

# Oak Park

City Magazine and Recreation Program Guide • Summer 2020



## City Magazine and Recreation Program Guide

COVID-19 Update

Annual Budget Approved

Important Millage Renewals

Stormwater Billing Changes

Library & Recreation Updates







## Message From City Manager Erik Tungate

The last several months have been full of challenges for all of us. During the last three months, the City administration has confronted several challenges that no one could have foreseen. At the same time we formulated our reopening strategy in response to the ever-changing coronavirus pandemic, we also passed a new City budget, implemented the new stormwater rate structure, and showed our support for peaceful protests in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minnesota.

While overcoming these challenges has been difficult, it has also provided us with an opportunity to redefine our processes and procedures, and recommit ourselves to our primary purpose; providing the best public services to our amazing residents. It has also given us a chance to find cost savings within our operations, as well as directly for you. This includes a recent bond refinancing project that will save our property taxpayers approximately \$1.85 million due to the low interest rate environment we took advantage of.

While there will be continuing challenges, we are prepared for what is to come. Most notably, we have made sure to keep a strong General Fund balance, or "Rainy Day" fund, of approximately 18% of expenditures to make certain we have funds on hand in case the unforeseen should happen all over again.

In this time of uncertainty, I hope you find strength in the steps your City government has taken. I want you to know that we are listening to you, and that all City employees are committed to the fundamental belief that all boats rise with the tide.

We shall work every day to improve our City and we will strive to make our residents proud to be Oak Parkers.

## CITY OF OAK PARK

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**Carolyn Burns**

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## City Magazine

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>2</b> MESSAGE FROM<br/>City Manager Erik Tungate</p> <p><b>4</b> COVID-19<br/>Updates You Need To Know</p> <p><b>5</b> 2020 CENSUS<br/>Your Community Is Counting On You</p> <p><b>6</b> ADMINISTRATION<br/>Council Approves 2020-2021<br/>Balanced Budget</p> <p><b>8</b> MILLAGE RENEWALS<br/>Three Millage Renewals<br/>on August Ballot</p> | <p><b>10</b> WATER DEPARTMENT<br/>Changes To Stormwater Billing</p> <p><b>12</b> ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT<br/>Business Resources in the<br/>Age of COVID-19</p> <p><b>14</b> LIBRARY<br/>Message from the<br/>Library Director</p> <p><b>15</b> RECREATION<br/>Message from the<br/>Recreation Director</p> |
|---|---|



# Covid-19

## Updates You Need To Know

Though the weather has warmed up and it's more enticing to socialize outside than it was in March, it is important to remember that we are still in the midst of a global health crisis.

We encourage residents to continue utilizing the social distancing practices we have all gotten used to over the past few months. Further, when in municipal buildings, please follow posted rules and guidelines for health and safety.

### CITY HALL

City Hall and the Municipal Services building are now open to the public. The City has taken several precautions to ensure the health and safety of both staff and residents alike in preparation for reopening. Oak Park employees must follow certain steps to minimize health risks, such as completing daily temperature screenings, wearing face masks when walking through shared hallways, and enhancing cleaning practices. Members of the public who wish to do business inside City buildings will be asked to enter and exit in specified locations, wear a face mask at all times, and maintain social distancing practices.

### LIBRARY

The Oak Park Public Library reopened for business (with a new normal) on Monday, June 22. The hours of operations are now Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The Library's new operations include curbside and delivery services, while the building will still remain closed to the public. To order materials for curbside pickup or delivery, simply call the Library at (248) 691-7480 between the hours of 11:00am and 4:00pm, give the clerk your library card number, request your items, and

they'll have them packaged and ready for you within two hours. Once you get to the Library, call the number again and they'll bring your materials right out to your car.

### RECREATION

The Recreation Department and Community Center are now open for shelter and field rentals only. There will continue to be no programming or meetings in the Community Center until further notice. The building is set up with social distancing guidelines and protocols, and we will be limiting the number of customers in at one time to three (3). All rentals must be processed in person to allow for signing of the rental contract. As the summer goes on, the Recreation Department will look to potentially host outdoor recreation activities that can adequately adhere to social distancing guidelines. Stay tuned for more updates.

### STAY UP-TO-DATE

Please keep in mind that the coronavirus pandemic continues to be a rapidly-evolving situation, with critical updates happening daily or even hourly. Stay tuned to the City's social media pages and dedicated coronavirus webpage for the most pertinent and accurate local coverage.

### AND REMEMBER:

**Together, we can continue to slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.**

[www.bit.ly/OPCoronavirus](http://www.bit.ly/OPCoronavirus)



## Hotlines To Call For More Information

### Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

COVID-19 Hotline  
(888) 535-6136  
COVID19@michigan.gov

**Hours:** 7 days a week from 8am to 5pm

### Oakland County Health Department Nurse-On-Call

(800) 848-5533  
noc@oakgov.com

**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm  
Saturday to Sunday, 9am to 5pm

### United Way

#### Call: 2-1-1

As always, United Way's 2-1-1 helpline is available by phone, text, or live chat 24 hours a day to connect people with the resources they need in times of crisis.



## During the 2010 Census, Oak Park had only about 75% participation.

That means that we left approximately a quarter of our residents unaccounted for, thus leaving State Shared Revenue dollars on the table. These state funds can be used for improving quality of life amenities for Oak Park residents, such as stronger public safety services, more recreation events, better infrastructure, and more. To make sure as many Oak Parkers as possible get counted this time around, the City wants to make sure that all residents are informed about the Census.

At this point, most everybody in Oak Park and the rest of the United States should have received several invitations in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau to participate in the 2020 Census. This invitation includes information on how to fill out the Census survey online or

by phone. To fill out the Census online, visit this link: [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). The Census Bureau hopes first for online and phone survey submissions, but they are also making the paper survey available to all those who prefer that method. For residents who wish for the paper survey, the Census Bureau has mailed those out to everyone who has not yet participated in the count. Come mid-August, for all residents who still have not completed their Census survey in any form, the Census Bureau will be sending out canvassers to those homes for follow-ups and encouragement.

The deadline for turning in your Census survey is October 31, 2020. **Get counted, Oak Park!**

### The 2020 Census will ask the following questions:

- How many people are living or staying at your home on April 1, 2020.
- Whether the home is owned or rented.
- About the sex of each person in the household.
- About the age of each person in the household.
- About the race of each person in the household.
- About whether a person in the household is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.
- About the relationship of each person in the household to one central person.

# COVID-19 Coronavirus

## Protect Yourself And Others!

### Take steps to protect yourself:



#### Wash your hands often!

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place.



#### Avoid close contact!

Avoid close contact with people who are sick at all times, and remember to practice good social distancing.

### Take steps to protect others:



#### Stay home if you're sick!

If you have any symptoms at all related to COVID-19, stay home and self-isolate for at least two weeks.



#### Cover coughs and sneezes!

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow.



#### Wear a facemask if you're sick!

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.



#### Clean and disinfect!

Clean and disinfect surfaces and frequently-touched items daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, and countertops.

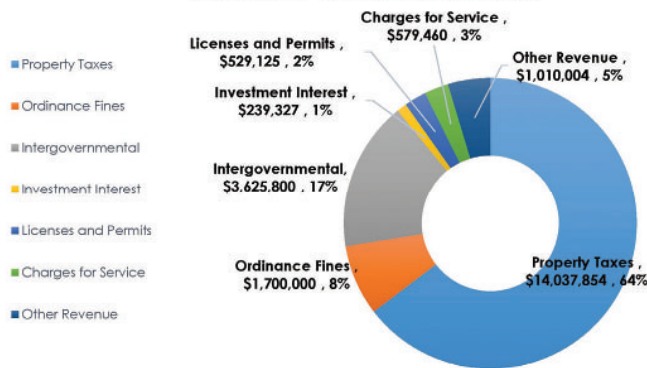




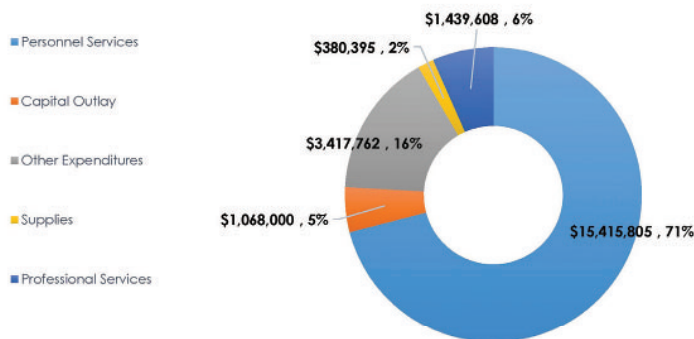
# Council Approves 2020-2021 Balanced Budget



FY 2020-21 Sources of Revenue



FY 2020-21 Expenditure Categories



**“The unprecedented events of the past three months greatly impacted the City’s budget planning,”** Oak Park City

Manager Erik Tungate commented. “Fortunately, the City was in a financial position to respond thoughtfully and swiftly.” In the midst of municipal budget planning for the coming fiscal year, the City shut down most operations in response to the global pandemic caused by the coronavirus, COVID-19.

The City immediately took measures to ensure safety for employees and the public, which also cut costs, including employee furloughs. “City Manager Tungate did an excellent job at switching gears to address financial crisis management,” Oak Park Mayor Marian McClellan said. “Through his leadership over the past several years, the City built up a healthy General Fund balance that helped us make smart and fast financial decisions in this crisis. Not every municipality can say the same.”

“In April, we hosted an all-staff videoconference to explain the City’s plans to furlough many of our employees, who were then able to benefit from the unemployment subsidies offered by the State of Michigan to offset economic hardships caused by the pandemic,” City



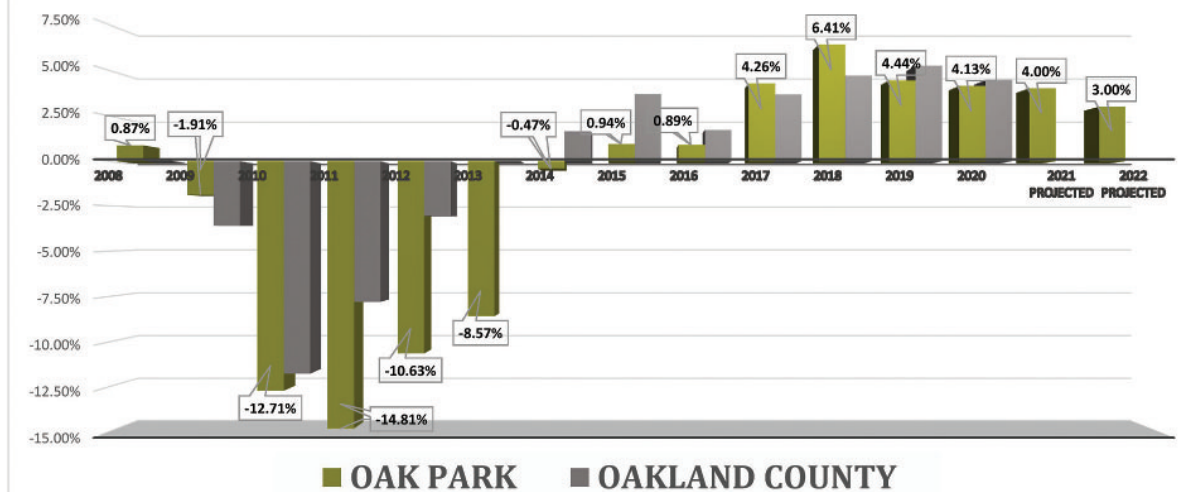


## OAK PARK

Community, Culture and Commerce

### CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

#### Taxable Value Percent Change by Year



Oak Park City Council approved the budget for FY 2020-21 and projected budgets for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 presented by the City Manager on May 18, 2020, in a virtual council session.

Manager Tungate said. Several administrative employees continued to work from home, and Public Safety employees were provided with protective equipment and modified protocols to remain on the job. All employees are currently scheduled to return to work by July 31st.

Additionally, the City expanded the pension amortization schedule to 24 years and did not extend brownfield tax increment financing on the Armory site on 8 Mile Road. Other cost-saving methods included: a hiring freeze, limits on employee travel, public event cancellations, and a reprioritization of capital expenditures for projects.

The Council-approved, balanced budget contains a 17.5% General Fund Balance (\$3.81M), and total General Fund expenditures are \$92,236 below current fiscal year projections. Other budget highlights included:

- Lowered property taxes due to Headlee rollback and refinancing taxpayer bonded debt at a lower rate (\$1.85M savings)
- New General Fund revenue generation from

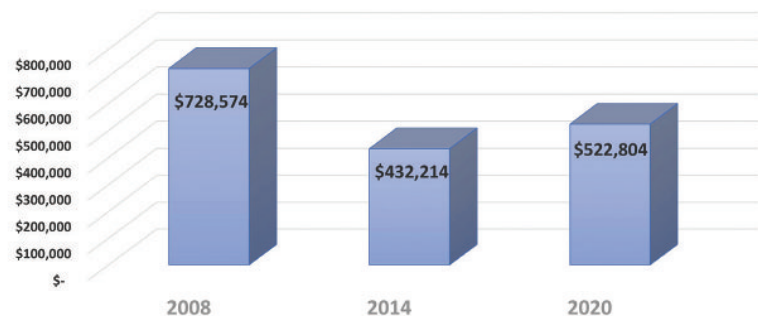
the Armory site (\$370,699)

- An expected 4.13% increase in overall taxable values for FY 2020-21 (up 70% from 2009)
- Only a 6.71% increase in water and sewer rates for residents vs. a 7.74% projection
- Completion of the lead water service line replacement project
- Complimentary trash receptacles for residential customers

"Our fitting themes for this year's budget are prosperity, progress, and perseverance," City Manager Tungate added. "Despite this horrible pandemic that literally shook the world, the City of Oak Park's finances remain comfortably in the black. We're still on track to deliver some extraordinary economic development projects. And I feel confident that – with the strength and tenacity embedded in Oak Park's culture – we'll maintain financial health throughout and beyond the pandemic."

### CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

#### Revenue from One Mill





# Three Millage Renewals

ON AUGUST  
BALLOT



**The City of Oak Park has placed three millage renewal requests on the August 4th ballot related to operations, programming, and personnel costs for the City's Public Safety, Recreation, and Library departments.** Each millage was initially approved by residents in 2010 for a 10-year period.

"It's important to note that these are only millage renewals, which will not result in a tax increase for residents," City Manager Erik Tungate said. "In fact, the City's millage rate has been on a steady decline for several years now." Since 2015, the millage rate has decreased by 8%, or 3 mills, due to debt refinancing and statutory Headlee rollbacks.

**The Public Safety Headlee Override Millage** is dedicated to operations, equipment, and personnel. If voter-approved in August, the renewed millage will generate an estimated \$500,000 to fund basic department operations, as well as Public Safety initiatives, such as community policing, which includes the Citizen's Academy, the Public Safety Open

House, annual Block Club Picnic, Public Safety Ice Cream Truck, Coffee with a Cop program, and the K-9 Unit.

Revenue from the **Recreation Headlee Override Millage** would bring in an estimated \$250,000 in 2021 to help fund the recreation amenities that residents have come to know and love, such as Summer Blast and the Independence Day Parade, Summer Concerts, Winterfest, Boo Bash, senior programming, as well as daily recreation programs and activities.

Renewal of the **Voted Library Millage** would generate \$250,000 next year to fund operations, purchases for the collection, and the many programs and amenities offered by the Oak Park Library, such as Story Time, Movie Mondays, kids' clubs, Family Game Night, adult computer classes, and Author Days.

Oak Park's three millage renewal initiatives will appear in the proposal section of the August ballot. Registered voters may vote any time by absentee ballot or by visiting their polling precincts on election day. The City's 16 voting precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on August 4, 2020.



"We're strongly encouraging registered voters in Oak Park to take advantage of absentee voting in this election, as well as in the General Election in November, which may make it easier and safer for everyone during the current public health crisis," Oak Park City Clerk Ed Norris said.

Registered voters received absentee voter applications by mail in June. Once the application is completed and returned, the registered voter will receive the actual ballot, which can be submitted anytime from the date of receipt through 8 p.m. on August 4th by placing the ballot in the secure drop box outside City Hall or hand-delivering it to the City Clerk's window during business hours. Ballots sent by mail must be received by the City Clerk on or before August 4th by 8 p.m.

"All registered voters are encouraged to vote in every election, and especially when ballot initiatives affect our community directly," City Manager Tungate added.

Registered voters may access the absentee ballot application on the City of Oak Park's web site, or on the websites of the State of Michigan and Oakland County. Registered voters may also contact the Oak Park City Clerk at (248) 691-7544 or at [enorris@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:enorris@oakparkmi.gov).

Learn more about Oak Park's millage renewal questions on the August 4th ballot by visiting the City's web site at [www.oakparkmi.gov/millagerenewals2020.php](http://www.oakparkmi.gov/millagerenewals2020.php), following the City on Facebook, and watching cable station OPTV 15.



## What Does "Taxable Value" Mean?

Oak Park property owners fund millages through tax payments, which are based on the taxable value of their properties. Taxable value can be found on the owner's annual property tax statement. For additional property tax questions, residents may contact the Oak Park Deputy Treasurer at (248) 691-7546 or at [slukasik@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:slukasik@oakparkmi.gov).

### The three millages up for renewal are calculated as follows:

- Public Safety Headlee Override Millage: .9599 mills or \$0.9599 per \$1,000 of taxable value
- Recreation Headlee Override Millage: .4799 mills or \$0.4799 per \$1,000 of taxable value
- Voted Library Millage: .4799 mills or \$0.4799 per \$1,000 of taxable value





CHANGES TO

# Stormwater Billing

The City of Oak Park recently adopted a modified water billing method, which separates stormwater from water and sanitary sewer charges.

All residential and business property owners will incur a separate line item cost for stormwater utility fees effective July 1, 2020.

#### Reformulating Sewer Fees

Stormwater is charged to Oak Park's water and sewer customers because when it rains, surfaces drain water into the City's sewage system. This is called runoff. Previously, all sewer fees were charged based on water usage. Going forward, stormwater will be charged based on each customer's unique contribution to the City's overall runoff into our combined sewage system. A customer's fair share of the City's total runoff potential, otherwise known as a customer's runoff potential, is calculated based upon the size of their property as well as how much pervious and impervious surface area they have.

Pervious surfaces allow water to seep into the ground. Impervious surfaces do not allow water to seep through but instead cause water to drain directly into the City's sewer system.

#### Calculating Runoff Potential

To calculate each water customer's runoff potential, the City studied pervious and impervious surface area for each property in Oak Park. The City contracted a company to perform an aerial assessment of Oak Park with infrared scanning to determine pervious and impervious surfaces. That data was then used in accordance with Oakland County parcel data to make determinations on surface type for each property in the City.

#### How Water Bills Will Change

In the past, water bills have included line item charges for the meter, water consumption, sewer usage, and garbage & rubbish. Until now, stormwater charges were included in the sewer usage charge. The new bill will separate the stormwater runoff charge into its own line item.

Most Oak Park residential customers will notice an overall bill decrease due to a reduction in the sewer charge, while others may experi-

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For more information, please visit:  
[www.oakparkmi.gov/stormwater.php](http://www.oakparkmi.gov/stormwater.php)

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ence a slight increase depending on property size and configuration. Most property owners of businesses will experience a bill increase.

### Ways to Reduce Your Bill

Residents can take measures to mitigate stormwater entering the City's sewage system resulting in a credit toward the water utility bill. Examples include credits for use of rain barrels, rain gardens, dry wells, and infiltration trenches. Further, unused impervious surfaces also can be replaced with pervious surfaces, such as grass, plants, and more in order to decrease potential runoff.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What has changed?

**A:** As of July 1, 2020, stormwater treatment cost will be displayed as an individual line item on all customers' water bills going forward.

**Q:** How will the water bill look different?

**A:** In the past, water bills have included line item charges for the meter, water consumption, sewer usage and garbage & rubbish. Until now, stormwater charges were included in the sewer usage charge. The new bill will separate the stormwater runoff charge into its own line item.

**Q:** Why the change?

**A:** The City of Oak Park recently settled a class-action lawsuit filed by Royal Oak-based law firm Kickham Hanley P.L.L.C.



on behalf of Oak Park water customers. The lawsuit challenged the City's approach to how the cost of stormwater treatment is distributed to customers. As a result of the settlement, water bills will now reflect each property's unique contribution to stormwater runoff into the sewer system.

**Q:** How can residents learn more about the settlement?

**A:** The water rate lawsuit filed against the City of Oak Park is currently closed. Those interested in learning more about the settlement terms can contact Angeion Group, 1650 Arch Street, Suite 2210, Philadelphia, PA 19103, or call 1 (866) 780-5352, or email [info@OakParkSettlement.com](mailto:info@OakParkSettlement.com).

**Q:** What does this mean for customers?

**A:** Most Oak Park residential customers will notice an overall bill decrease due to a reduction in the sewer charge, while others may experience a slight increase depending on property size and configuration. Most property owners of businesses will experience a bill increase.

**Q:** What is the basis of the stormwater rate?

**A:** Stormwater originates from rainfall and melting snow and ice. Stormwater that does not evaporate can either soak into the ground, accumulate on land surfaces (which can cause flooding), or run off into the sewer system. Water and sewage charges cover sanitary use from inside the structure, e.g., water that leaves your home or building through sink drains and toilets, while stormwater charges are based



on the amount of water the property owner's land discharges into the sewer system.

The stormwater rate depends on property size and how much of that property is occupied by pervious and impervious surfaces. Pervious surfaces, such as grass and dirt, allow rainwater to seep into the soil, while rainwater on impervious surfaces – such as cement or asphalt driveways, parking lots, and rooftops – runs off into the sewer system.

**Q:** Who will be most impacted by the change in billing methodology?

**A:** The City of Oak Park currently occupies the most land in the city, which includes public parks, administrative buildings, and vacant properties from tax foreclosures, and will experience the heaviest increase in stormwater charges. The City's three school districts – Oak Park, Ferndale, and Berkley – will also experience significant increases, along with several larger business entities.





# Business Resources

## IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

The City of Oak Park is grateful for its local business community, and understands the hardships that the COVID-19 pandemic has created for most.

In an effort to do everything we can to assist our business community in rebounding after this crisis, we have put together a package of various assistance programs and initiatives.

### Loosened Signage Restrictions

The City of Oak Park will temporarily allow one sign up to 32 square feet to let customers know if they offer curbside pickup, delivery, etc. There will be no permit fee or application for these signs.

#### Guidelines:

- May install a temporary sign up to 32 square feet.
- The sign must comply with all Zoning ordinance and property maintenance code provisions.
- Sign are allowed until October 1, 2020.
- Business must be open to the public during this time to be allowed the additional temporary sign.
- The sign must be located on the business premise.

### Outdoor Dining

- Waiver of the outdoor dining permit fee (\$150) until October 31, 2020.
- Must submit application to the Planning Department for administrative approval.
- Loosened restrictions on outdoor dining to allow businesses to expand floorplan

outside while abiding by social distancing guidelines.

### Sidewalk Sales

In the near future we will allow retail businesses to hold sidewalk sales to help increase their visibility and store capacity. The sidewalk sales will be allowed in certain areas of the community on selected dates. We will not allow them all the time. More details to follow.

### Grants

Through various resources, the City has implemented several grant programs for licensed local businesses.

- **Corridor Improvement Authority Grants** - The City is allocating \$15,000 for grants to licensed businesses within the boundaries of the CIA for creating outdoor cafés and marketing.
- **Business Grants** - The City is allocating \$12,383.39 for grants to licensed businesses in Oak Park. Those funds can be used for rent, creating outdoor cafés, or marketing.
- **Patronicity Grants** - Made available through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and in partnership with Mainstreet Oakland County, the City has created a Patronicity fundraising campaign to raise funds for



local businesses. For every dollar the City raises, Main Street Oakland County will match up to \$4,000. Once this campaign is complete the City will use these funds to provide local business grants. To donate to this campaign, visit: [www.bit.ly/HelpOPSmallBiz](http://www.bit.ly/HelpOPSmallBiz)

### Business License Late Fees

Any businesses who have not yet paid for their business license or renewal for this year (2020), the City will waive the late fee that would normally be applied.

### Advertising

The City of Oak Park is reducing our advertising fees by 50% in the Oak Park quarterly magazine for all Oak Park licenses businesses until Spring 2021. To find more information on rates, and how to place an advertisement in the magazine, which reaches 14,000 homes and 1,000 businesses, please visit the City's website.

### Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Businesses

The City of Oak Park is collaborating with Oakland County to provide PPE for licensed businesses to aid in a safe reopening strategy. The City is also working with our District 12 communities to find suppliers of PPE with hopes to create a resource for our businesses. Businesses that still need face masks for their employees, please contact Kim Marrone at [kmarrone@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:kmarrone@oakparkmi.gov) and identify the



quantity of masks you need. Due to a generous donation by business owner Andrew Attisha these supplies are being made available to our businesses.

### BUY LOCAL Campaign

The City of Oak Park will be implementing a "BUY LOCAL" Campaign over the next several months. The purpose of this is to promote our local businesses and encourage people to "Buy Local".

### Farmer's Market Tables for Local Businesses

The Oak Park Farmers Market began on Wednesday, July 1, and we want our small businesses to take part in it. Through the rest

of the Farmers Market season, the City will select one local retail establishment and one local restaurant located within the City to be provided a table free of charge. All State of Michigan and Health Department orders must be followed. Instructions to apply will be made available on the City website under Community and Economic Development.

For even more information on how to navigate this difficult business climate, visit our dedicated COVID-19 business resource webpage at: [www.bit.ly/OPBizResources](http://www.bit.ly/OPBizResources)

Despite whatever challenges we face together now and in the future, Oak Park will always be open for business.







## Message From Library Director Karen White-Owens

Dear Oak Park Residents, I hope everyone is keeping safe and well. Welcome to our new normal. In an attempt to keep everyone safe, we are providing most of our activities and programs online or virtually from our website.

Curbside pickup service began Monday, June 22. Simply call the Library at (248) 691-7480, provide us your library card number, request your materials, and we will have everything checked-out and packaged for you to come pick up within 2 hours. When you get to the Library, call us again and we will bring your items out to your car. This service will be available Monday through Friday from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

It's also time for summer reading! Join us! Win prizes, enjoy virtual programs, and read

during these beautiful summer months. Our Summer Reading program started Monday, June 22, but you can still register on our website and enjoy reading what you love. We will finish our Summer Reading program with an Exotic Zoo! Zoologist Javon Stack will come to the Library and bring his zoo of unique animals for patrons to see. He is scheduled to be at the Library on Monday, August 10 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

Our Youth Services Librarian Stuart Sturton will have a recorded virtual story time every Monday at 12:00pm that will get posted to our Facebook page. He will also have a "Craft Time" every Wednesday at 12:00pm. For our older children and tweens, Stuart will have live virtual story time via Facebook Live on Fridays at 12:00pm.

Throughout the shutdown, did you ever wonder what's going on at the Library? Check out our new feature "What's New at the Oak Park Library". We will have updates on new materials and programs. Wednesdays will be for new books, and Fridays we'll have children's books and DVD information. It's a great way to stay abreast of what material is available at the Library.

Have you ever thought about writing a book? Do you have an idea for a story that just won't go away? Please join us for "How to Write Your First Book". During the summer, we will pick topics about writing and talk about them and provide helpful websites and books to help you along your writing journey. Once the Library opens to patrons, we will have a monthly program detailing more about the process of writing a book.

Going forward, be sure to keep an eye on both our webpage and our Facebook page, especially regarding our September back-to-school backpack giveaway and computer raffle.

As you can see, despite the COVID-19 crisis, we still have a lot going on at the Oak Park Public Library — and even more planned for the future.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all work together to make it through this unprecedented crisis. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Library Director Karen White-Owens  
& the Oak Park Public Library Team*





## Message From Recreation Director Laurie Stasiak

Dear Oak Park Residents, we hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy. While we are all adjusting to new processes and procedures, we would like to share the amenities that the Recreation Department still has available during this time. As restrictions are lifted, we will do everything we can to provide programming that keeps our residents and their families safe. Please be sure to visit our Facebook page and website for the most up-to-date information on programs and services as they become available.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all work together to make it through this unprecedented crisis. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Recreation Director Laurie Stasiak  
& the Oak Park Recreation Department Team*

### SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

Senior transportation services are back up and running! Transportation services are focused on getting seniors to doctor's appointments, pharmacy pick-ups, and grocery shopping, which includes the Oak Park Farmers Market,



Kroger, and Meijer. As limitations are lifted, transportation to additional destinations will be added.

To help keep you safe as well as our drivers, only four riders per trip will be permitted on the bus at a time, and all riders will be required to wear a face covering. Busses will be cleaned in between each trip and designated seating will be identified to adhere to six-foot social distancing guidelines. Riders will be contacted 24 hours in advance to answer a Transportation Rider Questionnaire before their scheduled pick up time. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to keep everyone safe and still provide quality and essential services.

Please note that riders are required to be a member of the 50 Up Club and that transportation requests must be made seven days in advance until further notice. For additional information call (248) 691-7555.

### FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market officially reopened on Wednesday, July 1! It will run every Wednesday from 9:00am to 2:00pm through Wednesday, September 30.

We are proud to be a Farmers Market that brings only local Michigan produce to you! The shorter the food travels, the more beneficial for your health. Directly from farm to market to your table helps ensure quality, fresh produce and supports local farmers.

To keep you and the vendors safe, vendors will be wearing face masks and gloves, and we strongly encourage shoppers to wear

face masks, too. Shoppers are asked to only touch those products they wish to purchase. As restrictions are lifted, more interactive programs will be back in place such as live music, food sampling, cooking demonstrations, and more.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Humana, Inc., our signature sponsor for this year's Farmers Market. Thank you to Beaumont Health and SMART for their support, as well.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Farmers Market will have a new location for the first half of the season at the Oak Park High School parking lot.

### THE POWER OF PRODUCE (NEW)

This is a great program for families both young and old to participate in! Children and adult programs will each be held Wednesday, July 15 through Wednesday, August 19 at the Oak Park Farmers Market.

The children's program is creative and interactive that encourages drawing, thought processing, and reading and includes scavenger hunts, taste-testing, and other fun programs. Each week, children can earn a \$3 token to spend at the market by just having fun with take home activities!

The adult program activities will include the Wednesday Walk, taste-testing from a distance, and a recipe-sharing activity that can contribute to the Market Recipe Cook Book! Participants can earn \$3 a week to spend at the market. Each program is limited to 75 participants and requires registration. To register, call (248) 691-2357 or email [mrosemond@oakparkmi.gov](mailto:mrosemond@oakparkmi.gov).



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## THANK YOU!

The Recreation Department would like to send out a special THANK YOU to the following **sponsors and participants** of the 2020 Winter Fest and Daddy Daughter Dance Event. Their support and participation is deeply appreciated!

- Alaska Fresh Fish & Chicken
- Fortson Dental
- Westborn Market
- RealTeam Realty
- Joyful Tot's Childcare and Learning Center

We would like to thank the following **volunteers** that graciously gave their time to help ensure that the events ran smoothly. Your positivity and involvement is invaluable.

- The Parks and Recreation Commission
- Ms. Ajai Tice
- Kathy and Lee Hadley
- Mr. James Shaw
- Jean Jones
- South Oakland Helping Hands 4-H Group
- Mr. & Mrs Hadley
- Ester Winer

## MODIFIED WATER BILLING METHOD

The City of Oak Park recently adopted a modified water billing method, which separates stormwater from water and sewer charges. All residential and business property owners will incur a separate line item cost for stormwater utility fees effective July 1, 2020.

### UTILITY RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020:

\$4.51 Water Per 100 Cubic Ft. (one Unit)	\$601.65 Water Runoff Charge Per Unit
\$4.86 Sanitary Sewer Per 100 Cubic Ft. (one Unit)	Meter Charge Varies by Size of Meter
\$38.72 Garbage/Rubbish Per Quarter	Industrial Waste Varies by Size of Meter

Oak Park Water Department • 14000 Oak Park Blvd • Oak Park, MI 48237 • (248) 691-7470

For more information on the stormwater billing changes,  
visit: [www.oakparkmi.gov/stormwater.php](http://www.oakparkmi.gov/stormwater.php)