

In 2002, The Wednesday Journal did a wonderful commemorative section honoring its centennial. It was entitled "Oak Park Stories 100 Years of Big News in a Small Town." Excerpts of articles from that edition are presented here, with permission from The Wednesday Journal.



## Institutionalized

Oak Park is a community whose fabric is densely woven with institutions, organizations and associations. Here's a sample. No, it's not complete, and anyone not mentioned here should not feel slighted. You're equally important ... really.

Petersen's Ice Cream Parlor - 1919

Lake Theatre - 1936

Marshall Field Building - 1929

Oak Park Development Corp. - 1974

Hephzibah Children's Association - 1897

Family Service and Mental Health Center - 1894

Community Chest of OPRF - 1935

OPRF Community Foundation - 1959

American Women of Oak Park - 1991

Symphony Orchestra of OP-RF - 1932

Carleton Hotel - 1928

Nineteenth Century Club - 1890

Village Hall - 1975

Bank One (the building) - 1923

Oak Park Regional Housing Center - 1972

World War I Memorial (in Scoville Park) - 1925

Oak Park Public Library (Scoville Institute) - 1888 (public tax approved in 1902)

Marion Street pedestrian mall - 1974 (the Lake Street portion was torn up in 1987)

OPRF High School Stadium - 1924

Ridgeland Common Ice Rink and Pool - 1962

Oak Park Arms - 1921

Oak Park YMCA - 1902

Oak Park Hospital - 1907

West Suburban Hospital - 1911

League of Women Voters - 1920

Economy Shop - 1919

Borrowed Time Club (senior citizens) - 1900

Infant Welfare Society - 1916

Oak Park River Forest Day Nursery - 1912

Oak Park Country Club (located in River Grove) - 1914

Oak Park Tennis Club - 1924

Historical Society of OPRF - 1968

Daughters of the American Revolution, George Rogers Clark chapter - 1895

Oak Park Art League - 1921

VFW, Col. Brinkerhoff Post - 1919



Oak Park Village Hall

Excerpts from "Oak Park Stories 100 Years of Big News in a Small Town." presented here, with permission from The Wednesday Journal.

---

#### Lost institutions

Here are a few of the benevolent organizations that have lapsed with time. The date is the year of their founding.

Phil Sheridan Post #615, Grand Army of the Republic - 1887

Lowell Club - 1897

Matheon Club - 1896

Needlework Guild - 1894

Rubinstein Club - 1896

Oak Park Orchestra - 1895

Women's Benevolent Society - 1886

Odd Fellows Cicero Lodge - 1886

Circle Masonic Order #938 - 1911

Coming Men of America - 1894

Oak Park Community Lectures - 1902

A.F. and A.N. Harlem Lodge #540 (Masonic order) - 1867

Traveler's Club - c.1890

Augusta Club - 1884

North Oak Park Woman's Club - 1920

Oak Park Club - 1890

Elks Club - 1912

Cycling Club - 1889

Colonial Club - 1894

Suburban Club - 1910

Nakama Club - 1896

Sesame Circle - 1898

Oak Park Women's Club - 1911

Tea Cup Circle - 1912

Neighborhood Civic Club - 1914

- Information provided by Frank Lipo and the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest.