



Oak Lawn Matters

Summer 2023

Summer is Here!!!



THE VILLAGE OF
OAK LAWN

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Message from the Mayor Terry Vorderer

708-499-7740 tvorderer@oaklawn-il.gov



Dear Friends & Neighbors:

As we approach the summer of 2023, we should be thankful for the quality of life we enjoy as residents of Oak Lawn. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve our community as mayor. I was born and raised here, along with 6 brothers and sisters. My wife Linda of 53 years, and I raised our family here. A great Village to call home.

Oak Lawn continues to be one of the strongest communities in the state. We see strong and robust growth in our housing market with businesses opening all over town. One problem is finding locations for them as our village is almost completely developed. Often, it's required to tear down older properties to make way for the new. This is a good problem to have. The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce has over 350 members and continues to grow. Sometimes, I think my job as Mayor is cutting grand opening ribbons for new businesses, as I do so often.

Public safety is the primary responsibility of any government. I, along with the Village Board, recognize this responsibility and we continue our 100% support of our police and fire departments. We need them more than ever in these difficult times. These are truly professional organizations and I am proud to say I was once an Oak Lawn Police Officer. These men and women need to know that our community and Village leaders stand behind them.

Due to financial concerns caused by the Covid-19 global pandemic, Oak Lawn was forced to make cuts to services and personnel in response to the pandemic. Specifically, our senior bus services were discontinued during this period. After being elected Mayor, myself, Trustee Bud Stalker, and surrounding Mayors worked together with the Worth Township Supervisor, Patricia Murphy, to create a senior bus service that not only takes our seniors to Oak Lawn locations, but to locations throughout Worth Township. This was a major undertaking and Supervisor Murphy should be commended for her vision and hard work in restarting this vital service. Oak Lawn continues partnering with other Oak Lawn taxing bodies to find a new home for our senior services.

The summer 2023 will see several community events, including Concerts On The Green on Sunday evenings, our Oak Lawn Independence Parade, and our annual music festival in the fall. There are many Oak Lawn residents and employees who volunteer their time and I wish to thank them for making summer in Oak Lawn enjoyable for families year after year.

In closing, let me say, I'm deeply appreciative of your support and promise to do my best for you and your family in Oak Lawn.

Mayor Terry Vorderer



SENIOR CORNER

Oak Lawn Senior Center - 5220 W. 105th St

Our Senior Center is open from 10 am until 2 pm, Monday through Friday. There are a variety of activities and events including movies, games, exercise classes, bingo, and entertainment. We continue to look for a more permanent space for the Center so we can expand and improve our senior services. If you would like more information, contact our Senior Center Activities Director Mike Musto at mmusto@oaklawn-il.gov, or 708-499-0240



Worth Township Senior Bus

The Village has partnered with Worth Township and other communities to bring back the Senior bus! The cost is \$3 per ride (\$6 round-trip) or 10 rides for \$25, a \$5 savings. Riders and their caregivers must be registered to ride the bus, and reservations should be made 24 hours in advance. You can register by phone by calling the Worth Township Transportation Coordinator John Panico at 708-972-7075, or fill out an application at the Worth Township Center, 11601 S. Pulaski Road, Alsip.



1st District Trustee

Tim Desmond

708-346-7001

tdesmond@oaklawn-il.gov

As the summer season approaches, we are anticipating numerous activities and attractions over the coming months. From delightful outdoor spaces to cultural experiences and exciting events, there is something for everyone to enjoy in Oak Lawn. One of the top destinations for outdoor enthusiasts is the Stony Creek Golf Course. This 18-hole course is perfect for golfers of all skill levels. The course also features a clubhouse, restaurant, and bar, making it the perfect spot for a post-golf meal or drink.

A visit to Wolfe Wildlife Refuge is a must for anyone who enjoys nature. This 45-acre refuge is a natural wetlands area where many birds, butterflies, and other wildlife including some endangered species,

call home and has beautiful walking / biking trails and playgrounds. Another must visit location for nature lovers is the Oak Lawn Park District's Centennial Park. This expansive park offers numerous recreational activities along with a swimming pool, which is perfect for cooling off on hot summer days. For families with young children, the park has two playgrounds and a splash pad. For those who are interested in cultural experiences, the Oak Lawn Public Library offers a variety of literary events and programs, and the Children's Museum offers hands-on educational exhibits and activities. Fun experiences for all ages. One of the most exciting events taking place in Oak Lawn this summer is the Oak Lawn 4th of July Parade on Sat July 1 at 4 pm. The parade features marching bands, floats, festivities, and is a great way to celebrate America's independence with family and friends. Another exciting event this summer is the Oak Lawn Park District's Summer Concert Series, which features live music performances by local and regional artists. Additionally, we have a variety of wonderful restaurants, bars, and coffee shops that offer plenty of options for great dining and entertainment. As usual our hard-working Public Works Department is busy keeping Oak Lawn looking beautiful and our Police & Fire Departments will ensure safe and enjoyable activities, attractions, and events for residents and visitors alike.



2nd District Trustee

Alex Olejniczak

708-346-7002

aolejniczak@oaklawn-il.gov

As a Trustee in our wonderful community, I am thrilled to announce the exciting events taking place this Spring and Summer.

Our Parks and Recreation Department is working diligently to plan an incredible lineup of concerts and other events for our residents to enjoy. Whether you prefer the smooth sounds of jazz or the upbeat rhythm of rock and roll, we have something for everyone. I encourage you to gather your family and friends, pack a picnic, and join us for these fun-filled events.

Furthermore, we are eagerly anticipating the annual Oak Lawn 4th of July Parade, which promises to be a highlight of the summer. This

event is a celebration of our nation's independence and a time for our community to come together in unity and patriotism.

In addition to these events, the Public Works Department will be working hard on various projects throughout the summer to ensure that our community remains safe, clean, and beautiful. From road repairs to landscaping and beautification efforts, our team of dedicated professionals will be working tirelessly to make Oak Lawn a better place for all.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize our first responders, particularly our Police Department. They have been working tirelessly to keep our community safe and secure. We are grateful for their unwavering dedication and commitment to public service.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, I am confident that we will continue to come together as a community and overcome any challenges that come our way. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community and for your continued support.

I will see you around the neighborhood.



3rd District Trustee

Paul Mallo

708-346-7003

pmallo@oaklawn-il.gov

Happy Summer, District 3! The continued support for our police officers in Oak Lawn is very inspiring seeing as they sacrifice every single day to keep this village safe and it doesn't go unnoticed. Our first responders and telecommunicators serve this community 24/7/365. Oak Lawn Regional Emergency Communications ("OLREC") will soon be getting a new modernized facility. Work is in its initial stages to move our OLREC center to a new location just beside the public works yard on 98th and Central. This project will be started and completed in 2024. Our current emergency center located at Village Hall is small and not up to current standards like the new one will be. We worked very hard to make this facility the top of the line bringing our 911 center into the future.

An update on our biggest vacant piece of land in the entire village; the old Freshline was knocked down by the Pete's Fresh Market group, and after months (years) of waiting for a plan, Pete's decided it was best to put the property up for sale. We are working diligently to find the right development to go on that piece of land.

I would like to welcome two new businesses to District 3; Uncle Bud's and Taco Bell, both on Cicero Avenue, and I wish them the best of luck. We are glad to see these properties move in a positive direction.

In this newsletter you will see the latest events schedule that the Arts and Events Commission has announced -- Sunday Concerts, our Oak Lawn Independence Parade, and 2nd Annual Fall Music Festival. We hope to see all of Oak Lawn out enjoying these free events throughout the summer. On a side note, this commission has been collaborating with the police and fire departments to bring new and exciting ideas to the National Night Out. This is a national event for families that is always held in the parking lot at Village Hall. The date for this year's National Night Out is August 1st.

I wish everyone a happy and safe summer as my fellow trustees and I continue to work hard to move our Village forward.



4th District Trustee

James "Jamie" Pembroke

708-346-7004

jpembroke@oaklawn-il.gov

Summer is upon us, and with the weather turning warmer and our children spending more time outside of their homes with friends, please be attentive of their presence on our streets. Please drive carefully and slow down at intersections, especially the uncontrolled intersections in our neighborhood. We all need to slow down, myself included, to keep our neighborhood streets safe.

Thank you to all the residents for the efforts you put into keeping our Village beautiful. I am so impressed as I travel throughout each district

by how much effort our residents put into keeping their homes groomed and beautifully landscaped. It is wonderful to see the pride homeowners put into helping make our Village of Oak Lawn a great place to live and raise our families.

Another very important part of our civic duty is to continue being good neighbors. Please continue to check on our senior neighbors and help when you can. Continue to email me, jpembroke@oaklawn-il.gov, when the needs of our neighbors are beyond your resources. If you see something, say something. You can email me or contact the Village with concerns you have within our great Village.

Lastly, we have some new businesses in and around District 4 that we want to welcome to Oak Lawn. The Berman Auto Group is now a valuable member of our community as well as L.A. Fitness and Taco Bell. Please continue to shop Oak Lawn and support our local businesses. Especially our small business neighbors.

Have a Safe, Healthy, and Fulfilling Summer.



5th District Trustee

Bud Stalker

708-346-7005

bstalker@oaklawn-il.gov

With the April 2nd election behind us, I would like to thank the people of District 5 for allowing me to continue to serve them as their Trustee. Although it's true that neither I nor any of the other Trustees running were opposed, I hope that the lack of competition means that both myself and the rest of the candidates have done a good job serving the needs of our constituents and the Village. With that being said, I promise to continue to do my best to make District 5 and the remainder of the Village a great place to live, work, and shop. We have continued to make progress with the storm water detention in the Village. Thanks to the work of Village Manager, Tom Phelan, and District 6 Trustee, Ralph

Soch, agreements are being finalized to "dig down" the Polaris Fields at 107th and Kilpatrick.

The next goal is to continue to add detention and storage capacity by dredging and cleaning the Stony Creek watershed. This project has the capability to increase the rainwater detention to as much as five times that gained at the Polaris Field Project. Another positive note is that this work will clean up the area and possibly supply more open park space for future use. I will continue to pursue this option aggressively. On a less positive note, traffic flow through the district has increased significantly. In Eagle Ridge when school lets out and any time a train blocks Central Avenue, there has been reckless driving observed along 107th and Cook Ave. Traffic studies have been completed in that area and we are beginning to make plans to address this problem. The affected residents will be informed and will have the opportunity to explore a variety of options. A similar problem is now starting to develop on the east side of Stony Creek along 107th and Laramie Ave. We are continuing to watch those two areas to find the best solution to slow and reduce traffic and to ensure increased safety. Stay tuned and have a GREAT SUMMER!



6th District Trustee

Ralph Soch

708-346-7006

rsoch@oaklawn-il.gov

One of the first things I learned as Trustee is that Oak Lawn residents care deeply about our community, and they want to know that the people they elect do also. As someone who has lived in the 6th District for more than 50 years, I can tell you that I do care. Big or small, every issue is important to me, and I try to treat them as such.

My top priority right now is keeping Oak Lawn SAFE, and it's the top priority of everyone I serve with on the board. American society is growing increasingly dangerous, and our board is committed to doing everything we can to reduce this danger. In the last 2 years I have served

as the board liaison to both the police and fire departments, and I have worked with them to invest in technology to make Oak Lawn safer. You can read about some of those things on page 10 of this newsletter.

Another priority of mine is to end the flooding problem in Oak Lawn that has affected our community for decades. We are partnering with HS District 218 and the MWRD on a massive water detention project at the Polaris Fields on 107th and Kilpatrick, a project that could keep almost 20 million gallons of water out of homes and streets and yards during heavy storms.

To close, I would like to direct your attention to page 14 of this newsletter which talks about property taxes. Prices today are 40% higher than in 2010 due to inflation, yet incredibly the Village's property tax levy is lower today than it was in 2010. This is something I never paid much attention to before I became Trustee, but now that I see how hard people work here to keep our taxes low, I felt the need to point this out.

To close I want to assure everyone that I will continue to do my best job for the residents of District 6, and I hope everyone has a great summer!



Village Manager

Tom Phelan

708-499-7743

tphelan@oaklawn-il.gov

Taxes

As this newsletter goes to print, the US Congress is still fighting over the debt ceiling. In 2020 the US Treasury (aka the IRS) took in \$3.4 trillion. In 2022, just 2 years later, the number grew to \$4.9 trillion, a \$1.5 TRILLION increase. Yet Congress can't pay their bills and has to borrow more money? The ability to SPEND money is the easiest thing in the world to do. It requires no skill, nor intelligence, nor discipline. And it's the reason our country is spiraling down financially. OVERSPENDING. Thankfully the Oak Lawn Village board thinks and acts differently, as evidenced by the incredible job they have done with our property taxes (see page 14 for more information).

Crime

Also, at the time of this newsletter we are seeing further evidence of societal decline, with violent flash mobs overtaking suburban carnivals and 13-year-olds committing carjackings and other violent crimes. Again, thankfully, the Oak Lawn Village board has established a zero-tolerance policy on crime, and we have invested millions in crime-fighting technology. They are equally strong when it comes to supporting our first responders who work to keep us safe.

Public Safety

As with past editions of this newsletter, in this edition you will read about things you can do to improve not just your own safety but the safety of your family and your community. Signing up for Smart911 and registering your security cameras are 2 very quick, easy, and FREE things you can do to improve Public Safety.

Summer is Here!

In this newsletter you will find a schedule of fun summer events, answers to frequently asked questions, and info on how to fix flooding problems in your home from heavy summer rains. If you haven't been to our 4th of July parade, our movies and concerts on the Green, or our Fall Music Festival, you are missing out on some really enjoyable – and free – summer experiences. Why not give them a try?



Police Chief

Dan Vittorio

708-499-7723

dvittorio@oaklawn-il.gov

The strength of any police department is its officers. With the village board's commitment to public safety, we have hired 28 officers since the fall of 2020. This has been accomplished in a time when police recruitment and retention is at its lowest. We have also welcomed K9 Thor to the department. He and his partner Officer Carroll completed their training together last fall.

Our officers have also made some noteworthy accomplishments. Lt. Steve McNeela graduated from the F.B.I. National Academy. This academy was established in 1935 to provide advanced investigative, management, and fitness training to senior officers who are proven leaders within their organizations.

Detective Todd Gross received the Investigator of the Year Award from the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association for 2022. This was the first year this award was given by the association.

The department has also invested in the latest technology. We recently installed a network of Flock license plate readers throughout the village. These have resulted in the recovery of stolen automobiles and multiple arrests. Our camera sharing program, Fusus, has created a website exclusively for the Oak Lawn Police Department. You can go to www.connectoaklawn.org and register your home or business security cameras with the police department. There is no cost for residential systems. Partnering with the Village will allow detectives to better solve crimes by having access to this database. You can also text crime tips or videos to (708) 613-8477.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a "Support Oak Lawn Police" yard sign. The proceeds will benefit a local scholarship fund in honor of Officer Ruben Flores, who sadly lost his battle with cancer. I hope everyone has a great summer and look forward to seeing you all at National Night Out on August 1st. We have partnered with the Oak Lawn Special Events Committee to have more attractions for the younger kids.



Fire Chief

Zackary Riddle, MPA, CFO

708-499-7700

zriddle@oaklawn-il.gov

The Village of Oak Lawn announces our Centennial Celebration of Service for the Oak Lawn Fire Department ("OLFD"). Beginning as a volunteer fire department in 1923, our firefighters have provided neighbors, friends, and visitors invaluable emergency services for 100 years. During the 2023 Centennial Celebration of Service, we send our appreciation and recognition to current and past members who have honorably answered the call while displaying our shared values of selfless service, duty, pride, and tradition.

Saving your life is our mission. Every day and night for the last 100 years, OLFD continues to serve our Village while living a philosophy of mission first, people always. Our compass provides direction through a shared vision of doing the right thing while making our service better, smarter, faster, and safer every day. We will always be there when you need us for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services.

What's next? The Village of Oak Lawn renews a century long focus to build OLFD for the future. Resources are continually directed towards training, education, and professional development as keystones paving the way forward into the next 100 years. During this centennial year, our cornerstones of mission, vision, values are solid and strong to build upon the capabilities and resilience needed for the next 100 years.

Is your family safe and ready for the future? Pay attention when cooking with outside grills, make sure your smoke alarms work properly and create/practice an escape plan for your family in case of fire. Please scan the QR code in the FAQ section on page 10 and see how you can help your family be safer this year. Take Care - Be Careful.



Village Clerk
Claire Henning

708-499-7738

chenning@oaklawn-il.gov

I would like to thank each one of you for the opportunity to serve as Village Clerk over the last two years. I have learned so much and am appreciative for the opportunity to serve you as Clerk.

With the changing of the seasons, I ask residents to please be aware of your surroundings. Nicer weather brings more pedestrians, so please slow down on the roads, and keep our children safe.

We are all ready to be outside and shake off the winter blues. There are plenty of 5K runs/walks, summer concerts, and other events to look forward to this spring/summer season.

The April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election is complete, and I would like to congratulate 1st District Trustee Tim Desmond, 3rd District Trustee Paul Mallo, 5th District Trustee Bud Stalker, and 6th District Trustee Ralph Soch on their elections. I am thrilled to serve with each of you for the next few years. Congratulations to all of our Oak Lawn elected officials!

Oak Lawn residents, please consider making an extra effort to vote in the local elections. Of approximately 6,500 voters in each district, we had a total range of 315-536 voters cast a ballot. That is only 13% of our overall registered voters. Local elections matter, so please get out and vote!

As a reminder, if you have any concerns, complaints, need temporary handicap placards, Freedom of Information Request forms, charitable raffle/liquor permits, notary services, or to register to vote, please contact my office at (708) 499-7738.

You can register to vote by visiting www.cookcountyclerkil.org, where you can also find information about elections and candidates.



*Community Development
Director*
Gary Gudino

708-499-7745

ggudino@oaklawn-il.gov

Our Economic Development team has been very busy all year, and the Village continues to see solid increases in building permits for residential and commercial construction. This growth is consistent with our department's motto "We believe business goes where it's invited". Many new businesses are under construction or signing leases in Oak Lawn, including Pasians Pizzeria, Dunkin' Donuts, Taco Bell, Panda Express, and Birdies Car Wash on 95th St. There has also been a lot of activity with our car dealers with several changing hands and many undergoing significant renovations. Northwestern College also decided to make Oak Lawn their new home and have relocated to the property formerly occupied by Fifth Third Bank near 95th and Cicero.

Our Property Maintenance team has also been holding landlords and property owners accountable for problem properties and acquiring and demolishing vacant and dangerous structures. The mission of our Property Maintenance team is to ensure that every resident and business maintains their property. With the warm weather here, we need everyone to do their part. Please take a look at the FAQs on pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter for information about some common problems and issues that people experience in the summer. If you can't find your answer there, please call us at (708) 499-7820 and we'll do our best to help. If we all do our part, we will continue to make Oak Lawn a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Our Special Events team has a wonderful schedule of events planned this year. The Sunday Concert Series is back and run from early June to the end of August. It's a great opportunity to experience what our Village Green has to offer along with enjoying some wonderful music on a summer night. Our 4th of July Parade will be held on Saturday, July 1st, and our National Night Out event will be bigger and better this year. The Village has shown unbelievable support for our First Responders and the National Night Out is a way for them to show their appreciation back to you. I look forward to seeing everyone out this summer at one of our wonderful events!



Public Works Director
Bill Meyer

708-499-7700

wmeyer@oaklawn-il.gov

This is a very busy time for our Public Works Department, as many of our annual programs are about to start. The Village Board and Manager have made it very clear that addressing the flooding problems in Oak Lawn continues to be a high priority. We just hosted our first public meeting to discuss the Polaris Field Project. This project will help eliminate street flooding issues during heavy rains. We also will be lining village sanitary sewers later this year which helps to combat basement back-up problems for our residents.

Our Water Division is making improvements to our pumping stations that will address security and improve communication to keep our water safe and clean. Remember to sign up for the Village's "Water Smart" software which helps homeowners identify potential leaks and other cost-saving measures. Please look at the FAQs on page 8 in this newsletter for instructions on how to register.

This year our Regional Water System has two large water main projects in Oak Lawn, one at the intersection of SW Hwy and Cicero, and the other at 95th and SW Hwy. These projects will help us continue to deliver potable drinking water not only to Oak Lawn but also to our 12 municipal customers and their 270,000 residents.

Finally, and as we do every summer, we have an aggressive street resurfacing plan underway. We will invest more than \$5 million to resurface 32 different streets totaling almost 6 miles of roadway. Please be mindful of all this work and be patient while trying to get around town. Our goal is to continue to make Oak Lawn a great and safe place to live and work.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)



FAQ: We would like to plant a new tree in our parkway. Can the Village help?

Answer: Yes, you can take advantage of our parkway tree planting program: Our next planting will occur this Fall (Oct/Nov), and applications are due by September 15th. For more information contact our Forestry Department at 708-499-7098.

FAQ: How do I dispose of large items in my home, like couches, appliances, dressers, mattresses, rugs, etc?

Answer: Our waste hauler can take them, except appliances with freon (like air conditioners). To schedule a pick-up call Republic Services at 708-385-8252 three (3) days in advance of your normal garbage day.

FAQ: We have been getting sewage in our home during heavy rains. What can we do?

Answer: You may qualify for the Villages 50/50 cost share program (see page 13 for more info). Call 708-499-7748 for more information.

FAQ: I may have a water leak. What should I do?

Answer: The majority of the time the problem is a leaky toilet which a plumber can easily fix. Our new water meters (installed over the last 3 years) can detect leaks and send you notifications, and you can monitor your usage and get helpful tips on how to conserve water. To sign-up for this service go to www.oaklawnil.watersmart.com.



FAQ: Why was my recent water bill so high?

Answer: If you don't have a leak, your bill is likely higher due to increased usage and/or increases in rates from the City of Chicago, which just raised rates by 5% effective June 1st.

FAQ: What can I do about rats/rodents near our home?

Answer: The best ways to eliminate rats/rodents are to eliminate their food sources and harborages. Avoid feeding wildlife, clean up after pets, and bag garbage and put in tightly covered containers. Also remove items outside your home where rodents may harbor like overgrowth, wood piles, bricks, etc.



FAQ: How can I get new/replacement garbage/recycling bins?

Answer: Contact our Public Works Department at 708-499-7750 to arrange for an inspection and, if warranted, the bin will be replaced.

FAQ: My neighbor's tree limbs/branches overhang my property line. Can I trim them?

Answer: Yes. By law, you have the right to trim branches and limbs that extend past the property line. However, the law only allows tree trimming and tree cutting up to the property line. You may not go onto the neighbor's property or destroy the tree.



FAQ: When is the next electronic waste disposal event?

Answer: Saturday, October 14th, from 9 am until 12 noon, at our Public Works facility at 5500 W. 98th St. Acceptable items include TVs, computer monitors, VCRs, DVDs, printers, keyboards, inkjet/toner cartridges, laptops, video game consoles, cameras, cell phones, speakers, stereos, microwaves, and holiday lights. Prohibited items include air conditioners, smoke detectors, batteries, and fluorescent lights. This is a drive-through service for Oak Lawn residents only (proof of residence is required), and there is a \$35 charge per TV and computer monitor (debit/credit cards accepted). For more info call (708) 499-7756.

FAQ: Our neighbor's property is in terrible condition and possibly vacant. Who should I contact?

Answer: If the grass is longer than four (4) inches and/or the property is not being maintained, you can call 708-499-7843 and an inspector will look into it. We never reveal the identity of people who make these reports, and they help keep our Village looking beautiful.

FAQ: When are the next street-sweeping dates for 2023?

Answer: July 10th through July 21st, October 16th through the 27th, and November 27th through December 8th.

FAQ: I'd like to install a new fence and do some other light construction at my house. What should I do?

Answer: Contact our Building Department at 708-499-7800 or email them at permits@oaklawn-il.gov.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Share Your Security Camera Information

Registering your security cameras allows our department to quickly and efficiently investigate incidents that may have occurred in and around your location. You can register your Ring or other video security systems, at no cost, and we will only contact you if a crime occurs in your area.

The information you share...

...is accessible only by authorized law enforcement personnel.

...will only be shared with public safety personnel, not third parties.

...helps our Police Department keep our community safe for all of its citizens.

Register Here (it takes less than 5 minutes): oaklawn-il.gov/camera-share

You can also text tips, images, and videos to 708-613-TIPS (-7477).

License Plate Readers ("LPRs")

We recently contracted with a company called "Flock Safety" that operates an automated license plate reader system which has become useful in preventing and solving crime. The shooters in the 2022 high-profile killings in Highland Park and Morris, IL were captured with the help of LPRs, which scan the license plates of vehicles coming into and leaving Oak Lawn. This real-time information is sent directly to our 911 communications center and then to our police vehicles which greatly increases our ability to catch criminals and solve crimes. The data that is captured on these cameras automatically is deleted after 30 days of non-use.

Lifesaving Tips

Always check to ensure that both your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are plugged in, have batteries, and are fully functional. These low cost alarms save lives and are worth your time and investment. Practice your family's fire escape plan because seconds count when you are exiting a burning structure. Lastly, make sure that your bedroom doors are closed at night to prevent the spread of smoke and fire throughout your home. This simple action can save your family's lives by decreasing smoke and heat, and keeping carbon monoxide out of and oxygen in your bedrooms if a fire ever happens in your home. Make final home safety checks before going to sleep at night. Just remember, "Close Before you Doze"! Click QR Code to the right for more info.

Oak Lawn Police Scholarship Fund

The Oak Lawn Police Club is selling these lawn signs for \$10 with net proceeds benefitting a local scholarship fund. If you would like to purchase a sign, you can pick one up at the Police desk at Village Hall, or email the police club president at mally@oaklawn-il.gov.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS!!!

| Event | Date | Time | Entertainment | Location |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Village Green Concert | Sunday, June 11, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Rev Dog | Village Green |
| Village Green Concert | Sunday, June 25, 2023 | 7:00 PM | The Nite Hawks | Village Green |
| 4th of July Parade | Saturday, July 1, 2023 | 4:00 PM | Parade Participants | 95th b/w Cicero & 55th Ct |
| Village Green Concert | Saturday, July 1, 2023 | 6:00 PM | Anthem | Village Green |
| Village Green Concert | Sunday, July 9, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Doug Horne Orchestra | Village Green |
| Village Green Concert | Sunday, July 23, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Charles and Company | Village Green |
| National Night Out | Tuesday, Aug 1, 2023 | 6:00 PM | Police & Fire Depts | Village Hall Parking Lot |
| Village Green Concert | Sunday, Aug 6, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Grace and John | Village Green |
| Village Green Concert | Sunday, Aug 20, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Birdhead | Village Green |
| Fall Music Festival | Friday, Sept 8, 2023 | 6:00 PM | Hair | Beer Tent |
| Fall Music Festival | Friday, Sept 8, 2023 | 6:00 PM | Moving Targets | Gazebo Stage |
| Fall Music Festival | Friday, Sept 8, 2023 | 8:00 PM | Sparks Fly | Main Stage |
| Fall Music Festival | Friday, Sept 8, 2023 | 10:00 PM | American Pie | Beer Tent |
| Fall Music Festival | Saturday, Sept 9, 2023 | 2:00 PM | The Dead Licks | Beer Tent |
| Fall Music Festival | Saturday, Sept 9, 2023 | 2:00 PM | The Dirty Wellies | Gazebo Stage |
| Fall Music Festival | Saturday, Sept 9, 2023 | 5:30 PM | Take Cover | Beer Tent |
| Fall Music Festival | Saturday, Sept 9, 2023 | 5:30 PM | Anchors Away | Gazebo Stage |
| Fall Music Festival | Saturday, Sept 9, 2023 | 7:30 PM | Too Hype Crew | Main Stage |
| Fall Music Festival | Saturday, Sept 9, 2023 | 10:00 PM | Stereo Types | Beer Tent |
| Fall Music Festival | Saturday, Sept 9, 2023 | 3:30 PM | Brass from the Past | Main Stage |
| Fall Music Festival | Sunday, Sept 10, 2023 | 2:00 PM | 90's Pop Nation | Main Stage |
| Fall Music Festival | Sunday, Sept 10, 2023 | 4:00 PM | The Walk Ins | Beer Tent |
| Fall Music Festival | Sunday, Sept 10, 2023 | 4:00 PM | Wild Daisy | Gazebo Stage |
| Fall Music Festival | Sunday, Sept 10, 2023 | 6:00 PM | Billy Elton | Main Stage |
| Village Green Concert | Sunday, Sept 24, 2023 | 6:30 PM | The Prissillas | Village Green |
| Santa on the Green | Saturday, Dec 2, 2023 | 12:00 PM | Santa & Friends | Village Green |



WHAT'S NEW?

Village Website

Our new website is up and running, and it's fully ADA compliant with an Accessibility Menu to make it more user-friendly! In addition to a more modern and responsive design, the website has better navigation and relevant content, including an "I Want To" search feature to the most commonly requested resources, and the ability to make online payments for common items like yard waste totes, sewer inspection fees, and commuter parking lot permits. Give it a try and let us know what you think! www.oaklawn-il.gov.



Business License Fees

Beginning on July 1st, 2023, the Village will implement a new Business License Fee program that is more streamlined and fairer to our business community. This follows the Village's "Business License Amnesty" program in 2022 that saved our business community almost \$600,000. If you have a current business license you will receive information about the new program in June, with one-time annual payments due on October 31st of each year. For more information contact the Village's Economic Development Manager Dan Brennan at (708) 499-7804 or dbrennan@oaklawn-il.gov.

Black Out Dates: Electronic Transactions

The Village recently invested in a new enterprise software system to improve our financial reporting, data management, billing, and collections capabilities. This new system will include time and money saving features and benefits for our taxpayers. However, the conversion will require a 3-day "Black-Out" period from July 19th to the 21st, during which only checks will be accepted at Village Hall as payment for Village fees and charges. Questions? Contact the Village's Finance Operations Manager Kim Bohanek at (708) 499-7764 or kbohanek@oaklawn-il.gov.

| Black-out Dates |
|-------------------|
| Wed, July 19th |
| Thurs, July 20th |
| Friday, July 21st |

FLOODING REMEDIATION

DO YOU GET RAW SEWAGE IN YOUR HOME DURING STORMS?

Take Advantage of the Village's 50/50 Plumbing Improvement Cost-share Program

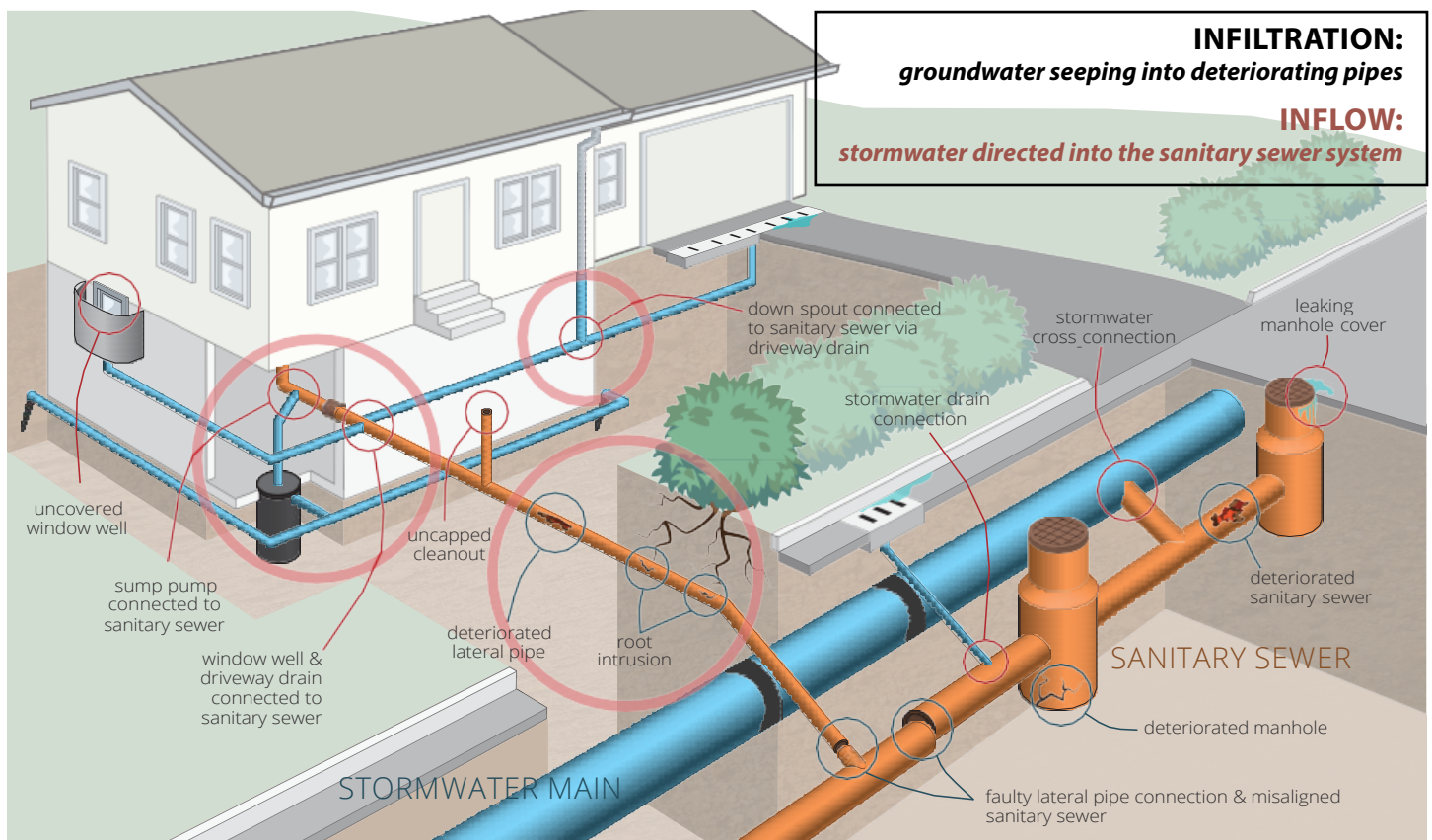
The Village has a program in place where homeowners who are experiencing raw sewage back-ups into their homes may be eligible for a 50/50 cost-share on plumbing repairs, with the Village paying half the cost of the repairs up to a cap of \$5,000.

What are the primary causes of raw sewage backing up into homes?

One of the biggest causes is rain water entering the sanitary sewers via improper connections in Oak Lawn homes.

“Improper Connections”? What are those?

Clear water (e.g., non-sewage rainwater and groundwater) enters the sanitary sewer system via improper connections in homeowner's plumbing and this clear water overloads the sanitary sewer system and causes raw-sewage to back-up into basements.



What else does the Village have planned to reduce the problem with raw sewage back-ups?

Residents who plan to sell their homes will need to pass a plumbing inspection from the Village to verify that the plumbing is not improperly connected. The results of the inspection will be included with the Village's real estate transfer stamps so both the seller and the buyer will be made aware of any problems.

So I should probably take advantage of that 50/50 cost-share program to fix my improper hook-up?

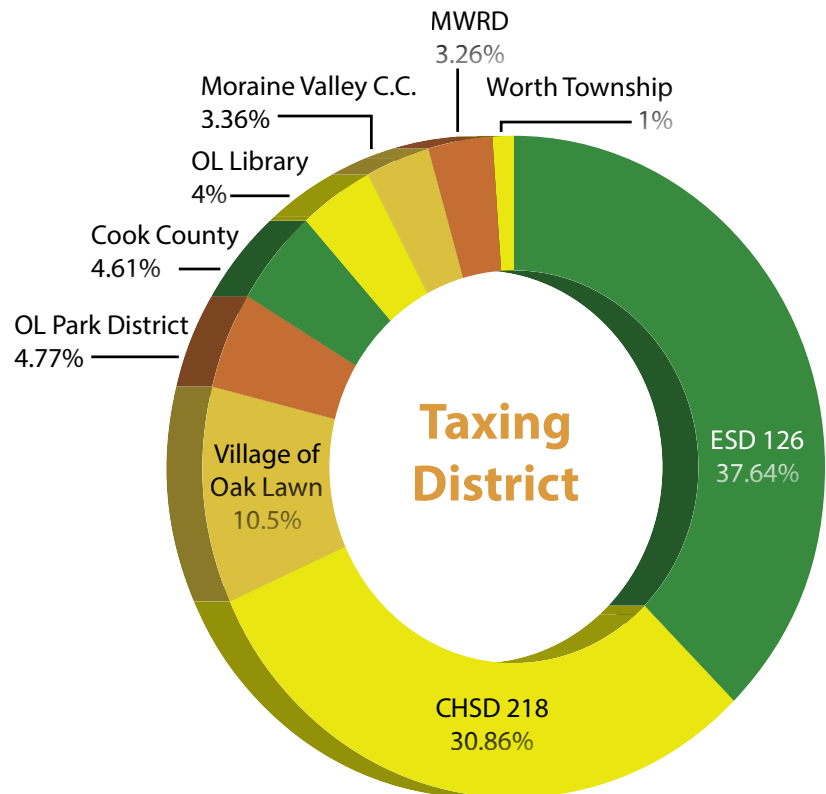
Yes, absolutely.

How do I go about checking to see if I have an improper plumbing hook-up?

Call our Public Works Department at 708-499-7748 to schedule an inspection, or visit the Village website (www.oaklawn-il.gov) for more information.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL

For many people their property tax bill is a confusing document of government mumbo-jumbo about levies and funding levels and pension obligations. Most people just want to know, “Where is my money going?” Many wrongly assume that most of their taxes go to the Village of Oak Lawn, which only receives about 10% of your property taxes. The pie-chart to the right shows the percentage of taxes that were paid to the various taxing bodies in 2021 for a typical home in Oak Lawn. This typical home is in Elementary School District 126 (Alsip, Hazelgreen, Oak Lawn) and Community High School District 218 (Richards H.S.) but the conclusions will also hold true for homes in other parts of Oak Lawn.



Did You Know? The Village of Oak Lawn's property tax levy is **LOWER** today than it was in 2010.

Historical Oak Lawn Property Tax Levies (by Taxing Body)

| Tax Levy Year | Village of OL | ESD 122 | ESD 123 | ESD 125 | ESD 126 | ESD 127.5 | CHSD 218 | CHSD 229 | OL Park Dist | OL Library |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 2010 | \$15,032,481 | \$20,528,139 | \$30,473,139 | \$5,148,528 | \$20,661,057 | \$6,612,999 | \$75,135,718 | \$22,769,049 | \$5,211,614 | \$5,086,065 |
| 2011 | \$15,081,510 | \$20,759,914 | \$31,381,611 | \$5,218,996 | \$21,021,771 | \$6,659,737 | \$76,489,576 | \$23,113,657 | \$5,368,013 | \$5,192,203 |
| 2012 | \$15,186,812 | \$21,299,133 | \$33,154,340 | \$5,414,229 | \$21,680,659 | \$6,838,785 | \$78,816,786 | \$23,963,808 | \$5,628,339 | \$5,370,242 |
| 2013 | \$14,884,357 | \$21,702,703 | \$33,641,832 | \$5,495,443 | \$22,105,691 | \$6,940,231 | \$81,082,431 | \$24,383,470 | \$5,775,331 | \$5,513,532 |
| 2014 | \$14,649,795 | \$21,977,305 | \$34,921,261 | \$5,568,540 | \$22,436,678 | \$7,040,705 | \$82,559,625 | \$24,861,293 | \$5,838,044 | \$5,636,876 |
| 2015 | \$14,357,935 | \$22,025,768 | \$35,189,335 | \$5,607,071 | \$22,701,460 | \$7,095,482 | \$83,633,247 | \$25,111,065 | \$5,868,184 | \$5,703,837 |
| 2016 | \$14,314,570 | \$22,144,209 | \$35,447,453 | \$5,644,716 | \$22,012,875 | \$7,138,975 | \$85,499,274 | \$25,488,364 | \$5,914,544 | \$5,699,130 |
| 2017 | \$14,309,830 | \$22,545,763 | \$37,019,211 | \$5,750,564 | \$22,562,529 | \$7,296,067 | \$87,979,053 | \$26,051,174 | \$6,077,069 | \$5,833,004 |
| 2018 | \$14,246,070 | \$22,785,567 | \$37,690,119 | \$5,855,680 | \$23,073,619 | \$7,454,361 | \$79,527,355 | \$24,226,077 | \$6,245,481 | \$5,861,964 |
| 2019 | \$14,240,180 | \$23,408,343 | \$38,344,736 | \$5,955,434 | \$23,630,977 | \$7,571,717 | \$88,832,040 | \$27,365,371 | \$6,397,094 | \$5,923,823 |
| 2020 | \$14,909,561 | \$23,885,244 | \$39,488,723 | \$6,077,837 | \$24,205,104 | \$7,730,775 | \$92,826,261 | \$28,097,163 | \$6,553,913 | \$5,571,329 |
| 2021* | \$14,910,779 | \$24,161,772 | \$40,000,581 | \$6,198,023 | \$24,592,806 | \$7,594,385 | \$90,565,782 | \$28,488,255 | \$6,735,733 | \$5,680,874 |

*Source: Cook County Clerk, Office of Tax Extension - 2022 Data Not Available Yet



Did You Know?

- Oak Lawn is the 22nd largest municipality in Illinois with a population of 58,362 people (2020 Census).
- Our Village is governed by 6 Trustees and a Mayor who acts as a tiebreaker on votes, and we employ a full-time Village Manager to run the Village's day-to-day operations.
- Oak Lawn has more than 800 licensed businesses, more than 20 excellent schools, an award-winning park district and children's museum, and a vibrant theater community.
- We have a world-class, Level-1 Trauma and Medical Center (Advocate-Christ) and our emergency response personnel (Police, Fire and 911 Dispatchers) are the envy of the Southland.
- We are the home of musicians Kevin Cronin (REO Speedwagon) and Dan Donegan (Disturbed); Superbowl-winning L.A. Rams Defensive Line Coach Kevin Carberry, and NFL players Dave Diehl, Ryan Donahue, Dwayne Goodrich, and Mark Donahue; NBA L.A. Laker C.J. Kupec; MLB players Rob Mackowiak and Bryan Rekar; professional boxer Mike Mollo; and U.S. Olympians Barbara Schaaf, Ixhelt Gonzalez, and Leslie Cichocki.
- Oak Lawn's real estate market has been red-hot! Since January of 2020 there were more than 4,000 real estate transactions in Oak Lawn, many selling at or above list price and within days of their listings.
- Oak Lawn's Property Tax Rate is LOWER today than it was more than a decade ago, in 2010.
- In 2017, Oak Lawn was named one of the Safest Cities in America AND the Hottest Growth Area in the Chicagoland area.

So, whether you're a life-long resident or a relative newcomer, there has never been a better time to live in Oak Lawn!





VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN
9446 S. RAYMOND AVENUE
OAK LAWN, IL 60453

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VILLAGE CONTACTS

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| President / Mayor Terry Vorderer | 708-499-7740 | tvorderer@oaklawn-il.gov |
| Village Manager Tom Phelan | 708-499-7743 | tphelan@oaklawn-il.gov |
| Trustee Tim Desmond (1st) | 708-346-7001 | tdesmond@oaklawn-il.gov |
| Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) | 708-346-7002 | aolejniczak@oaklawn-il.gov |
| Trustee Paul Mallo (3rd) | 708-346-7003 | pmallo@oaklawn-il.gov |
| Trustee Jamie Pembroke (4th) | 708-346-7004 | jpembroke@oaklawn-il.gov |
| Trustee Bud Stalker (5th) | 708-346-7005 | bstalker@oaklawn-il.gov |
| Trustee Ralph Soch (6th) | 708-346-7006 | rsoch@oaklawn-il.gov |
| Clerk Claire Henning | 708-499-7738 | chenning@oaklawn-il.gov |

POSTAL PATRON
OAK LAWN, IL 60453

Visit our website: www.oaklawn-il.gov



The Village's Smart911 Program allows you to create a Safety Profile for your household with information that emergency dispatchers and first responders can access in the event of an emergency. You can also sign-up for a variety of important emergency and community alerts.

To register or get more information visit www.smart911.com

Register Your Security Camera

Registering your security cameras allows our police department to quickly and efficiently investigate incidents that have occurred in or around your location. You can register your Ring or other video security systems, at no cost, and we will only contact you if a crime occurs in your area.

To register visit: oaklawn-il.gov/camera-share

