



Connecting with Each Other Through Shared Opportunities

A Resource for Older Adults in Oak Park, Austin, River Forest and neighboring communities to connect, share and learn from each other.

**March 8- March 22 / 2nd Friday Edition
(CCM comes out every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month)**

Hi Everyone,

Below is a list of some events/talks/programming happening in our communities as well as other updates. Please look over the "ongoing weekly calendar" as well (below the main list of events), so you can see what events take place every week. As always, continue to send me information you want to share; I want this to be a platform for you to share and connect with others. If you have questions or concerns about anything please call or email me (including letting me know if a link doesn't work).

Some Highlights:

- See Article Section regarding Housing Voucher Waiting list and other community news
- Jazz Thaw this weekend in Oak Park
- Local Black History (below list of events)
- Voting information (below list of events)
- 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays at Robert's Westside
- New Research Study (for African American Women)
- Older Adult Market in Berwyn (see other section)
- Arbor West Neighbors Hearing Challenges presentation
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra and other events at the Kehrein Center
- Free Seminar about Using Technology through Berwyn Park

District

- Upcoming Caregiver Support (see Township Services and other)
- Wonderworks is looking for volunteers. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Oak Park River Forest High School upcoming shows [here](#).
- Chili Cookoff at Austin Satellite Senior Center

Events/ Programming for next couple of weeks:
(don't forget to check ongoing calendar as well- just below)

March 8 at 6:30 pm: **The Kehrein Center for the Arts** and **One Earth Film Festival** present ***Sustaining Women, Sustaining the World: A Three Part Series***. Learn more [here](#).

March 9 at 11:00 am: **Kehrein Center for the Arts** presents ***Solo and Ensemble*** presented by Sistema Ravinia. Come celebrate North Lawndale and Austin student musicians. (5628 W. Washington Blvd.)

March 9 from 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm: River Forest Township and River Forest Library present ***Gentle Yoga*** with Rhonda Fentry. Bring your own yoga mat. Registration required. Register [here](#).

March 9-10 *Jazz Thaw* in Oak Park: For more information, click [here](#).

March 10 from 9:30 am- 10:45 am: Continuation of ***Environmental Series*** at First United Church. (March 17, 24) See flyer [here](#).

March 10 from 2:00 pm- 3:30 pm: **River Forest Library** presents ***Kathleen Fleming Author Event***. Kathleen Fleming will come to the library to read from her historical fiction novels. She will also highlight the working conditions for women in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

March 10 from 2:30 pm- 4:30 pm: **Park District of Oak Park** presents ***String Serenade*** at Pleasant Home. Click [here](#) for more information. (\$35-\$40) Reach out to Susan Crane for more details. Susan Crane, susan.crane@pdop.org 708-725-2500

March 11 from 1:15 pm- 2:15 pm: **The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association** presents ***Monday Enrichment Series: Literature: Radical Ideas! Women and the Vote***. Click [here](#) to learn more.

March 11 at 7:00 pm: **Dominican University Arts and Minds** presents two Separate Lectures: Hannah Allam and Fr. John Dear. See if you are inspired to attend one or the other [here](#). (one at Dominican and one at St. Giles Church)

March 12 from 9:30 am- 11:00 am: **The League of Women Voters Oak Park River Forest** presents ***How public libraries have become battle grounds in our nation's culture wars*** at the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association (178 Forest Ave., Oak Park) Emily

Compton, Director from River Forest Library, Amy Crumb, Director of Bellwood Library and Jack Bower, Director of Broadview Library will be the panelists. This is open to all.

March 12 from 12:30 pm- 1:00 pm: **Oak Park Library** presents ***Virtual Chair Yoga with DuShaun Branch***. (This is every Thursday) Register [here](#).

March 12 at 6:30: **Robert's Westside** presents ***Tellers Night***. \$15 donation at the door. Come see storytellers and get a drink. Bring your own food if you want too.

March 13 from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm: **Arbor West Neighbors** presents ***Hearing Challenges and Resources for Older Adults***. Learn about helpful technologies and resources that can help you. Come to the CRC (Community Recreation Center of Oak Park) (229 Madison St.) Please register for this event at registerAWNprogram@gmail.com. See flyer [here](#).

March 13 from 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm: **Berwyn Park District** presents ***Free Senior Seminar: Using Technology to Stay Connected***. Come to Proksa Park at 3001 S. Wisconsin Ave. Call 708-795-2892 to register. Open to all communities. Learn about social media, the benefits of social networking; how to stay connected via facebook, twitter and instagram

March 13 from 6:00 pm- 7:00 pm: **Garfield Park Conservatory** presents ***In Person Yoga with Natalie***. Cost is \$5. Register [here](#).

March 13 from 6:30 pm- 7:45 pm: **Oak Park Library** presents ***"Virtual" Author Talk: The Pain We Carry: Healing from Complex PTSD as a Person of Color*** with Natalie Y. Gutierrez. Register [here](#). Reserve the book [here](#).

March 14 from 4:00 pm- 5:00 pm: **North Austin Branch Library** presents a film screening of ***Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of World War II*** (2010) (5724 W. North Ave.)

March 14 from 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm: **The Park District of Oak Park** presents ***Comedy Night with Tim Walkoe*** at the Pleasant Home. Learn more [here](#). Reach out to Susan Crane with more details. Susan Crane: susan.crane@pdop.org 708-725-2500 (Become an Active Adult Member with the Park District of Oak Park. Read more [here](#).)

March 15 from 1:00 pm- 3:30 pm: **River Forest Township and River Forest Library** present ***Film Lover Fridays***. This month's movie will be ***Tom Jones*** (1963) based on the Henry Fielding novel. Light refreshments will be served and Jim Jacobs, local film critic will lead a discussion afterwards.

March 15 from 1:00 pm- 2:00 pm: **One Earth Local** presents

Creative Welcoming Nature Spaces: An Ideas Pathway at Austin Townhall and Cultural Center (5610 W. Lake St., Chicago) For more information, click [here](#).

March 15 at 7:30 pm: **Good Shepard Church** presents ***Jazz Prayer Service: Lady Sings the Blues***. Learn more [here](#).

March 16 from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm: **The CRC** (Community Recreation Center) presents ***Walk with a Nurse***, in partnership with the Oak Park Health Department, the Park District and the Community Mental Health Board. Get your blood pressure checked; check for diabetes and ask your medical questions. (open to older adults in all communities) (229 Madison St.) Reach out to Megan Ulczak at Megan.ulczak@pdop.org with any questions.

March 16 from 9:00 am- 2:00 pm: **Garfield Park Conservatory** presents ***Beginning Bee Keeping Class***. Register [here](#). (Cost is \$56-\$70)

March 17 at 1:00 pm: **CourAGEus** presents ***A Taste of Conscious Aging***. This is a free virtual workshop. Learn more and register [here](#).

March 18 from 1:15 pm- 2:15 pm: **The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association** presents their ***Monday Enrichment Series: Irish Stew, Songs and Stories from Old Ireland***. Learn more [here](#).

March 18 from 5:30 pm- 7:30 pm: **Austin Branch Library** presents ***First Hand Homeless: Conversations on Women and Homelessness***. Watch a documentary about Homelessness and what women experience and then listen to educated panelists afterwards. To learn more, click [here](#).

March 19 from 6:00 pm- 9:00 pm: **Robert's Westside** presents ***Soup and Bread West***. \$10 donation at the door. Enjoy Soup and Bread and Music by Szurko Trio. If you want to bring soup, reach out [here](#).

March 19 at 5:30 pm: **Kehrein Center for the Arts** presents ***Chicago Symphony Orchestra***. (5638 W. Washington) This is a free concert.

March 19 at 7:00 pm: **Fitzgeralds** presents the ***Moth StorySLAM***. This month's theme is ***Obsession***. Come listen and/or share your story. Get your tickets early [here](#).

March 20 from 9:00 am- 10:00 am: **Trailside Museum of Natural History** presents ***Senior Fitness Walks***: A one mile walk in the forest preserves at your own pace with a Master Naturalist. Meet at the Thatcher Woods Pavilion. Register at 708-366-6530.

March 20 from 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm: River Forest Library presents ***Great Decisions: U.S.-China Trade Rivalry***. In each session, you will watch a recorded video lecture and then discuss the topic as a group.

Readings for each session will be available at the library two weeks in advance.

March 20 from 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm: **Austin Branch Library** presents ***Mavis*** (about the singer and Civil Rights Activist Mavis Staples. On the 2nd floor at Austin Branch Library. 5615 W. Race Ave.

March 20 from 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm: **The Illinois Library Foundation** presents ***Ruth E. Carter: Interweaving Tradition and Imagination Through Costume Design***. Ruth Carter has won two Oscars for Costume Design (Black Panther, Black Panther: Wakonda Forever) Aisha Harris from NPR will be interviewing her. Register for this virtual event [here](#).

March 21 from 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm: **Cheney Mansion** and the Park District of Oak Park present ***Carnivore Roasts!*** Reach out to Susan Crane to register or logon to your park district account. Susan Crane susan.crane@pdop.org 708-725-2500 (\$50-\$67)

March 22 from 12:30 pm- 3:00 pm: **Austin Satellite Senior Center** presents their ***Chili Cook Off***. Suggested donation is \$10 Call Cynthia Yarrington for more information (5071 W. Congress Parkway, Chicago) (312) 743-1538

March 22 from 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm: **The Park District of Oak Park** presents ***March Tasting with Anafora Wine Merchants*** at Pleasant Home Dining Room. (\$38-\$51) Reach out to Susan Crane for more details. Susan Crane susan.crane@pdop.org 708-725-2500

March 22 and **March 23** from 7:00 pm- 9:30 pm: **Park District of Oak Park** presents ***Oak Park Festival Theater Winter and Spring Readings*** at the Cheney Mansion and Pleasant Home... Click [here](#) for more details and tickets for Friday and [here](#) for March 23.

(see Ongoing "Programming" Calendar in Blue Section Below)

For More Opportunities:

- **Oak Park Township Senior Services Monthly Calendar** [here](#). (note: see ongoing calendar below: Planning, Art Classes)
- Upcoming Events at **Oak Park Public Library**. Click [here](#). (including Adult Improv at Maze Library)
- **Chicago Public Library (Austin area) including online events between March 8- 22: Click [here](#).** (including online ASL Classes, Movies and Book Clubs)
- **Austin Branch Library on Race Street**, behind Austin City Hall. Calendar of events from **March 8- 22** Click [here](#). (films, book clubs and quilting also at this library)

- Programming at Austin Town Hall and Columbus Park [here](#).
- Park District of Oak Park/ Active Adult Programming at the Dole Center is open to Adults in ALL Communities. Click [here](#). If you want to get on the Park Districts Email list for updates, click [here](#).
- Wednesday Journal's Community Section [here](#). (click Big Week)
- One Earth Calendar of Events [here](#).
- AARP Virtual Community Center
- River Forest Township and River Forest Library's winter *Coffee Monday* programs [here](#) and *Celebrating Seniors All Year Long* programs [here](#).

Reminder: when you go to the bottom of this email on the left bottom corner you may see that it says: [Message clipped] [View Entire Message](#)- click "view entire message"

Help with Taxes:

See River Forest Township Assessors page for Appeal and Exemption information (for cook county) [here](#).

See the Oak Park Township list of resources (for all communities) [here](#). RSVP Tax Assistance [here](#). Call the Howard Mohr Center and ask for Brenda Powers at 708-771-7737 to see if they have any spots with AARP available. Also look into the LadderUp program [here](#).

Migrant Assistance:

Community of Congregations Migrant Response information [here](#).

Migrant Ministry is currently at St. Edmund's School (*they will be a shelter as well soon*) Donations are accepted on Mondays from 9am-Noon at the Pleasant Street door at St. Edmund School (200 S. Oak Park Ave.) You can also donate through their [Amazon Wishlist](#) (please consider getting toiletries from the list- there is always a high demand)

If you want to *provide an item for breakfast* or donate money towards breakfast, click [here](#). To sign up *to volunteer* on Tuesday or Thursday morning to help serve breakfast, distribute donations etc. at St. Edmunds Church, sign up [here](#).

For temporary job opportunities or to find out other ways you can help, reach out to immigrantministry@gmail.com. (*They are always in need of Volunteers who can speak Spanish, as well as help with*

housing information and jobs.) [Donations: information [here.](#)]

For those of you that are able to help with housing, jobs and more, go to the **Migrant Resettlement Mission's** webpage [here.](#)

Other Groups Helping Migrants in the area:
[Activate Oak Park](#) [Oak Park Supports/Apoyo](#)

Art Exhibits:

Visual Artist Antonia Ruppert Showcase Comes to North Austin Library: Read article [here.](#) (5724 W North Ave, Chicago, IL 60639)
The exhibition runs through March 30.

Trailside Museum: Glass Mosaics by Judy Steed and Assemblages by Bridget Steed. Parking is available on Thatcher in front of the museum or in the lot off of Chicago Avenue.
738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest. (through March 30)

Articles and More:

Housing Choice Vouchers/ Low Income Households Waiting List (through March 15) opening up. Read more [here.](#) Call Oak Park Housing Authority at 708-386-9322 with any questions.

Westsidiers Hit by July Floods Demand Money: See article [here.](#)

Oak Park Public Library in the News:

1) **Public Lashes out at Oak Park Library over Management of Palestinian Cultural Events:** See article [here.](#) Library Board Meeting [here.](#) (start after 18 mins)

2) **Oak Park Library Trustees Apologize for Harming the Community in Handeling of the Palestinian Event:** Read more [here.](#)

3) **Library Director Apologizes:** Read more [here.](#)

Going Green in Multi-Family Buildings: Read article [here.](#)

Venezuelan Family Makes a Life in Forest Park: Read article [here.](#)

Group Seeks Climate Change Solutions: Read article [here.](#)

Casa Humilde Comes to Forest Park (where Exit Strategy Used to be) Read article [here.](#)

Westsidiers Create Their Own Recovery Group: Read article [here.](#)
Learn more about them on their website Westside Long Term Recovery Group: [here.](#)

Oak Park Selects St. Edmunds School as Migrant Shelter : Read more [here](#).

How Chicago's Oldest Church Helped Black Freedom Seekers : Read [here](#). (*Consider donating to the Block Club Newspaper*)

Black History is Chicago History: Read in Block Club Chicago (and think of becoming a member) [here](#).

Forty Acres Fresh Market [Blog](#)

Some Local Black History:

Black History in and around Oak Park:

Ten Mile Freedom House and other important Historical Sites in Maywood: Click link [here](#).

Oak Park Black History Tour: (originally part of a bike tour through Oak Park River Forest History Museum) Click [here](#). (note location of former Mt. Carmel Baptist church at 1110 W. Westgate has an historical marker as of 2022)

See **Unvarnished History [here](#)**. (*put together by Fran Lipo and Sarah Doherty from the Oak Park River Forest History Museum*)

Also, see the **Fair Housing Exhibit** at the Museum. Click [here](#) for more details.

Voting Information:

Cook County is still looking for **Election Judges**: For more information, click [here](#).

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Calendar of Events [here](#), including an article about staying engaged [here](#).

Your **Voting Information [here](#)**. (*polling place, what's on the upcoming ballot, who are my elected officials*). Learn about the **Judges: [here](#)**.

Other:

- 2024 **Older Adult Community Market March 14** at PAV YMCA in Berwyn (2947 Oak Park Ave., Berwyn) Free fresh fruit, vegetable and non-perishable groceries.
- **Understanding and Supporting Venezuelan Arrivals presentation [here](#)**.
- **Oak Park Library of Things: Non traditional items you can check out at the library [here](#)**.
- Wonderworks is looking for Volunteers for their Dino

Works March 23-27. Click [here](#) to learn more and to sign up.

- Powerful Tools for Caregivers with Devin Andrews starting March 20. See flyer [here](#). Classes will be Wednesdays at Solutions for Care in North Riverside and will be run by Caregiver Support Specialist Devin Andrews from Oak Park/ River Forest Township Senior Services.
- Dancing with Parkinson's March 7- May 23: See flyer [here](#).
- OPRF High School Upcoming Shows: *Mean Girls* (March 8, 9 at 7pm) *Utopia* (March 14, 15, 16) and *Band Concerts*(March 19, 20 and 21) [here](#).
- New **Comedy Plex** in Oak Park shows [here](#). (2 drink minimum)
- Join the **Westside Credit Union** [here](#). (Great Lakes Credit Union) Read Credit Union article [here](#).
- ***Recipe Box Cafe*** at Dominican University. See upcoming meals [here](#).
- ***CourAGEous Workshops*** with Marc Blesoff: [here](#). **April 17 Conscious Aging Workshops \$89; Also, Aging with Intention workshops are every free Wednesday Zoom meetup)**
- See the music section below and here for [Fitzgeralds](#) and [Roberts Westside](#) Events.

Homesharing Pilot with River Forest Township:

River Forest Township Homesharing Program (Pilot):

Do you have an extra room in your home? Are you looking for ways to reduce housing costs? Do you want to help someone who wants to live in the community, but possibly cannot afford the market rate rent for a one bedroom apartment? Could you benefit from the companionship as well as get some help with small chores. We will do background checks and screening. Any River Forest homeowner over 60 who is interested in exploring this opportunity or who has questions, please reach out to me at the Township office at 708-366-2029 x 13 or bkelly.rftownship@gmail.com. Click [here](#) to see flyer.

CoHousing/Multigenerational Living:

Oak Park Commons, an Intergenerational CoHousing Development will be coming to our neighborhood soon. See their website [here](#).

Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services: (and other resources serving surrounding communities)

For information on all the services through Oak Park Township Senior Services, click [here](#). (scroll to the bottom for the most recent News and Views. For information on **Transportation** call (708) 383- 4806;

For information on Reduced RTA Fare Cards for seniors 65+ and people with disabilities call (708) 383-8005 (the main Oak Park Township Office). **[not in OPRF, call PACE at 312-913-3110]** (There is also the Ride Free Program for older adults under a certain income) **[If you want assistance with learning how to use PACE, call their "Travel Training" Program at 312-913-3120]**

Oak Park River Forest Township Senior Services is offering the **HomeMeds** program, "an evidence-based medication safety program designed to address medication safety and quality-of-life issues by screening for and resolving some potential medication problems". Call 708-383-8050 and ask for Bianca Ingwersen or your Care Coordinator to ask for more details or email homemedsreferrals@oakparktownship.org.

Dine-IN Serving Monday through Friday from 11am-1pm. First come, first served. NO reservations required. Suggested donation: \$1.50 for ages 60+; guest fee: \$8.50 (under age 60). 130 S. Oak Park Ave. See menu on calendar [here](#).

Go to Oak Park/ River Forest Township Senior Services webpage to see programming in their Event Calendar [here](#). Call Senior Services Nutrition and Activity hotline at (708) 725-9129 to make a reservation or for more information.

Medical Equipment Lending: For more information on the availability of specific items or to place a request, contact Oak Park Township's Main Office at **(708) 383-8005**.

For information on the Home Repair Program, click [here](#). (note for Proviso residents, click [here](#).) For Oak Park and River Forest (and some of Proviso) residents, the same group that provides the Home Repair Services, now offers the CAPABLE program, where a nurse and an occupational therapist come to your home as well. See the **attached** flyer for more information or call 847-969-0561. **For Chicago residents on the westside, please look at Rush's Home Modification Program [here](#).**

For Caregiver information see **Caregiver Support** Section below. Powerful Tools for Caregivers with Devin Andrews starting March 20. See flyer [here](#).

Apply for help with Gas/energy bills (LIHEAP): [here](#).

Oak Park and River Forest residents seeking more information on CEDA Energy Assistance programs including LIHEAP may call the township office (105 S. Oak Park Avenue) at 708-383-8005.

Age Options, the **Area Agency on Aging** for west suburban cook county can answer any questions you may have around benefits you are eligible for if you have limited income, from free bus service to seeing how your monthly medical bills can help with eligibility for

SNAP benefits. Call the benefit Enrollment Center at 708-383--258 x 393. Kelsey Gordon is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays or email benefits2ageoptions.org. The Oak Park Township office can also help as well. [also see the National Council on Aging Benefits website [here.](#)]

Breakdown of Community Connect:

- This section is to let you know about any updates in the community or from neighbors
- Then you have the ongoing **weekly calendar of events**

[The Rest of Community Connect is informative and useful resources which don't change much from week to week]

First is the **Ongoing Calendar of Events**, Then:

- The **ORANGE** section is HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- The **YELLOW** section is HELPLINES/ SUPPORT GROUPS
- The **PURPLE** section is VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
- The **Green** section is OTHER RESOURCES
- Then **RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**, **DIGITAL ASSISTANCE AND MUSIC**

Have a great couple of weeks! Please send any information you think others may be interested in my way. **Also, please let me know if you see any information that is incorrect, so I can update it. See attachments below.**

Take Care,

Betsy

Betsy Burton Kelly
communityconnectmail@gmail.com
Arbor West Neighbors
River Forest Township
Senior Outreach Coordinator
708-366-2029 x 13

Ongoing Calendar of Events

Mondays

(Note: See Exercise Section too)

9:30 am- 10:15 am: Oak Park River Forest Township Senior Services presents *Zumba Gold* with Cynthia Daniel at Oak Park location (130 S. Oak Park Ave.) Call the Nutrition and Program

Hotline at (708) 725-9129 to see if there are spots available.

10:00 am- 10:50 am, Fitness Fellowship presents ***Gentle Yoga*** with Carol Olsen at Oak Park Arms in Oak Park (408 S. Oak Park Ave.) every Monday and Friday. Open to all.

10:00 am- 11:00 am: *Cooking Class* at the **Austin Satellite Senior Center** (5071 W. Congress Parkway)

1:15 pm- 2:30 pm: The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association presents their ***Monday Enrichment Series***. Open to the Public. For more details, click [here](#).(option to attend virtually as well)

**Virtual and
In Person**

6:00 pm- 8:00 pm: The Oak Park Meditation Group meets in person at Oak Park Public Library "Maze Branch on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and on Zoom the other Mondays. It is open to all who want to learn and practice meditation together. Each session begins with a brief warm-up drawn from yoga or qigong, followed by meditation instruction, sitting and walking meditation, reading and discussion. For more information, email [**OakParkMeditationGroup@gmail.com**](mailto:OakParkMeditationGroup@gmail.com)

Tuesdays

9:00 am- 10:00 am: *Line Dancing* at the **Austin Satellite Senior Center**. Call Cynthia Yarrington with any questions at 312-743-1538.

11:00 pm- 4:00 pm: *Card Games* at **Austin Satellite Senior Center**. (Bid Whist, Spades, Uno, Gin Rummy, Go Fish, Pitty Pat and Tunk) Tuesdays and Thursdays (5071 W. Congress Parkway, Austin)

1:00 pm: Illinois Pathways to Health and the **Mohr Center** host ***Fit and Strong: Moving Towards a Healthier You***. See flyer [here](#). (at the

Mohr Center: 7640 Jackson Blvd.) Reservations are required.708-771-7737.

1:00 pm- 2:00 pm: Austin Satellite Senior Center presents ***Chair Yoga***. (5071 W. Congress, Chicago)

2:00 pm- 3:00 pm: Berwyn Public Library presents ***Senior Yoga***. Join Wanda Rodriguez for this weekly free yoga class specially designed for the over 60 crowd. This class uses props such as chairs, to help students practice yoga poses if they cannot easily practice on the floor. This class also includes breath work, mediation and strength building. Go to their online calendar and register [here](#).

3:30 pm- 4:30 pm: Chicago Public Libraries presents ***Learn American Sign Language***. This is via Zoom and offered every Tuesday. Contact Shanta Harris; Telephone: (312) 747-5927. Email: shantasm@chipublic.org

4:30 pm- 5:30 pm: The North Austin Library presents ***Write About it! Writing Club!*** (5724 W. North Ave.) Reach out to Arystine Danner at 312 746 4233. Programming is open to all communities.

Ongoing/ Virtual

Wednesdays

10:30 am- 11:30 am: Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services presents ***Bingo*** at Township Senior Services Building.

10:30 am- 11:30 am: Rush Oak Park Hospital and The Park District of Forest Park present ***Zumba Gold*** at the **Roos Rec Center** in Forest Park. This is a free program, but you need to register in advance. Click [here](#) for details or call call 708-366-7500 or 708-866-7667.

11:15 am- 12:15 pm: (started January 10)The

Park District of Oak Park/Active Adult Program presents *Line Dancing* at the *Dole Center* (in Oak Park) Open to all communities and Free to all. The class teaches rhythm, groove and hip-hop. Sign up [here](#). (ongoing Wednesdays)

1:00 pm- 2:00 pm: Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships presents *Art with Evelyn from Slowfire*. Call the Program and Nutrition Hotline to register at 708-725-9129.

Thursdays

10:00 am: Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships presents *Mad for Mats (Made with Love)* Come make mats out of "plarn" for people who are homeless. (130 S. Oak Park Ave.) Please donate plastic bags.

10:00 am: Quilting Class and **11:00 am Jewelry Making Class** at **Austin Satellite Senior Center**. Call Cynthia Yarrington with any questions at 312-743-1538.

12:00 pm- 1:00 pm: Chair Yoga at **North Austin Library** (5724 W. North Ave.) every Thursday. Click [here](#) for more details. Reach out to Arystine Danner at 312 746 4233. **This is offered every Thursday.**

1:00 pm- 3:00 pm: American Mahjong Lessons takes place at the River Forest Community Center in Room 202 W on the 2nd floor. Thank you to our teacher Liz Ziehl! Everyone is welcome! (no need to register)

1:00 pm- 4:00 pm: Card Games at **Austin Satellite Senior Center**. (Bid Whist, Spades, Uno, Gin Rummy, Go Fish, Pitty Pat and Tunk) Tuesdays and Thursdays (5071 W. Congress Parkway, Austin)

Fridays

8:45 am- 9:45 am: *Absolute Beginners Tai Chi* at the **Dole Center** with Tina Birnbaum. Click [here](#) to register. [*Go to "Drop in" and "One Day" Programs and then click "Active Adult Health and Fitness"*] (there is a small fee)

10:00 am- 10:50 am, Fitness Fellowship presents ***Gentle Yoga*** with Carol Olsen at Oak Park Arms every Monday and Friday. Open to all.

12:00 pm- 3:00 pm: Austin Branch Library presents ***Quilting***. Bring your own supplies. Call (312) 746-5038 for more information. (5615 W. Race Ave.)

1:00 pm: Illinois Pathways to Health and the **Mohr Center** will host ***Fit and Strong: Moving Towards a Healthier You***. See flyer [here](#). (at the Mohr Center: 7640 Jackson Blvd.)

1:15 pm- 2:15 pm: Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships presents ***Line Dancing*** Oak Park Location(130 S. Oak Park Ave.) Call the Nutrition and Program Hotline at (708) 725-9129 to register.

Saturdays

10:00 am- 11:30 am: The Park District of Oak Park Active Adults presents ***Double Dutch*** at the Carroll Center (1125 South Kenilworth Avenue, Oak Park, IL, 60304) We jump Double Dutch, Chinese rope, hopscotch, hula hoop, and play all of the games we did on the playground growing up! Email Activeadult@pdop.org to see if spots available.

10:30 am- 1:00 pm: Garfield Park Conservatory presents ***Ask a Master Gardener***. Come with your gardening questions.

1:00 pm- 5:00 pm: College of DuPage

Radio presents. *Those Were the Days* with **Steve Darnall**. Enjoy old-time radio classics and music on 90.9 FM WDCB or listen live [here](#).

Sundays **6:00 pm- 9:00 pm:** Tune into **Radio's Golden Age** with Steve Darnall. KXEL- AM/1540 or listen live [here](#). (Go to nostalgiadigest.com to learn more)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLASSES AND OTHER OFFERINGS: The Park District of Oak Park along with the **Senior Center of Oak Park and River Forest** offer **Active Adult Programing** at the **Dole Center** for adults 50+ in Oak Park and neighboring communities. They offer a lot, from tai chi to stain glass classes to trips. Click [here](#) to learn more. Call Megan Ulczak if you have any questions. [also, note: both the Park District of Oak Park and River Forest now offer beginner Pickleball Classes]

Triton College's Personal Enrichment and Leisure Classes for Adults: [here](#). Scroll down and see the *Life Long Learner's* section) (see *Indoor Exercise Section below too*) [Triton **College Courses for Seniors:** Triton offers affordable Continuing Education Classes if you are in District 504 (which includes Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park): Call 708- 456-0300 x3500 for more details.]Triton also has an indoor track (in building R) open to the public from 7am- 8pm. Call 708-456-0300 x3825 for more information. **[Note: both Triton and Gottlieb offer Aquacize Classes]**

Illinois Pathways to Health: Click [here](#) to find classes near you or online.

BUILD Chicago has a Peace and Justice Center. Find out about their **Restorative Justice Program**. Call the Director of Community Engagement to find out more at **773-227-2880**

Susan Schwarting, a certified meditation instructor with training in drumming for meditation and wellness as well as a Certified Reiki Master Teacher has two offerings: **Drumming Meditation:** 4 week course using frame(hand) drums. \$55. Scientific studies have shown the benefits of drumming as a tool for wellness: anxiety, depression, trauma, adhd just to name a few. **Reiki For Self Care:** Level 1 Reiki training for self care. \$40 Reiki is an energy modality used as an adjunct treatment in many hospitals including Sloane Kettering and the Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

Email Susan at info.centerforserenity@gmail.com

SlowFire Ceramics is offering Painting and Drawing Classes for older adults. Click [here](#) for more information. Note: They also teach a class at the Oak Park Senior Services Building on Wednesdays They also offer classes at Oak Park Library.

Road Scholar online classes: online trips- \$25/ class: [here.](#))

Mather Virtual Programming: *Mindness and Health, Aromatherapy, Discussion Groups, Creative Arts and Art Making, Movement and Dance and Music.* See classes [here](#). ***Do it yourself (DYI) Art Kits:*** Next program starting in October. Register [here](#). ([Senior Planet](#) and [AARP Virtual Community Center](#) also offer online programming.) (AARP has Movies for GrownUps online).

Park District of Oak Park and Park District of River Forest offer Beginning Pickleball Classes. (Park District of River Forest offers classes with River Forest Township at the River Forest Community Center in the Winter- Starting December)

Silver Sneakers at Gottlieb: For more information, click [here](#). Also, click [here](#) for **Aqua Group Exercise**.

For other Silver Sneakers Programs nearby: Click [here](#). Also, reach out to Toccara Daniel. She teaches classes at Oak Street Health (3433 W. Madison) and Mills Tower. See if your insurance covers classes. Reach out to her at FIT4CHICAGO@yahoo.com (Zumba Gold, Strength and Balance, Line Dancing. See class schedule [here](#).)

Tina Birnbaum is teaching **Absolute Beginners Tai Chi** at the Dole Center on Friday mornings from 8:45 am- 9:45 am. Click [here](#) to register. [*Go to "Drop in" and "One Day" Programs and then click "Active Adult Health and Fitness" and then go to the very bottom.*] (***see active adult programming through Park District of Oak Park below- open to all communities***) If you have a hard time signing up, call Megan Ulczak at (708)725-2106 or email her at megan.ulczak@pdop.org

See Forest Park Programming and Trips in attachment below.

Virtual/ Online Exercise:
(Consult with your doctor if you have questions about any

exercise.)

Berwyn Library Virtual Senior Yoga every Tuesday at 2:00 pm. Register [here](#).

Exercise Classes through CJE SeniorLife: CJE is offering 5 different evidence-based exercise classes; it is proven that participating in them will improve strength, balance, and fitness. Click [here](#). (virtual) **See flyer below for more details.** [[Senior Planet](#) also has good online programming . **Virtual YMCA** has some online videos: Click [here](#) to view options (note: on the right side, you will see 6 more videos to view.)

HELPLINES/SUPPORT GROUPS/ END OF LIFE PLANNING

Friendship Line (IL Dept. on Aging) 24 hour toll free hotline/warmline (for emotional support, crisis intervention or well being checks):
800-971-0016

211 Metro Chicago is a free resource connecting all Cook County residents with essential health and social services to help them meet their basic needs. Trained, local specialists are available 24/7 to connect individuals with the support they need, such as food, housing, utility assistance, access to health care, and other vital resources.

Thrive: to help with your mental and emotional wellbeing: Click [here](#) for their webpage or call **708-383-7500**. **Thrive also has "Thrive Talks". See upcoming and recorded events [here](#).**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Are you feeling desperate, alone or hopeless? You can now call **988**, a free, 24-hour hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#). **New 988 Number for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health. See Details [here](#).**

To report suspected abuse, exploitation or neglect of an older person, call the statewide, 24-hour **Adult Protective Services Hotline**: 1-866-800-1409. (you may first want to contact your local area agency on aging or local Township office.)

Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS): "Offering Hope and Healing to those who mourn a loss to suicide: Meetings are held every 3rd Monday at 6pm at the River Forest Community Center on the 2nd floor. See Newsletter [here](#).

Grief Share: Grief Support groups near you (in local church setting)*
Click [here](#) for more information.

Oak Park and River Forest Senior Services has [Memory Cafe](#) (every third Tuesday of each month) for caregivers of someone with Memory "Changes" as well as for the person going through memory changes; there is also a **Caregiver Support Group** that meets twice a month (for Caregivers in Oak Park, River Forest and Austin) There is now a **Grief Support Group for Caregivers** every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call Devin Andrews at 708-383-8060 x116 for more details. **(see flyers below)**

The Alzheimer's Association holds a support Group at Belmont Village in Oak Park and is open to any family member or friend caring for someone with memory problems. They meet the 4th Saturday of the month from 9 - 11am. Contact the facilitator, Julie Bach at jbach@dom.edu so she can make sure it is the right fit and to confirm the date (dates sometimes change if close to a holiday).

For support groups for Family and persons with **early onset dementia**, contact Susan Frick at Rush Chicago Hospital at 312-942-5359 or email at Susan_Frick@rush.edu to learn about her Support Group [Without Warning](#)

CJE Caregiver Resilience Group [here](#). (starts end of November)
(Various Support Groups through CJE [here](#).)

Rush Caregiver Support Group: [here](#).

There is a **Virtual Support Group** every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:30 pm- 5:00 pm for **Caregivers** of those with Dementia through University of Chicago (all other caregivers welcome as well) Join the Zoom Meeting [here](#). Meeting ID: 916 2406 0613 Passcode: 037943. Email Jenil Bennett at jbennett@bsd.uchicago.edu or Monica Long at Mlong1@bsd.uchicago.edu for more information.

Department of Family Services also has an online Summer and Fall **Saavy Caregiver Classes** for people caring for someone with Dementia. [here](#). See evening class information [here](#).

AARP Caregiver Support Information [here](#).

Caregiver **Support Group for Grandparents/relatives** raising grandchildren is Virtual every 4th Monday at 11 am though Pahlights.

For more information email Meghan at mmitoraj@pathlights.org or call 708.361.0219.

Oak Park Public Library has grief support groups too (see their calendar or get on their email list)

End of Life Options Planning:

The Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) provides free legal services to low-income seniors (ages 60 and up) and persons living with disabilities. CDEL assists with specific case types including end-of-life planning, housing, consumer issues, adult guardianship, financial exploitation, and divorce. For more information on how to get legal assistance, call (312) 376-1880, Monday through Friday between 9am and 12pm or visit cdelaw.org. **The Center for Disability and Elder Law(CDEL) is a good resource to get help with Property Transfers or a Transfer on Death Instrument (TODI). Reach out to Chandler Wright at 312-600-6400.**

Oak Park End of Life Options Coalition meets the 4th Thursday of the month from 3:45 pm -5:00 pm. Call Roz Byrne for more information at (708)370-7444. For more information about **Compassion and Choices** (the umbrella organization) click [here](#). [See **Five Wishes** Planning Guide [here](#).] Also, see **The End of Life Decisions Guide** [here](#).

Ask a Mortician YouTube Channel [here](#).
The Order of a Good Death: Click [here](#).
Caitlin Doughty's website [here](#).

**Note: Find what works for you. Use the above information as a resource and please let me know about other resources you are aware of to help others.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity Knocks is looking for volunteers after school or during the day to spend time with their young adults socializing and doing arts and crafts at the River Forest Community Center. The first step is to fill out an application form [here](#). Volunteer Coordinator Netta Williams will be in touch with you.

Housing Forward Group Volunteer Opportunities [here](#).
Contact Volunteer & Outreach Manager Cherrell Jackson at cjackson@housingforward.org or 708.338.1724 x201 Current needs are welcoming new clients, having a collection drive; sharing

your computer knowledge, dropping off meals, administrative help.

Oak Park River Forest Township Senior Services is looking for volunteers to help with Friday meal delivery. Reach out to Mercedes Nash at mnash@oakparktownship.org or call 708-383-8060 x3134,

Gun Safety Advocacy: Everytown USA/Mom's Demand Action Oak Park/Austin Area [here](#). Help fund **Mercy Garden of Peace and Healing**. Learn more [here](#).

Dole Center Senior Citizens Board... if interested email megan.ulczak@pdop.org. The Senior Citizens' Board helps plan programs, events, and classes for the Park Districts Active Adults and the oldest Senior Center in Illinois. They are looking for enthusiastic and engaging community members to help continue this legacy.

A House in Austin Volunteer Opportunities [here](#). (A House in Austin honors Oak Park Couple: Read article [here](#).)

Loyola Medicine is looking for **Hospice Volunteers** to offer companionship, play games and offer respite to family members. This would entail visiting once a week for 1-3 hours over 2 months. You can volunteer as often or as little as you want. Call Joanne at 630-861-5183 or email her at joanne.moore002@luhs.org.

The Democratic Party of Oak Park is looking for volunteers. Come to their meeting the second Saturday of the month to learn how you can get involved (including writing postcards) They are located at 6941-A W. North Ave, Oak Park. For more information, call (708) 386-0090

Triton is looking for volunteers to help **tutor students in English**, including newly arrived migrants from Ukraine (see flyer below). Work one-on-one or in a small group for 2 hours/week. Call or email Kathy Kianzad for more information. kathykianzad@triton.edu or 708-456-0300 ext 3365 (see flyer below)

The Economy Shop is looking for volunteers to sort, fold, organize and price items. Contact Ellen at economyshopOP@gmail.com or 708-383-2449.

Wonder Works is looking for volunteers. **Do you play an instrument, enjoy reading stories, have a love of art, like gardening, or maybe have a collection you'd like to**

share? Please reach out to Sara Yount at president@wonderworks.org or visit the Wonder Works website: www.wonderworks.org to find out more information about sharing your time and talent with children in our community!"

For a list of resources in Austin, go to **Austin Coming Together's** Resource page [here](#). Get on their email list too for ongoing events and volunteer opportunities. See **Build Chicago's Volunteer Opportunities** [here](#).

For more Volunteer Opportunities please give me a call.

OTHER RESOURCES:

Elderwerks Directory (A useful Senior Resource Directory):
Click [here](#) to flip through.

See how Americans are Embracing their **Third Act** [here](#).

Elders in Action: "One Earth, One Humanity, One Future".

Age is Beautiful [website](#)

Learn more about **Arbor West Neighbors**, our local Village group, [here](#).

Learn about **Rush Generations** [here](#).

Stop by the **Berwyn Shops** on Roosevelt Rd. (Friday through Sunday) Off of Roosevelt Rd. East of Culvers. See website [here](#). Help new entrepreneurs in our community.

For **Bird Enthusiasts**, Click [here](#).

One Earth Local/ Green Community Connect Events : [here](#).
Garfield Park Neighborhood Virtual Market, click [here](#).

Resources for those who are UnHoused

(taken from Village of Oak Park Website): [here](#).

CUB (The Citizens Utility Board) provides free **Home Energy Assessments**. An Energy Advisor will do a walk through of your home and provide you with products to make your home more efficient. Call 1-855-433-2700 to schedule an appointment. If you have a question about any utility bill feel free to call their hotline at 1-800-669-5556.

If you are concerned about potential scams or frauds, visit AARP's webpage [here](#). Reach out to your local police Dept. too.

Research Opportunities:

- New on line Stress Reduction Research Study for **African American Women** [here](#).
- **Enhancing Circadian Signals Study** at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. Learn more [here](#).
- **Rush Generation Studies**, including a study on **Chronic Pain**, contact Padraic Stanley, LCSW at Padraic_St Stanley@rush.edu or (312) 942-2089
 - Rush Hospital Chicago is looking for subjects between the age 60-80, that have not been diagnosed with a motor or cognitive changes. The project is looking for the relationship between cognitive and gait dysfunctions in a genetic disorder that often mimics Parkinson's. You will be paid for your time, although it sounds like some of the tests can be intense, including an MRI. Contact emily_c_timm@rush.edu for more information.
- You are invited to move and improve your brain health. **CEREBRO** (Cognitive Enhancement and Risk-Reduction through Exercise for Brain Related Outcome) A research Study through UIC. You need to be Latino, over 60, experiencing memory changes. Call Jocelyn Campo at 312-413-0087 or email at jocamp20@uic.edu for more details. Learn more [here](#).
- Learn about **EngAge**: A research study for African American Older Adults. (through Rush Hospital). Click [here](#) for details. (Other Studies listed by Rush: Click [here](#).)
- The **Bakkour Memory and Decision Lab Study**. Learn more [here](#).
- **DISCO Disparities in Sleep Studies at Northwestern**. For details, click [here](#).
- **Research Study on End of Life Care for Black Americans through NORC at the University of Chicago and the HAP (Hospice and Palliative Care) Foundation**. See flyer [here](#).

- Digital Literacy Classes/Free Tech Support and Training through Mather See flyer [here](#).
- Hearing Aid Research Study through Northwestern [here](#).
- Older Adults Needed for a Fun Social Engagement Study. Click [here](#) for more details.

(if you find out that any of the above classes or research opportunities are no longer happening, please let me know)

Digital Assistance:

If you need help with your computer or device reach out to your local library, Senior Planet (888) 713-3495 or the township. Dole Center (3rd floor) from 9:30 am- 11:00 am drop in time; minimal charge if not a member. **Call the Township to learn about Uniper's online classes.** Click [here](#) to learn more or email Age Options at information@ageoptions.org.

Also another great resource is **PCs for the People**.

To find out about the **Affordable Connectivity Program** (formerly the Emergency Broadband Benefit) click [here](#). See short video clip [here](#). Also ask your local library about hotspots!

Project Exploration partners with **Chicago Connected** in the Austin community. For more information about Digital Resources to help you use the computer, for adults of all ages (young to older), fill out this online form: [here](#).

Local Music:

Roberts West Side (Circle and Madison St., Forest Park) *(They will host Tellers Night Every 2nd Tues. and Soup and Bread Night every 3rd Tues.)*

Fitzgeralds *(including the Moth, Voicebox, Tuesdays Bluesdays and \$5 Hamburger Wednesdays)*

Music and Potlucks

Every Wednesday between 8-10 is open mic at the **Friendly Tap**. (Music and Potlucks partners with the Friendly as well)

Attachments Below:

[River Forest Township Senior Services](#)

[River Forest Homesharing Pilot](#)

[Oak Park Commons Cohousing](#)

[988 HELP LINE \(NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION #\)](#)

[Coffee Monday April, May, June](#)

[Educational Events at River Forest Library Jan- March](#)

[Repair Cafe \(1st Sat. OP; 4th Sat Austin\)](#)

[Home Repair Flyer](#)

[North West Housing Partnership CAPABLE Project](#)

[Rush Older Adult Home Modification Program/Chicago](#)

[Memory Cafe](#)

[Grief Support for Caregivers](#)

[Caregiver Support Programs](#)

[Virtual Classes for Caring for those with Dementia](#)

[Virtual Alzheimer's Support Group with University of Chicago](#)

[Triton Access to Literacy](#)

[Forest Park News March/April](#)

[River Forest Township](#)

[Arbor West Neighbors](#)

[**Contact Us!**](#)

River Forest Township | 8020 Madison Street, River Forest, IL 60305 708- 366-2029 x13

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