

The Acorn est 1996

Prepared by Lisa Brickert

Happy New Year!



Welcome to 2026! We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and is off to a healthy and happy start to the new year. Winter certainly arrived *like a lion*, bringing us an abundance of beautiful snow. It has been a joy to see children building snowmen and sledding down the hill on Lakeview Drive, taking full advantage of the season's fun.

While the lake hasn't been frozen for many days so far this winter, residents have still embraced the colder months with ice boats and shanties for ice fishing whenever conditions allowed. It's always fun to see the lake come alive in a different way during winter and serves as a great reminder that Diamond Lake offers enjoyment year-round—it truly isn't just for summer!

In Remembrance

This winter season has also brought sadness to our community as we lost one of our longtime Oak Terrace residents, **Rita Hansen**, who passed away on November 29, 2025. Rita lived in the Oak Terrace neighborhood for approximately 67 years and raised her children here, opening her home to family, friends, and neighbors over the decades.

Many fond memories have been shared recently about summers spent at the lake—swimming, skiing, and enjoying time together with cousins, nieces, and nephews right here on Diamond Lake. Rita was a familiar and friendly presence in the neighborhood, always speaking proudly of Oak Terrace and waving to neighbors walking by with their dogs.

Rita also served our community as a board member and treasurer in years past. Her late husband dedicated countless hours caring for our parks and beach, helping maintain the shared spaces we all enjoy today. The Hansen family's impact on our neighborhood runs deep, so much so that the park at Elmwood and Willow proudly bears their name—**Hansen Park**.

We take a moment to remember Rita Hansen and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones.

Annual Board Meeting Recap

The Annual Board Meeting was held on **November 5, 2025**, and we were pleased to welcome two guest speakers who shared valuable information with our community.

Alicia Dodd, Highway Commissioner with the Fremont Township Highway Department, spoke about local road maintenance and upcoming infrastructure projects. She provided insight into future plans, including the major Route 60/83 project that will eventually impact many residents. For more information about township roads and projects, visit the Highway Department website at fremonttownship.com/departments/highway-department.

OTIA Board Officers and Committee members

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Lisa Brickert

Vice President
Ron Buttermann

Treasurer
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Ramona Triebold

**Social Media/
Communications**
Kevin Shifley

Parks
Richard Rieck

Zoe Benway

Michael Denton


Jeff Kehr

Tara Spell

Jordan Wilson

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Oak Terrace Community



Oak Terrace Improvement Association
PO Box 391
Mundelein, IL, 60060

NEXT BOARD MEETING

March 4 at 7PM
Countryside Fire Dept

Diana O’Kelly, Fremont Township Supervisor, discussed ongoing township projects and highlighted several programs available to residents, including the food pantry and general and emergency assistance programs. Diana also publishes a township newsletter approximately twice a month that is packed with helpful updates and resources. Residents can sign up by visiting fremonttownship.com and clicking **“Sign Up for the Newsletter.”**

During the meeting, votes were counted and new board members were appointed. Please join us in welcoming **Zoe Benway** and **Tara Spell** to the board! A complete list of current board members can be found on the side of this newsletter.

The board looks forward to continuing our work managing common areas and collaborating with Fremont Township and the Mundelein Park District to keep our waters healthy, parks well-maintained, and roads in good condition. Our goal is for all community members to feel safe and enjoy the many assets Oak Terrace offers, including our parks, beach, and quaint neighborhood..

All board meetings are open to the public, and we encourage residents to attend to stay informed, ask questions, and share any concerns.

To stay up to date on important information throughout the year—such as beach closures and community updates—please join our email list. We send emails sparingly, and only when the information is important (don’t worry, we won’t bombard you with emails) To sign up, email oakterraceneighbors@gmail.com and let us know which email address you’d like added.

Community Events

We are fortunate to have several community events throughout the year that bring neighbors together and help strengthen our sense of community.

Each spring, we kick off the season with our **Spring Parade**, typically held in March or April.. This fun event often includes spring outfits, egg hunts, prizes, and of course a parade around the block. More details will be shared as the date approaches—be sure to join our mailing list so you don’t miss out!

Around **Earth Day**, we gather for a community cleanup. This event usually takes place in April as winter winds down and we begin preparing our parks and beach for summer. It’s a great way to get some fresh air, log a few steps, and help keep our neighborhood looking beautiful.

One of our favorite events of the year is **Summerfest**, held on the last Saturday in July at Beach Park. Summerfest features live music, catered food, and a raffle with prizes and cash. It’s a wonderful opportunity to relax, dance, and connect with your neighbors. Be sure to save the date for **July 25, 2026!**

The board meets **six times per year**, and our next meeting will be held on **March 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Countryside Fire Station**. We would love to see you there. All meetings are open to the public, and resident input is always welcome. If you’re unable to attend but have questions or concerns, please email us at oakterraceneighbors@gmail.com.

Get Involved

We would love to host more events throughout the year to connect, have fun, and build community. If you are interested in joining our social club or helping plan future activities, please reach out to us at oakterraceneighbors@gmail.com. New ideas and helping hands are always welcome!

Thank you for being part of the Oak Terrace community—we look forward to a great year ahead!



2026 OAK TERRACE BOARD MEETING DATES (open to ALL residents)

March 4 @7PM

May 6 @ 7PM

June 3 @ 7PM

August 5 @ 7PM

Sept 2 @ 7PM

**Nov 4 @ 7PM (annual
board meeting)**

**All board meetings will
be held at Countryside
Fire Dept OR Beach park
weather depending**

Newsletters to Subscribe to:

Diana O’Kelly, Fremont Supervisor:
www.fremonttownship.com click on “Sign up for our newsletter”

Jessica Vealitzek, Lake County Board: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILLAKE/subscriber/new?topic_id=ILLAKE_23

oakterraceneighbors@gmail.com, send email to get OTIA information.

