

Voter Registration  
Senior Services



Home Delivered Meals

Transportation

# What does your Township do for you?

Property Tax Information

Youth Services

Financial Assistance

Mental Health



New Mental Health on-line  
resource coming Summer 2009!

*See page 4 for details...*

**Oak Park** and **River Forest**  
**Townships** Resource Guide

# Oak Park and River Forest Townships work together to provide:

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<b>Youth Services</b> to address the emotional, social and academic needs of our younger residents	1
<b>Senior Services</b> to assist people age 60 and older to lead healthy, independent lives	2
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## Find out more about your Townships:

Oak Park Township  
[www.oakparktownship.org](http://www.oakparktownship.org)  
708.383.8005

River Forest Township  
[www.riverforesttownship.org](http://www.riverforesttownship.org)  
708.366.2029

**See the Oak Park Annual Report on the Oak Park Township web site.**

## What is a township?

Townships are small local units of government independent of village governments. The Townships of Oak Park and River Forest focus on providing social services and supporting local social service agencies, while the villages deliver police, fire, parking, streets and other municipal services and promote and manage community development.

# Oak Park R

# We're here...to help young people thrive.

## Youth Services

We believe that young people thrive when they have a strong sense of belonging, independence, mastery and generosity. That's why we contract with more than 20 local agencies to provide scores of educational, recreational and vocational programs that touch the lives of more than 10,000 young people each year. Our **Youth Services Committee** selects, evaluates and recommends youth programs to promote a safe, healthy and enriching environment for every young person in our communities.

### Youth Interventionist Program

The Youth Interventionist Program employs highly trained and experienced social workers who coordinate a broad spectrum of services to help young people who are showing signs of involvement with gang activity, violence or substance abuse. Our Youth Interventionists work closely with parents, schools and local government and social service agencies to engage young people in positive activities and help them make better life choices. The Youth Interventionist Program is cooperatively funded by the 11 governmental units in Oak Park and River Forest and operated by Oak Park Township.

### Youth Network Council

The Youth Network Council is composed of area organizations that serve youth in Oak Park and River Forest. The council shares information and cooperates in the planning of youth-related programs and events.

### Contracted Programs

The townships provide funding for a number of community-based programs that have been established to help prevent youth-related problems in Oak Park and River Forest. These programs include:

- 🌱 Tutoring/mentoring
- 🌱 Volunteer opportunities
- 🌱 Summer work/study
- 🌱 Arts enrichment
- 🌱 Community service
- 🌱 After school intramurals
- 🌱 Evening/weekend recreation
- 🌱 Substance abuse prevention
- 🌱 First offenders/court diversion
- 🌱 Pregnancy prevention/teen parent support

**Scholarships** are offered so that young people from low-income families can participate in other organizations' fee-based youth programs. **Brochures** on township youth programs and resources are available at the Oak Park Township office.















**Need information or referrals? Contact our Youth Services office at 708.445.2727.**

# We're here...to help seniors live vital, independent lives.

## Senior Services

The Oak Park and River Forest communities are a great place to be a senior — thanks to a broad continuum of services designed to enhance the quality of life for residents age 60 and over and promote the values of independence, self esteem and dignity.

Our Senior Services include:

-  **Case management** to help seniors get the services they need and to monitor and guide individual cases.
-  **Transportation Services**, including curb-to-curb service on lift equipped minibuses (service within Oak Park and River Forest only), taxi coupons and RTA reduced fare permits for CTA, RTA and Metra.
-  **Meal programs**, including a daily group lunch at the senior dining facility, Home-Delivered Meals and a Dine-Out Program.
-  **Caregiver support** with educational, respite and gap-filling assistance.
-  **Affordable will preparation** at low cost for simple wills.
-  **Carrier Watch Program** with mail carriers trained to monitor mail pick up as an indicator of well being.
-  **Circuit Breaker** program for property tax, license plate and pharmacy benefits.
-  **Home energy assistance** for low income households.
-  **Health screenings**
-  **Assistance in obtaining federal, state and local benefits**
-  **Health insurance assistance** in securing and problem solving.
-  **Income tax preparation assistance**
-  **In-home chore services**
-  **Money Management Program** to assist with everyday money management tasks.

**For information and assistance, please call Senior Services at 708.383.8060.**

# We're here...when you need a helping hand.

## Special Services

You can turn to your township for a variety of services, including:

### Adult Financial Aid

Single, unemployed adults seeking employment or applying for Social Security Disability Insurance may be eligible for **General Assistance**. Applicants must meet income and asset guidelines and not be eligible for other government sponsored assistance. Adults with minor children in their custody are referred to the Illinois Department of Human Services. While receiving General Assistance, individuals must adhere to General Assistance guidelines.

### Food Assistance

The townships provide information about food services available to people with special needs, including meals delivered to home-bound residents.

### Links to Health Care

The townships refer financially eligible residents to State sponsored **All Kids** coverage for Illinois children 18 and under and **Family Care** coverage for Illinois citizens or permanent residents, or Cook County supported **Access to Care**, which assists with doctor bills and prescription costs for those not covered by insurance, Medicare or Medicaid.

### Medical Equipment

The Townships loan out medical equipment such as wheelchairs, canes, walkers and shower chairs free of charge for as long as the equipment is needed. We also invite donations of gently used medical equipment.

### Services to Citizens with Disabilities

In addition to services available to all township residents, we offer some special services for citizens with temporary or permanent disabilities. These include transportation, meal delivery, temporary handicapped parking cards, RTA reduced fare cards, taxi coupons, home energy assistance, property tax rebate, pharmacy benefits and phone calls to check on a person's well being.

### A Center for Information and Referrals

If we can't provide the services you need through our direct services or our contracted partners, we'll provide resource information.

**For more information about township services for residents in times of special need, please call us at 708.383.8005.**

# We're here...to enhance the mental health and well being of Township residents.

## Community Mental Health

You can find peace of mind knowing that the **Community Mental Health Board (CMHB) of Oak Park Township** is working to enhance the mental health and developmental potential of residents. Advised by its **Mental Health Committee**, the **River Forest Township** contracts with the CMHB to provide mental health funding administrative services for River Forest residents.

The CMHB fulfills its mission through partnerships with community agencies. These agencies provide a flexible network of easily accessible services for the treatment and prevention of mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse. Services include case management, psychiatric treatment, volunteer opportunities, 24-hour crisis management and social/recreational services.

### Mental Health Service Providers

Beginning Summer 2009, **a new web site, Network of Care for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**, will guide users to mental health services in and near Oak Park and River Forest. The site will also link to information about specific disorders, pending legislation, and advocacy and will be updated daily with new articles on mental health, developmental disabilities and substance-use disorders and addictions.

### The printed Oak Park and River Forest Mental Health Resource Directory is available at —

- 🌿 CMHB Office, 1100 Lake Street, Suite LL30 or [www.cmhb-oakpark.org](http://www.cmhb-oakpark.org)
- 🌿 Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Avenue or [www.oakparktownship.org](http://www.oakparktownship.org)
- 🌿 River Forest Township, 8020 Madison Street or [www.riverforesttownship.org](http://www.riverforesttownship.org)

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Townships rely on citizen volunteers to advise on needs and funding priorities and to help with youth and senior services. Your gifts of time, talent and service can make a real difference in the lives of neighbors in need.**

**Oak Park residents: call 708.383.8005.**

**River Forest residents: call 708.366.2029.**

We're here...for  
property tax inquiries  
and voter registration.

## Assessor Services

**Oak Park Township Assessor:** 708.383.8005

e-mail: [assessor@oakparktownship.org](mailto:assessor@oakparktownship.org)

**River Forest Township Assessor:** 708.366.2787

e-mail: [assessor@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:assessor@riverforesttownship.org)

The Township Assessors serve as local liaisons with the Cook County Assessor's office, which assesses Oak Park and River Forest properties. Township Assessors will help you with:

- ✿ appeals for reductions in property tax assessments
- ✿ homeowner and senior property tax exemptions and senior tax freezes
- ✿ tax-related information and change-of-address forms
- ✿ records of residential real estate sales and trends

## Voter Services

**Oak Park Township Clerk:** 708.383.8005

**River Forest Township Clerk:** 708.366.2029

The Township Clerks maintain all records for the townships, conduct voter registration and assist with local elections.

## Are you registered to vote?

**Have you moved recently — even within the community? Turned 18? Need absentee ballot forms for college students or applications for handicapped voting? Voter registration and assistance is one of the most important services that our Township Clerks provide.**

Oak Park



# Oak Park Township

105 South Oak Park Avenue  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

## **Supervisor**

F. David Boulanger

## **Clerk**

Gregory P. White

## **Assessor**

Ali ElSaffar

## **Collector**

James Taglia

## **Trustees**

Lee Callaway

Eric Davis

Clarmarie Keenan

Dorothy Reid

## **Manager**

Gavin W. Morgan

## **CMHB Executive Director**

Lisa DeVivo

## **Senior Director**

Desiree Scully

## **Youth Director**

John FS Williams

## **General Information:**

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

708-383-8005

[www.oakparktownship.org](http://www.oakparktownship.org)

## **CMHB Information:**

1100 Lake Street, Suite LL30

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

708-358-8855

[www.cmhb-oakpark.org](http://www.cmhb-oakpark.org)

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# River Forest Township

8020 West Madison Street  
River Forest, Illinois 60305

## **Supervisor**

Veronica Krawczyk

## **Clerk**

Elizabeth "Buff" Martin

## **Assessor**

Pamela Kende

## **Collector**

Marion Gilbert

## **Trustees**

Jerry Davis

Mark Kelly

Mary O'Brien

Anna Marie Romeo

## **General Information:**

708.366.2029

[www.riverforesttownship.org](http://www.riverforesttownship.org)

Oak Park and River Forest Townships

## **CMHB Executive Director**

Lisa DeVivo

## **Senior Director**

Desiree Scully

## **Youth Director**

John FS Williams

## **Senior and Youth Services**

### **Information:**

708.383.8005

## **CMHB Information:**

1100 Lake Street, Suite LL30

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

708.358.8855

[www.cmhb-oakpark.org](http://www.cmhb-oakpark.org)