popular online ordering and pickup program used last season will return to accommodate individuals who still prefer not to shop at the live Market due to continued concerns related to COVID-19.

Online ordering will be available starting at 9 a.m. every Monday, with available items updated weekly. Supplies tend to be limited and often sell out quickly.

Shoppers who wish to preorder via a smartphone or tablet will need to visit [www.sourcewhatsgood.com](http://www.sourcewhatsgood.com) and download an app to place an order.

Once logged into the app, search for the Oak Park Farmers Market, peruse the vendors and their products, and make purchases with a credit or debit card.

A \$3 administration fee will be charged to help defray the program's expenses.

The number of preorders will be limited initially, but may increase as distribution challenges are identified and the system improved.

Pre-boxed donuts will be available via the app as well as at a stand at the Market.

### Payment and parking

All payment methods, including cash, will be accepted in-person at the Market, and matching coupons worth up to \$25 will be offered to SNAP shoppers.

Free parking will be available in the Oak Park River Forest High School parking garage on Scoville Avenue, just north of Lake Street. The parking garage offers dedicated parking for persons with disabilities.

General customer parking on Lake Street will be restricted, but limited parking for persons with disabilities will be available near the entrance. Nearby streets also offer parking during Market hours.

### For more information

The Oak Park Farmers' Market will be held every Saturday this season from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., from opening day through October.

For more information about the Market, visit [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket) or email [farmersmarket@oak-park.us](mailto:farmersmarket@oak-park.us).

## Guidance for fully vaccinated people

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on what health officials know about COVID-19 vaccines, they say people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. Health officials are still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions — like wearing a mask, staying six feet apart from others, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces and taking care in public places until more is known. The following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can help you make decisions about daily activities after you are fully vaccinated:

### You can:

- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with other fully vaccinated people of any age
- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with one household of unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe illness
- Travel domestically without a pre- or post-travel test
- Travel domestically without quarantining after travel
- Travel internationally without a pre-travel test depending on destination
- Travel internationally without quarantining after travel

### You shouldn't:

- Visit indoors, without a mask, with people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- Attend large gatherings

Find more guidance for fully vaccinated people at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

## Construction news

### Oak Park Avenue upgrades continue...

Construction crews are making progress on a major improvement project along Oak Park Avenue. In addition to resurfacing the vital north/south roadway from North Avenue to Roosevelt Road, the project includes replacing and rehabilitating several blocks of underground water and sewer mains, some of which are more than 100 years old. The water and sewer infrastructure work is on target to be completed in June, with street resurfacing scheduled to start in June. All work is expected to wrap up by November. All businesses in the Southtown Business District within the construction zone are open and nearby parking for carry out orders is in place. No work is scheduled between Pleasant and Ontario streets this year, giving businesses in the Hemingway District a break following the major disruption caused by last year's Lake Street project. Residents are encouraged to visit the project's dedicated website at [www.OPAveAnew.com](http://www.OPAveAnew.com) for construction details and schedules. The website also offers an option to sign up for construction updates via email.



**State projects...**Two major projects are planned on state roads that border Oak Park. The Illinois Department of Transportation will resurface North Avenue from Harlem Avenue to Cicero Avenue and replace corner sidewalk ramps on Harlem Avenue from Roosevelt Road to North Avenue to make them ADA compliant. The North Avenue project is set to start in May and continue well into September. On-street parking on North Avenue will be impacted at various locations and at various times during the construction. As for the Harlem Avenue project, work on the Oak Park side is projected to last until early July before shifting to the west side of the street. IDOT expects to maintain pedestrian access along Harlem.

**Capital improvement updates...**Visit [www.oak-park.us/construction](http://www.oak-park.us/construction) for regular updates about construction projects around Oak Park. The website also includes an interactive map of all construction projects planned for 2021. For more detailed information about specific projects, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

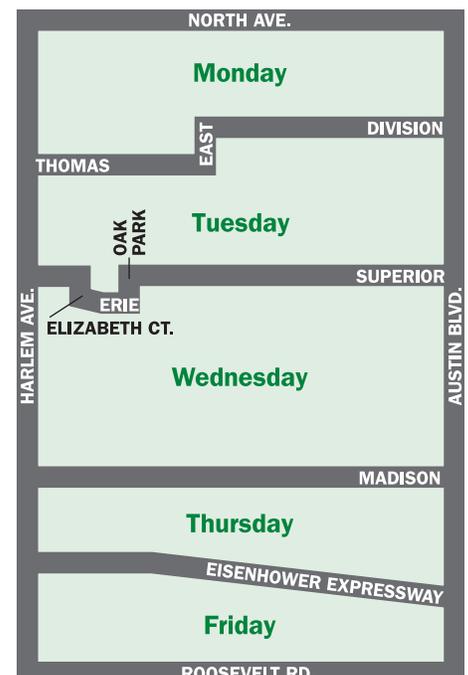
## Local business directory, shopping guide available online

From salons to yoga studios, healthcare to retail and restaurants, Oak Park businesses have much to offer. When planning to order online or shop safely in person, residents are urged to look first to Oak Park businesses. A new local business directory and a shopping guide are posted at [www.pickoakpark.com](http://www.pickoakpark.com), a website funded by the Village to promote local businesses. The online directory allows users to find information on more than 1,000 licensed businesses in Oak Park by business type and business district. The shopping guide offers users the opportunity to explore products and offerings from more than 80 Oak Park businesses, learn stories from local business owners and discover the importance of supporting local merchants. Check back for updates to the shopping guide as more businesses and new products and promotions are added weekly. Business owners can submit information for the shopping guide directly at [www.pickoakpark.com](http://www.pickoakpark.com). Participation is free and submissions are accepted anytime.

## Recycling options abound

Oak Park residents served under the Village refuse hauling contract have more options available than most communities to help reduce the typical contaminants found in recycling carts, including *At Your Door* pick up of electronics and common hazardous household waste such as cleaning solutions and vehicle fluids. In addition, Oak Park offers a fee-based composting program that allows participants to toss most soiled paper and food containers like pizza boxes into a special cart. Foam containers and plastic bags remain a challenge, officials say, but clean plastic bags can be returned to most major grocery and big-box stores for proper recycling. The Village also has a bag fee to encourage residents to rely on reusable bags. More information is posted at [www.oak-park.us/recycling](http://www.oak-park.us/recycling).

**Refuse collection schedule...**The Village provides refuse collection services once a week for all residential buildings with five or fewer units. Owners of larger multifamily dwellings and commercial buildings must contract directly with private refuse haulers. All trash, recyclables and yard waste are scheduled to be picked up on the same day of the week. For more information, call 708.358.5700, email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us) or visit [www.oak-park.us/refuse](http://www.oak-park.us/refuse).



## Latest local water quality report is online

Oak Park residents interested in knowing about the quality of the water they drink can find the latest annual report at [www.oak-park.us/waterqualityreport](http://www.oak-park.us/waterqualityreport). Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires communities to provide details on the quality of the local drinking water. In addition to analyses of substances in the water, the report also includes facts about the community's drinking water delivery system and source. An archive of past water quality reports is posted at [www.oak-park.us/waterquality](http://www.oak-park.us/waterquality). For more information on Oak Park's drinking water or if you would like a paper copy of the annual water report, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Backflow preventers required...**As Oak Parkers get ready to put their lawn sprinkling systems back online for the season, they are reminded that federal, state and local regulations require a device that prevents any water from flowing back into and possibly contaminating the municipal water supply. Cross connections between in-home devices and the public water supply typically are protected by a valve called a backflow preventer. Property owners are required at their own expense to have these valves installed and checked annually. Most plumbing contractors can install backflow preventers and are certified to test them. But it is not just water irrigation systems that require backflow-prevention valves. Residential backflow preventers typically are found on systems for filling swimming pools and water features, and on fire sprinkler systems. If your heat is supplied by radiators, the hot water boiler should have a backflow preventer, too, as should a water softener. Toilets, bathtubs, sinks, hot water heaters and other standard plumbing fixtures do not require backflow preventers. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Watering restrictions in effect...**As part of the interstate compact for preserving the Great Lakes, summer watering restrictions are in effect May 15 through Sept. 15. Outdoor water use is limited Mondays through Fridays to even-numbered street addresses on even-numbered days, and to odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days. Newly planted grass seed, sod, trees and shrubs are exempt from the restrictions for their first 30 days of growth. Call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us) for more information.



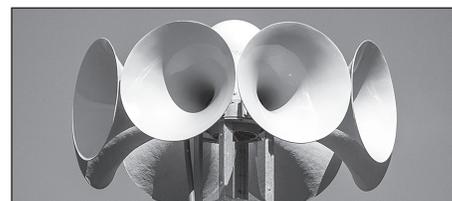
## Go solar without the panels

Oak Park residents can have a portion of the electricity generated at a solar farm credited to their monthly ComEd bill by participating in the community solar program. Community solar is for the 80 percent of households and businesses that can't install solar panels because their roofs can't handle the additional weight, are shaded, or, as a renter, don't own the roof. Oak Park's program does not have up-front costs, will not lock residents into a long-term contract and guarantees savings if the subscriber follows a few simple steps. Unlike other subscription offers available in the market, the Oak Park community solar program requires no credit check or minimum credit scores. Opportunities to subscribe are still available — visit [www.oak-park.us/communitysolarsignup](http://www.oak-park.us/communitysolarsignup) for more information and to sign up.

## Bike the Beat coming to a zone near you



**Bike the Beat** is a community policing initiative with the Oak Park Police Department's residential beat officers biking through an area, or zone, and stopping to engage with residents. The RBOs bike each zone with officers riding as a group along the streets, stopping at fields, parks and playgrounds. The officers are available to meet with residents, answer questions about the community, listen to feedback and even register bikes on-site. Officers are assigned to serve as RBOs for eight geographic zones throughout the Village. More information about *Bike the Beat*, including dates for upcoming rides, is available at [www.oak-park.us/biketthebeat](http://www.oak-park.us/biketthebeat).



## Be prepared for severe weather

The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC), the emergency 911 hub for Oak Park, River Forest, Elmwood Park and Park Ridge, sounds a warning siren when a tornado is sighted within a 10-mile radius. The sirens also are activated at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month as part of a regular statewide test. For more information, visit [www.oak-park.us/beprepared](http://www.oak-park.us/beprepared). Information on severe weather also is posted by the National Weather Service at [www.spc.noaa.gov](http://www.spc.noaa.gov).

## Epidemiologist named Public Health Director



**A** public health professional with a PhD in epidemiology became the new director of the Oak Park Department of Public Health on May 3. A governmental and applied epidemiologist, Theresa D. Chapple-McGruder, Ph.D., has spent the majority of her career at local, state and federal health agencies, and with organizations that directly support governmental public health. Prior to coming to Oak Park, Dr. Chapple-McGruder led the Women's Health Data and Evaluation team at the Health Resources & Services Administration in Rockville, Md. During the COVID-19 crises, she helped school districts craft reopening plans and provided expert consultations to recreational sports teams, news media and community-based organizations to help

flatten the infection curve and promote vaccination. Dr. Chapple-McGruder lived in the Village from 2005 – 2009 while pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Illinois Chicago. She also has a Master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Clark University in Atlanta. As director of Oak Park's state-certified local health department, Dr. Chapple-McGruder 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. More information about local public health programs is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/health](http://www.oak-park.us/health).



## Limited special events to return with COVID-19 precautions in place

**T**he Village has begun accepting applications for special event permits, with June 10 the first date when an event can be held. Applicants for a 2021 special event permit will be required to submit a written COVID-19 mitigation plan that must be approved before a permit will be issued. The number and size of events will be limited and events may be canceled should public health data indicate a public risk, officials say. For more information on holding a special event on public property in Oak Park, visit [www.oak-park.us/specialevents](http://www.oak-park.us/specialevents) or email [specialevents@oak-park.us](mailto:specialevents@oak-park.us).

**Village-sponsored events under review...** *A Day in Our Village*, the annual celebration of diversity, will not be held on the first Sunday in June this year as public health officials weigh the continued impact of COVID-19. Plans for the July 4th parade are under review. Residents are urged to monitor the Village website [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us), follow the Village on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/vopnews](http://www.facebook.com/vopnews) and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/vopnews](http://www.twitter.com/vopnews), and sign up for email alerts at [www.oak-park.us/enews](http://www.oak-park.us/enews) for updates on Village-sponsored events.

Clip and Save

### Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	<a href="http://oak-park.us">oak-park.us</a>
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	<a href="http://www.pdop.org">www.pdop.org</a>
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	725.2000
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015

Public Library	<a href="http://www.oppl.org">www.oppl.org</a>
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

School District 97	<a href="http://www.op97.org">www.op97.org</a>
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	<a href="http://www.oprfhs.org">www.oprfhs.org</a>
Administration	383.0700

Township	<a href="http://www.oakparktownship.org">www.oakparktownship.org</a>
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005
Mental Health Board	358.8855
Transportation	383.4806

✉ [oak-park.us/enews](mailto:oak-park.us/enews)

📘 [facebook.com/vopnews](https://facebook.com/vopnews)

📷 [instagram.com/oakparkil](https://instagram.com/oakparkil)

🐦 [twitter.com/vopnews](https://twitter.com/vopnews)

📺 [youtube.com/vopnews](https://youtube.com/vopnews)

## Get the latest COVID-19 information

**Village website...**The latest information about the COVID-19 response is posted online on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/covid19](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19). In addition to news, links to important local, state and federal information have been posted as well to create a local information repository. Information on vaccination efforts is available at [www.oak-park.us/vaccine](http://www.oak-park.us/vaccine).

**Sign up for enews...**Receive the latest local COVID-19 information directly to your email inbox by signing up for Village enews at [www.oak-park.us/enews](http://www.oak-park.us/enews). Updates include details about daily testing, official guidelines and information about local vaccination efforts.

**Follow the Village on Facebook, Twitter...**The latest local coronavirus information is shared on the Village's social media accounts. Follow the Village on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/vopnews](http://www.facebook.com/vopnews) and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/vopnews](http://www.twitter.com/vopnews).

**Emergency alerts...**Sign up for direct alerts by text, email and/or voice message at [www.oak-park.us/notifyme](http://www.oak-park.us/notifyme). Anyone lacking access to a computer can call 708.358.5489 to be added to the voice message alert list. Email [prepare@oak-park.us](mailto:prepare@oak-park.us) for more information.

**Via email...**Oak Park residents with specific questions about COVID-19 vaccines can email [covid19vaccine@oak-park.us](mailto:covid19vaccine@oak-park.us).

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## COVID-19 vaccines widely available

**W**ith COVID-19 vaccine now widely available, the Oak Park Department of Public Health urges residents to take the first appointment they can find to be vaccinated. Health officials say COVID-19 vaccines are safe, highly effective and key to ending the pandemic. Residents are encouraged to visit [www.oak-park.us/vaccine](http://www.oak-park.us/vaccine) for links to various options for finding a vaccine appointment.

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## Village Hall reopens, but COVID-19 measures remain in place

**O**ak Park Village Hall, 123 Madison St. has resumed most in-person services. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays except holidays or other announced short-term closures should special public health circumstances arise. Customers will be required to wear masks and practice proper social distancing. The number of customers inside Village Hall at one time will be limited. Many routine Village services are available without a trip to Village Hall — just visit [www.oak-park.us/online-services](http://www.oak-park.us/online-services).



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## Vehicle license sales begin in May

**V**illage vehicle licenses for the 2021/2022 season are scheduled to go on sale in mid-May. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local license before July 15 to get the lowest rate, which increases by \$20 after the deadline. Failure to purchase a license also could result in a ticket. A current vehicle license is needed to purchase a parking permit. Windshield decals are no longer issued. Parking enforcement officers use remote electronic recognition technology to scan license plates to ensure compliance. Vehicle license rates vary by type of vehicle, with discounts for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and active-duty veterans. For more information call 708.358.7275, visit [www.oak-park.us/parking](http://www.oak-park.us/parking) or email [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us).



## Vaccination critical to controlling COVID-19

**V**accines to prevent COVID-19 are perhaps the best hope for ending the pandemic. While vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to ensure that any vaccine that is approved for use is safe. Among the many reasons to get vaccinated when the opportunity arises are the following facts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

**Keep one from getting COVID-19...**All COVID-19 vaccines currently available have shown to be very effective at preventing the highly contagious virus. Early trial data suggest getting vaccinated also may help prevent serious illness even if you get COVID-19.

**Helps build protection...**Vaccines must be shown safe and effective before being authorized or approved for use. The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any risks of vaccination. COVID-19 vaccination will help create an immune system response without you having to experience sickness.

**Important to stopping the pandemic...**Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce the chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. The combination of getting vaccinated and following recommendations to protect yourself and others offers the best protection from COVID-19.

More information about COVID-19 vaccines is available online at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines).



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



Village President Vicki Scamin

Trustees

Susan Buchanan  
Lucia Robinson  
Chibuike Enyia  
Jim Taglia  
Ravi Parakkat  
Arti Walker-Peddakotla

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters  
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

## Block parties return with limitations, COVID-19 restrictions

Oak Park's online block party registration portal reopened in May at [www.oak-park.us/blockparties](http://www.oak-park.us/blockparties).

The dates for hosting a block party this season will be May 29 – Oct. 31.

COVID-19 restrictions are in place based on local public health guidelines, including limits on the number of participants and requiring masks and proper social distancing.

Restrictions could change with conditions and as more residents become fully vaccinated, public health officials say.

The petition form required to schedule a block party can be downloaded from the block party web page [www.oak-park.us/blockparties](http://www.oak-park.us/blockparties).

A block party requires a petition signed by at least 10 separate addresses on the block, or a majority of residents on a smaller block.

The number of block parties is limited to 20 per weekend this season, with each block allowed to host one party during the season.

Block parties are limited to Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with Mondays available on May 31, July 5 and September 6, which are Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day weekends.

Block party participants who are not from the same household are urged not to share foods and beverages with others, including via pot-luck style offerings.

Single-use plates, utensils and napkins also are encouraged as are single-use condiment packets.

Other recommendations include keeping tables and people from different households at least six feet apart, wearing face coverings when not eating or drinking, and wiping down frequently touched surfaces with a disinfecting solution.

Bounce houses and petting zoos are prohibited, and the Village will not offer tree walks or Fire Department visits as part of block parties this year. However, information on how to host a green block party will be available.

Block party organizers also are asked to help keep participants safe by providing hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol and setting up temporary hand-washing stations with water, soap and paper towels.

People who have any COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive or come into contact with someone who has tested positive, should stay home and not participate in a block party, public officials stress.

For more information on organizing a block party, call 708.358.5700 or email [blockparty@oak-park.us](mailto:blockparty@oak-park.us).

## Parking restrictions eased for holidays

As a courtesy to residents and their guests, the overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during several holidays in the year ahead. Restrictions will remain in effect in areas reserved for overnight permit holders, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. For more information on parking in Oak Park call 708.358.7275 or email [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us).

- **Memorial Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m. Sat., May 29 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., June 2
- **July 4** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., July 3 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Tues., July 6
- **Labor Day** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Sept. 4 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wed., Sept. 8
- **Thanksgiving** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 24 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Nov. 29
- **Christmas/New Year** – Restrictions lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 18 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Tues., Jan. 4, 2021