



# Terrace Leaves

July • August 2020

## *A Message From the Acting Mayor*



With summer comes increased activity in our community. Please pay attention to your fellow residents and drive slowly and cautiously throughout our community.

The City has worked hard to keep residents safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to report that despite the economic effects of the pandemic, the City of Oakbrook Terrace continues to be in a strong financial position.

As we enter a new phase of re-opening Illinois, our City's restaurants and bars have now opened for outdoor dining. Please continue to support our local businesses. The economic impact on their operations has been severe and it's important that we keep our sales tax dollars in Oakbrook Terrace.

I would like to remind you that it is critical that everyone in our City be counted in this year's Census. This helps to bring government funds to our community for a wide range of uses. To-date the Oakbrook Terrace census response is at 52.7% — well below the state average of 65.9%. Many of the surrounding communities have already had a response rate of 75% or higher.

If you have not been counted, just visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). There you will have the option to sign up online, call or have a paper census form mailed to your residence. The Census only occurs every

10 years and we want to be sure not to miss out.

As a reminder to all residents, refuse containers should be placed on the curb no sooner than Sunday evening for Monday pickup.

Due to the civil unrest throughout the county, the Oakbrook Terrace Police Department has increased police presence within our residential and business districts. In an effort to prepare for any situation, the City has been in direct contact with the Illinois State Police, the DuPage County Sheriff's Department and the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System, as well as surrounding municipal police departments.

Because of COVID-19 safety concerns, our Citywide Garage Sale, July 4 celebration and National Night Out (originally August 4), have been postponed. A new date of October 6 has been proposed for National Night Out. We will continue to update you on future events.

I would like to thank our City administration, first responders, Public Services personnel and City Council for their hard work during the pandemic. I would also like to extend a big thank you to all of our residents for abiding by the executive orders in place during this time. We are strong and we are family!

*Sincerely,  
Acting Mayor Paul Esposito*



**Monday, July 13** ..... **Brush Pickup**

**Friday, July 17, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm** ..... **Antivirus Safety Kits Drive-Thru**  
(See page 2 for more details.)

**Monday, August 3** ..... **Brush Pickup**

**Monday, August 24** ..... **Brush Pickup**

### **CITY EVENTS POSTPONED**

**Citywide Garage Sale**

**July 4 Celebration**

**National Night Out (NNO)**

**(Tentative Date for NNO Tuesday, October 6)**

## **Reopening of City Hall and Police Department**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Oakbrook Terrace City Hall and the Police Department have been closed to the public. Effective Monday, June 29, the Police Department opened to the public, with restrictions, to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19. City Hall has a tentative opening date of July 15, also with restrictions.

City Hall, when opened, will have abbreviated hours, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and masks will be required. City Hall hours for seniors or residents with compromised immune systems will be 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The City would like to limit walk-in services as much as possible and residents are reminded that City staff is available by telephone or email. It is highly recommended that you make payments online through the City's webpage at [www.oakbrookterrace.net](http://www.oakbrookterrace.net), over the phone or in the water bill drop box near the main entrance of City Hall.

# ATTENTION OBT RESIDENTS!

## Implementing City of Oakbrook Terrace Stimulus Program with Drive-Thru

### August Date to be Mailed to Residents

In the May/June issue of the *Terrace Leaves* it was announced that the City would be implementing a \$100 stimulus for owner-occupied, single family homes to help the hardest hit businesses in our community.



"Oakbrook Terrace Eats" will provide residents with vouchers for selected Oakbrook Terrace bars and restaurants.

Taking place in August, the City will be setting up a drive-thru in

the parking lot of City Hall where qualified residents can drive up and obtain five \$20 vouchers together with information about the program. Residents will not be allowed to get out of their cars for this drive-thru event in order to enforce social distancing. The vouchers will be good through Dec. 31, 2020.

## Oakbrook Terrace Antivirus Safety Kits

### Drive-Thru Friday, July 17, 8:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The health of our residents is of vital importance to the City of Oakbrook Terrace as we continue our efforts to help keep our community safe from COVID-19.



On Friday, July 17, the City will be holding a Mask Drive. Oakbrook Terrace residents will be able to drive up and pick up an Antivirus Safety Kit. A special tent will be set up in the parking lot of City Hall for this event.

Residents will not be allowed to get out of their cars for this Mask Drive in order to enforce social distancing.

## Get Counted in the U.S. Census!

### Oakbrook Terrace Lags Behind Other Municipalities

We know many residents of our community are focused on the COVID-19 crisis, but we want to remind you to be sure to complete the census either online or by requesting a paper ballot at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) or by calling 855-562-2020.

It is critical that everyone in our City be counted in this year's Census. This helps to bring government funds to our community for a wide range of uses, including schools and hospitals. To-date the Oakbrook Terrace census response is at 52.7% — well below the state average of 65.9%. Many of the surrounding communities have already had a response rate of 75% or higher.

Every individual counted in the U.S. Census is worth approximately \$1,400 per year in funds that can come to the community. If you are not counted, our community will have lost \$14,000 by the time the next Census is conducted in ten years. The Census also provides a picture of our nation that helps determine where to build new schools, hospitals, and businesses, and how Congressional seats are apportioned.

As of the publication of this newsletter, the U.S. Census has reported that they will extend the deadline for the national head count. By law, the U.S. Census must submit its findings by December 31, 2020. The City will keep residents updated as we learn more about this issue.

Confidential and secure, strict federal law protects your census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual or business. Census Bureau employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents' information private. The penalty for wrongful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment for up to five years, or both. No law enforcement agency (not the DHS, ICE, FBI, or CIA) can access or use your personal information at any time.

Data collected can only be used for statistical purposes to help inform important decisions, including how much federal funding your community receives. The Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party.

The Census Bureau has a robust cybersecurity program that incorporates industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data. To make sure you and your community are counted, learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).



# City Departments CORNER

## Building & Zoning

With our families at home more than usual due to COVID-19, our home interiors, including appliances, are getting much more use. Leaky faucets, clogged drains and other homeowner woes may occur more frequently. It's important to maintain your property in good working condition and to address any needed repairs during this time — some of which may require the expertise of a professional who will come into your home.

As we practice social distancing, you may be concerned about letting someone into your home to take care of repairs. With proper planning and protection, it is possible to handle these repairs without increasing your risk of contracting the infection.

Here are some questions you can ask any contractor who will need to come into your house.

- How they will conduct themselves in your home during this pandemic?
- Is their company screening employees for COVID-19 symptoms and restricting them from work if they are suspected or diagnosed as being infected?
- What measures are their employees taking to prevent the spread of the virus when they are in your home?
- How long do they anticipate being in your home to perform the repairs?
- Is there anything you can do beforehand to prepare your home for the contractor?
- Is there a way you can pay for the service without having direct contact with the repair person?

Try to ask as many questions as possible before the contractor arrives. Do what you can ahead of time to minimize the amount of work the contractor has to do, surfaces touched and time in your home by:

- Clearing all products from under the sink if a plumber needs access to that area.
- Pull furniture or other items away from a wall to provide access for an electrician or exterminator.
- Make sure the path from the exterior door of your home to the area being worked on is free of obstacles.
- Keep children, pets, and other family members away from the area where the contractor will be working, and maintain at least six feet of social distance from the contractor yourself.
- Have your own pen ready in case you need to sign any paperwork, instead of using the contractor's pen.
- Be sure you have a mask to wear during the entire encounter. Have soap and water, disinfectant wipes and/or sprays ready. After the contractor leaves, wipe down all surfaces he or she may have had contact with, such as faucet handles, light switches and doorknobs, and even the floors. Then wash your own hands thoroughly as well.

### Yearly Property Maintenance Inspections

The City of Oakbrook Terraces establishes minimum standards for all properties within the City to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens. These standards are enforced by the City Property Maintenance Inspector through a process called property maintenance code enforcement. Some of the issues addressed in property maintenance inspections include exterior maintenance of all buildings and property areas, garbage and refuse disposal, grass and weed control, as well as maintenance of garages, sheds, fences, and driveways.

The City has started conducting yearly property maintenance compliance inspections of all residential properties within the community. City staff will be inspecting each property from the right-of-way and residents will receive a courtesy notice door hanger either thanking residents who comply or advising a homeowner of any problems found during the inspection. Homeowners will be asked to address the issues by a specific date. Failure to comply will result in further action by the City. The City of Oakbrook Terrace thanks residents for their continued cooperation in helping to keep our community looking its best.

### Outdoor Swimming Pools

The tradition of family and friends spending the hot summer days swimming at the local public pools will not take place this year. If you are considering purchasing and installing a private swimming pool for your yard, a permit is required and you must comply with city code Section 156.044. Contact the Building and Zoning Department for further details at 630-941-8300 ext. 209.

### Is a Permit required?

Many common building and renovation projects require a building permit, which includes concrete or asphalt work, brick paving, electrical, plumbing, roofs, siding, fences, A/C units, sheds, swimming pools, decks, and porches. Before you will begin any project the city strongly suggests calling the Building and Zoning Department at 630-941-8300 EXT. 209 to verify permitting requirements. Permit applications may be downloaded from the city website at [www.oakbrookterrace.net](http://www.oakbrookterrace.net). Work started before securing a building permit could result in fines and appearance in court. Once a building permit has been secured, you are required to clearly post the permit either in the front window or door of the building structure.

# Public Services

## Public Services Highlights April & May 2020

- Consumer Confidence Report completed
- IEPA Compliance Monitoring, including sampling and reporting, completed
- Mowing, trimming and bed maintenance of all municipal-owned facilities
- Three rounds of brush pick-up completed
- Performed hydrant flushing and maintained the City's fire hydrants for proper operation
- Repaired a drain inlet on Wainwright, Public Services campus and on Euclid
- Installed a fountain at Kreml Park
- Cleaned up the aftermath of a bad windstorm
- Filled potholes
- Put flags out throughout our community in celebration of Memorial Day
- Continued Right-of-Way restoration
- Painted the gazebo at Kreml Park

# Police

## Reminder

The surrounding towns have experienced an increase in motor vehicle theft. Our City has been fortunate and has not seen an increase in criminal activity, but we would like to remind our residents of some simple precautions.

### Lock Your Doors

A majority of car thefts are from unlocked cars. Even if you are parked in front of your house, in your driveway or inside your garage, lock your doors. Criminals like to walk down the street and see if a car is unlocked; if it is, they open the door and take whatever is visible and move on to the next target. However, if the door is locked, they are more likely to move on.

### Secure Your Vehicle

Roll your car windows up all the way and engage the car alarm, but do not depend on it as the only way to deter a thief. A car thief can break into your car and be out in about 30 seconds, fast enough that an alarm doesn't scare most of them away.

### Keep Your Vehicle Tidy

Thieves like to window shop! Avoid leaving anything visible in the car. Almost any item that's visible from the outside — even if you think it is worthless — could be seen as valuable to a thief. Your spare change, sunglasses, even an empty bag (a thief may think there is something inside the bag).

### Conceal All Proof

Stow your electronics and accessories well out of sight, or just take them along with you. The proof alone might be enough to pique

## Public Services Summer Hours Monday, June 1– Friday, September 4

### Public Services:

Mon. - Thurs.: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri.: 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- Maintained banners
- Swept all City streets
- City-wide mosquito treatment
- Right-of-way tree trimming
- Removed two dead trees

### Totals

Julie Locates: April – 95 May – 78

Sign Repairs: April – 6 May – 5

Mailbox Repairs: April – 11 May – 6

Gallons of Water Pumped: April – 5,302,000 May – 5,774,000

PD Car Repair Sheets: April – 8 May – 15



the interest of thieves, including items such as power cords, adapters, and GPS windshield suction-cup mounts. If you remove the suction cup, make sure to wipe the ring off the windshield; it's a dead giveaway that you own a GPS.

### Stash Before You Park

Get in the habit of putting items you want hidden in the trunk of your car before you arrive at your destination. Thieves will linger in busy parking lots looking for you to stash your valuable items.

### Park Smart

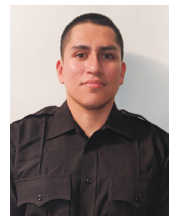
Park in a busy, well-lit area and avoid concealment from larger vehicles, fences or foliage. Don't park in isolated and poorly lit areas.

The Oakbrook Terrace Police Department would like to thank all the residents and businesses who have taken the time to show their support for us during this chaotic time. We have received many food drop-offs, including a catered lunch! We have also received numerous phone calls from citizens expressing their appreciation for the additional patrol through the residential areas. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

### Welcome to Officer Leon

In January we announced that we hired a new police officer, Gabriel Leon, and he started at the police academy on January 6. There were delays in the normal training process due to COVID-19, and the timeline for graduation was extended.

We're pleased to announce that Officer Leon has successfully completed his academy training and has begun his field training with the Oakbrook Terrace Police Department. Congratulations, Officer Leon!



*New Police Officer  
Gabriel Leon*

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# Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget Approved

The City Council recently approved the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget ("FY 2021 Budget"), together with the City's five (5) year Capital Improvement Plan document ("CIP"). The coronavirus pandemic will undoubtedly have an impact on the City's revenues and expenditures for FY 2021 and for years to come. However, since the true impact is uncertain at this time, the City Council opted to approve the budget that was originally prepared before the COVID-19 restrictions were in place.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the City's tax revenues will most likely decrease, and in response to this, each department has submitted budget cuts that could be implemented. The City is working on applications to receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and from DuPage County through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. FY 2021 budget amendments may be needed to record the impact of the coronavirus on City operations. With all of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, staff developed a revenue projection model that allows forecasting based upon the phased-in reopenings of local businesses. The City Council is dedicated to getting the City through the COVID-19 pandemic without impacting service levels.

The City maintains four (4) funds: General Fund, Motor Fuel Tax Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Water Fund.

## General Fund

The General Fund is the City's main operating or general purpose fund. Most of the services provided to residents, such as general administration, police protection, code enforcement, grounds maintenance, special events, storm water management, and street maintenance are budgeted in the General Fund. The major revenue sources in the General Fund include: the local share of State sales taxes, the local hotel/motel tax, and police fines. Public safety expenses comprise the largest portion at 66% of the General Fund's budget at \$6,202,511.

For this year, the City Council approved a balanced General Fund budget with revenues of \$9.7 million and expenditures of \$9.4 million.

## Water Fund

The Water Fund is comprised of two (2) components – Operations and Maintenance (O&M), and Distribution. O&M pays for the costs to operate and maintain the water system, while Distribution pays for capital improvements to the water system and related expenditures.

For the FY 2021 Budget, Water Fund revenues are estimated at \$1.4 million and expenses are budgeted at \$1.4 million, almost breaking even. The DuPage Water Commission charges represent the largest expense at \$545,000 or 38% of the total budget. The DuPage Water Commission supplies Lake Michigan water which is then distributed through the City's water infrastructure to each utility customer. Over the past year, three (3) new water mains were installed, which improved capacity and added new customers.

## Motor Fuel Tax Fund

Motor Fuel Tax collections for the FY 2021 Budget will be used to fund two (2) programs: the City's yearly allotment of road salt and snow plowing-related charges.

## Capital Improvement Fund

Due to COVID-19, all capital projects have been placed on hold except for the Streambank Stabilization project. Some of the streambanks are severely eroded due to the recent heavy rainfalls experienced each spring. The proposed streambank stabilization project will shore-up the creek banks. This project is estimated to cost about \$905,000, and the City expects to receive \$680,000 in grants, representing about 75% of the total cost.

The City is freezing other capital projects as a precautionary measure until the COVID-19 impact is known. Since FY 2013, the City prioritized the replacement of major equipment, infrastructure, and facilities with existing revenues and without issuing debt, saving the City millions in interest costs. To take a step back for one (1) year will rebuild reserves for future improvements.

For the past twelve (12) years, the City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.



The Spirit of Our Past  
A Vision for the Future

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## A Little Bit of History

*By the Oakbrook Terrace Historical Society*

## In Memoriam: Longtime Resident Mary Arends

The Oakbrook Terrace Historical Society is saddened to report that Oakbrook Terrace's longest resident, Mary E Arends, age 94, passed away on May 29, 2020, after living in Oakbrook Terrace for 68 ½ years. Mary and her husband Carlyle ("Carl") purchased property in 1949. Mary and Carl built their home on Marshall Road and moved there in October of 1951. There they raised their six children and Mary continued to live there until her recent death. She was the cherished grandmother of 15 and great grandmother of 36.



# CITY OF OAKBROOK TERRACE

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Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
www.oakbrookterrace.net

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## Firecrackers and Fireworks Against the Law

As July 4th approaches, residents are reminded that firecrackers and fireworks are prohibited in the City of Oakbrook Terrace and the State of Illinois. Violation of the state's ban is a class A misdemeanor, carrying a fine of up to \$2,500 and up to a year in jail time. Only wire or wood sparklers and novelty items, such as snakes and snaps are permitted. Even so, sparklers can ignite clothing and burn at more than 1,200°F — hot enough to cause third degree burns. Keep your family safe this July 4 and avoid using any type of fireworks.



## Grass Height Reminder

Residents are reminded that the Oakbrook Terrace municipal code requires that grass, weeds, plants, other than trees, bushes, flowers, or other ornamental plants, must be maintained at a height of six inches or less. Homeowners can help keep our community neat and attractive during the months ahead with regular weekly mowing.

## Tax Filing Date is July 15

As a reminder, the last date for filing your 2019 income taxes is July 15, 2020.

## Villa Park Library Card

*Attention Residents*

As of May 1, 2020, the annual fee for a Villa Park library card is \$43 per multi-family household (living in apartments such as Versailles and Regency Place) and \$52 per single-family household (including Spring Club, Berkshire and Arbor 40, as well as all other single-family households) through April 30, 2021. The library card provides access to all of the library's resources. For more information, please visit [www.villapark.lib.il.us/](http://www.villapark.lib.il.us/).

## Please Help by Watering Right-of-Ways

Restoration of the City right-of-ways will soon be complete. Please water your right-of-way to help ensure that the grass will grow.

## Phone Numbers

### For City Services:

<b>POLICE</b>	Emergency.....	911
	Information.....	630-941-8320
<b>FIRE EMERGENCY</b> .....		911
<b>MAYOR</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 208
<b>CITY CLERK</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 206
<b>CITY ADMINISTRATOR</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 207
<b>ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR &amp; ADMINISTRATOR</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 213
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 201
<b>BUILDING &amp; ZONING</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 209
<b>CODE ENFORCEMENT</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 265
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b> .....		630-941-1651
<b>WATER BILLING</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 242
<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b> .....		630-941-8300, EXT. 201
<b>OBT PARK DISTRICT</b> .....		630-627-6100
<b>YORK CENTER PARK DISTRICT</b> .....		630-629-0886

## July/August 2020 City of Oakbrook Terrace

Acting Mayor Paul Esposito

City Clerk Michael Shadley

City Administrator Amy Marrero

Ward III: Ald. Robert Przychodni  
Ald. Robert Rada

Ward II: Ald. Frank Vlach  
Ald. Dennis Greco

Ward I: Ald. Paul Esposito  
Ald. Charlie Barbari

### Monthly Meetings:

City Council — 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission — 1st & 3rd Tues., 6 p.m.

Police Commission — 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Police Pension Board — 2nd Monday of the quarter

**CITY HALL HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**