



Oak Lawn Matters

Summer 2025

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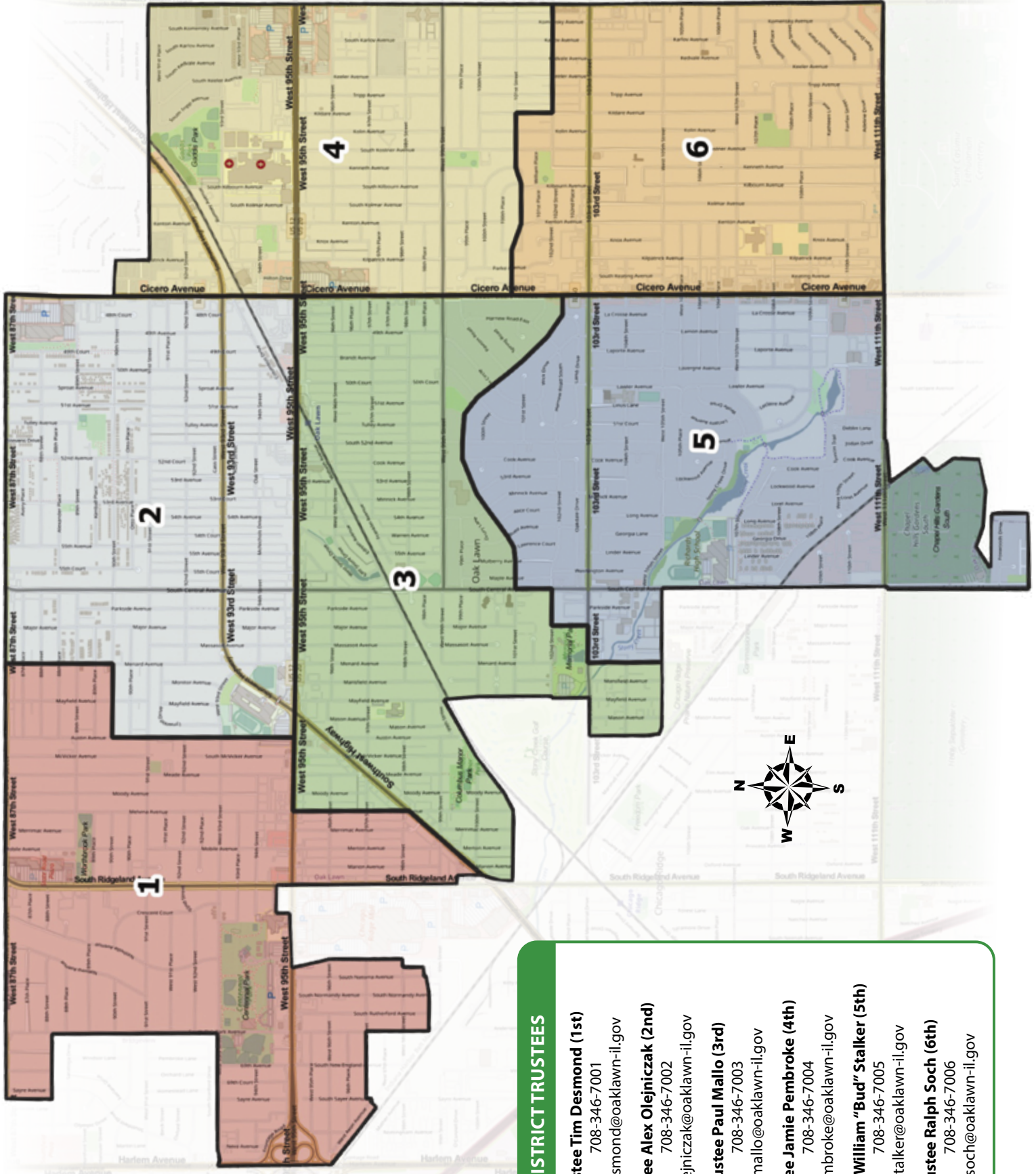
Summer!!! is Here!!!



OUR SENIOR CENTER IS MOVING!

See page 10 for more information





DISTRICT TRUSTEES

Trustee Tim Desmond (1st)
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Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd)
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Trustee Paul Mallo (3rd)
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Trustee William "Bud" Stalker (5th)
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Trustee Ralph Soch (6th)
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Message from the Mayor Terry Vorderer

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



Dear Friends & Neighbors:

As we approach summer 2025, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your mayor and to reflect on the incredible quality of life we enjoy in Oak Lawn. I was born and raised here, one of seven siblings, and my wife Linda and I chose to raise our family here as well. Oak Lawn is truly a wonderful Village to call home.

Reflecting on my time as Trustee and now Mayor, I'm proud of the progress we've made together. At 95th & Pulaski, a once-blighted shopping center with a shuttered K-Mart and problem-plagued Chuck-E-Cheese is now a thriving commercial hub. Similarly, the corner of 111th & Cicero, once home to a closed K-Mart and Dominick's Foods, is now bustling with Mariano's, fine dining, and retail. In 2024, I had the honor of cutting ribbons for 17 new businesses. Already this year, seven more have opened. The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce has grown to 396 members—an increase of 46 from last year. Entrepreneurs are choosing Oak Lawn, and your support of local businesses keeps our community strong. You may have noticed the "Hometown Heroes" banners honoring Oak Lawn military service members on 95th Street and on Cicero Ave. The program has been embraced by the community and is expanding rapidly, and we'd like to see banners from 87th to 111th Street. See below for more information.

Public safety remains our top priority. The Village Board and I proudly support our police and fire departments, which are among the finest in the region. We continue to invest in training and technology to ensure they can serve effectively. As a former Oak Lawn Police Officer, I know firsthand the dedication these

professionals bring to their work, and I am proud to stand with them.

Our senior citizens are a vital part of Oak Lawn, and we're committed to meeting their needs. We've partnered with Worth Township Supervisor, Patricia Murphy, to expand senior bus services throughout the township. Additionally, we're collaborating with the Park District to create a new Activity Center at the old Memorial pool house at 102nd and Major. A \$4 million renovation of is almost complete and will soon house a great community space for our seniors and others. By partnering with other local agencies, we ensure efficient and effective use of tax dollars.

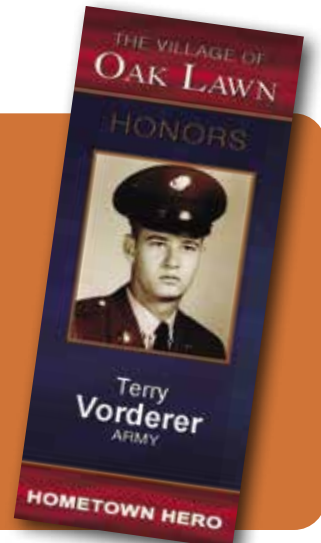
This summer, we'll be expanding our community events. More "Concerts on the Green," a Fourth of July parade (scheduled this year for Saturday, June 28), and our annual Fall Music Festival will bring people together in celebration. These events are funded entirely through proceeds from the fall festival, with a portion donated to local charities. Countless residents and Village employees volunteer their time to make these events successful, and I want to thank each of them for helping to make summer in Oak Lawn so special.

Thank you for your continued support and for re-electing me to a second term. I look forward to serving you and continuing to build on the progress we've made together.

Mayor Terry Vorderer

Hometown Heroes Banner Program

The Village of Oak Lawn is in the second year of this program that honors current or former Oak Lawn residents who have served or are currently serving our country in a branch of the U.S. military. Banners will be hung on street light poles throughout the Village and at the Village's discretion, and they will be displayed from Memorial Day (in May) through Veteran's Day (in Nov) for two years. The cost is \$125 and includes the banner and a 5" x 8" commemorative plaque (additional plaques are available for \$20 each). To order a banner for the 2026 season visit our website (www.oaklawn-il.gov) or call (708) 497-4951.





1st District Trustee

Tim Desmond

708-346-7001

tdesmond@oaklawn-il.gov

As we embrace the summer of 2025, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued support and engagement in our community. This season brings new opportunities for growth, connection, and revitalization in our beautiful Village.

Our focus this summer will be on enhancing community programs,

improving local infrastructure, and ensuring that Oak Lawn remains a vibrant place for all residents. We are excited to introduce new initiatives aimed at fostering community involvement, supporting local businesses, and ensuring that our parks and recreational facilities are accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

I encourage you to participate in the upcoming community events, share your ideas, and stay engaged with our initiatives. Together, we can make decisions that benefit our families and strengthen our neighborhood ties.

Thank you for your commitment to making Oak Lawn a wonderful place to live. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer!



2nd District Trustee

Alex Olejniczak

708-346-7002

aolejniczak@oaklawn-il.gov

I hope this letter finds you well as we welcome another vibrant summer in Oak Lawn. I'm honored and humbled to be reelected as your Second District Trustee and remain committed to serving our community. It is an honor to serve this community, and I remain dedicated to advancing our progress and supporting the needs of our residents with staunch commitment.

Summer Safety

With more people out enjoying the weather, please drive cautiously and stay alert—especially for children and seniors. A little extra caution and attentiveness goes a long way in keeping everyone safe.

Beautifying Our Village

Summer is the perfect time to refresh our properties. Thank you for your efforts in maintaining your yards and homes to help make Oak Lawn a welcoming and attractive place.

Infrastructure & Street Projects

Various street resurfacing and sewer maintenance projects are underway. These upgrades are critical to our Village's long-term health, and we appreciate your patience as work is completed.

Support Local Businesses

Oak Lawn's businesses—new and established—strengthen our community. Shopping local helps keep our economy vibrant and supports our neighbors. Choosing to shop Oak Lawn businesses makes a real difference.

Events & Concerts

I encourage everyone to check the Village website and social media for our summer events which you will read about on page 11. These gatherings are a great way to connect with neighbors and enjoy all Oak Lawn has to offer.

Thank You to Our Village Staff & Emergency Services

A huge thank you to our Public Works crew, Sewer, Dispatch, and especially our incredible Police and Fire Departments for their dedication and service. Their professionalism, dedication, and service to our community deserve our full appreciation and respect every day.

I look forward to seeing you at events and around the neighborhood. Please reach out with any ideas or concerns!



3rd District Trustee

Paul Mallo

708-346-7003

pmallo@oaklawn-il.gov

As summer approaches, take time to enjoy the free Sunday Concerts on the Village Green. These concerts are a wonderful chance to connect with family, friends, and neighbors while enjoying great music.

Exciting developments are underway, including the construction of the new public works/emergency communications (911 dispatch) building. Please also stay mindful of kids and families heading to summer games around 99th and Central.

Regarding the old Freshline lot: the Village is diligently working to secure a builder and new store for this lot that has been vacant for too

long. Although it's a challenging process, the Village remains committed to finding the perfect partner to bring a new shopping destination to Oak Lawn.

The Arts and Events Commission continues working hard to create an incredible lineup of events for summer and beyond, including Sunday Concerts, the 4th of July Parade and Post-Parade Concert, National Night Out, Halloween Decorating Contest, Fall Music Festival, and Santa on the Green.

I'm thrilled to welcome new businesses to District 3: Abuelita Coco on 95th St., AAA Oak Lawn – Amal Jaber Insurance Agency on Southwest Hwy, and VRS Village Realty on Cicero Ave. Remember to shop locally to keep Oak Lawn thriving.

I want to thank the residents of District 3 for trusting me over the past six years. I also want to express my heartfelt appreciation to my fellow Trustees, as well as the Police, Fire, 911 Center, Public Works teams, and the dedicated Village staff, whose hard work continues to ensure Oak Lawn thrives as a vibrant and prosperous community.

From my family to yours, have a safe and enjoyable summer!



4th District Trustee

James "Jamie" Pembroke

708-346-7004

jpembroke@oaklawn-il.gov

I hope you had a wonderful winter! With the arrival of summer, District 4 residents are busy tidying up their homes and yards in preparation for the summer months ahead. I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their commitment to keeping Oak Lawn a beautiful and welcoming community we all take pride in.

In recent discussions, many residents have shared concerns about driving safety in our neighborhoods. One key issue is the speed and

driving habits of motorists on our residential streets. It's important for all of us to slow down, adhere to posted speed limits, and come to a full stop at stop signs to keep our streets safe for everyone.

Another concern raised involves the growing number of younger residents using electric scooters throughout the Village -- on streets, sidewalks, and paths without observing road rules or common courtesies. I encourage parents to speak with their children about the importance of safely sharing the sidewalks with pedestrians, and the road with cars, motorcycles, and bicycles. The Board of Trustees is currently reviewing Illinois' low-speed motorized vehicle policy to determine whether additional measures may be necessary to protect our youth.

Please stay alert and mindful on our Village streets, as traffic volume continues to increase.

Wishing you a fantastic summer! Be sure to take advantage of all the exciting activities on the Village Green and in our wonderful parks, and remember to support our local restaurants and retail businesses.



5th District Trustee

Bud Stalker

708-346-7005

bstalker@oaklawn-il.gov

Summer has finally arrived—hopefully! We've had glimpses of warmer days, but chilly, windy, and rainy ones too. Hang in there—better weather is surely on the way.

Our recent election for Mayor and Trustees in Districts 2, 4, and 6 concluded with all incumbents re-elected. This is great news, as they've worked hard to improve life in our Village. However, voter turnout was

disappointingly low. Participation is vital in shaping our government, and I hope to see more voters in two years when elections for Districts 1, 3, and 5 take place. I plan to run again and encourage greater involvement.

Mayor Terry Vorderer and I recently attended the Illinois Municipal League's Spring Meeting in Springfield. We met with State Senators Bill Cunningham and Willie Preston, and State Representative Rick Ryan. Excitingly, we've been informed that capital funds may become available to cover some pending project expenses, potentially reducing the Village's operating costs. Stay tuned for updates.

One growing concern is the rising number of motorized scooters in the Village. These fast-moving vehicles are being driven by young riders without licenses, posing safety risks on streets and sidewalks. Please stay alert, and if you're a parent of a young scooter driver, take time to discuss safe riding practices.



6th District Trustee

Ralph Soch

708-346-7006

rsoch@oaklawn-il.gov

Thank you for electing me as your District 6 Trustee for another four years—it's an honor to serve you!

Summer is here and that means great community events like our parish carnivals featuring live music, great food, and fun rides for the kids. Our annual Fourth of July Parade takes place on June 28th which is always a fantastic family gathering. I'll be there and hope to see you there, too.

Our Polaris Park stormwater project is scheduled to begin later this year thanks to our partnership with the MWRD who has committed \$6.5 million to the project. You can get status updates on the project by visiting polarisstormwater.com.

I want to thank our incredible Oak Lawn Police and Fire Departments for their dedication. We continue to provide them with the latest technology and equipment to help them serve our community. On August 5th, we'll celebrate National Night Out with our first responders—a great family event with demonstrations and interactive displays for kids.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out via email or phone—my contact information can be found on the Village website. Wishing you a safe and happy summer!



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 four years and am looking forward to an exciting second term. I have learned so much and sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve.

With the changing of the seasons, I ask residents to please be aware of their surroundings. Nicer weather brings more pedestrians to the area, so please slow down on the roads, and keep our children safe. Do your best to keep the sidewalks free of parked vehicles so families, specifically our children, can pass by safely.

The April 1, 2025, Consolidated Election is complete, and I would like to offer 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 the 40,169 registered voters, there was a total of 4,060 ballots cast. With early voting opportunities for two weeks leading up to the election, it is very convenient to be able to do your part. Local elections matter, so please get out and vote! The number of votes in each election determines future campaign requirements. Even if a contest is unopposed, it is still important to place your votes! When you are told “every vote counts”, it really does. There is a local election every two years in the Village, the next being held in 2027. Please visit www.cookcountyclerkil.gov, where you can find additional information about elections and candidates.

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. Please note that the Village does not have or maintain vital records like birth certificates or marriage licenses.



Village Manager

Tom Phelan

708-499-7743

tphelan@oaklawn-il.gov

On June 1st my Village Manager contract expired and as I write this update I am in discussions with the Village Board over a possible contract extension. Regardless of the outcome of those discussions, I can say with the utmost sincerity that serving as the Village Manager for the last 4 years has been one of the most gratifying experiences in my life.

We were able to accomplish a great deal of positive things for the Village over the last 4 years, and your Village Board (Mayor, Clerk and Trustees) deserve all the credit. Their commitment to Public Safety and Fiscal Responsibility makes the job of managing the Village a pleasure.

On Public Safety our first responders (Police, Fire, and 911 Dispatchers) are the best in the Southland, and I would argue in the entire State of Illinois. If you receive our Community Alert emails you know that the Oak Lawn Police never give up on a case, even if it means pursuing criminals for several years. Our Fire Department has some of the best response times in the fire service, due in large part to our excellent 911 dispatch center which handles calls for 17 communities with a combined resident population of more than 250,000.

On Fiscal Responsibility, I encourage you to take some time and carefully read the information about property taxes on page 14. I admittedly have not done the research to back up this claim, but I'd wager there are very few municipalities in America who can say their property taxes are lower today than they were 15 years ago. Compare that to the city of Chicago who is facing a \$1.1 Billion budget deficit, or to our State where Governor Pritzker's 2026 budget includes \$394 million in new or higher taxes, and the elimination of the Property Tax Relief Grant which will effectively result in a \$43 million property tax increase for Illinois homeowners.

We have a full calendar of events planned for the summer (see page 11) and I hope you can enjoy one, some, or maybe even all of them!



Public Works Director

Bill Meyer

708-499-7749

wmeyer@oaklawn-il.gov

Our Public Works Department is committed to modernizing the Village's infrastructure and keeping the Village safe and clean. Some things that are important to note:

Flooding: We are in final stages of planning with the MWRD on Polaris Park Storm Water Project at 108th & Kilpatrick that will greatly reduce if not eliminate street flooding during heavy rainfall. We are also continuing with our sewer slip-lining to help combat basement back-up problems and will spend \$1.2 million on the project this year.

Road Resurfacing: The Village board has approved \$3.8 million to re-

surface Village roadways in 2025. This program will begin in July so please be mindful of all this work and be patient while trying to get around town.

Water Usage and Leakage: Remember to sign up for the Village's "Water Smart" program (oaklawnil.watersmart.com) which helps property owners identify leaks and unusual spikes in usage.

Lead Service Lines (Water): The EPA and IEPA have mandated that local municipalities that have lead service lines must replace them over the next 15 years. This project is scheduled to begin in 2026 with an estimated cost of \$28 million which we expect to fund with zero-interest loans from the EPA.

Storm Clean-up: We recently had a significant storm that required crews to clean the Village's streets for several days. Residents can help make these efforts move faster by moving large branches to the parkway and placing smaller branches and natural debris in yard waste containers. Sweeping up small debris (leaves, twigs) lying in the street helps prevent sewer blockage which reduces flooding.



Police Chief
Dan Vittorio

708-499-7723

dvittorio@oaklawn-il.gov

Summer Has Arrived—

Let's Keep Our Village Safe & Neighborly!

The trees are blooming, the lawns are turning green, and everyone is enjoying the warmer weather. As we embrace the season, let's be mindful of ways we can make our community safer:

Security Cameras: *If you own a home-security camera (e.g. a Ring camera) or other video security system you can link it with the police department's system by registering it at connectoaklawn.org. Registration is free and does not grant automatic access to your footage; only you can choose to share it if needed. We also respect your privacy and will only contact you if a crime occurs in your area.*

Vehicle Burglaries: *You can prevent vehicle burglaries by never leaving valuables in your car unattended, always locking your doors.*

Crime TIPS: *If you witness or know about a crime you can call 708-636-4400, or text tips, images, and videos to 1-708-613-TIPS (8477). Your identity will not be revealed.*

Pet Owners: *Please ensure your pets are up to date on their vaccinations, keep dogs on leashes when out for a walk, and always clean after them.*

Blocking Sidewalks: *Be courteous when parking and do not block sidewalks.*

Fireworks: *You can enjoy a Village-sponsored parade, concert, and fireworks display to celebrate the 4th of July! Leave the fireworks to the professionals so we can all enjoy the festivities safely.*

Together, we can make this season enjoyable for everyone in our community. Wishing you all a wonderful, safe, and happy summer!



Fire Chief
Michael McMillin

708-499-7705

mmcmillin@oaklawn-il.gov

As we head into summer it's a good time to review warm weather emergency preparedness.

THUNDERSTORMS & TORNADOES

The difference between a "Watch" and a "Warning":

Watch: A watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific weather event to occur, such as a severe thunderstorm or a tornado. It signals a heightened risk but doesn't mean the event is guaranteed. The watch area is typically larger and covers a wider region.

Warning: A warning is issued when a severe weather event is either occurring or imminent. It indicates that the weather event has been confirmed, either by radar or by eyewitness reports, and poses a direct threat to life and property. Warnings are typically issued for a smaller area, such as a city or county.

FLOODING

Prepare ahead to reduce risk:

- Ensure your sump pump is working and consider an alternate power supply.
- Install a water alarm to detect basement or crawl-space flooding.
- NEVER drive on flooded roads; it takes very little water to sweep away a person or vehicle.

OTHER SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Click on this QR Code for more Summer Safety Tips

The Oak Lawn Fire Department is here to help in emergencies. Enjoy the warm weather, but stay prepared for sudden changes!



SUMMER



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

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

FAQ: Are there any programs available to help me fix water leaks and plumbing issues in my home?

ANS: Yes, Cook County has a program to help residents reduce high water bills. Please visit www.cookcountyleakrepair.org for more information.

FAQ: Does the Village host any shredding events (for old documents/paperwork)?

ANS: There will be a shredding event on October 4th from 9:00 am until 10:30 am at the Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School at 5345 W. 99th St.

FAQ: Do I need a permit for small construction jobs (e.g. new concrete, replacing a fence, etc.)?

ANS: Yes. Online permit applications and payments are now available on our website (www.oaklawn-il.gov) or you can contact our Building Department at 708-499-7800.

FAQ: How can I get a new garbage/recycling bin?

ANS: Contact our Public Works Department at 708-499-7756 to arrange for a replacement bin. If you need an additional bin, please call Republic Services at 708-385-8252.

FAQ: How do I dispose of large items (e.g. couches, appliances, mattresses, rugs, etc.)?

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

FAQ: How do I obtain a garage/yard/estate sale permit?

ANS: Visit our website oaklawn-il.gov and navigate to “Building Division” and then “Permit Application”. Apply at least 48 hours prior to the start of your event. A \$25 permit fee is due at the time of application.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

FAQ: I get sewage back-up in my home during heavy rains. What can we do?

ANS: You may qualify for the Village's 50/50 cost share program. See page 13 for more info and then call 708-499-7748 if you have questions.

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

ANS: Yes, and our "Parkway Tree Planting Program" pays the majority of the cost (about 2/3rds). You can apply by visiting www.oaklawn-il.gov or by calling 708-499-7098. Applications are due by September 12th to get on the list for this Fall.

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

ANS: If a property isn't being maintained email propertycomplaints@oaklawn-il.gov or call 708-499-7820. Also, we respect requests to remain anonymous.

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

ANS: Yes, the law allows trimming and cutting of limbs and branches that extend over your property line. However, you may not go on to your neighbor's property nor destroy the tree.

FAQ: When are the next street-sweeping dates for 2025?

ANS: July 7-18, October 13-24, and December 1-5. Please consider keeping your vehicle off the street on the dates indicated.

FAQ: When is the next electronic waste disposal event?

ANS: Saturday, October 11th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, at our temporary Public Works facility at 5040 W. 111th St. This is a drive-through service for Oak Lawn residents only (proof of residency is required), and there is a \$35 charge per TV and computer monitor (debit/credit cards accepted). For more info visit www.oaklawn-il.gov or call 708-499-7756.

FAQ: Why was my recent water bill so high?

ANS: You may have a leak. Our water meters can send you notifications about high usage which helps detect leaks. Sign-up at oaklawnil.watersmart.com.



THE SENIOR CENTER IS MOVING TO THE
NEWLY RENOVATED \$4 MILLION

MEMORIAL PARK GENERATIONAL CENTER!

5725 W 102nd Street
708-529-6733

NEW LOCATION HOURS OF OPERATION

102ND & MAJOR

(M-F) 10:00AM-2:00PM

OPENING DATE

MONDAY JUNE 30TH

FREE FOR OAK LAWN RESIDENTS!

\$5.00 PER VISIT FOR NON-RESIDENTS

LAST DAY AT CURRENT LOCATION: JUNE 27TH

**VILLAGE AND PARK DISTRICT STAFF WILL ASSIST YOU
WITH SETTING UP A SENIOR CENTER MEMBERSHIP**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS!

Event	Date	Time	Entertainment	Location
Friday Night Movie	Friday, June 27	Dusk	Despicable Me 4	Village Green
4th of July Parade	Saturday, June 28	4:00 PM	Parade	95th Street
4th of July Concert	Saturday, June 28	6:00 PM	Charles and Co.	Village Green Gazebo
Sunday Summer Concert	Sunday, July 13	6:00 PM	The Stingrays	Village Green Gazebo
Friday Night Movie	Friday, July 25	Dusk	Moana 2	Village Green
Sunday Summer Concert	Sunday, July 27	6:00 PM	ElectricLand	Village Green Gazebo
Sunday Summer Concert	Sunday, August 3	6:00 PM	The Walk Ins	Village Green Gazebo
National Night Out	Tuesday, August 5	6:00 PM	Oak Lawn First Responders	Village Green
Friday Night Movie	Friday, August 15	Dusk	Sonic 3	Community Pavillion
Sunday Summer Concert	Sunday, August 17	6:00 PM	Motown Nation	Village Green Gazebo
Fall Music Festival	Friday, September 5	6:00 PM	Serenity Now!!	Village Green Gazebo
Fall Music Festival	Friday, September 5	6:00 PM	Mix Tape Junkies	FMF Tent Stage
Fall Music Festival	Friday, September 5	8:00 PM	Boy Band Night	FMF Main Stage
Fall Music Festival	Friday, September 5	10:00 PM	The Walk Ins	FMF Tent Stage
Fall Music Festival	Saturday, September 6	12:00 PM	Jr. Varsity Blues	Village Green Gazebo
Fall Music Festival	Saturday, September 6	2:00 PM	Sparks Fly-T Swift Experience	Village Green Gazebo
Fall Music Festival	Saturday, September 6	2:00 PM	Chancey Brothers	FMF Tent Stage
Fall Music Festival	Saturday, September 6	4:00 PM	Hillbilly Rockstarz	FMF Main Stage
Fall Music Festival	Saturday, September 6	6:00 PM	Second Hand News	Village Green Gazebo
Fall Music Festival	Saturday, September 6	6:00 PM	Grungeworthy	FMF Tent Stage
Fall Music Festival	Saturday, September 6	8:00 PM	The 1985	FMF Main Stage
Fall Music Festival	Saturday, September 6	10:00 PM	Coax and Folks	FMF Tent Stage
Fall Music Festival	Sunday, September 7	2:00 PM	Country Night	FMF Main Stage
Fall Music Festival	Sunday, September 7	4:00 PM	Black Angus	Village Green Gazebo
Fall Music Festival	Sunday, September 7	4:00 PM	The Prissillas	FMF Tent Stage
Fall Music Festival	Sunday, September 7	6:00 PM	Motown Nation	FMF Main Stage
Santa on the Green	Saturday, December 6	Noon	Meet Santa & Mrs. Claus	Village Green



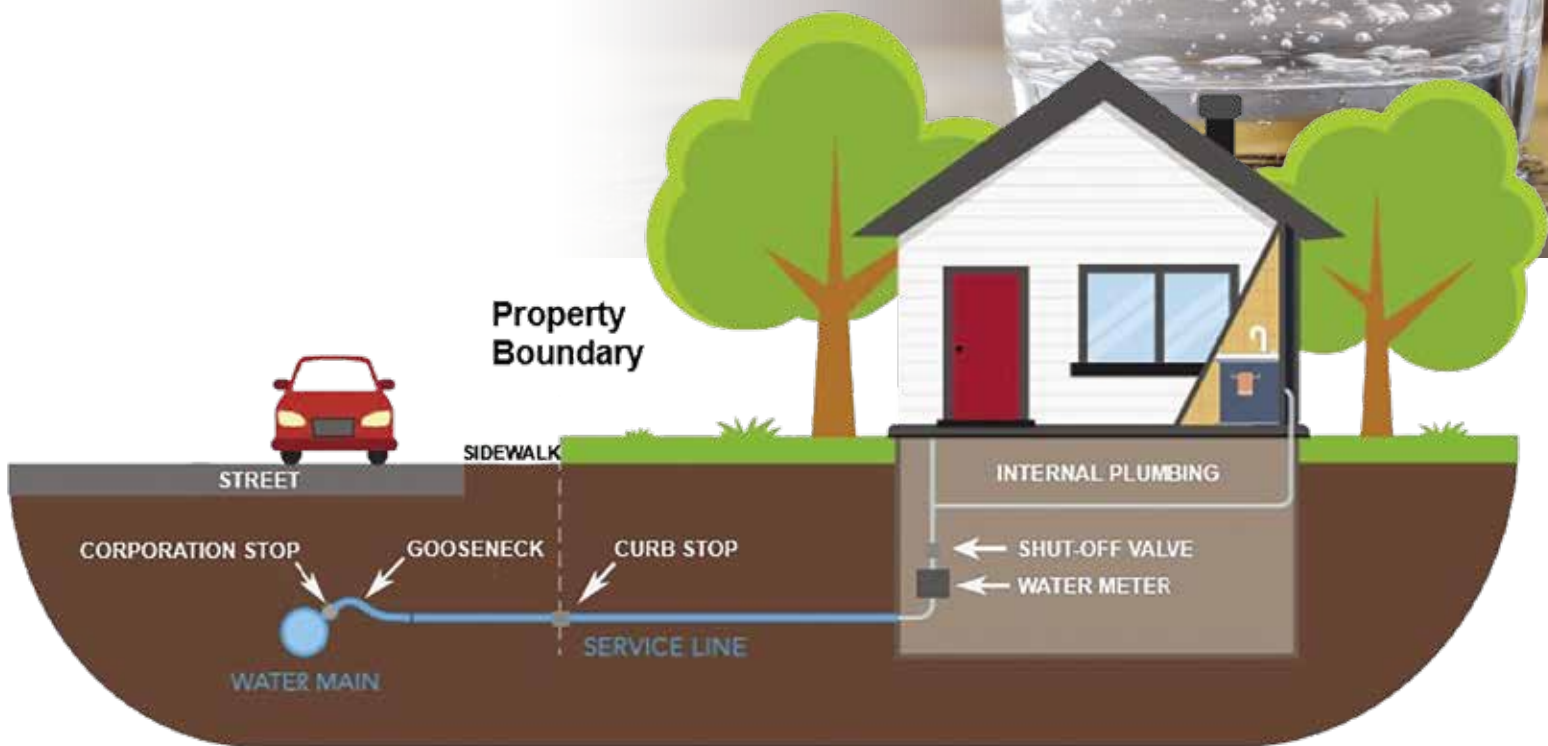
LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

WE'RE GETTING THE LEAD OUT!

The Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies (“EPAs”) have mandated that municipalities that have lead service lines in their water systems replace them over the next 15 years. The EPAs have determined that old lead and galvanized pipes can possibly contaminate the water supply and lead to harmful effects on consumers.

It is important to note that our Village already complies with or exceeds both of the EPAs’ safe drinking water-standards, and we continually monitor the level of lead in our water and share these results with the EPAs every year.

There are an estimated 2,300 lead service lines in Oak Lawn and we will begin the first phase of this work next year (in 2026) with completion expected in 2031. Prioritized replacements will include schools, medical facilities and other facilities where large groups of people consume water. The cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$28 million, which we will fund with zero-interest loans from the EPA.



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

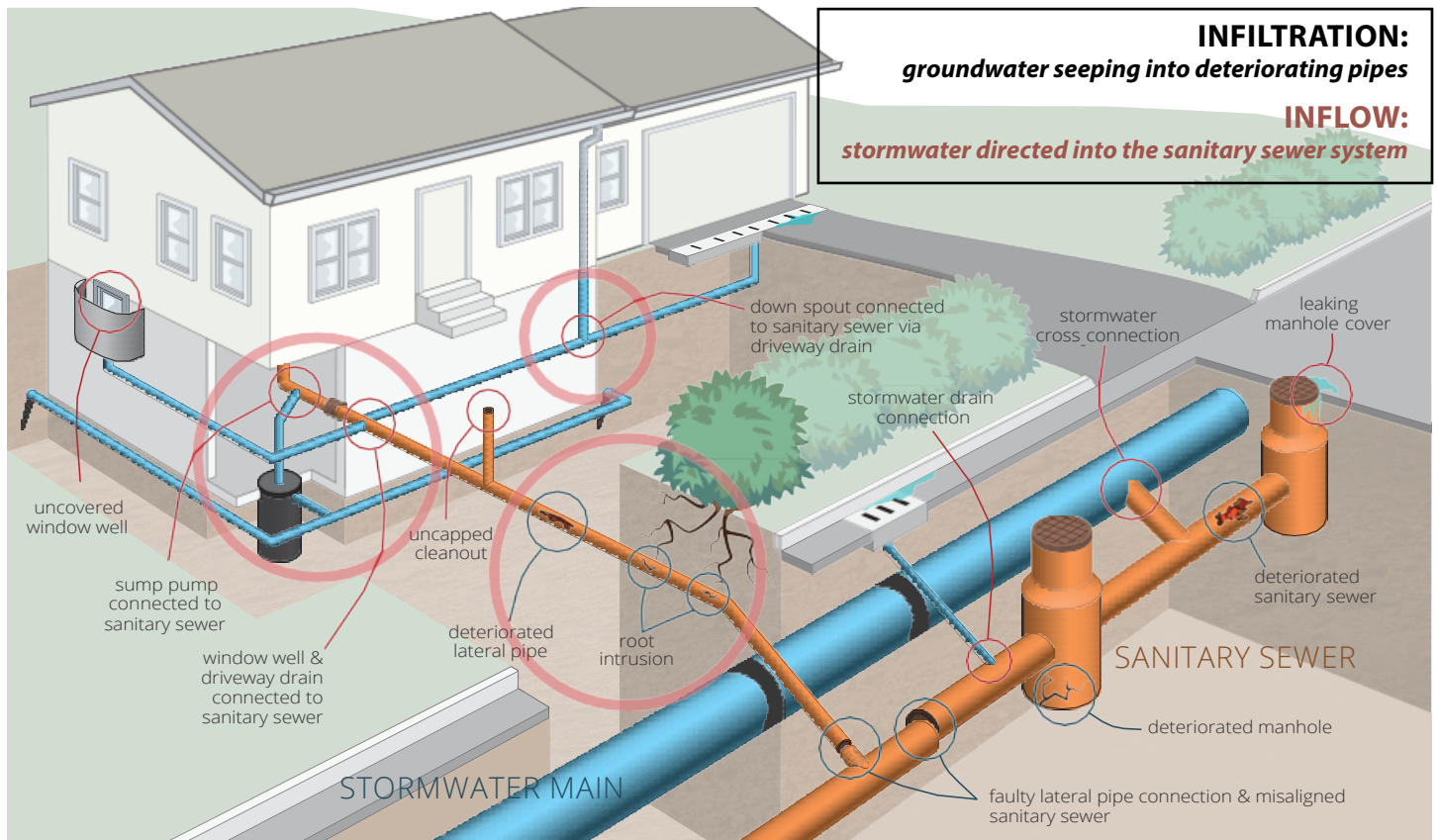
The Village has a program in place where homeowners who are experiencing raw sewage back-ups into their homes may be eligible for a 50/50 cost-share on plumbing repairs, with the Village paying half the cost of the repairs up to a cap of \$5,000.

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, funding levels and pension obligations. Most people just want to know, “Where is my money going?”, and many wrongly assume that most of their taxes go to the Village of Oak Lawn, which is not the case. The table to the right shows the percentage of taxes that collected by the various taxing bodies in 2023 for a typical home in Oak Lawn, along with the corresponding dollar amounts for a hypothetical \$10,000 property tax bill. This typical home is in Elementary School District 122 (Ridgeland) and Community High School District 218 (Richards H.S.) but the conclusions will also hold true for homes in other parts of Oak Lawn.

Taxing District	% of Tax Bill	e.g. \$10k Tax Bill
ESD 122 (Ridgeland)	38.24%	\$3,824
HSD 218 (Richards H.S.)	32.03%	\$3,203
Village of Oak Lawn	9.00%	\$900
OL Park District	4.52%	\$452
Cook County	5.03%	\$503
OL Library	3.50%	\$350
Moraine Valley C.C.	3.29%	\$329
MWRD	3.40%	\$340
Worth Township	0.99%	\$99
TOTAL	100%	\$10,000

Historical Oak Lawn Taxing District Property Tax Levies

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
2022	\$14,917,076	\$25,110,661	\$41,262,773	\$6,569,807	\$25,883,598	\$7,885,651	\$97,984,889	\$30,728,634	\$7,134,426	\$5,787,826
2023	\$14,910,421	\$26,742,280	\$43,032,312	\$7,003,151	\$27,315,220	\$8,293,262	\$106,555,962	\$31,923,423	\$7,449,467	\$5,797,590
Cumulative Change	(\$122,060)	\$6,214,141	\$12,559,173	\$1,854,623	\$6,654,163	\$1,680,263	\$31,420,244	\$9,154,374	\$2,237,853	\$711,525

*Source: Cook County Clerk, Office of Tax Extension - 2024 Tax-Levy 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 six 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 1,000 registered businesses, 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 2022 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 almost 15 years 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!





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Trustee Paul Mallo (3rd)	708-346-7003	pmallo@oaklawn-il.gov
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Clerk Claire Henning	708-499-7738	chenning@oaklawn-il.gov

Visit our website: www.oaklawn-il.gov

OAK LAWN MATTERS IS GOING DIGITAL

Moving forward we will only be sending this Community United newsletter via email which will save the Village almost \$40,000 per year. You can sign-up for the newsletter by scanning the QR Code to the right or by visiting the Village website www.oaklawn-il.gov.



Scan the QR code above and subscribe today!