

Township Services



Oak Park and River Forest



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SPECIAL INTEREST

Senior Services

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Abuse investigation and reporting

Youth Services

FACE-IT – Substance abuse education for parents and youth, p 2
To improve communication and prevention skills

Community Mental Health Board

You can make a difference in the health and wellness of our community, p 5
Volunteer to serve on a CMHB citizens' group

MORE INFORMATION

Oak Park Township: www.oakparktownship.org 708.383.8005
email town@oakparktownship.org or www.facebook.com/OakParkTownship

River Forest Township: www.riverforesttownship.org 708.366.2029
Supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org or www.facebook.com/RiverForestTownship

What is a township?

Townships are small, local units of government independent of village governments. The two townships – Oak Park and River Forest – provide tax-supported human services and help fund local social service agencies. The two village governments provide municipal services and promote and manage community and economic development.

We help young people with intervention and timely guidance.

Youth Services Contact: 708.445.2727 or youth@oakparktownship.org
Information: www.oakparktownship.org

Young people thrive when they have a strong sense of belonging, independence, mastery and generosity. Our citizen **Youth Services Committee** advises the Township boards on services and funding to promote a safe, healthy and enriching environment for youth.

Youth Interventionist Program

Working closely with parents, schools, and social services, experienced social workers help youth deal with trauma, substance abuse, and mental health issues and to avoid involvement with gangs and violence. Program funding is provided through intergovernmental agreement among all 11 Oak Park and River Forest taxing units.

T.I.M.E.

T.I.M.E. is a first-offender, court diversion program — an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system. Youth offenders perform community service hours.

Mentoring Program

Mentoring is an expectation of most Youth Services programs, and training is provided to all contractors and on request to schools and non-profit partners. Mentoring goals are to support youth in literacy development, substance abuse prevention, and job readiness.

FACE-IT Program — substance abuse prevention education










Face-it is an early intervention and education program to prevent the use of alcohol and other drugs by youth. Youth attend with a parent, caregiver, or guardian to learn about the effects of drug use, how to live healthier lives, and to improve family communication. In addition, with federal grant assistance, a broad coalition of community leaders is engaged in planning and implementing sustainable approaches to combat underage drinking.

Peace Circles

Youth Services trains Peace Circle Keepers in schools and non-profit agencies to provide safe spaces for youth conflict resolution and restorative justice.

Contracted Programs

The townships provide funding for community-based programs that help prevent youth-related problems in Oak Park and River Forest. These programs include:

-  Tutoring/mentoring
-  Volunteer service
-  Summer work/study
-  Arts enrichment
-  Annual Youth Conference
-  Pregnancy prevention/teen parent support
-  After school intramurals
-  Evening/weekend recreation
-  Substance abuse prevention

Scholarships are offered so that young people from low-income families can participate in other organizations' fee-based youth programs.

We help seniors and persons with disabilities live independently.

Senior Services Contact: 708.383.8060 or seniors@oakparktownship.org
For additional senior programs held in River Forest, call: 708.771.6159 ext 234.

Services listed below are for Oak Park and River Forest seniors, 60 years and older, and their caregivers, and are available at the Senior Services building at 130 South Oak Park Avenue. Service offices on the second floor are open Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm. The first floor is reserved for senior-only activities, 8am–2pm daily. Services with an asterisk (*) are for persons, 18 and older, with disabilities.

Case management to help seniors get the services they need and to monitor and guide individual cases.

* **Transportation Services**, call 708.383.4806.

- Curb-to-curb service in Oak Park and River Forest only on lift-equipped buses 7:45am–2:45pm. Make appointments 24 hours in advance of pick up.
- Coupons for taxis and reduced fare for CTA, RTA and Metra available across the street at the Township main office at 105 S. Oak Park Avenue

Meal programs for seniors only – include a daily group lunch at Senior Services at 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Home-Delivered Meals, and coupon purchase for Dine-Out meals in local restaurants.

Caregiver support with respite and daily-activity assistance.

Elder and disabled abuse investigation, reporting and transition to services.

Affordable will preparation at low cost for simple wills.

* **Key Box** installed near the front door for entry by emergency responders — Fire Department holds the key.

* **Benefit Access Application** for license plate discount and free ride pass.

* **Home energy assistance** for low income households.

* **Options Counseling** — assistance to remain housed in the community and to gain access to Township and other agencies' services.

Assistance in obtaining federal, state and local benefits

* **Health insurance assistance** securing and problem solving. **

In-home chore services

Money Management Program for money-related tasks at home.

Information and Referral for elderly and disabled

** See <http://www.coast2coastrx.com/index.php> for information on a drug discount card.

We help with information and assistance in times of need.

Special Services 708.445.2727 or www.oakparktownship.org

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

Adult Financial Assistance

Unemployed, typically single adults seeking employment or applying for Social Security Disability Insurance may be eligible for **General Assistance**. Applicants must be an Oak Park resident, 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen or legal alien, 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 local food pantries and meals delivered to homebound 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 special services for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Our main office has taxi coupons, temporary handicapped parking cards, and applications for RTA Reduced Fare and Free Ride transit cards. See page 3 for additional services provided through Senior Services for persons, age 18 and older, with disabilities.

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.

*See <http://www.coast2coastrx.com/index.php> for information on a drug discount card.

We help plan and fund mental health services.

Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Funding

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. **River Forest Township** provides mental health funding independently for River Forest residents through its **Mental Health Committee**.

The CMHB fulfills its mission through partnerships with easily accessible services for the treatment and prevention of mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse. Services include case management, psychiatric treatment, youth and adult counseling, 24-hour crisis management and prevention programs, just to name a few.

Funded providers include: Community Support Services, NAMI, Oak-Leyden Developmental Services, Parenthesis, Pillars, Sarah's Inn, UCP Seguin, The Children's Clinic, TASC, Thresholds, Thrive Counseling Center, Way Back Inn, Housing Forward (PADS), Presence Behavioral Health, Opportunity Knocks, YEMBA, IMPACT, Smart Love, PCC Wellness, WSSRA, Rosecrance, OPT Senior Services, and the Early Childhood Collaboration.

The CMHB also provides support for professional trainings and evidence based practices, information technology, and various other types of quality enhancements to improve service delivery.

Network of Care Website

The Network of Care for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities website, www.cmhb.networkofcare.org, guides users to nearby mental health services, linking to information about specific disorders, pending legislation, local support groups and calendars, social networking, and articles related to CMHB funded services.

Volunteer Opportunities

Apply for: The Youth and Family Behavioral Health Consortium, The Developmental Disabilities Consortium, Oak Park Ending Homelessness Coalition, The Multicultural Behavioral Health Advocacy Commission, or The Substance Use Recovery Coalition.

More Information and Resource Directory






Oak Park residents: CMHB Office, (708) 358-8855, 1010 Lake Street, Suite 616, www.cmhb.networkofcare.org; or Oak Park Township, 708.383.8005, 105 South Oak Park Avenue, www.oakparktownship.org

River Forest residents: River Forest Township, 708.771.6159 ext 270, 8020 Madison Street www.riverforesttownship.org

We help with property tax inquiries and voter registration.

Assessor Services

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
-  property tax exemptions for veterans with disabilities

Oak Park Township Assessor: 708.383.8005

e-mail: assessor@oakparktownship.org

River Forest Township Assessor: 708.366.2787

e-mail: assessor@riverforesttownship.org

Voter Services

Are you registered to vote? Have you moved recently — even within the community? Turned 18? Need absentee ballot forms for college students or assistance for voters with disabilities?

The Township Clerks maintain all records for the townships, conduct voter registration (see website for form) and assist with local elections. Early voting is available.

Oak Park Township Clerk: 708.383.8005

River Forest Township Clerk: 708.771.6159 ext 234

Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to know more about volunteering with our seniors and youth? Or serving on the two townships Senior Services or Youth Services committees, the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board or River Forest Mental Health Committee?

Oak Park residents: see www.oakparktownship.org or call 708.383.8005.

River Forest residents: see www.riverforesttownship.org or call 708.771.6159 ext 270.

Senior Services and Meeting Room

130 South Oak Park Avenue

708.383.8060 or www.oakparktownship.org

This township building is used primarily for Oak Park and River Forest seniors, age 60 and older, to provide the services listed on page 3. Persons, age 18 and older, with disabilities can access the services on page 3 listed with an asterisk. The first floor is reserved for senior activities and lunch, 8am to 2pm, daily. After 3pm daily and on weekends, the first floor is available for other Township services and, on a limited basis, for community use.

Building Features

Accessible — All Township facilities now meet the highest ADA standard.

An elevator provides access to the second floor Senior Services offices and a large conference room. The Township main office that provides all the other Township services described on pages 2, 4, and 6 is across the street.

Nutrition — Lunch is available for seniors 11:00–1:00 daily in the Meeting Room. Home Delivered Meals are delivered from the facility kitchen to homebound clients.

Socialization — Each weekday, seniors can meet friends over lunch, engage in activities, visit nearby attractions and seek the assistance of staff and volunteers on issues of daily living — health, finances, meals, security, care needs, chores — all the services listed on page 3.

Active living — This is one of the most centrally-located, walkable locations in Oak Park — near the Public Library, Scoville Park, the Post Office, restaurants, and many shops, all within a 5-10 minute walk.

Transportation — PACE buses and the CTA Green Line train stop nearby. The Township minibus drops off and picks up at the front door. For drivers, parking is plentiful in the Avenue Garage, at metered parking, and free on nearby residential streets.

Other Facility Uses

Youth Services uses the first floor for occasional meetings and the FACE-IT substance-abuse prevention education program for youth and parents (See page 2). After Township needs are met, the facility is available on a limited basis for use by Oak Park and River Forest partner and non-profit organizations. Contact the Township Manager for more information.

River Forest Township

8020 West Madison Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305

Supervisor

Carla Sloan
708.366.2029

Assessor

Pamela Kende
708.366.2787

Clerk

Karen Taubman
708.771.6159 ext 234

Trustees

Helene Connolly
Mark Kelly
Mary O'Brien
Anna Marie Romeo

Mental Health and General Assistance

Avis Rudner, 708.771.6159 ext 270

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach, 708.771.6159 ext
234

General Information:

708.366.2029

www.riverforesttownship.org

www.facebook.com/RiverForestTownship

Oak Park and River Forest Townships

Senior Services Director

Desiree Scully-Simpkins

Youth Services Director

John FS Williams

Youth Services: 708.445.2727

Senior Services: 708.383.8060

General Information: 708.383.8005