



Village of Oak Lawn  
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Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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# Oak Lawn Matters

Fall 2017

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

### EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Mayor Sandra Bury	708-499-7740	sbury@oaklawn-il.gov
Trustee Tim Desmond (1st)	708-346-7001	tdesmond@oaklawn-il.gov
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Trustee Bob Streit (3rd)	708-346-7003	rstreit@oaklawn-il.gov
Trustee Terry Vorderer (4th)	708-346-7004	tvorderer@oaklawn-il.gov
Trustee Bud Stalker (5th)	708-346-7005	bstalker@oaklawn-il.gov
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Visit our website: [www.oaklawn-il.gov](http://www.oaklawn-il.gov)

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## Oak Lawn Recognized as One of the Safest Cities in America



Last month the National Council for Home Safety and Security ("NCHSS") contacted Mayor Sandra Bury to inform her that Oak Lawn was recognized as one of the Safest Cities in America.

The NCHSS is a national trade association whose goal is to further industry education and public knowledge about home safety and security, especially as it relates to child safety and Senior safety.

They looked at FBI crime statistics of almost 800 U.S. cities with populations of 50,000 or more and combined that with their own internal research to rank each city, and Oak Lawn finished in the top-100 (#79).

"We are obviously thrilled by the recognition," said Mayor Bury. "But to be honest, we weren't surprised. Oak Lawn is a fantastic and very safe community, and a wonderful place to raise a family and open a business."

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18 YEARS OR OLDER  
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## THE VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN

*Oak Lawn Matters* is being re-purposed as a newsletter that focusses on Oak Lawn's village government. It will include useful information for Oak Lawn residents and businesses and will be sent to all postal addresses in Oak Lawn (almost 25,000) on an as-needed basis.

## Oak Lawn's Fall on the Green Festival: September 8-9-10



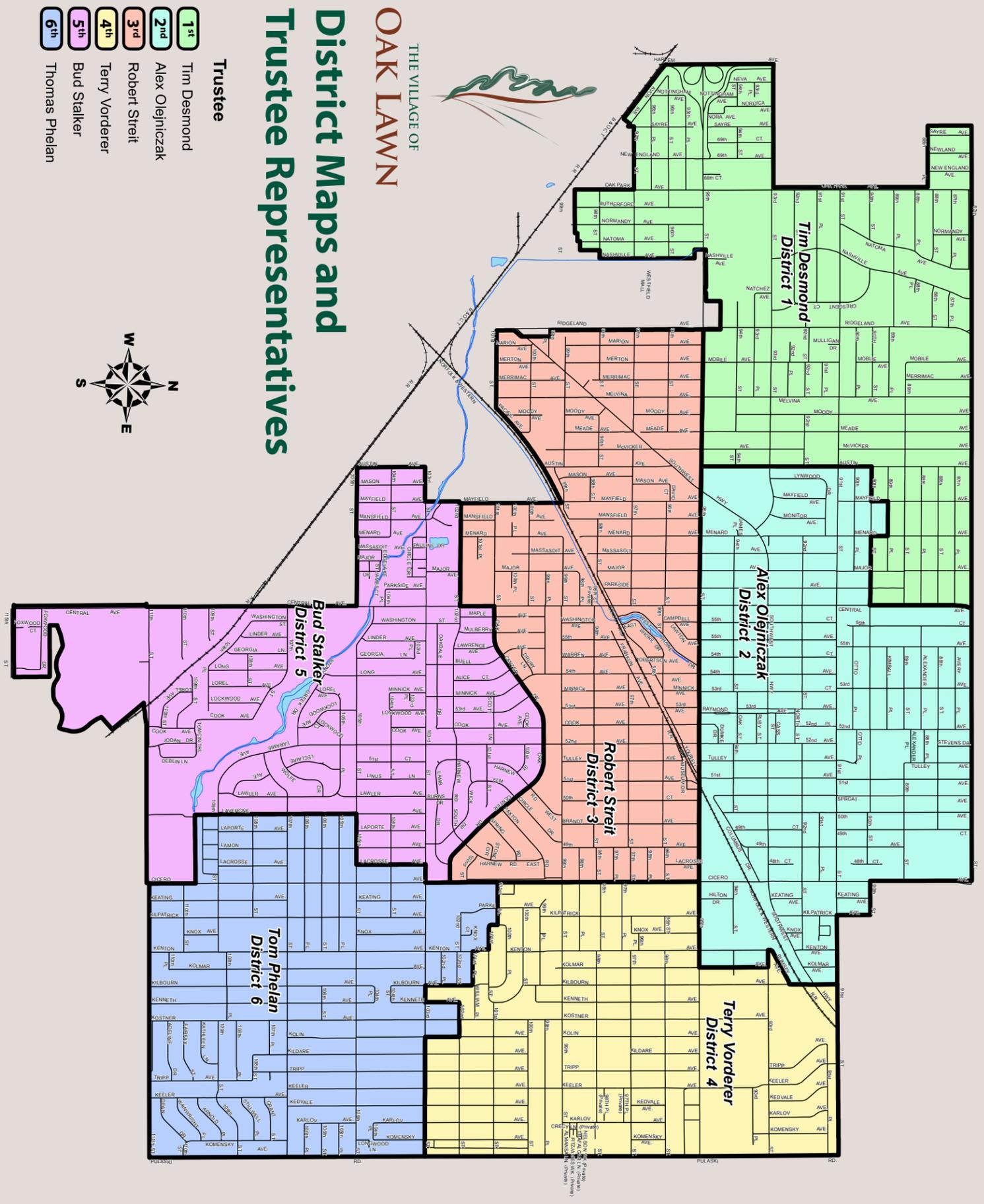
{SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION}



## Did You Know?

- Oak Lawn is the 22nd largest municipality in Illinois with 57,034 people.
- Our Village is governed by 6 Trustees and a Mayor who acts as a tie-breaker on votes, and we employ a full-time professional manager to run the Village's day-to-day operations.
- Oak Lawn has 900 licensed businesses, a number that has increased steadily for the past 10 years.
- We have a world-class Medical Center (Advocate-Christ) and our Emergency Response personnel (Police, Fire and Dispatch) are the envy of the Southland.
- We have 21 excellent schools, an award-winning Park District and Children's Museum, and a vibrant theater community.
- We are the home of entertainer Kevin Cronin (REO Speedwagon), NFL players Dave Diehl (NY Giants) and Mark Donahue (Bengals), MLB player Rob Mackowiak, and professional boxer Mike Mollo.
- Other famous athletes and entertainers are products of Oak Lawn schools, including Dwyane Wade and Kanye West.
- Since 2013 there were almost 5,000 real estate transactions in Oak Lawn, the vast majority of them new people buying homes in our Village.
- And in 2017 Oak Lawn was named one of the **Safest Cities** in America AND the **Hottest Growth Area** in all of Chicagoland.

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





**Mayor Sandra Bury:** 708-499-7740, sbury@oaklawn-il.gov

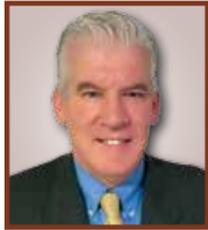
Oak Lawn was recently recognized as one of the safest cities in America! It's gratifying when our Village is recognized for the wonderful quality of life we enjoy, and I couldn't be prouder of our entire Oak Lawn team, and in particular our former Police Chief Mike Murray who recently retired. This news confirms the exemplary job Chief Murray did in an increasingly dangerous world.

I'm also happy to welcome new Police Chief Randy Palmer who was sworn in August 1st. Chief Palmer has served our Village with distinction for more than 25 years and is highly respected by his department and colleagues in law enforcement, and is committed to doing what it takes to keep our community safe and secure.

The end of summer doesn't mean the end of fun in Oak Lawn! We

continue our Wednesday Farmer's Market through mid-October, and nothing beats our annual Fall on the Green Festival on our Village Green. Our Special Events Committee has been working hard to make sure this year's festival is the best one yet, and the money we raise supports many great organizations in the Village, such as Park Lawn. Be sure not to miss our Art Commission's Battle-of-the-Bands which takes place on Friday night between Village Hall and our Library. The winner will play the main-stage at Fall on the Green on Sunday, and then move on to a state-wide competition.

As we go to press I just received an exciting phone call from Congressman Lipinski that Oak Lawn has been selected for a million-dollar plus SAFER Grant for our Fire Department! I'd like to thank Congressman Lipinski and Fire Chief Sheets for their hard work which will certainly enhance public safety in Oak Lawn!



**1st District Trustee Tim Desmond:** 708-346-7001, tdesmond@oaklawn-il.gov

If you're like me, you probably drive down the same streets every day without taking much notice of the neighborhood around you.

When out walking I am always amazed by some of the beautiful homes and gardens in Oak Lawn, and by the many new homes being built as well as homes getting additions, remodeling, and other improvements. This shouldn't be surprising, especially when we were just recognized as one of the safest communities in America and the "Hottest Neighborhood in the Chicago area" for 2017.

I'd like to think I played a small part in these honors because after I was first elected I introduced Oak Lawn's "Home Improvement Permit Fee Waiver" which waives building permit fees for homeowners who make improvements to their homes. This Program is available for 2 weeks in late May and the waivers are good for 12 months.

This year (2017) Oak Lawn issued 340 permits with an estimated \$2.2 million in construction projects that - hopefully - used local contractors and local building-material suppliers.

But the majority of the credit for why Oak Lawn is so great goes to the many fine employees who work here, from our police officers, firefighters and dispatchers who keep us safe, to the public works employees doing a lot of the "dirty" work, and to all of our employees in finance and administration who keep our Village running smoothly - and winning awards!

To close I'd like to thank former Police Chief Mike Murray on the great work he did the last 4 years, and welcome new Chief Randy Palmer. We were in great hands with Chief Murray, and we remain in good hands with Chief Palmer.

I'm honored to serve the people of the 1st District - if I can be of help in any way, please contact me at the email or phone number above.



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

Fall is my favorite time of year. Growing up here, I always enjoyed how Oak Lawn looked in the Fall, and even though it brought the beginning of a new school year, it also brought new clothes and shoes, not the hand-me-downs the 9th kid in a family usually received.

Speaking of the new school year, it's more important than ever to follow our posted speed limits and the other rules-of-the-road so our children can enjoy worry-free walks to and from school. And speaking of roads, several residents told me they were very happy about their new streets which greatly improved the safety and beauty of their neighborhoods. We spent \$2.4 million on new roads last year and remain committed to improving the infrastructure

throughout Oak Lawn.

I also heard from many residents who were very happy with the reliability of their electricity, people who routinely had power outages even during mild storms. My commitment to residents to improve Oak Lawn's electric grid resulted in more than \$3.5 million in ComEd investments and improvements to our system.

Our Fall on The Green festival is shaping up to be another GREAT time for people of all ages. I would like to thank the Committees that work year-round to put events like this together, and also the residents who live near our Village Green for their patience and understanding.

It is an honor and pleasure to serve Oak Lawn's 2nd District. If you need assistance, please contact me.



**3rd District Trustee Bob Streit:** 708-422-3600, robertjstreit@aol.com

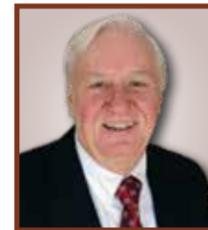
**Stony Creek Bank Stabilization:** Many of you have come to me with questions regarding the work being done near the railroad tracks at 98th & Central. The Village has partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to stabilize the banks along Oak Lawn Creek, a project that has been in the planning stages for many years. When complete this project will improve the infrastructure and should help reduce flooding in our community.

**Patriot Station Traffic Advisory Panel Meeting:** Our Board recently created a Traffic Advisory Panel for Patriot Station to keep Oak Lawn residents informed of changes which will affect the volume and flow of traffic through our neighborhoods, and to convey the concerns, comments, and suggestions of residents to the elected officials and village employees who are involved with

the Patriot Station project. The panel held its first meeting on June 14th, and if anyone is interested in joining the panel please contact me.

**Oak Lawn Lake Improvements Meeting:** The Village and our engineering firm, Christopher Burke Engineering, hosted an informational meeting at Village Hall on July 27th about the proposed improvements to Oak Lawn Lake. The meeting was well-attended and covered multiple topics including design, vegetation, lighting, water quality and vandalism

**Constituent Services:** Over the years, I have met and talked with many residents regarding issues of concern to our neighborhood, and I remain committed to meeting with individuals or groups to address their concerns. I have found that our fellow residents often have creative and practical solutions to the problems confronting our community, so if you have any issues you would like to discuss please contact me.



**4th District Trustee Terry Vorderer:** 708-346-7004, tvorderer@oaklawn-il.gov

As summer comes to a close I wanted to update everyone on a few matters:

As you may have observed, Chuck E. Cheese has begun closing earlier on the weekends which started last month. While Chuck E. Cheese continues to fully staff its

security detail and continue along in its commitment to the safety of its neighbors and patrons, please note that the company will be relocating from Oak Lawn no later than December 1, 2017. We wish Chuck E. Cheese nothing but the best at their new location.

Advocate Christ Medical Center is in the final stages of their multi-year expansion of their Oak Lawn facilities, with finishing touches being made to their Oncology Center and their expanded Emergency Room along Kilbourn Ave. All of these projects are scheduled for completion by next Spring, and upon completion, Kilbourn Ave will be resurfaced and paid for by Advocate.

I have been working with an investor group who purchased several apartment buildings in our neighborhood, making sure that they are following our codes and providing people with nice, livable units. I am impressed with this group and their business model where they completely renovate the buildings and upgrade the units and then target higher-end

renters. I think this will add to the beauty and aesthetics of the neighborhood.

Our Village Board recently created a new Safety Committee devoted to the issue of Public Safety, and I serve on this committee with Trustees Desmond and Phelan. We will work closely with our Police, Fire, and 911 Dispatch departments to look for ways to improve Public Safety in and around the Village. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and please contact me if you have an issue involving the Village.



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

As Trustees, we all have additional assignments on Village Committees and as liaisons to specific employee groups. My responsibilities include being the Board's Trustee liaison to the Local Business Support and Development Committee and to our Fire-Rescue Department. In both of these areas, there have been significant changes that I would like to mention.

Our Board recently created the Local Business Support and Development Committee whose charge will be to better serve Oak Lawn businesses that do so much to reduce our tax burden. I will provide frequent updates on our progress and accomplishments.

I also serve as the Trustee liaison to our Fire-Rescue Department, an honor and obligation I take seriously as many of my extended family have served in leadership roles for the Chicago Fire Department and I understand their dedication to public safety. These fine men

and women have served with distinction throughout the history of the Village and we are lucky to have them meeting and exceeding our emergency needs.

Our Fire-Rescue department continues to provide all the services of a traditional fire department but due to increased fire prevention and public education, safer appliances and use of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, Oak Lawn has very few actual structural fires resulting injuries and property loss. Most of the department's efforts are spent on ambulance calls and assisting with other emergencies.

Which is why we as a Board believe it is critically important that all our firefighters maintain their paramedic's licenses so we can deploy more qualified responders on ambulance runs. This and other issues will be negotiated in the upcoming contract talks which you can learn more about by attending Board meetings or watching them on cable or YouTube.

# PUBLIC SAFETY



## 6<sup>th</sup> District Trustee Tom Phelan: 708-346-7006, tphelan@oaklawn-il.gov

When I began my second stint as 6th District Trustee in May I made a conscious decision to focus most of my time and effort on 2 areas, Public Safety and our Village Budget. This is not to suggest that other areas like Public Works and Special Events aren't important – they are – but if our residents don't feel safe or can't afford to live here any longer, our Village will suffer.

On **Public Safety**, I recently became a member of a new Trustee Committee committed to this very issue and I will work closely with the other committee members and Village staff to research ways we can improve public safety, and bring those recommendations to the full board for a vote.

On the **Village's Budget**, When I first served as Trustee (from

2005-2013) my primary goal was to eliminate waste and do things more efficiently, and I believe I and others on the board did a good job. The current board (which I rejoined in last May) went beyond good and reduced our property taxes for 4 straight years (2013-2016)!

We are unfortunately facing strong headwinds in the next few years with crippling pension obligations and a dramatically shifting retail industry that will no doubt impact our tax revenues. So, my goal now is the same as before - look at every line-item in the Village budget and find ways to keep our property taxes in check.

I really hope you make an effort to get to our Fall on the Green festival in September, especially if you have never attended. I lived in Oak Lawn for 2-3 years before I went to my first one and couldn't believe how GREAT a festival it really is. See you on the Green!



## Village Clerk Jane Quinlan: 708-499-7738, jquinlan@oaklawn-il.gov

As summer is ending, I look forward to the beautiful fall days in Oak Lawn. For the past 12 years as Village Clerk, my experience here has been humbling and rewarding. It is a privilege working with the caring residents and businesses that

give so much to our community.

We are all excited for so many special events that will take place in the next few months. The most exciting event of all is the Village's own Fall on the Green; a fun filled weekend on our Village Green. There are also 5K Runs, Pigskin Classics and Oktoberfests throughout the Village. Our Farmer's Market will continue every Wednesday (except Sept. 6th) through October 11th.

As school is just beginning, there will be many student activities held every week; football, soccer and volleyball games, theater

performances, local bands playing and many more events. Please come out and support your local schools. This is also the beginning of the D.A.R.E. and E.D.G.E. Programs in our local grammar schools that teach the dangers of drugs and gangs. A big congratulations to St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish that will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary in November, 2017-what a beautiful 60 years it has been!

In the Clerk's Office, no two days are ever alike. We are located on the second floor of the Village Hall and are always willing to help anyone with questions, complaints, temporary handicap placards, Freedom of Information Request Forms, charitable raffle/liquor licenses and notary services. In addition, registering people to vote has been a priority in the Clerk's Office-please bring two forms of ID when registering. You can also register online at [www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com). In closing, thank you for believing in me Oak Lawn; it is a pleasure to serve you!



## Village Manager Larry Deetjen: 708-499-7743, ldeetjen@oaklawn-il.gov

As we close out another spectacular summer in Oak Lawn I want to update everyone on some important issues your Village Board and Management Team are focusing on:

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** It's alarming what is happening in America when it comes to law & order, with attacks on police officers and clashes and protests and violence almost everyday occurrences. Nothing is more important to us than Public Safety, and the people we employ to keep us safe are some of the finest around. Thankfully our community has been very supportive of our men and women in blue, and our recent recognition as one of America's Safest Cities is evidence of that.

**BUDGET & TAXES:** When it comes to taxes we are constantly looking for ways to do more with less, especially in the areas of technology and innovation. Our State and Federal governments are constantly increasing taxes and adding more regulations and

mandates that run counter to what many local governments need and believe. It is a constant battle to maintain our focus on keeping taxes low, but it is a battle we all believe is worth fighting.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Our community is alive with construction and capital investment. Advocate is completing its \$400 million expansion of Christ Hospital. We are making great progress on Phase 2 at the Stony Creek Promenade after a hugely successful Phase One that is adding \$1 million in tax revenues to our coffers each year. If you drive the streets of Oak Lawn you can see construction happening almost everywhere.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Our Village has been very pro-active in upgrading Oak Lawn's infrastructure including water pumping stations and pipelines, storm and sanitary sewers, and streets and street lights.

I hope everyone comes out to Fall on the Green to celebrate our great community!



I was honored and humbled to be named Chief of the Department I have loyally and faithfully served for the last 25 years. I worked up through the ranks serving as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Lieutenant, Watch Commander (for both Patrol and Investigation Divisions), and until recently Chief of Investigations and Press Officer. I think my experience will serve me well as Chief because I know exactly what the men and women in our department have to go through on a daily basis.

I will rely on my training at the FBI National Academy and my experience as the Assistant Commander of the *South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force* to work closely with other law enforcement agencies to aggressively attack crime and bring criminals to justice. I have seen how effective the CompStat approach to policing has been and we will utilize data and statistics to deploy our forces in the best way possible.

I want to launch a community crime-prevention program and work with the Board and their newly formed Safety Committee

to develop policies and procedures that will improve Public Safety and bring more residents and businesses into the process. I also will make better use of the methods we use to communicate with the Community, especially in emergency situations using our Everbridge System and various social networks.

I will serve as a role model and mentor for our newer and younger officers and encourage them to be more active and visible in our community. It's been a difficult time for Law Enforcement with assaults on police officers at record levels. Some people are apprehensive about and distrusting of law enforcement, and we will work to eliminate those feelings while never compromising the safety of our officers or the people of Oak Lawn.

To close I'd like everyone to know that the Oak Lawn Police Department looks forward to serving and protecting the people of Oak Lawn and the thousands who travel through our Village every day. We are extremely proud of our designation as one of the Safest Cities in America, and I want that to remain our mission and focus.

I look forward to serving this fantastic community.

*Randy Palmer, Police Chief: 708-499-7723*



The term "Fire Department" is really a misnomer when describing what our department does on a daily basis, and we actually refer to ourselves as the "Oak Lawn Fire & Rescue". We still maintain many of the traditions and values our Fire Department was built on, but the services we provide have evolved dramatically over the years in order to meet our community's changing needs.

Today more than 70% of the calls we respond to are ambulance calls and 30% fire-related including vehicle fires, brush fires, downed-

electrical lines, hazardous materials, and false alarms. We are fortunate that due to our excellent fire-prevention work and to the continued use and improvements of smoke alarms and building materials, we actually have very few structure fires in Oak Lawn.

I want the residents of Oak Lawn to rest-assured that, whatever the emergency or issue, the men and women in Oak Lawn Fire & Rescue will be there. And we will never waver from our core mission of providing timely response and expert care, which is the focus that drives every decision our organization makes.

*George Sheets, Fire & Rescue Chief: 708-499-7700*



The Oak Lawn Regional 911 Dispatch Center handles all emergency calls and dispatching for Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Bridgeview, Burbank, Bedford Park, Central Stickney and Hodgkins, which combined have a population of almost 130,000 residents. And we recently reached an agreement with the Village of Alsip that we hope to finalize in the upcoming months.

Oak Lawn's reputation as a "Premier" dispatch center is well-deserved as we have cutting-edge technology thanks to the Village Board's commitment over the last several years to invest in our facilities. We have a staff of 37 and our Team Leaders and

Supervisors provide excellent training that follows nationally recognized call standards. In an average year, we handle almost 200,000 calls for service, with approximately 88% of them police-related and 12% fire and rescue. Summer is our busiest time of the year, with peak call-times usually between 3 pm and 4 pm.

Due to changes in our industry and new regulations, there will be more consolidation in the emergency dispatch area and I believe it won't be long before more communities look to Oak Lawn to provide for their dispatch services.

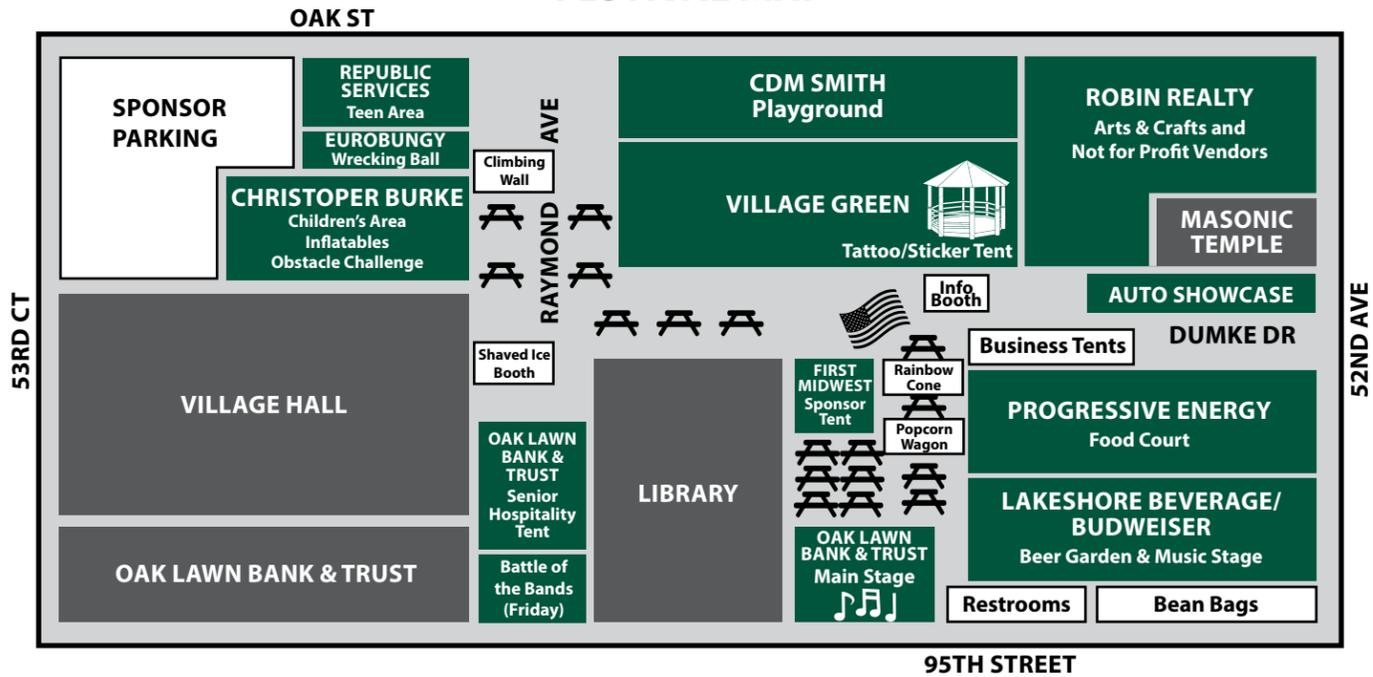
*Diana Tousignant, Emergency Communications Director: 708-499-7719*

# Fall on the Green

Friday, September 8th, 6 pm to 12 am  
 Saturday, September 9th, 11 am to 12 am  
 Sunday, September 10th, 11 am to 8:30 pm



## FESTIVAL MAP



## ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Band	Genre	Start	Location
FRI	Bernie Glim	Country Rock	6:00 PM	Beer Tent
FRI	Boy Band Night	Boy Bands Tribute	8:00 PM	Main Stage
FRI	Sean & Charlie	Irish, Pop, Rock, & Country	10:00 PM	Beer Tent
SAT	The Cousins	Acoustic	11:00 AM	Beer Tent
SAT	Motel Breakfast	Rock / Folk Rock	12:00 PM	Beer Tent
SAT	Drop Top	Modern Country, Pop & Rock	1:30 PM	Main Stage
SAT	Electricland	Classic Rock	3:00 PM	Beer Tent
SAT	Scarlett Drive	Country	4:30 PM	Main Stage
SAT	Strung Out	Best of the 70's	6:00 PM	Beer Tent
SAT	American English	Beatles Tribute	7:30 PM	Main Stage
SAT	Anthem	Classic Rock	10:00 PM	Beer Tent
SUN	"Battle-of-the-Bands" Winner	TBD	11:00 AM	Main Stage
SUN	The Four C-Notes	Jersey Boys	12:30 PM	Main Stage
SUN	The Hat Guys	Modern & Classic Hits	2:00 PM	Beer Tent
SUN	Rendition	Rock & Pop	3:30 PM	Main Stage
SUN	The Walk Ins	50's Through Today	6:00 PM	Beer Tent





**11006 S. Cicero (Stony Creek Promenade)**

“Raising Cane’s” Oak Lawn location opened earlier this year and quickly became one of the top restaurants in their system. Their legion of fans, known as “Caniacs,” absolutely love their fresh, never-ever frozen chicken fingers and “addictive” secret Cane’s sauce. The company invested nearly \$2.5 million into the project which brought 40+ new jobs to Oak Lawn.



**10916 S. Cicero (Stony Creek Promenade)  
(Opening Late October 2017)**

Marco’s Pizza offers dine-in, carry-out, and delivery of fantastic pizzas, sub-sandwiches, salads, and their world-famous cheezy-bread. Marco’s invested almost \$700,000 into this project which will bring 20+ jobs to Oak Lawn.



**8900 S. Cicero**

Oak Lawn U-Haul recently relocated from 95th street to a new, state-of-the-art facility that includes climate-controlled self-storage units. UHAULs invested almost \$3 million in this project and created 15 additional new jobs.



**BUONA**

THE ORIGINAL ITALIAN BEEF

**95th Street & Merrimac  
(Opening Winter 2017)**

Buona’s beautiful new 4,000-square-foot restaurant will feature a drive-thru-window and a wide variety of delicious menu items, including their award-winning Italian beef sandwiches. This nearly \$4 million investment in Oak Lawn will bring between 60 and 70 new jobs to our village.



**4630 W. 95th Street**

Mancari’s has been part of Oak Lawn’s vibrant automobile business for almost 40 years, and they recently expanded their business with a \$3.5 million investment which created 15 new jobs.



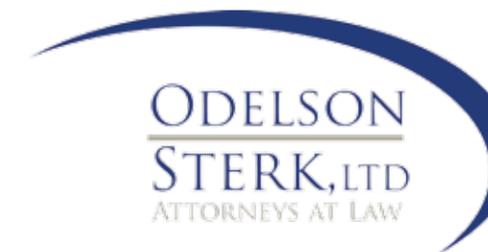
**5116 W. Museum Drive  
(Opening Fall 2017)**

La Michoacana specializes in frozen treats from south of the border in a wide variety of flavors like spicy pineapple, coffee, and mango with chili. La Michoacana will be open year-round and represents a \$500,000 investment in Oak Lawn that will create 20+ new jobs.

The following organizations helped underwrite the costs of this edition of Oak Lawn Matters...



**Montana & Welch, LLC**



# YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

# Our Publics Works Department Has Answers

## Should I shop around for a better electric rate?

The Village ended its residential aggregation program last March, and all residents were automatically transferred back to ComEd tariffed rates. This was because ComEd's rates were the lowest and no electric suppliers were providing price match guarantees against ComEd rates.

The good news is the electrical aggregation was a great success, saving Oak Lawn residents an average of \$283 over 3 years (\$5.2 million savings in total).

Below are charts that show the historical savings for an average Oak Lawn home, and the historical comparisons between ComEd's rates and the Village's Aggregation rates:

TIME PERIOD	AVE. HOME SAVINGS
March 2013 – February 2014	\$122.36
March 2014 – February 2015	\$188.28
March 2015 – February 2016	\$14.29
March 2016 – March 2017	(\$42.15)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$282.78</b>

### Electric Rates

TIME PERIOD	COMED	VILLAGE
Feb 2013 – Jan 2015	6.66 cents	5.18 cents
Feb 2015 – Jan 2016	7.25 cents	7.07 cents
Feb 2016 – March 2017	6.49 cents	7.25 cents

## Who handles the Village's Waste Hauling?

The Village just recently signed a multi-year contract extension with Republic Services, the company that has been providing for our waste hauling for the last several years. The agreement includes new services including street-sweeping, electronic-waste disposal, and expansion of the "Big-Belly" solar garbage units (see image below) which contain sensors that alert the Village when they are full.



## When will the street-sweeping occur?

Four (4) times per year, with the next one scheduled for October 16th through October 26th. Residents will be notified in advance to make arrangements to move vehicles off of the streets.

## Can I just rake or blow leaves from my lawn to the street?

No. The street-sweepers are not equipped to pick-up the leaves. And leaves hinder water flow down curb lines and block rainwater from draining into sewer grates, leading to flooding.



## Can I burn my leaves?

No. Burning leaves is illegal in Oak Lawn. Residents should use a yard-waste container or paper (not plastic) yard-waste bags.

## When does Yard Waste pick-up end?

Yard waste will be picked up on your normal garbage days until mid-December.

## My basement used to flood a lot, but hasn't in years. Why is that?

Two reasons. The Village has dedicated millions of dollars toward flood-prevention and improving our infrastructure over the last several years, and because major storm events have occurred less frequently.

## What can I do to ensure my basement stays dry during a major storm event?



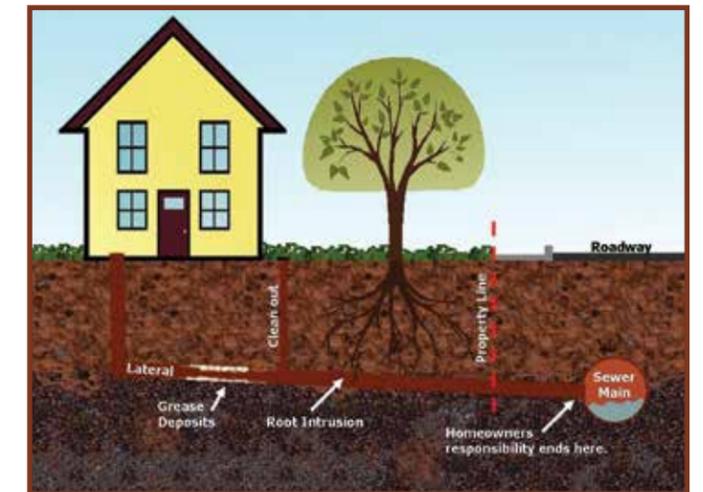
The best things are to keep your roofs and gutters clean, remove leaves and debris from curb lines and sewer grates, and make sure you have a properly maintained and functioning sump pump (see image):

## A plumber told me that my "sewer lateral" was blocked. What does that mean?

Oak Lawn's sewer system is comprised of a series of underground pipes. Many are publicly owned, but the sewer laterals are the pipes that run from the house to the street. Sewer backups can cause tremendous damage to the interior of a home, and sewer laterals are most often blocked by tree roots and improper items flushed in the toilets in your home.

## Who is responsible for fixing a blocked sewer lateral?

Homeowners are responsible for sewer lateral maintenance and repairs. See below image to see where the sewer lateral ends and the Village's sewer line begins.



# Understanding Your Property Tax Bill

If you own a home in Oak Lawn, you probably just received the 2nd installment of your 2016 Property Taxes from the Cook County Treasurer.

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?", and many wrongly assume that most of their taxes go to the Village, which is not the case.

Below you'll find a sample tax return for a \$500,000 home in Oak Lawn and the percentage of taxes that were paid to the various taxing bodies between 2013 and 2016. This home is in H.S. District 229 (Oak Lawn H.S.) but the conclusions will also hold true for homes in HS District 218 (Richards H.S.). Focus your attention on the highlighted "Village of Oak Lawn" line:

TAXING BODY	2013	2014	2015	2016
School District 122	38.23%	38.47%	38.51%	38.49%
Oak Lawn HS District 229	26.37%	26.86%	27.09%	27.37%
<b>Village of Oak Lawn</b>	<b>12.09%</b>	<b>11.93%</b>	<b>11.69%</b>	<b>11.64%</b>
Cook County	5.98%	5.40%	5.38%	5.12%
Oak Lawn Park District	4.73%	4.79%	4.81%	4.84%
Oak Lawn Library	4.48%	4.59%	4.65%	4.63%
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	3.69%	3.55%	3.41%	3.39%
Moraine Valley Community College	3.32%	3.33%	3.36%	3.39%
Worth Township	1.12%	1.10%	1.10%	1.12%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

## What can you conclude about this information?

1. The Village receives about 12% of your property taxes; the majority goes to the schools in your area.
2. Our percentage has steadily decreased due to the Board's dedication to REDUCING your property taxes.
3. Your Board takes their responsibilities with your tax dollars very seriously.
4. There's never been a better time to live in Oak Lawn, and we aren't the only ones who think so.

The national real estate brokerage firm RedFin just named Oak Lawn the "HOTTEST NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CHICAGO AREA" for 2017!

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 28 29 30

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 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
 29 30 31

**NOVEMBER 2017**  
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 3 4  
 7PM-10PM 7PM-11PM  
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