



Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report

APRIL 1, 2010 - MARCH 31, 2011

A Message from Your Township

Dear Township Resident:

This Annual Report is our message to Oak Park citizens and taxpayers that the Township is meeting its mission, is carefully managing its resources and is open to public inspection and comment. In this report, you will find an overview of Township FY11 direct services to our residents and support to community agencies, with a summary of revenues, expenditures and reserves.

The services highlighted evolved over many years, beginning with financial relief during the Great Depression to the current broad spectrum. More than other units of government, the Township is concerned with addressing social service needs – most often for our most vulnerable citizens. As an independent unit, the Township is able to maintain a consistent quality and focus on what are often low visibility services that are fundamental to Oak Park's quality of life. Specifically, the Township provides:

- **Youth Services** that address the emotional, social and academic needs of our youth in partnership with the other government units and agencies serving youth;
- Senior Services that promote a healthy, independent lifestyle for people age 60 and over;
- **Financial Assistance** for unemployed and disabled adult residents;
- **Meal Services** for homebound seniors and persons with disabilities;
- **Transportation Services** for seniors and residents with disabilities;
- Funding to Mental Health Service Providers for residents coping with mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, domestic violence and other issues.
- Assessor Services that educate residents on property tax matters and help with assessment and tax appeals;
- **Voter Services** such as registration, absentee and handicapped voting, and assistance to the county at polling time.



- Collaboration: To meet the broad range of youth service needs, the Township renewed its 14-year collaboration with the other 10 taxing units of Oak Park and River Forest to fund the highly effective Youth Interventionist program. All other youth and senior services of both communities are administered through Oak Park Township's intergovernmental agreement with River Forest Township, allowing quality services while better managing costs. The Township also coordinates with private agencies with similar missions such as PADS, Walk-In Ministry and the Food Pantry to help the vulnerable, assuring complementary services and avoiding use of public funds where private philantrophy meets the need.
- **Programs:** Youth Services began new programs to address youth substance abuse, mentoring and job preparation. An important area of continuing Township grant support that complements Youth Services programming − by intervening with atrisk youth at an earlier age − is to the Collaborative for Early Childhood Care and Education. Program revision and expansion in both senior and youth services will soon be possible in a new Senior Services facility. More information on programs, services, staffing and costs by division are highlighted in the following pages.
- Facilities: After more than 10 years of searching, the Township acquired and began renovation on a new Senior Services facility. Scheduled to open in June 2012, the facility will also serve the Youth Services need for new program space.
 - ** Staff: Maintaining salary equity and good benefits has ensured a stable, qualified and energetic staff. A revised personnel manual and benefits package and improved lower-position wages will help keep quality staff. Expanded salary, tuition and vacation benefits were balanced by asking more from employees toward health insurance premiums.
 - Financial Management: The Township FY11 budget received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (8th year in a row) and the FY 10 audit received the Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting. These are the highest recognitions from the Government Finance Officers Association, evidence of professionalism in financial practice and clarity and transparency for public inspection.

All achievements in FY11 are due to the work of our dedicated staff and corps of citizen volunteers. Their commitment to deliver services with compassion and respect is the fundamental to the Township's image and success.





Oak Park Township Supervisor David Boulanger (right) with Township Manager Gavin Morgan.



Mission

Oak Park Township assists residents by providing a variety of government services and resources, with a special emphasis on advocacy and partnerships in human services that benefit at-risk youth and senior citizens as well as mentally ill and financially struggling community members.

What's the difference between Oak Park Township and the Village of Oak Park?

The Township focuses on human and social services, while the Village provides municipal services such as police, fire, parking and streets

The Township Office is located at 105 South Oak Park Avenue. Village Hall is located at Madison and Lombard.

Village services maintain the community, while Township services sustain its residents. Working in concert, they make Oak Park a great place to live.



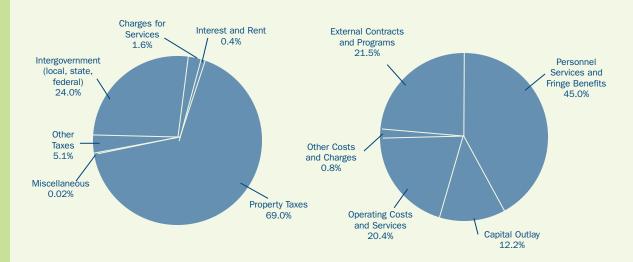
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Operating Financial Statement

For the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2010 and ending March 31, 2011

FY2011 REVENUES

FY2011 EXPENDITURES



Revenues

Property Taxes*	\$ 3,847,104
Other Taxes	286,144
Interest and Rent	20,314
Intergovernment	1,333,299
Charges for Services	89,760
Miscellaneous	859

Total \$ 5,577,480

Revenues by Fund Type

Total	\$ 5,577,480
Community Mental Health Fund	 1,557,642
General Assistance Fund	454,764
Town Fund	\$ 3,565,074

Expenditures

Personnel Services	
and Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,707,581
Capital Outlay	736,462
Operating Costs and Services	1,229,860
External Contracts and Programs	1,292,916
Other Costs and Charges	49,294

Total \$ 6,016,113

Fund Balance

Nonspendable \$	10,754
Restricted for	
General Assistance	465,152
Community Mental Health	1,161,883
Assigned for	
Capital Improvement	750,000
Vehicle Replacement	80,000
Capital Improvement–Sustainability	75,000
Unassigned	1,956,915

Total \$ 4,499,704

NOTES

- Consistent with the historic trend, Oak Park Township relied on property tax dollars to provide approximately two-thirds of revenues (69.0%) in FY11, which was 2.6% of local property tax bills in 2010. Other major funding sources were state and federal grants, intergovernmental agreements and program fees.
- To meet rising expenditures, the Township approved an FY11 annual property tax levy increase of 2.7%, the cost-of-living limit (tax cap) set by the State of Illinois.
- The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award of the Government Finance Officers Association was awarded for the Township FY11 budget and the Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its FY10 audit. These are the highest form of government recognition for professionalism in budgetary and fiscal management practices.

^{*}Township property taxes were 2.6% of the property tax bill.

We helped young people thrive...

MISSION To enhance the social and emotional development of youth and their families, and to work for the prevention of juvenile delinquency by addressing the needs of youth at risk of becoming involved in inappropriate or illegal activities.

n FY11, Youth Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships touched the lives of thousands of young people and their families in the following ways.



Youth Services Director John Williams (1) with Youth Interventionist Coordinator Bert Patania.

Contracts with Community Agencies and Organizations

In FY11, Youth Services contracted with 16 local agencies and organizations to support 31 community based programs to provide specific services to at-risk youth and youth from families with low and moderate incomes. The programs and funded amounts are listed

Initiative to Combat Substance Abuse

In Spring 2010, a forum on substance abuse at OPRF High School was the start of a movement by Oak Park and River Forest parents and educators to raise public awareness of the level of abuse and its effects on youth, families and the school experience. Several forums and interactive meetings and a fall

rally and parade gained wide attention in the community and press. The movement helped the school to decide to change its policy to a more closed campus at lunch and greater accountability for student location throughout the day. An organization named IMP.A.C.T. (Parents And Community Together to reduce youth alcohol & drug use) grew out of the movement and plans more forums in FY12 at the middle school level. Youth Services provided staff and logistical support to IMP.A.C.T. as a community partner in its efforts to counter substance abuse by youth.

In FY11, Youth Services:

- Continued implementation of and training of school staff in Olweus Bullying Prevention Program in cooperation with the Oak Park Police Department
- Provided information and referral services for young people, their families and organizations seeking to assist youth
- Continued Township website listing of jobs for youth and expanded job-training workshops
- Supported youth development of leadership skills in plan ning, promoting and participating in local conferences.

Directly Helping Youth

Designed to reduce the incidence of gang activity, substance abuse and violence in Oak Park and River Forest by intervening in the lives of school-age youth, the Youth Interventionist Program coordinated a broad spectrum of services for young people who were showing signs of involvement with gang activity, violence or substance abuse.

In June 2010, three of the 11 taxing units in Oak Park and River Forest (2 park districts, 2 libraries, 3 school districts, 2 townships and 2 villages) raised questions about the distribution of costs in supporting the program, which had not been reviewed in 14 years. Some also questioned the relationship to their unit's mission. A full review of the program's rationale, mission relationship and funding formula resulted in all units renewing support for the program through June 2012. All praised the program for its effectiveness.

The Youth Interventionist Program registered over 70 high-risk young people and their families in FY11, helped several hundred unregistered youth and families and worked closely with the 11 partners to better manage disruptive and self-destructive youth behaviors.

Contracts with Youth Services Providers

Oak Park School District 97*

\$ 53,543 After school Homework Helper, Support Group regarding Loss, and Summer School Financial Assistance Scholarships

Oak Park River Forest High School

\$ 10,700 Intramural (Basketball)

991 Intramural Additional

2,900 Summer School Scholarships

\$ 2,178 Weekend Spirit Days

Community of Congregations/ Food Pantry/Hunger Task Force

\$ 10,000 Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program AND Office space and support at RF Township Offices at RF Community Center*

Park District of Oak Park

\$ 7,763 Financial Assistance Scholarships 655 Pool Visits 18 Rink Visits Approximately 50 visits to the Teen Center

Oak Park Police Department*

\$ 1,013 Jr. Police Explorers Post

- * Programs supported by Oak Park Township only
- ** Programs supported by River Forest Township only



YOUTH SERVICES STAFF: 6 **EXPENDITURES:**

Youth Interventionist Program **External Program Contracts** Information and Referral Violence Prevention Policies and Issues Youth Development and Advocacy Contracts and Programs **Total Expenditures:**

225.017

169.715

11.628

57,200

49.374

61,511

58,119

633,564

\$ 4.800 \$ 4,349

8-9 Connection

Snowball

\$ 27,272 Friday Night Place – Open gym for Middle School Youth \$ 20,000 Teen parent support and case management (Parenthesis)*

8,000 Middle School African Drumming (Steckman Studio of Music)*

I-SEARCH (River Forest Police Department)**

9.336 Connections (River Forest Public Library)**

\$ 165,095 TOTAL

\$ 16,586 River Forest Township only

\$ 148,509 Oak Park Township only or joint

We helped seniors live vital, independent lives...

MISSION To enhance the quality of life for seniors in our community by providing a broad array of supportive services that promote the values of independence, self-esteem and dignity.

he Oak Park and River
Forest community is
recognized as a great
place to be a senior,
thanks to a broad continuum of
"senior friendly" services
designed to meet the needs of
residents are 60 and over With



Senior Services Director Desiree Scully-Simpkins with the Township Senior Services bus

residents age 60 and over. With services ranging from meals and transportation to health and wellness programs and in-home chore services, Senior Services helped more than 2,500 residents live healthy, productive lives in FY11.

Programs and Services Update

CELEBRATING SENIORS COALITION

The Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships led the formation of the Celebrating Seniors Coalition of three communities (Forest Park included). The coalition brought together village and township governments, the Park District of Oak Park, for-profit and non-profit agencies and private businesses to sponsor a Celebrating Seniors Week of events, including educational sessions, art displays, wine and cheese events, special luncheons, recreation and fitness activities, special dining offers and local business discounts. All was summarized in a *Celebrating Seniors Resource Guide*, which formed the program for the May 6-13, 2011, Senior Week. The Community of Congregations was the coalition's fiscal agent, providing guidance, bookkeeping services and non-profit status. Proceeds supported the week's activities and, as resources are available, special senior needs in the three communities.

PHARMACY STUDENT FIELD TRAINING

Chicago State University (CSU) College of Pharmacy entered into an agreement with Oak Park Township Senior Services to provide

Services Provided for Seniors 4 FY11

Information and referral contacts	7,250 contacts
Case management to ensure that seniors get needed services	5.300 hours
	.,
Nutritious meals served in a group dining or restaurant setting	20,000 meals
Nutritious meals delivered to homebound seniors	31,572 meals
Bus transportation within Oak Park or River Forest	36,100 rides
Health screenings	24 sessions
Caregiver support, respite and other services	1,343 units
Predischarge screenings to ensure that hospitalized seniors	
receive appropriate levels of care after discharge	920 screenings
In-home chore services	1600 hours
Home energy and pharmaceutical assistance	1275 units

students with an opportunity to work directly with older adults on pharmaceutical issues. In coordination with Age Options (the State conduit for funding senior programs) and the Department of Experiential Education at CSU, Senior Services accepted four students at the 418 S. Oak Park Avenue site. These students assisted seniors with completing Medicaid Part D, Illinois RX and Circuit Breaker applications, both on site and in local community senior residences.

Progress on New Facilities

Several years of experience and a professional space needs analysis in 2003 indicated that the Township's Senior Services facility had unsolvable accessibility problems.

The past decade has been a 10-year search for improved facilities that included numerous initiatives to share, lease or acquire new facilities. The search finally yielded a well-suited space at 130 S. Oak Park Avenue across from the Township main office. After a year of negotiations and a very supportive public meeting and vote on March 2nd, 2011, the purchase was completed and renovation planning begun. Due to efficiencies of operations and unexpected revenues over the past ten years, the Township was able to maintain its high quality services and develop a capital fund to cover the purchase and renovation costs for the much-needed Senior Services move. No additional taxes, bond referendum or bank loan were required. Completion of the renovation and move are projected for June 2012.

The new facility will allow expanded programming to meet the mission of helping senior s continue healthy, active, independent lives. When not in use by the seniors, the facility will allow Youth Services group programming – typically after 3pm and on weekends. More background and updated information on the progress of the project can be found on the Township website www.oakparktownship.org.



SENIOR SERVICES 🦇 FY11

STAFF: 15 full-time, 17 part-time

EXPENDITURES:

Transportation
Information and Assistance
Meals

Meals \$
Case Management \$
Other Programs \$

Total Expenditures: \$ 1,893,253

Protective Services (elder abuse, neglect or exploitation 50 cases investigations) Help in accessing public assistance programs and services 1025 hours Assistance with health insurance selection, applications and disputes 175 consultations Income tax preparation assistance 450 tax returns Affordable will preparation 25 wills 3,850 units Home assistance and day care to preserve independence Money management assistance 52 clients

393.113

61,650

492,125

695,194

251,171

We helped enhance the mental health and well-being of Township residents...

MISSION To enhance the mental health and developmental potential of Oak Park residents, establish an appropriate continuum of community support services, and manage local resources in a fiscally responsible manner.

ak Park Township's
Community Mental Health
Board (CMHB) is comprised
of nine residents, eight
appointed by the Township Board of
Trustees, and one trustee liaison



Community Mental Health Board Executive Director Lisa DeVivo

member. The CMHB is charged with planning, developing, coordinating, evaluating, and funding services for persons with mental illnesses, alcohol or other drug dependence disorders, and developmental disabilities. Using tax funds from the Township's Community Mental Health Fund, the CMHB exercises broad authority as defined in the Community Mental Health Act, including conducting needs assessments, selecting programs for support, approving the expenditure of funds and evaluating outcomes.

In FY 11, the CMHB contracted with 15 community agencies, and supported 17 primary mental health programs and services for the following purposes: two for primary substance use disorders, 10 for developmental disabilities, and four for prevention of mental illnesses. Along with these programs and services, the CMHB also awarded five one-time infrastructure/evidence-based best- practice mini grants. In total, the CMHB provided \$985,000 in grant and purchase-of-service funding from the local property-tax-based Community Mental Health Fund.

The CMHB supported many Oak Park residents and hours of service including: substance use services to 30 residents and their families and 336 hours of services; developmental disability services to 288 residents and 51,628 hours of services; and prevention services to 3,102 residents and 1,835 hours of service for youth and families. CMHB regularly evaluates the expenditure of funding for services to ensure prudent oversight of local tax dollars.

During FY11 the CMHB completed its comprehensive needs assessment that guided the goal development in the seven priority areas of its Three Year Strategic Plan:1. Achieving an effective information and referral system; 2. Educating the community on mental health to reduce stigma; 3. Establishing support groups and strengthening current ones; 4. Achieving quality system and service-focused outcomes; 5. Reducing substance abuse through evidence based strategies; 6. Expanding services for persons with developmental disabilities over age 22; and 7. Enhancing effective services and outcomes for minority populations.

Four years ago the CMHB began participation in the state level *Local Funds Initiative* (LFI) to increase revenues available to the CMHB through federal reimbursement of certain services paid for out of the CMH Fund..The LFI brought in \$111,000 of matching federal dollars to the township in FY11.

The CMHB Network of Care for Behavioral Health web site for Oak Park - www.cmhb.networkofcare.org - provided individuals, families and agencies resources on behavioral health services, laws, and related news, as well as communication tools and other features. It is an invaluable local resource for inquiry into mental health issues and services.

Contracts with Community Mental Health Providers FY11

\$ 294,745	Thrive (Family Services and Mental Health Center of OPRF): adult and
	family behavioral health; outpatient mental health, psych.serv. and
	emerg. psych.; comprehensive youth services; empirical treatment
	training; and wellness initiative network
\$ 38,730	Pillars: Child and adolescent mental health; substance abuse,
	group homes diagnostic services
\$ 156,601	Parenthesis: Parenteen; Parenting on Your Own; premie and
	newborn parent services; and program development
\$ 17,483	Hephzibah Children's Association: Family support program
\$ 119,679	Community Support Services: Respite care and case management
	for developmentally disabled
\$ 89,024	Oak Leyden Developmental Services: early intervention program and
	administrative services
\$ 30,100	Sarah's Inn: women's services; crisis line; teen dating services
\$ 12,961	Seguin Services: transition from school and weekend respite
\$ 30,759	Oak Park Township Senior Services: Senior case management
\$ 77,400	National Alliance for the Mentally III - Metro Chicago: Drop-in center
,	and staff position



Community Mental Health Board STAFF: 2 full time, 1 part time EXPENDITURES: Administration and Other Charges \$ 321,417 External Contracts and Programs \$ 1,090,037 Other Charges \$ 49,294 Capitol Outlay \$ 5,480 Total Expenditures: \$ 1,466,228

\$ 13,543	Vital Bridges: Mental health case management for individuals with
	HIV/AIDS
\$ 14,010	Way Back Inn: Grateful House - substance abuse rehabilitation and
	support for females and their families
\$ 39,989	Aspire: administrative services and early intervention services for
	children with developmental disabilities and delays
\$ 155,000	Thresholds: Case management, Community Integrated Living
	Arrangement day treatment and program activities - CILA

\$1,090,024 TOTAL contracted for clinical services

Oak Park Township Community Mental Health Fund

STAFF: 1 **EXPENDITURES:** General Assistance Administration Financial Assistance

\$ 185,531 \$ 327,620

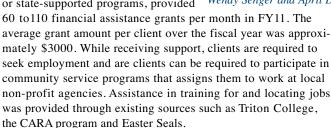
Total Expenditures: \$ 513,151

We provided a helping hand...

n FY11, the Township helped residents in need of food, housing, health care or financial assistance.

General Assistance

The Township's General Assistance program, which provides financial assistance for single adult residents who are not eligible for social security or state-supported programs, provided



Clients seeking Social Security Disability received ongoing financial support as well as general advice through the application or appeal process. The Township recoups these funds once the client receives his or her Social Security Disability benefits.



General Assistance Administrators Wendy Senger and April Dugal

Homeless Assistance

A particular concern in FY11 was the growing number of homeless on the GA roles due to the requirement in state statute that a recipient only needed "physical presence" in Oak Park and the intent not to leave to be eligible. Instituting more rigorous standards for "physical presence" by requiring documented evidence of 5 overnight stays per week solved the Oak Park residency verification problem. However, homelessness remains a serious social concern regionally and nationally.

Food Programs

The Township refers clients to the Oak Park Food Pantry and advises them on obtaining food stamps and supports the Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program.

Links to Health Care

The Township guided GA clients who are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid to subsidized health insurance coverage (Access to Care) and publicly provided health care.

Services to Citizens with Disabilities

The Township offered special services for citizens with temporary or permanent disabilities in FY11 including transportation, meal, home and pharmacy assistance.

We provided voter services...

he Township Clerk, in addition to maintaining all Township records, provided voter registration services to individuals over 150 registered - and community groups and deputy registrars, including extending office hours for voter registration. The Clerk's office assisted the County Clerk with polling place administration, including assisting handicapped and absentee voters and distribution of polling place materials at election time.

Clerk's Office FY11

STAFF: 1 elected, part-time clerk with seasonal part-time help

Total Expenditures: \$ 21,637

Township Clerk Gregory P. White



We helped residents with property tax concerns...

ur Township Assessor's office serves an important role as a local service office for the Cook County Assessor, which actually assesses Oak Park properties.

The Township Assessor provides a host of other services for Oak Park property owners, such as assistance with property tax appeals, help in obtaining tax exemptions and refunds, information about sales trends in the real estate market,



Township Assessor Ali ElSaffar

and expertise on important tax policy issues facing the community.

With the issuance of tax bills in the fall and spring, the Assessor

assisted property owners in appealing tax bills and ensuring that the taxpayer had received the exemptions that they were entitled to. A side benefit of all of these one-on-one meetings was the continuing education of the citizen on the details of the tax system and areas in need of reform.



Assessor's Office **FY11**

STAFF: 1 elected, part-time assessor, 1 full-time deputy, and parttime help as needed in

Total Expenditures: \$ 94,914

In FY11, the Township relied on the talent, energy and vision of many citizen volunteers...

We are grateful to the volunteers listed here for their efforts to improve the quality of life in Oak Park by helping the Township carry out its mission of people helping people.

Community Mental Health Board

Dr. Richard Carroll Dr. Elizabeth Friedman Nancy Hartman Jim Jepsen Mike Padavic Dorothy Reid Dr. Vicky Singh Dr. Bill Troyer

Senior Services

Dr. Kenneth Blair **Donald Kane** Betsy Burton Kelly Patricia Koko Mary Marling Marie-Louis Settem James Taglia

Home Delivered Meals

Theresa Allen Sarah Fielding Bill Furey Bob Nowinski Kave O'Shea Steve Rogers Linda Stupar Katrina Vigsnes Wilma Wells

Low Income Home Energy Assistance

Leonard Wolfkiel

Money Management

Timothy Cronin Ruth Foley Yvonne Hampton Beverly Dehn Joyce Gradel John Gross Robert Hetzel Amie Hyman Carol McManus Cathaleen Roach Joseph Rose Pat Sabatino Mike Sookikian Althelia Strong Katherine Tushinski Christine Wornv

M-Team

Officer Lacey Dickson **Brandy Holt** Patrick Phillips

Dianne Dolan Officer Troy Fields

* An all-volunteer, multi-disciplinary team of law enforcement, medical, legal, financial, clerical and mental health professionals that meets monthly to

Dr. Rodney Schainis Anne Schmidt Sarah Stein Detective Tim Unzicker

Senior Health

Insurance Program Samara Ferdinand

Senior Lunch

Ed Mampre Ed Powers

Senior Services Administration Phyllis Krone

Abuse, Neglect,

Exploitation Sub-

Officer Lacey Dickson Officer Troy Fields **Detective Shatonya** Harris

Detective Tim Unzicker

Tax Aide

John Bruun Nancy Clark Tom Dawson

consult on specific cases of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Nancy Guarino Kate Kaltenbach* Donna Oswald Janet Phillips* Robert Pozorski Dr. Donald Riff John Summaria

Youth Services Committee

George Bailey Tom Bilyk Pat Bowman Margot Clayton Robert Giles William Planek Margaret Trybus Lee Wade Valerie Werner

Youth Services Volunteers

Prof. George Bailey Dr. Gerald Clay Lee Pulliam Deacon Wiley Samuels Dr. Carl Spight

Youth Services Women's Mentoring

Latrice Blair Tabita Daniels Rosalind Dyson

OAK PARK TOW N SHIP

ELECTED OFFICIALS

F. David Boulanger

Gregory P. White

Ali ElSaffar

Sarah Arnett -Appointed 8/23/11

Eric Davis Clarmarie Keenan

Dorothy Reid Jim Taglia -Appointed 5/24/11

APPOINTED STAFF

Gavin Morgan

Lisa DeVivo

Desiree Scully-Simpkins

John FS Williams

From left to right: David Boulanger, Supervisor Greg White, Clerk Ali ElSaffar, Assessor Sarah Arnett, Collector Jim Taglia.Trustee Eric Davis, Trustee Clarmarie Keenan, Trustee

Dorothy Reid, Trustee



















Oak Park Township

105 South Oak Park Avenue Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Business hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. General Information and Services: 708-383-8005

Youth Services: 708-445-2727

Senior Services, 418 S. Oak Park Ave: 708-383-8060 CMHB Office, 1100 Lake Street: 708-358-8855