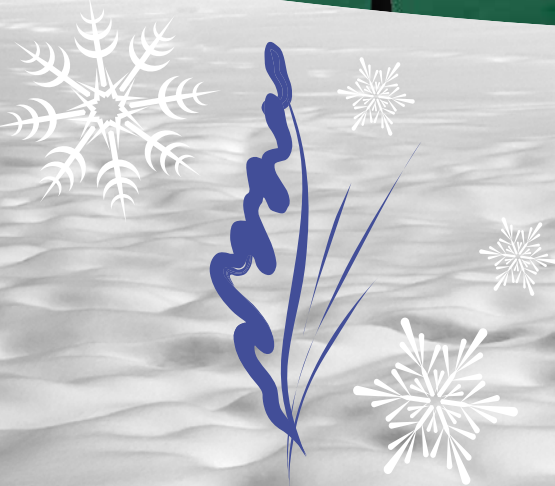


Oak Lawn Matters

Winter 2023



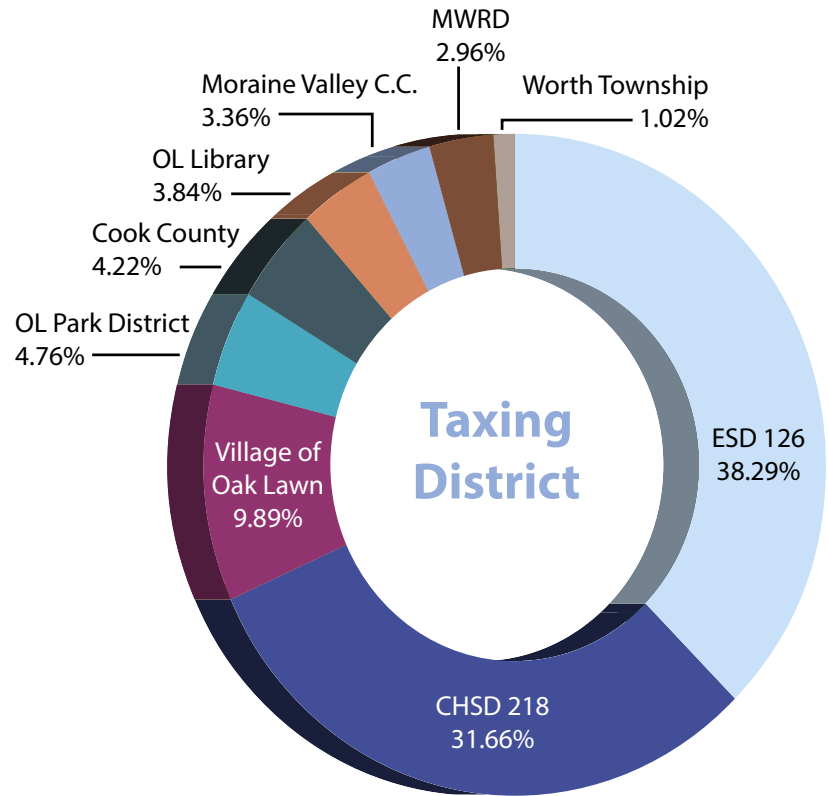
THE VILLAGE OF
OAK LAWN

INSIDE:

Understanding Your Property Tax Bill	2	Winter FAQs	10-11
Did You Know	3	Winter Tips	12
Message from the Mayor / Senior Corner	4	Public Safety	13
Trustee Reports	5-6	Flooding Remediation	14
Department Updates	7-8	Trustee District Map	15
News You Can Use	9	Village Contacts / Smart911 / Register Your Security Camera	Back

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 2022 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
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

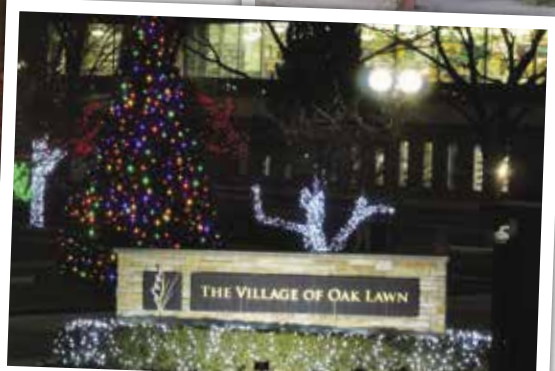
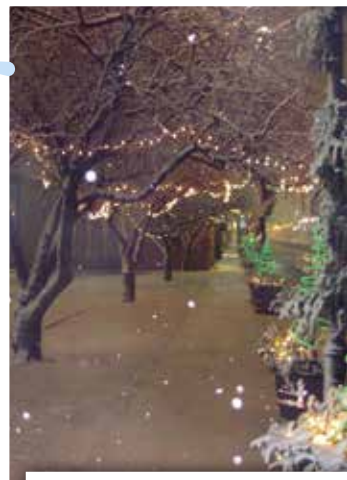
*Source: Cook County Clerk, Office of Tax Extension - 2023 Data Not Available Yet



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 5,000 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!



Message from the Mayor Terry Vorderer

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



Dear Friends & Neighbors:

As I enter my third year as your Village President, I want to thank you for electing me. I believe the Village is moving forward in a positive way. This is accomplished with the support of our elected Trustees, Village Clerk, and the dedication of our employees. I strongly believe they give more than 100% to make Oak Lawn the wonderful community it is.

It's important to recognize our business community. Sometimes I think a lot of my time as Mayor is spent cutting ribbons for new businesses. Their success provides sales tax, an important component in our budget. Their success is our success. Therefore, for the second year, the Village Board has waived business license fees. So, I say: Shop Oak Lawn! It helps us all.

You may have recently received your property tax bill. The Village's portion of your property tax is just one of the 16 taxing bodies that tax your property. Our elected officials and the Village administration work hard on the Village budget to keep your taxes low, at least the Village portion of your bill. The Village's property tax levy is lower today than it was almost 15 years ago (in 2010)!

Crime is a major concern for not only our Village but every suburban town. Criminals seem to be emboldened. In my opinion, which I have shared with our State and County officials, the recent safety act has not helped. I, along with our trustees, fully support our police department. They work hard to deter crime and are successful in apprehending criminals. I am very proud of our first responders, Police, Fire, and Emergency Communications.

As winter approaches, the Village is preparing for its additional responsibilities, Salt barns are full, and our snow plows are ready. However, winter can send surprises, such as a major snowstorm. I ask for your patience. Understand that the plows are routed to prioritize essential services such as the hospital, schools, and main thoroughfares. The plows will be around to all the streets eventually.

My wife Linda and I wish you a happy and holy Christmas and Happy New Year.

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 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 winter season approaches, I wanted to take a moment to reach out and share some important information and warm wishes with all of you. The chilly temperatures and snowy landscapes can bring both joy and challenges, but together we can make this winter season in Oak Lawn a safe and delightful experience for everyone.

First and foremost, we encourage you to prioritize your safety and well-being during the winter months. As the roads may become slippery and visibility may be reduced, it is essential to exercise caution when driving. Please ensure your vehicles are properly maintained, and remember to leave extra time for your journeys. Additionally, dressing warmly and wearing appropriate footwear when venturing outside will help protect you from the cold and minimize the risk of frostbite or

other weather-related ailments. We understand that winter can also present unique challenges for our elderly and vulnerable residents. We kindly ask that you check in on your neighbors, particularly those who may have difficulty with mobility or require additional assistance. A simple act of kindness, such as shoveling a neighbor's walkway or offering to pick up groceries, can go a long way in fostering a sense of community and ensuring everyone's well-being.

While it is important to stay safe, let's not forget to embrace the wonders of winter. Oak Lawn offers various opportunities for outdoor activities, such as ice skating at our Park District rink or enjoying a peaceful stroll through Wolfe Wildlife park. These moments of connection with nature can bring joy and serenity during the colder months.

Lastly, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. May this winter season be filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. Let us come together as a community, supporting and uplifting one another, as we navigate the beauty and challenges that winter brings. Stay safe, stay warm, and have a wonderful winter season!



2nd District Trustee
Alex Olejniczak
 708-346-7002
 aolejniczak@oaklawn-il.gov



As the holiday season approaches, I want to extend warm wishes to each and every one of you. May your homes be filled with joy, laughter, and the spirit of the season. I am thrilled to update you on the significant infrastructure improvements that have taken place in our beautiful village throughout 2023. Your support and patience have been invaluable as we worked tirelessly to enhance our water distribution system. I'm pleased to announce the completion of key projects along Southwest Highway that will not only ensure the

reliability of our water supply but also contribute to the overall well-being of our community.

Our dedicated village staff has been working diligently, and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to each member, especially our hardworking police department. Their commitment to keeping Oak Lawn safe is truly commendable. This holiday season, let's take a moment to appreciate their efforts and express our thanks for the security they provide. As we celebrate the holidays, I would also like to remind owners of rental properties in our community to continue maintaining their properties responsibly. Proper upkeep not only contributes to the overall appearance of our village but also ensures the safety and well-being of all residents. Let's work together to keep Oak Lawn a place we can all be proud to call home.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



3rd District Trustee
Paul Mallo
 708-346-7003
 pmallo@oaklawn-il.gov



It's holiday time again, and my family and I want to wish all the residents of Oak Lawn Happy Holidays.

I encourage you to adopt the "Shop Oak Lawn" mantra when shopping. Keeping tax revenue in our hometown helps bring it back into our community. While we are on the subject of the holidays and being thankful, I want to bring your attention to the Village's finance department. They do a phenomenal job each year fighting to help keep

our taxes as low as possible, and as a taxpayer myself, I appreciate how hard they work for us.

Oak Lawn is a great town to live in, and the Village strives to provide fun events for the whole family. We have a great group of Oak Lawn residents who make up the Arts and Events Commission, and they meet throughout the year to plan and execute all the family-friendly events that we look forward to every year. They also look for new ideas to make our outstanding events even better in 2024. These events include our Sunday Concerts, 4th of July Parade, National Night Out, Fall Music Festival, Halloween Decorating Contest, and Santa on the Green. As these events are near and dear to my heart, the betterment of our Village and the safety of our residents are my main goals. If you would like to be added to my database for the occasional email updates and alerts to matters affecting District Three, email me at pmallo@comcast.net. My family and I wish you and your family peace and happiness this holiday season.



4th District Trustee
James "Jamie" Pembroke
 708-346-7004
 jpembroke@oaklawn-il.gov

Thank you for your patience and understanding as the Village undertook much needed street resurfacing projects in the 4th District and throughout the community in 2023. The resurfacing of our streets is a continuing program that is needed to maintain quality streets throughout our Village. Our Public Works Department has done a great job determining which of our streets are in most need of repair and overseeing the completion of the project.

We recognize that road repair work of this nature on streets in our District created inconveniences for our residents. The street resurfacing program will restart again in the spring and summer of 2024. Many

4th District residents have petitioned the Village for stop signs and other traffic controlling signs on their streets. Resident input for the need for stop and yield signs at the intersections in their neighborhood is vital to traffic safety throughout the Village. If you are interested in petitioning the Village for a stop sign in your area, go to the Village website and search "Traffic Control Device Petition" and print it out.

Ask your neighbors to sign the petition and turn it in at the front desk of the Building Department in the lower level of the Village Hall. They will make sure it will get on the agenda for the Traffic and Safety Commission. Additionally, please remind yourselves and your neighbors to follow the posted speed limits and stop signs in our neighborhoods. We are blessed to live in a great community with many great businesses. These businesses want to invest in our wonderful Village. They provide jobs, and bring economic growth and prosperity, and sales taxes provided by these successful businesses benefit all of our residents. Finally, please remember to support the businesses of Oak Lawn this holiday season and all throughout the year, and be safe and healthy this winter. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! May 2024 be a wonderful year for you.



5th District Trustee
Bud Stalker
 708-346-7005
 bstalker@oaklawn-il.gov

As we look forward to the Holiday Season approaching, Oak Lawn has a lot to be thankful for. Our employees have been responsive and have agreed to negotiate in good faith to approve fair labor contracts for the next few years. When we hear about contract negotiations in other service sectors, I am pleased that our employees are willing to continue to perform great work at a reasonable cost. Again, we have been able to put together a budget that does not increase our property tax rate. Please remember that your tax bill is made up of sixteen taxing entities. The Village of Oak Lawn tax represents a little over 10 percent of your

total tax bill. We will continue to try our best to hold the line in the future. One of the notable accomplishments that has been achieved in the past year is the establishment of a Worth Township bus system. In the past, when Oak Lawn provided the bussing service, we would only drive residents to Oak Lawn or close to Oak Lawn locations. Mayor Vorderer and I worked with Patricia Joan Murphy, Worth Township Supervisor, and Eamon J. McMahon, Worth Township Clerk, to establish a new bussing system to serve Worth, Alsip, Blue Island, Bridgeview, Chicago Ridge, Crestwood, Evergreen Park, Hometown, Merrionette Park, Palos Heights, Robbins, and Oak Lawn.

For a nominal fee, you can request that the bus pick you up at your door, bring you to shop, visit you doctor or family and then bring you back home again, anywhere in the Township. I don't know about you, but, after the long Covid epidemic, I am really looking forward to a normal, Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New year.



6th District Trustee
Ralph Soch
 708-346-7006
 rsoch@oaklawn-il.gov

As 2023 comes to a close, I look back and am proud to have been a part of many of the great things that we have accomplished throughout the year.

Holding the line on property taxes is one of the most important things we can do. It shows that we listen to our residents and care about our community. When we can hold the line on property taxes and then be able to grant the business license fee amnesty for our Oak Lawn businesses it shows our commitment to the Village of Oak Lawn residents and businesses. I was proud to be able to sponsor the amnesty to show that we are invested in and proud of our businesses. We want

to see the number of businesses continue to grow in our community.

My top priority for 2024 is the flood-prevention project we are undertaking at Polaris Park (PIE fields) on 109th and Kilpatrick. Our engineers have almost completed their work. The plan is to start construction on the nearby storm sewers at the end of the summer in late 2024, after the Fall sports are complete. During construction I will work closely with Village staff to minimize inconveniences the project may cause for the school district and residents.

Constituent services are also very important to me and the other members of the board. We work with our management team to try and respond to requests as quickly as possible. In my experience as Trustee, I have seen village employees respond to and resolve problems sometimes in a matter of hours, which is our goal. I want to thank all of our employees who show how much they care about Oak Lawn every day.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy 2024!



Village Manager
Tom Phelan
 708-499-7743
 tphelan@oaklawn-il.gov



I have been writing in Village newsletters for almost 20 years going back to when I was first elected Trustee in 2005. And each time I sit down my intention is to write about all of the great things Oak Lawn has to offer and the fun things to do here. But invariably my focus and energies turn to the two things I believe separate the good communities from the bad: taxes and crime.

If you read through this entire edition you will see several references to and examples of how the Oak Lawn Village board has been excellent steward of our tax dollars. Our property tax levy today is lower than it was almost 15 years ago, there will be no property tax increase next year (2024), and we invested \$3 million more into our pension funds this year than our current policy required.



Police Chief
Dan Vittorio
 708-499-7723
 dvittorio@oaklawn-il.gov



As the days grow shorter another year is almost in the books. The Oak Lawn Police Department would like to thank our residents for their continued support. This year's National Night Out attendance was the best we've had in years. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening as much as we did. Thank you to the Arts and Events Commission for their help in offering more attractions for the kids.

This year our Police Club awarded our first two dependent scholarships in honor of Officer Ruben Flores. These scholarships were made possible by the sale of our Support OLPD yard signs. Thank you to everyone who supported the program by purchasing a sign.



Fire Chief
Zackary Riddle, MPA, CFO
 708-499-7700
 zriddle@oaklawn-il.gov



Our entire team at the Village of Oak Lawn Fire Department would like to thank you for all of your support over the past 100 years. Reducing risk in our community is one of our core missions and your family is the key to fire safety and injury/ illness prevention in the home. Since 1923 we are always there when you need us. Saving your life is our mission.

But none of that matters if people don't feel safe in their homes, which our Village Board understands probably better than anyone in the state, if not the country. They have made it clear to management that Public Safety is and always will be our #1 concern, as evidenced by the \$50 million we have dedicated to Public Safety in our 2024 Budget. Their support of our police department is unwavering. At a time when other elected officials are turning their backs on the police and even outright demonizing them, our Village is actively recruiting more officers and offering financial incentives to live in town.

It used to be that parents taught their kids to "vote your paycheck" because having a good job was paramount in importance, but given the state of things today, we should be teaching them to "vote your safety." That's the only way things are going to change: voting FOR people who support and protect the rights of honest and hard-working people, and AGAINST people whose primary concern is the "rights" of the criminals victimizing innocents and causing chaos in our society .

As we close out another year best wishes to you and your families for a happy and joyous holiday and a prosperous and healthy new year!

In an effort to utilize the latest technology we have started our own drone program. The drones were used to help secure the Fall Music Festival. With the board's continued commitment to public safety, the police department will be sending 6 new recruits to the police academy in January. With the help of our grant coordinator, the department was able to secure a \$180,000 grant from the Illinois Attorney General's office. This grant will be utilized to offset the costs of our Flock and FUSUS advanced technology that is used to combat retail theft. In addition, we were able to provide some local businesses with FUSUS cores for their camera systems.

You can go to www.connectoaklawn.org, and register your home or business security cameras with the police department's camera sharing program, FUSUS. There is no cost for residential systems. This will allow detectives to better solve crimes by using this data base. You can also text tips or videos to 708-613-8477. In closing the men and women of the Oak Lawn Police Department would like to wish all of our residents a safe and happy holiday season. women of the Oak Lawn Police Department would like to wish all of our residents a safe and happy holiday season.

OLFD reminds everyone this season to check that both your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are plugged in, have batteries, and are fully functional. These low-cost alarms save lives every day 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, close your bedroom doors at night to prevent the spread of smoke and fire throughout your home. This simple action can save your family's lives by decreasing temperatures, keeping carbon monoxide out, and oxygen inside a bedroom if a fire ever happens in your home. Make home safety checks before going to sleep at night by remembering these 3 simple tips: Check your Smoke/CO alarms, practice your family's fire escape plan, and close-(doors)-before-you-doze.



Village Clerk
Claire Henning
 708-499-7738
 chenning@oaklawn-il.gov



We have had a busy fall season in the Village of Oak Lawn with several great events which were enjoyed by so many residents. We have moved into our Winter events, and I really enjoyed seeing everyone at Santa on the Green which was held December 2nd. It was a wonderful afternoon with a lot of smiles.

I spent the week of October 8th in Bloomington, IL, attending the 2023 Municipal Clerks of Illinois Institute. I have now completed the

2nd year of a 3-year certification program. It is a privilege to be able to attend. I learned so much during these weeks at the Institute and look forward to attending next year as well.

The Presidential Primary Election is coming this March. The Village will once again host early voting the two weeks prior to the March 19th Election date. If you are not currently registered to vote in the Village, please do so as voter registration for this election will close February 27, 2024. Your vote is important, so please make an effort to do so!

You can register to vote online by visiting www.cookcountyclerk.il.gov where you can also find information about elections and candidates. As always, the Clerk's office is open to any concerns you may have. We are available for temporary handicap placards, Freedom of Information Requests, charitable liquor and raffle permits, notary services and to register to vote. Please contact my office at 708-499-7738.



Community Development Director
Gary Gudino
 708-499-7745
 ggudino@oaklawn-il.gov



Our Community Development group is comprised of our Economic Development, Building and Property Maintenance departments along with our recently added Special Events. As we head into the holiday season and the winter months, we look forward to the long-anticipated opening of Pasians Pizzeria in the Stony Creek Promenade in early spring 2024. We also look ahead to the completion of Panda Express located at 87th & Cicero, Encore Car Wash, and Birdies Car Wash on 95th Street, along with the current renovation projects with some of our car dealerships, Berman Auto Group, Napleton Cadillac, and Kelly Nissan.

Additionally, Jewel Foods at 94th and Pulaski is undergoing a half a million-dollar renovation project which will include a Starbucks Kiosk.

Our Village Board continues to show their support and commitment to our local businesses by recently passing the second business license amnesty. Our Property Maintenance department continues to work with the Village legal team by holding problem landlords and negligent property owners accountable. We will continue to pursue vacant and dangerous building and demolish them when necessary. If you have any issue or concerns with a neglected property, please call our Property Maintenance department at (708) 499-7820.

If we all do our part, we will continue to make Oak Lawn a wonderful place to live. Our Special Events department is currently working hard preparing our 2024 schedule of events. This year the department added a new twist to the calendar with our first Halloween Home Decorating Contest and we look to add a similar contest for the next Holiday / Christmas Season. They also expanded the National Night Out program with our Police and Fire departments offering more to see and do!

Our Fall Music Festival was a big success and we look to build on its success moving forward. I hope to see everyone out this year either at our July 4th Parade or our Summer Concert series. Wishing you and your family a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!



Public Works Director
Bill Meyer
 708-499-7700
 wmeyer@oaklawn-il.gov



As we begin to close out 2023 the Public Works Department has been busy completing some of our annual programs such as our Road Resurfacing Program. The Village spent over 5 million dollars to resurface over 5 miles of roadway this year. Flooding is always a major concern here in Oak Lawn and we have been working with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) and our engineers from Christopher Burke to construct a storm-water detention pond at Polaris Park (109th and Kilpatrick Ave). This project is slated to begin in late 2024.

The Village is also starting its Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Program which helps residential homes avoid sewage back-up during heavy rain events by eliminating inflow and infiltration to the village's sanitary

sewers. Just a reminder of some great programs that the Public Works Department has to help our residents.

Over 20 residents took advantage of our 50/50 Overhead Sewer Program. This program helps residents pay up to 50% (\$5,000 cap) to eliminate improper sewer connections in their homes. Please call (708) 499-7748 or check out our new website.

Another great program is our 50/50 Tree Planting Program. This year over 100 residents took advantage of this program which pays half the cost of a new tree planted in your parkway. For more information please (708) 499-7750 or check out our new website.

If you haven't already please sign up for Water Smart its free and allows residents to monitor their water usage and receive leak alerts. Last day for yard waste pick up was December 11, 2023, this service will resume in the spring on April 1, 2024. Currently our yard waste totes are sold out, but new ones will be available in April 2024. Our next electronic waste collection event will be on April 6, 2024.

The Public Works Department is ready for winter as we have over 3000 tons of salt on hand. Additionally our snow fighting trucks and equipment are ready to handle whatever Mother Nature throws at us.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Beware of Scams on the Elderly

Although this time of year brings joy and cheer, it also tends to bring criminals who target the elderly. With this in mind:

- Do not let strangers in your home.
- Do not give personal information over the phone.
- Do not send money to people who call you, unless you are certain who they are.
- Do not believe anyone who tells you they are with the IRS and you owe money.
- Do not believe anyone who tells you your relative is in jail or the hospital and needs money
- Do not believe anyone who calls and says you won the lottery

If you feel threatened, call 9-1-1. If you have questions, call the Police Department at 708-422-8292.



Business License Fees

After 2 years (2021 & 2022) of Business License Fees Amnesty, the Village will be rolling out a new business license fee structure in 2024 that is simpler, fairer, and for many businesses will be less costly than in the past. We have also created a comprehensive registry to better serve and communicate with the businesses and organizations in our community. Your 2024 business license fee invoice will include all relevant and applicable fees in one place and an option for online payment. Payment will be due in full (i.e., no installments) by June 30th. For more information contact Dee Adasiak at 708-499-7837 or dadasiak@oaklawn-il.gov.



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

FREQUENTLY ASKED



FAQ: Does the Village have overnight shelter(s) for people in need?

A: Yes, the Village partners with an organization called Beds Plus who manages several facilities in Oak Lawn. They can be reached at 708-354-0858.

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

A: 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: Where can I dispose of Household Hazardous waste?

A: Nearest Hazardous Waste Collection facility is located at 156 Fort Hill Dr, Naperville, IL. The phone number there is 630-420-6095.

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

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

FAQ: How can I pay my water bill?

A: You can pay online via the payment center on the Village website at www.oaklawn-il.gov, by text via the emailed invoice, by phone (844) 524-1884, by mail or in person at the cashier window at Village Hall. There is also a drop box under the cashier's window for after-hours drop off.

FAQ: When is the next electronic waste disposal event?

A: In 2024 we have 2 events, Saturday, April 6th, and Saturday October 12th, both from 9 am until 12 noon, at our Public Works facility at 5500 W. 98th St. 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.



QUESTIONS (FAQs)



FAQ: My apartment building is always cold. What are the laws regarding heat requirements in Oak Lawn?

A: Heating is required to be on from September 15th to June 1st. If you continue to have problems contact our Property Maintenance Department at 708-499-7843.

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

A: Contact the Village Water Department at 708-499-7763. Also, 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: I have a lien on my property. What do I do?

A: Contact our Property Maintenance Department at 708-499-7820 or email propertycomplaints@oaklawn-il.gov to see how to have the lien removed.

FAQ: I'm trying to locate information on the Village website. What is the easiest way to find it?

A: The Village website search box is located in the top right corner of every page. Entering search terms in the box will bring up a results page that you can further refine and filter.

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

A: Contact our Property Maintenance Department at 708-499-7843 or propertycomplaints@oaklawn-il.gov 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: We would like to plant a new tree in our parkway in the Spring. Can the Village help?

A: Yes, you can take advantage of our parkway tree planting program. Our next planting will occur this Spring (April, May), and applications are due by March 15th. For more information contact our Forestry Department at 708-499-7098.



WINTER TIPS



Snow and dreadful weather come with Winter's arrival. The Village of Oak Lawn would like to provide a few simple recommendations regarding snow safety and community/neighborhood courtesies:

- When shoveling, plowing, or snow blowing, please keep snow off our streets, and out of our neighbors' yards. This applies to businesses as well as residents.
- In a snow emergency, please do not park in a snow emergency zone so our Village crews can keep our streets clear of snow and ice.
- During and after snow events please utilize off-street parking, like a driveway or garage. If this isn't an option please move your car after the plows have passed to an area that has been plowed so the plows can clear the entire street.
- Vehicles that are left on the street for extended periods after a snow event may be ticketed, and even towed if they create an unsafe environment.
- During a snow storm police calls for service increase dramatically, and the weather also slows response times. If you are in a vehicle accident with no injuries and working vehicles, exchange contact information with the other parties and agree to meet and file a report at the police station at a later time.
- Please help by doing your part to keep our sidewalks clear and free of ice, sprinkling ice-melting compound on sidewalks to keep them safe for pedestrians and our mail and parcel carriers.
- Please keep an eye out for your elderly and/or disabled neighbors who may be struggling to keep their sidewalks or alleyways clear, or who might be at risk due to the snow, ice and general cold.

We're all in this together. With a bit of cooperation from everyone, we can ensure a safe community to enjoy throughout this holiday and winter season.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Share Your Security Camera Information

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 camera 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).



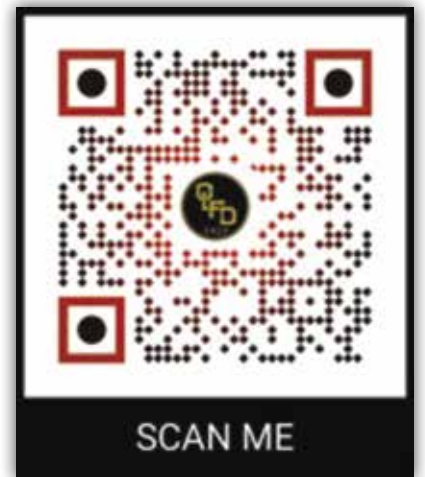
License Plate Readers (“LPRs”)

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 is automatically 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.



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

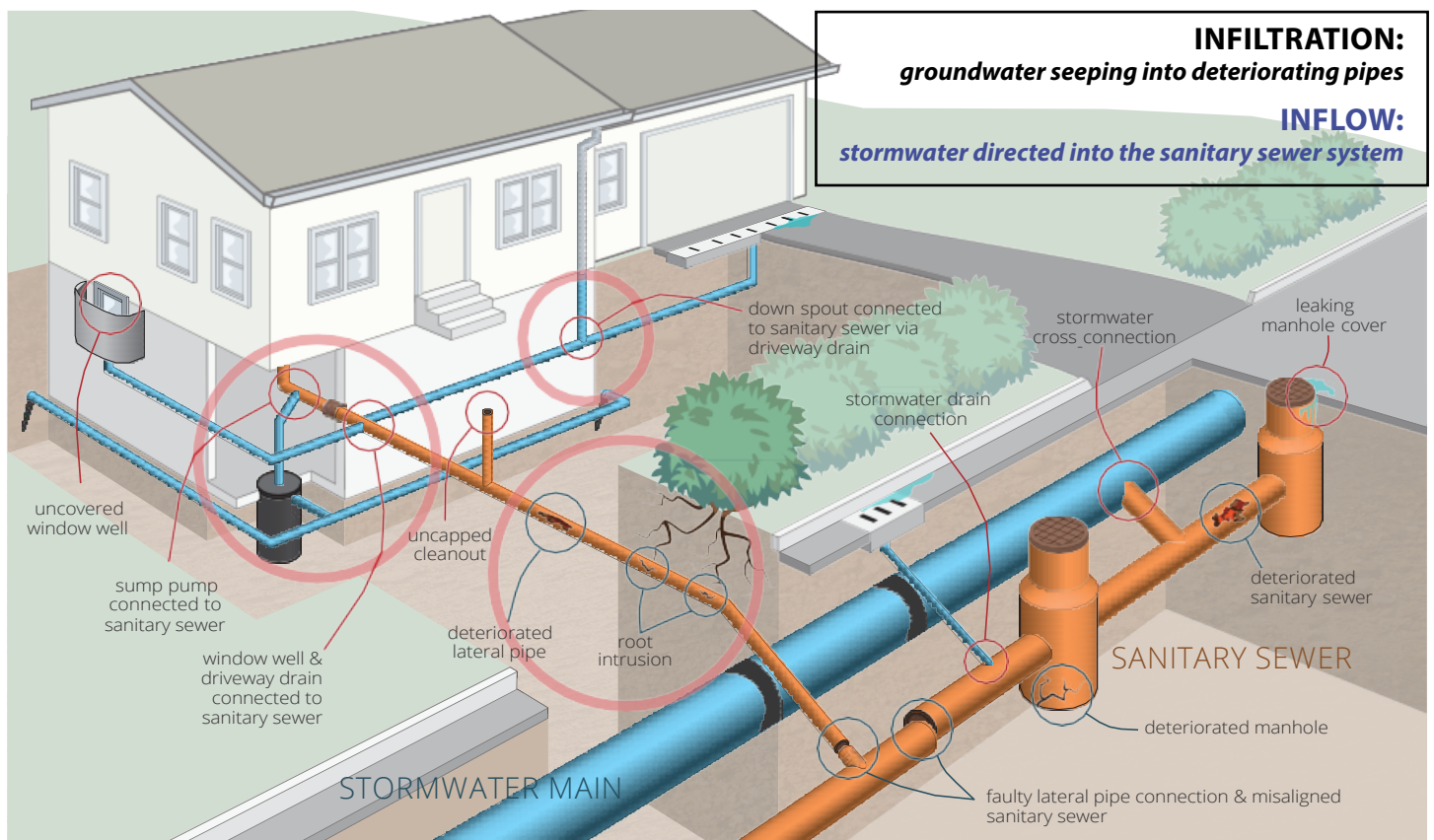
The Village has a program in place where homeowners who are experiencing raw sewage back-ups into their homes may be eligible for a 50/50 cost-share on plumbing repairs, with the Village paying half the cost of the repairs up to a cap of \$5,000.

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?

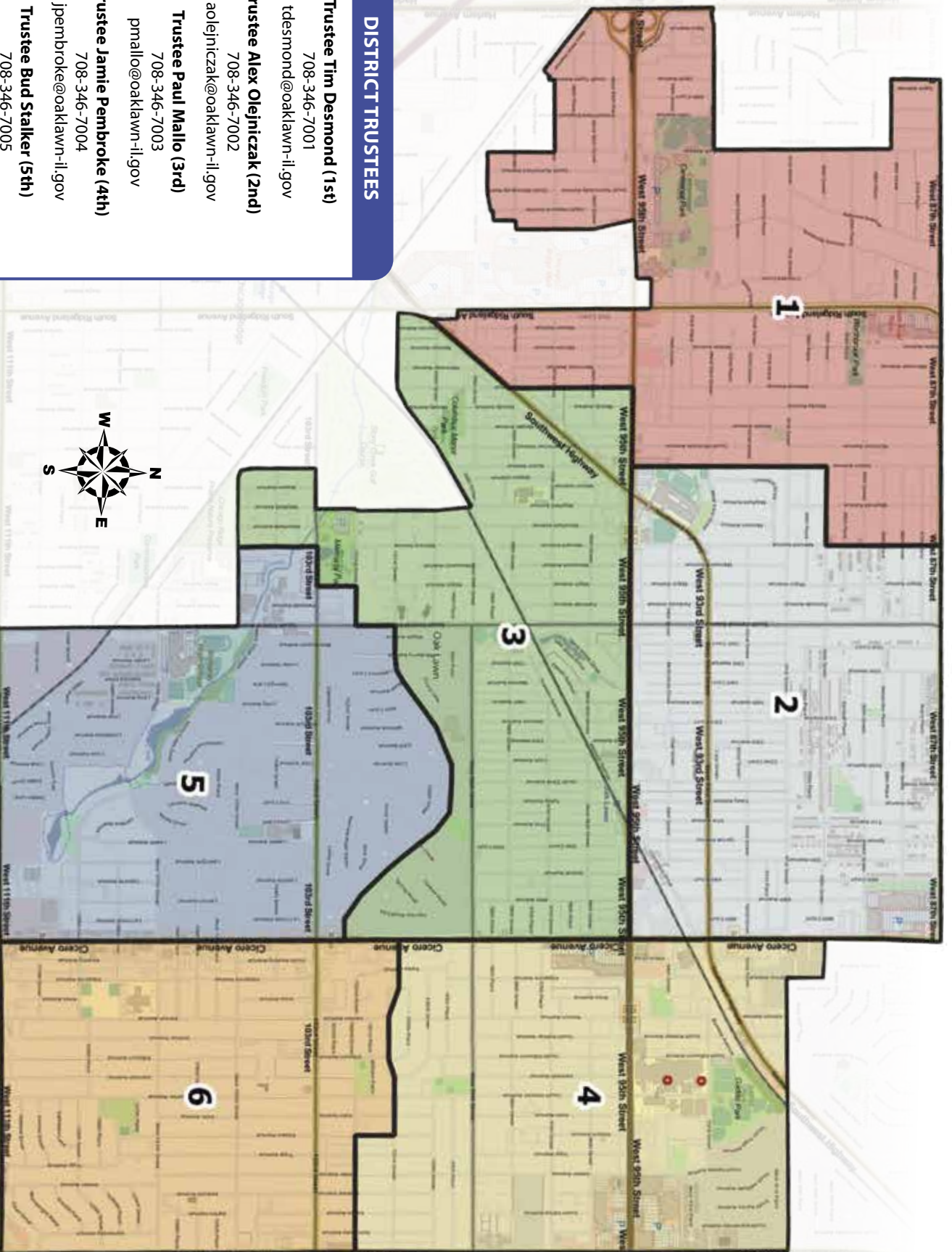
Residents who plan to sell their homes will need to pass a plumbing inspection from the Village to verify that the plumbing is not improperly connected. The results of the inspection will be included with the Village's real estate transfer stamps so both the seller and the buyer will be made aware of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



DISTRICT TRUSTEES

Trustee Tim Desmond (1st)

708-346-7001
 tdesmond@oaklawn-il.gov

Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd)

708-346-7002
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Trustee Paul Mallo (3rd)

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Trustee Jamie Pembroke (4th)

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Trustee Bud Stalker (5th)

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 bstalker@oaklawn-il.gov

Trustee Ralph Soch (6th)

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VILLAGE CONTACTS

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Village Manager Tom Phelan	708-499-7743	tphelan@oaklawn-il.gov
President / Mayor Terry Vorderer	708-499-7740	tvorderer@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

Visit our website: www.oaklawn-il.gov



Sign-up for Smart 911

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 camera 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

