

Madison Street improvements to enhance pedestrian experience and safety



Crossing Madison Street at Kenilworth Avenue.

A major construction project that will convert Madison Street into three lanes from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard and incorporate a range of pedestrian-friendly features is set to begin in April and wrap up in November.

Once completed, walking along and crossing Madison Street should not only be more pleasant, but also much safer as the north-south crossings are shortened, pedestrian visibility

improved and vehicle speeds reduced.

Commonly referred to as a road diet, the project will reduce the roadway to one lane in each direction, with a shared center lane for turns. The new configuration is projected to reduce average vehicle speeds to 28 miles per hour from the current 37 miles per hour.

Pedestrian-friendly features will include accessible ramps, marked crosswalks, corner curb bump-outs to

reduce distances at crossings, mid-street pedestrian refuges and enhanced crossing signals.

In addition to these pedestrian safety features, the project also will include additional parking spaces, marked bicycle lanes and posted public transit bus stops.

Major infrastructure improvements also are part of the project, including resurfacing and repairs to sidewalks, curbs and gutters.

The project includes vital, below-ground infrastructure as well. A new sewer will be installed between Oak Park and Euclid avenues and another 4,500 feet of sewer extensively rehabilitated using a trenchless lining process. The sewers under Madison Street range in diameter from 12 inches to 36 inches.

Madison Street will remain open during construction, officials say, including access to all businesses, drive-thru services and parking lots.

Safe walking routes also will be maintained along Madison Street throughout the project.

To learn more about the project and read construction updates, visit the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

Police offer online video upload feature

Hoping to tap the growing number of home surveillance video cameras, the Oak Park Police Department has launched a new website feature that allows camera owners to upload videos and photographs they think might be useful in solving neighborhood crimes. The Police Department often gets unsolicited surveillance videos via email from residents. Officers also routinely look for nearby cameras when they canvas a neighborhood after a crime has been reported. The new image and video uploader should make it more convenient for concerned citizens to share video with Police. Both residential and commercial property owners are invited to share videos and images with the Oak Park Police Department. Police say all files will be treated as confidential aspects of ongoing investigations. However, anyone who submits a file via the online uploader also may choose to remain anonymous. To upload a video directly to the Police Department, just go to www.oak-park.us/policevideo and follow the instructions.

2018 By the Numbers: A look at municipal service delivery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Though employees are assigned to different departments, and the jobs performed vary, all have the common mission of serving the many needs of the residents of Oak Park. So how did they do in 2018? Here's snapshot of some of their activities from the year just ended...



IMPROVING THE VILLAGE

- 7,390** feet of new sewer main installed
- 5,530** potholes patched with 247 tons of asphalt
- 2,453** sidewalk squares replaced
- 1,467** feet of new water mains installed
- 975** street signs replaced
- 623** street lamps replaced
- 220** lane miles of streets swept
- 155** Sidewalk ramps upgraded to ADA standards
- 28** alley segments reconstructed
- 2.5** miles of streets rebuilt and resurfaced
- 4.3** miles of sewer mains cleaned and video inspected — 75 tons of debris removed
- 3.4** miles of streets micro-paved



COMMUNICATING INFORMATION

- 1,866,133** website page views — 46% on a mobile device
- 189,363** views of VOP-TV programming on Village YouTube channel and other social media platforms
- 12,060** Village Facebook followers
- 6,971** Village Twitter feed followers
- 3,636** enews list serve subscribers
- 2,044** Instagram followers
- 1,061** live views of Village Board and citizen commission meetings streamed online



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

- 69,214** Police responses, including calls, traffic stops, vacation property checks and alarm/security checks
- 7,267** fire and emergency medical service calls
- 5,151** citizen contacts for fire and safety public education, including CPR classes
- 5,198** trees trimmed, 305 removed and 607 planted
- 2,765** tons of salt spread during 29 separate snow events
- 1,239** fire hydrants tested, 41 repaired, 17 replaced
- 2,093** property code violations reviewed
- 585** health inspections performed
- 342** health complaints investigated



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

- \$1,979,484** in federal grants distributed to help low- and moderate-income residents and the homeless
- \$598,108** allocated to support affordable housing programs
- 225,460** mobile parking meter transactions processed
- 160,960** overnight parking passes processed online
- 39,053** service requests answered by the Public Works Department
- 8,433** local ordinance and parking citations administratively adjudicated at Village Hall
- 3,700** hours contributed by 157 volunteers on 21 advisory boards, committees and commissions
- 2,174** animals licensed
- 1,175** community relations issues addressed, including tenant/landlord disputes and neighbor conflicts
- 2,039** requests processed under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act
- 487** block party requests processed
- 521** rental dwelling licenses issued
- 584** graffiti hits removed
- 396** animals rescued
- 46** meetings of the Village Board and its committees — more than 620 issues of public policy deliberated
- 22** Sewer Backup Prevention Grants approved for \$68,799
- 32** nuisance wildlife traps loaned



BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

- \$6,853,000** (December projected) sales taxes generated by local businesses
- \$1,716,783** in building permit fees collected
- 14,103** property-related inquiries answered
- 10,432** construction, commercial and residential property inspections performed
- 5,783** building permit applications filed, 49% submitted online
- 3,540** zoning-related building permits reviewed
- 1,465** historic preservation property renovation permits reviewed
- 1,007** business licenses issued, including for 99 new businesses
- 120** liquor licenses issued, including 5 new



SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT

- 9,460,000** fewer plastic bags used as result of 10-cent fee — an 80% decline
- \$425,441** in disposal fees saved by diverting 42 percent of all residential waste from landfills
- 500,000** gallons of storm water runoff diverted from sewers via 30 grant-funded residential flood control projects
- 11,192** tons of garbage hauled away
- 4,295** tons of household recyclables collected
- 3,671** tons of yard waste and food scraps composted, including from the 1,574 households participating in food scrap collection program
- 78** tons of household hazardous waste materials collected from 1,837 stops

Into numbers? Go online

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

Plan now for summer construction projects

Now is the time to plan for spring and summer remodeling projects, both business and residential. Anyone considering opening a business, designing an addition, finishing a basement, building a new garage or remodeling a kitchen or bath is encouraged to schedule a preliminary construction meeting to discuss the process before finalizing the plans. Staff will explain what is needed for the permit process and can direct you to resources that can provide additional guidance if needed. To schedule a personal appointment, call at 708.358.5434 or email permits@oak-park.us.

Police warn about home repair, burglary scams

Oak Park Police are on the lookout for suspicious pickup trucks driven by suspects dressed in work clothes who are running a common repair scam and burglary ruse. Residents have reported men knocking on doors warning residents about much-needed repairs that were spotted while passing by or doing other work in the neighborhood. On several occasions the men entered the home under false premises such as checking the ceilings for cracks or inspecting the windows, twice stealing money while the homeowner was distracted. On other occasions, the men pretended to make a repair and then demanded an exorbitant payment. In one instance, the suspect claimed to be a Village employee, while in another claimed to be from a construction company working in the area. Police say these are old scams and the elderly are especially vulnerable, warning that these con men and thieves often case the neighborhoods to identify individuals they think might be easy prey. The best defense is to just not open the door to a stranger, police say. And, if you are in doubt or feel threatened, lock your door and call 911. More crime prevention tips are posted at www.oak-park.us/crimepreventiontips.

Owners encouraged to license pets online

With the May 1 deadline approaching for animal license renewals, residents are urged to use the online option at www.oak-park.us/petlicenser renewal, rather than using the U.S. Mail or trekking to Village Hall. Renewing online is quick and easy. You can delete pets you no longer own and add new ones. Payment is made with a credit card, a receipt sent via email and the actual tag delivered to your mailbox. Pet owners whose pets were already licensed and who had emails on file with the Village should have received a notice that included the required online renewal code. Owners whose pets were registered also can obtain their online renewal code by calling 708.358.5482 or emailing health@oak-park.us. First-time pet owners do not need a renewal number to register pets online. Pet owners still have the option of mailing in a paper renewal notice and payment or coming to Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information about owning a pet in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/pets.

Family fun awaits at 10th annual Earth Fest



Join in Oak Park's celebration of green living at Earth Fest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sat., April 27 at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Now in its 10th year, the event offers fun for the whole family, including a wide range of activities for kids. Environmentally-conscious residents will be able to engage with more than 50 vendors and organizations

providing hands-on activities, environmental services information, free samples and green goods for sale. Earth Fest also serves as the Public Works Department's annual open house, with tours of the green-built Public Works facility offered. Guests will be able to check out the honeybee hives on the building's green roof and get an up-close look at the Village's big trucks and other equipment during the behind-the-scenes look at what goes into the Public Works Department's service delivery. An opportunity to pet and feed goats, a bounce house and a face painter are among the kid-friendly activities planned. The Park District of Oak Park is also expected to be on hand with a pop-up park for kids. Food trucks from local restaurants are expected to park on South Boulevard, just outside the Public Works Center, and other refreshments will be available. Earth Fest will once again include an on-site opportunity for residents to recycle eyeglasses, sun glasses and hearing aids, all of which are not eligible for disposal through the Village's blue bin recycling program. Residents will also have an opportunity to meet members of the Village Board of Trustees as well as citizen volunteers who serve on the Environment & Energy Commission, which advises the Village Board on issues related to environmental conservation. More information is available at www.oak-park.us/earthfest.

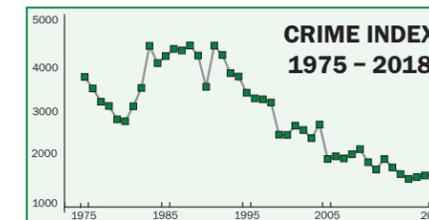
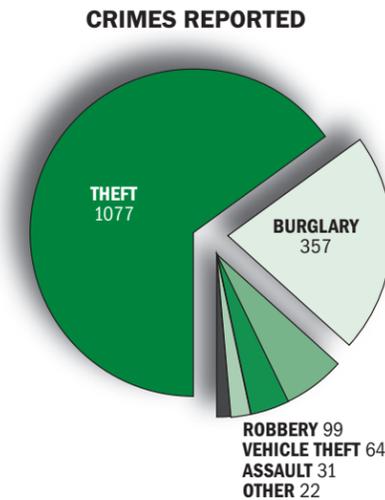
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Who to Call	
Dial Direct (area code 708)	
Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5630
Development Customer Services	358.5420
Business Services	358.5425
Neighborhood Services	358.5410
Housing	option 1
CDBG	option 2
Property complaints	option 3
Permits & Inspections	358.5430
Planning	358.5440
General questions	option 1
Historic Preservation	option 2
Zoning	option 3
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (nonemergency)	358.5600
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Mayor & Trustees	358.5784
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770
EMERGENCIES	911
Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	725.2000
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015
Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032
School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000
School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	383.0700
Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005
Mental Health Board	358.8855
Transportation	383.4806

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- instagram.com/oakparkil
- pinterest.com/oakparkil
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Crime rate remains low in 2018

The overall crime rate in Oak Park was essentially unchanged in 2018 as compared to the prior year, according to data compiled by the Police Department for the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program that studies patterns and trends over time. Oak Park Police investigated 15 more crimes in 2018 than in 2017. However, the two largest categories of crimes against individuals — robbery, which includes vehicle hijackings, and assault/battery — declined. Ninety-nine robberies and 31 assault/battery reports were investigated in 2018, as compared to 134 robberies and 35 assault/battery cases in 2017. Law enforcement officials say these types of crimes more than any others tend to affect one's perception of crime. Oak Park Police investigated 1,650 crimes in 2018, compared to 1,635 in 2017. Burglaries and thefts, which historically represent the vast majority of crime in the Village, remained the biggest categories at nearly 87 percent of all crimes committed in the community in 2018. Thefts were up slightly — 1,077 reports in 2018 compared to 1,035 in 2017 — as were burglaries — 357 in 2018 compared to 311 in 2017. Locking garage doors and keeping a watchful eye on personal belongings are among the best deterrents to these crimes of opportunity, Police say. Arrests were up in 2018, according to the official report. Oak Park Police arrested 203 suspects in connection with the most serious offense categories tracked under the crime index reporting system. Another 36 individuals were arrested for driving under the influence in 2018 and 27 individuals were arrested for drug violations. Juvenile crime increased slightly from 2017, with four more crimes investigated in 2018 than the previous year. Juveniles were involved in 42 crimes in 2018, compared to 38 in 2017. Police also reported eight arrests of juveniles on drug-related charges in 2018, down from 12 in 2017. All of the 2018 juvenile drug arrests were related to violations of the Illinois Cannabis Control Act. More information on the Oak Park Police Department is posted at www.oak-park.us/police.



2018 Crime Summary

- **Thefts**, typically crimes of opportunity, remained the single largest category of crimes reported in Oak Park. Some 1,077 thefts were reported in 2018, compared to 1,035 in 2017. Among the thefts were 71 unsecured bicycles and 223 items left unattended.
- **Burglary** continued to be the second largest single crime category, with 356 cases reported in 2018, compared to 311 in 2017. The burglaries included 179 garages, 115 of which had unlocked overhead or side doors.
- Police investigated 99 **robberies** in 2018, compared to 134 in 2016. This category includes 21 vehicle hijackings in 2018, compared to 19 in 2017.
- **Vehicle thefts** were down in 2018, as Police investigated 64 incidents compared to 107 incidents in 2017. In 33 of the incidents the keys were left inside the vehicles, 17 of which were unlocked and running.
- 31 **aggravated assault/battery** cases were reported in 2018, compared to 35 in 2017.
- 17 **criminal sexual assaults** were reported in 2018, compared to nine in 2017. In 14 of the cases, the victim knew the offender or did not want to file a report.
- Two **homicides** were reported in 2018, both of which are still under investigation.
- 3 **arsons** were reported in 2018, compared to two in 2016. None were considered significant.
- Police responded to 69,214 **calls for service** in 2018, compared to 67,580 calls in 2017.

Village Hall to host early voting

Suburban Cook County voters can cast an early ballot for the April 2 Consolidated Municipal Election from March 18 through April 1 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Village Hall hours for early voting will be as follows:

- Monday – Saturday, March 18 – March 23: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, March 24: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday – Friday, March 25 – March 29: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, March 30: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, March 31: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, April 1: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Voter registration...In-person voter registration is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through March 5 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. In-person voter registration also is available at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave., and the main Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Call the Township at 708.383.8005 or the library at 708.383.8200 for details. The last day to register online at www.cookcountyclerk.com is Sun., March 17.

Same day registration and voting...

Individuals can register and vote at any early voting location until the Monday before an election, but they must cast a ballot in person during the same visit. Voter registration and voting also is available on Election Day — but only at the individual's home precinct. Two pieces of identification are required, one with a current address.

More information...For more information on the April 2, 2019 Consolidated Election, including polling sites by address, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections.

Scan with a
smartphone QR
app for more
information



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



Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Deno J. Andrews Dan Moroney

Simone M. Boutet Jim Taglia

Andrea Button Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman

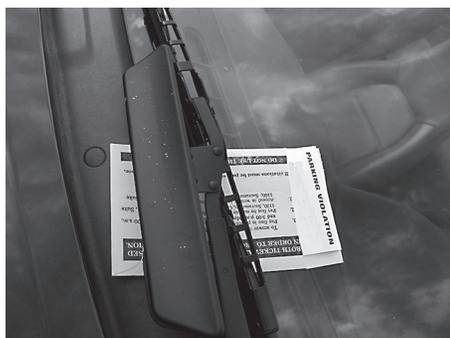
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

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

Parking amnesty program waives late fees



Anyone with an unpaid parking ticket prior to 2018 who pays by 5 p.m., April 4 can avoid any late fees or future collection efforts. Collection activities including booting have been suspended during the amnesty period. But once the temporary reprieve ends, any remaining unpaid parking accounts will be turned over to a collection agency to seek the full amount due, including late fees, which can add up to \$70 per ticket to the original parking violation

fine. Village records indicate about 180,000 parking tickets issued through 2017 are eligible for the amnesty program. Payment will be accepted online via the current parking citation services online portal, in person at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. or via U.S. Mail to Parking Amnesty, Oak Park Village Hall, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302. The online portal allows vehicle owners to search for outstanding tickets using their license plate or citation number. Vehicle owners who pay online will be credited and the late fees waived almost immediately. Other payment options will take time to process and provide receipts. In addition to giving vehicle owners an opportunity clear their records, the amnesty program also will streamline implementation of a new online parking system that will unify all vehicle-related services, including vehicle stickers and parking permits and passes. To pay online, go to www.oak-park.us/amnesty. For more information about the parking amnesty program, call 708.358.5630 or email adjudication@oak-park.us.

Day in Our Village is recruiting

Local groups and volunteers are invited to participate in the 46th annual *A Day in Our Village*, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. Scheduled for Sun., June 2, the event features activity and information booths in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue, local restaurants and activities in Rehm Park. In addition to participants, volunteers are needed to donate an hour or two of time well before the event, distributing promotional literature and hanging posters around the community. For more information on participating or volunteering to help with the 2019 *A Day in Our Village* celebration, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Programs help senior with home repairs

Helping homeowners pay for needed repairs they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford is what the Village's single-family rehab loan program is all about. Last year one rehab loan helped an Oak Park resident of more than 40 years living on a fixed income and recovering from a medical issue go from a citation for a deteriorating front porch to a new porch, a fix for a basement water problem, removal of lead paint and a new wheelchair accessible ramp. This homeowner took advantage of an income-based, no-interest rehabilitation loan and a separate lead abatement grant, both administered by the Village. The rehab program offers loans of up to \$25,000 to correct health and safety issues and building code violations, such as broken pipes, a leaking roof, crumbling entry stairs, dangerous electrical systems and accessibility obstacles. No monthly payments are required and loans don't have to be repaid for 20 years or until the property is transferred. Grants do not have to be repaid. The Village has \$175,000 available this year for the federally funded rehab loan program. Eligibility is determined by federal income limits. For example, a family of four with a total household income below \$67,700 and a family of two with a household income below \$54,200 would qualify for a loan and grant. For more information visit www.oak-park.us/housing, email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.