

Open house to highlight Fire Safety Month

Oak Parkers young, old and in between with an interest in modern firefighting and emergency medical services should mark their calendars for Saturday, October 7. That's when the Oak Park Fire Department will open its doors to the public for an open house.

The event, held in conjunction with national Fire Safety Month, is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the main fire station, 100 N. Euclid Ave.

Visitors will be able to get up close to the equipment and talk to the firefighter/paramedics that help keep the community safe.

In addition to touching all of the cool equipment essential to the mission of a modern fire department, the event also will include tours of the fire house, presentations about safety, refreshments and fun handouts.

About the Fire Department

Always on call, the Fire Department maintains three shifts of more than 20 trained professionals ready to provide around-the-clock protection to residents.

All Village firefighters also are paramedics, since delivering emergency medical services is an integral part of the fire department mission. In fact, about 65 percent of calls to the Fire Department are for medical emergencies.

In 2016, Oak Park's firefighter/para-



medics responded to more than 6,700 calls for fire and emergency medical services. They had another 6,700-plus citizen contacts related to public safety education, including CPR classes and visits to local schools.

The Oak Park Fire Department also provides a number of non-emergency programs for the community, including the following:

- **CPR/AED, first aid training** – The Fire Department offers a variety of life-saving classes including CPR and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Classes are held at the main fire station and

cost \$35 for Oak Park residents, plus a \$15 textbook fee. Visit www.oak-park.us/safetytraining for a registration form and list of class dates.

- **Child safety seat inspections** – The Fire Department has child safety seat technicians available to check your seat for safety and proper installation. To schedule a safety inspection, email carseat@oak-park.us. Each request for an appointment will be followed up within 48 hours.
- **Fire prevention and inspections** – Fire Department personnel inspect all public buildings and commercial establishments in Oak Park at least once a year to ensure safety. Inspections range from complex medical centers and high-rise residences for the elderly to traditional offices and shops. The Fire Department also reviews all building blueprints for fire alarm and sprinkler system installations prior to construction to ensure the systems meet or exceed current fire code regulations.

More information about the Oak Park Fire Department is posted online at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Drivers urged to take extra care

With the new school year now underway, Oak Park police are urging motorists to stay alert — especially when driving in school zones. Motorists need to be focused and avoid distractions like talking on cell phones, police say, as well as come to a complete stop at intersections and not block crosswalks. Drivers also must obey the signals of crossing guards and should never attempt to pass a stopped school bus with lights flashing. To protect the many students who typically trek along Oak Park streets to their neighborhood schools, police have stepped up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. For more information on the Oak Park Police Department's school programs, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Drop boxes accept payments 24/7

Payments for many municipal services and fines may be made by check or money order at Village Hall, 123 Madison St., anytime via drop boxes — one outside by the parking lot and one just inside the south entrance by the stairway to the Police Department. Checks should be accompanied by any support materials required to make sure the payment is properly applied, including writing the account number on the check memo line. Payments for some services may be made online at www.oak-park.com/onlineservices, including water bills and parking tickets. Standard mail payments also are accepted. Cash should never be used for drop-box or mail payments. In-person cash or credit card payments are accepted during regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and until 7 p.m. on Mondays. For more information, call 708.358.5460 or email finance@oak-park.us.

YouTube puts Village on world stage

With more than 400 videos and nearly 322,000 views, the Village's official YouTube channel puts the sights and sounds of Oak Park on display for the world to see. The YouTube channel is an extension of VOP-TV, the Village's municipal television station. Topics are as diverse as Oak Park's tree-lined neighborhoods and its many residents. Recent segments have focused on public safety, local dining, arts, entertainment and transportation, as well as profiles of the colorful people who make Oak Park such a great place to live, work and do business. Videos are shared regularly on the Village's Facebook and Twitter pages. They also air on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T Uverse channel 99. To browse the videos on the Village's YouTube channel, go to www.youtube.com/vopnews.



Village aims to reduce single-use bags

Beginning Jan. 1, shoppers in Oak Park's larger retail stores will be charged 10 cents for every single-use bag the store provides to carry home purchases. The new local law, which applies to retail stores of 5,000 or more square feet, is intended to reduce the negative impact single-use bags have on the environment. The fee applies to paper as well as plastic, officials say, because paper bags consume enormous amounts of natural resources to manufacture and transport, and create their own type of environmental issues when not disposed of properly. The retailer will retain half of the fee, with the other half used to fund local environmental initiatives. The goal of the program is not to generate revenue, however, but to change behavior. As many as 50 percent of Oak Park residents already rely on reusable bags, and the citizen volunteers on the Environment & Energy Commission recommended the new law with hopes of increasing the use of reusable bags. Exemptions to the fee will apply, including to bags provided by a pharmacist to contain a prescription drug; intended for initial use as a dry cleaning, garbage, pet waste or yard waste bag; given at a seasonal event, such as a farmers market, street fair or yard sale, provided by a restaurant for carryout of prepared or leftover food or drink; or used to package bulk items or to wrap a perishable item, such as meat. Over the next few months, the Village will be working with retailers to provide reusable bags to those individuals who may not be able to afford to buy them. More information will be posted at www.oak-park.us.

Follow policymaking online, on demand

Residents interested in keeping up with local municipal policymaking can follow Village Board meetings at www.oak-park.us/boardtv, where meetings are streamed live and archived for on-demand viewing. The online meetings database even offers the option to search the meetings archive using key words to find a particular topic of interest and sign up for alerts by topic. Users also can select a video by meeting date and then choose to view only the portion of the meeting that addresses the topic of interest just by clicking on the agenda item. Village Board meetings continue to be broadcast live on VOP-TV, which is available to Comcast subscribers on channel 6 and AT&T Uverse customers on channel 99. For those residents who want to dig even deeper into the details, complete board packets — the materials trustees use to prepare for meetings — are posted on the board TV web page as well, along with the approved minutes of past meetings, which are the official record of Village Board actions. The page also links to information on how to contact officials by telephone and email. For more information on Village board practices and processes, email village@oak-park.us.

Commission TV...Residents interested in the details of policy making related to planning and zoning matters can watch the process at www.oak-park.us/commissiontv. Meetings of the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals are streamed live and archived via the Village website for easy on-demand access via a computer, tablet or smartphone. For information on all of Oak Park's citizen volunteer boards, commissions and committees, visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer.

Free transportation for seniors, disabled

Oak Park and River Forest residents ages 60-plus or with disabilities can request local curb-to-curb transportation through the Oak Park Township. Transportation is available for qualifying residents for medical appointments, shopping trips, social engagements, recreational activities, dining out or errands. Suggested donation for a one-way ride is \$1, and no one is denied service based on ability to pay. Contributions help fund the service. Each of the Township's three vehicles can accommodate 2 wheelchairs and has an automatic lift to assist riders experiencing mobility challenges. Reservations are required — call 708.383.4806 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Tips on using accessible public transit

A presentation to help persons with disabilities use public transportation to get to appointments, maintain social connections and enjoy independent travel is set for 7:15 p.m., Wed., Sept. 27 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Sponsored by the Disability Access Commission, the presentations will include the following topics:

- Benefits of using accessible travel
- How to plan trips on CTA, Pace and Metra
- Overview of the Ventra payment system
- How to get a reduced fare or a ride free permit
- Question and answer session with RTA representative

For more information, email adacoordinator@oak-park.us.

Nominations sought for community awards

Nominations are being sought for awards that recognize efforts by organizations, individuals and businesses to improve the Village through property preservation, sustainability and accessibility. Here are the details:

Sustainability: Green Awards recognize specific deeds or actions that embody and advance work toward a sustainable future. Nominations may be submitted on behalf of any person, organization, group or business. The deadline for nominations is Sept. 22. More information and a nomination form are posted at www.oak-park.us/greenawards.

Historic Preservation: Nomination categories include restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, additions/new construction, stewardship, detail and design. Nominations need not be in a historic district and interior work may be considered in conjunction with exterior work. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 13. More details are at www.oak-park.us/preservationawards.

Accessibility: Businesses, organizations and other entities that provide extraordinary accessibility for patrons with disabilities and their families may be nominated for this award. Nominations should be for efforts to provide easy access to people with disabilities, create an inviting physical space and offer a welcoming, helpful, service-oriented attitude. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 20. More details are at www.oak-park.us/accessawards.

News for Renters

Discrimination complaints... Village Code defends the rights of individuals within the protected classes of race, sex, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status or disability in the purchasing, leasing, securing a loan, renting or occupying housing or other real estate. Any person otherwise qualified who is denied or discriminated against in these processes should call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us for more information, conciliation or to file a formal, written complaint.

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 email community@oak-park.us for more information.

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 or email community@oak-park.us.

West Nile Virus threat continues

While mosquitoes are likely to become less active as summer heat diminishes, the threat of West Nile Virus could continue as late as mid-October. Public health officials urge residents not to become complacent and to continue taking precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. The most effective precautions include wearing long sleeves and pants, limiting time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active and wearing insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Visit www.oak-park.us/fighththebite or email health@oak-park.us for more information.

Park District News

Euclid Square Park re-opening...The official re-opening of Euclid Square Park, 705 W. Fillmore Ave. is scheduled for 10 a.m., Sat., Sept. 9. In addition to tennis and pickleball, the park features a new playground and an improved walking path surrounding the park. More information about the park improvements is posted at www.pdop.org.

Final movie in the park...*Beauty and the Beast* will be the Park District's final summer movie screening Sat., Sept. 23 in Scoville Park on Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue. The feature film is set to begin at dusk.

Fall fest...The Fall Fest is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun., Sept. 24 at Rehm Park and the Oak Park Conservatory, by East Avenue and Harrison Street. The event will feature horse-drawn hayrides, games and inflatables, a pumpkin patch and disc jockey. All activities are free for Oak Park residents and \$5 per person for visitors. Please bring proof of residency. Visit www.pdop.org for more details.

Conservatory site plan meeting... Residents are invited to share their ideas and comments at a public review of the Oak Park Conservatory master site plan. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., Oct. 4 at the Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. Visit www.pdop.org for more details.



Planning a remodel? Go online

Oak Park property owners planning a fall 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. The range of services offered by VillageView is expected to grow as more databases are created in the effort to offer citizens a 24-hour Village Hall. For more information, email development@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/villageview.

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

Construction project updates online

Keep track of the latest information regarding road construction projects in Oak Park at www.oak-park.us/construction. Simply click the project updates tab at the top of the page for regular updates on specific projects. The site also includes an interactive map that residents can use to track major construction projects proposed through 2021.

Police News

Lobby available for transactions...Residents buying or selling items via an online forum can use the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department for transactions. Located in the lower level of Village Hall, 123 Madison St., the lobby is open, well-lit and staffed 24 hours a day. The police station has been used for parental custody exchanges for many years. Email police@oak-park.us for more information.

Drug disposal box...A prescription drug disposal box is available in the lobby of the Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Needles or other medical waste 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.

Crime Tip Hot Line...Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activity to the Police Department's Crime Tip Hot Line at 708.434.1636. All callers remain anonymous. Anonymous tips also can be made at www.oak-park.us/police.

Don't hesitate to call 911...Oak Park Police rely on residents taking an active role. If you see unusual activity, suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to call 911 immediately. Visit www.oak-park.us/police for more information on police programs and services.



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

facebook.com/vopnews

instagram.com/oakparkil

pinterest.com/oakparkil

twitter.com/vopnews

youtube.com/vopnews

Vaccination urged as flu season approaches

As the flu season approaches, local public health officials are reminding residents that shots are recommended for everyone older than 6 months. Flu vaccine is offered at numerous commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area. Most of these sites accept private insurances and Medicare Part B to help cover the cost of the flu shot. Many sites will vaccinate children as young as 18 months. Help finding a flu shot provider is available at flushot.healthmap.org. Residents also can email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5483 with questions about access to an affordable flu shot.

Recycling opportunities ahead

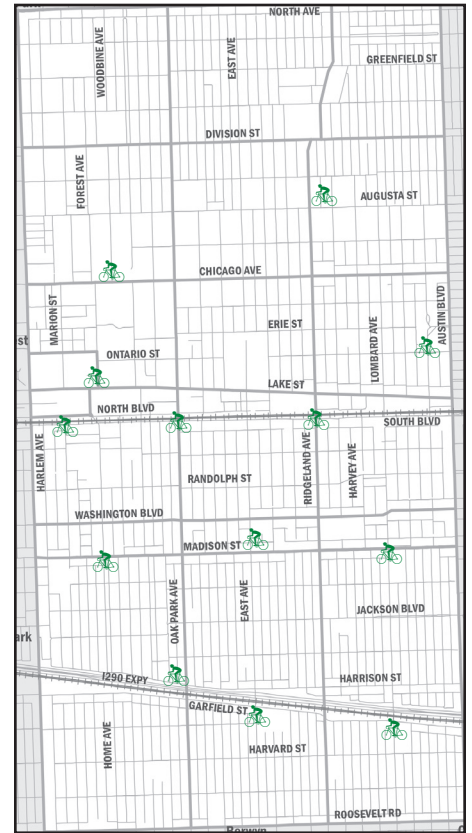
Residents can help prevent identity theft by shredding sensitive papers, as well as recycle old clothing of just about any kind in any condition from 8 a.m. to noon, Sat., Sept. 16, at the Public Works Center, 201 South Boulevard. Both services are free. Here are the details:

Shred sensitive papers...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.

Recycle old clothing...Through a cooperative program with the Epilepsy Foundation, items such as shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels are sent to developing nations to repurpose. The Epilepsy Foundation also offers residential pickup — visit www.epilepsychicago.org or www.donateillinois.org for details. For more information on these events or recycling in Oak Park, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. Information also is posted at www.oak-park.us/recycling.

Bike sharing offers easy way to get around Oak Park

Getting around Oak Park by bike is easy for residents and visitors alike thanks to the Divvy bike share program. Thirteen Oak Park Divvy stations are strategically located near the CTA Green Line and Metra tracks downtown and the CTA Blue Line and Interstate 290 in south Oak Park, as well as along Madison Street and near the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio. Stations also are in place near the Dole Branch of the Oak Public Library and West Suburban Medical Center in northeast Oak Park. Each Divvy docking site has an automated pay station that allows cyclists to rent bikes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. Riders can purchase an annual membership or simply buy a 24-hour pass. Bikes can be picked up at one station and dropped off at another. Divvy has been operating in Chicago neighborhoods since its launch in 2013, and now has more than 580 stations and 5,800 bikes spread across more than 100 square miles of Chicagoland, making it the largest and most diverse bike share system in North America. Oak Park has a long tradition of encouraging safe cycling with bicycle friendly share the road signs at all major community entry points, marked dedicated and shared bicycle lanes on numerous streets and bike racks located throughout the community. The community's commitment to encouraging wider use of bicycles led the national bicycling advocacy group League of American Bicyclists to designate Oak Park as a Bicycle Friendly Community in 2015. For more information about bicycling in Oak Park and the Village's comprehensive Bicycle Plan, visit www.oak-park.us/bicycling.



Electricity contract extended

Following a competitive bid process, the Village of Oak Park has entered into a new agreement with Constellation Energy Services to provide electricity for residential and small business customers through the municipal aggregation program. Electricity customers who receive a letter from Constellation Energy Services, but already participate in the Village's aggregation program, can disregard the notice. They will be enrolled automatically unless they choose to opt out by following the instructions in the letter. Those electricity customers who use another power provider, but want to join the Village program, will need to follow the instructions in the letter and contact Constellation directly. The new Village contract will offer electricity at 7.6 cents per kilowatt hour, which includes three-tenths of one cent to help support local renewable energy initiatives. Aggregation does not alter the actual delivery of electricity or system maintenance and repair, which is provided by ComEd. In fact, consumers have the option of choosing from scores of suppliers approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Officials urge those who elect to choose an electricity provider from the state's list to read the fine print carefully. Contracts may contain unexpected fees and penalties to cancel. More information on providers is posted online at www.pluginillinois.org.



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



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews Dan Moroney

Simone M. Boutlet Jim Taglia

Andrea Button Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman

Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Harvest season at the Farmers' Market



With fall right around the corner, a changing variety of produce can be found at the Oak Park Farmers' Market. Plums, nectarines, peaches, pears, grapes, apples and cider are just some of the seasonal favorites now available along with meats, eggs, honey, cheese and milk from the more than two dozen regular Market vendors. Throughout September the Market will continue to welcome guest vendors offering charcuterie and meats, hot sauces and jams, heirloom grains and microgreens. Special events this month include

a children's activity hosted by Wonder Works Children's Museum on Sept. 9 and an appearance by the Oak Park Library's Book Bike on Sept. 23. Now in its 42nd season, the Oak Park Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through October in the Pilgrim Church parking lot, 460 Lake St. Most vendors accept credit cards. All vendors accept LINK cards, and LINK cardholders can double the value of their purchase up to \$25 thanks to the Double Value Coupon Program. Most vendors also accept WIC and senior coupons. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Early childhood support available

Families with young children can look to the *Collaboration for Early Childhood* for information about early development and resources, finding child care or preschool and parenting support. The organization, funded in part by the Village and school districts 97 and 200 to serve children at their most critical development stage, offers free coaching for parents of infants and toddlers, and free preschool for three- and four-year-old children whose families meet eligibility criteria. Parents concerned about their child's physical, social or emotional development also can look to the Collaboration for screening and referrals to additional services. In addition, the Collaboration publishes an Early Childhood Resource Directory both online and in print that lists child care centers, preschools and family child care programs in the community. Neighbors are encouraged to spread the word about these free services to families living on their block or to those who are new to Oak Park. For more information on local early childhood resources, including eligibility for programs, call 708.613.6122, email info@collab4kids.org or visit collab4kids.org.

Coyotes a part of life in Oak Park

With an estimated 30,000 coyotes currently living in Illinois, like it or not, coyotes are a permanent fixture in Oak Park. Seeing a coyote does not necessarily mean a dangerous situation for humans or domestic animals. If approached by a coyote, do not run — make yourself appear larger by yelling, standing up straight, clapping your hands and waving your arms. You can even throw something at the coyote. Your actions not only will scare the coyote, but will discourage it from approaching humans in the future. In the unlikely event that a coyote is aggressive or shows its fangs, growls or approaches, get to safety and contact Village Animal Control at 708.358.5680 to provide details including the date, time and address of the event. In the meantime, discourage coyotes from being attracted to your property by following these tips:

- **Do not feed coyotes.** This means limiting unintentional outdoor food sources like pet food and ripe fruit. Bird food, for example, attracts rodents, which coyotes feed upon.
- **Do not leave small pets** — especially cats — unattended outside.
- **Install a fence** at least four feet high to prevent coyotes from entering your yard.
- **Keep garbage stored securely.** While coyotes are not likely to eat garbage, they may be to be attracted to the rodents that do.

For more detailed information on living with coyotes and other wildlife, visit web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife.