



Village Manager's Report Week ending August 4, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 7:
 - Community Conversation on Climate Ready Oak Park, 6:30 p.m. in Veterans Room at Oak Park Public Library
- Tuesday, August 8:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 6 p.m. in Room 102
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Wednesday, August 9:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
- Thursday, August 10:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Friday, August 11:
 - Fire Pension Board, 9 a.m. in Room 124

Community supports National Night Out – The Police Department hosted National Night Out on Aug. 1 as Oak Park joined thousands of communities around the country in strengthening partnerships and creating positive interactions between law enforcement officials and members of the community. The event was well attended and featured support from partners like the Oak Park Fire Department, Public Works Department, FOP Lodge 8, Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, Scratch Kitchen on Lake, Target and Create Balance Counseling. [Click here](#) to view photos from the event.

Community Relations Commission offering small grants - The Community Relations Commission has a small grant program to support community activities that advance its goal to ensure good human, race and community relations. Funds to support community programming will be allocated by evaluating the project's alignment with the CRC mission, intended outcomes, audience and likelihood of success. The grant application deadline is Sept. 1. [Click here](#) to read more about the program and to view the application.

Climate Ready Oak Park marks first anniversary - The Village and its community partners are marking the one-year anniversary of the adoption of Oak Park's climate plan by hosting One Year In: Community Conversations on Climate Ready Oak Park. The event is taking place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 7 at the Oak Park Public Library Veterans Room, 834 Lake St. It offers a chance for community members to help track Oak Park's progress and goals in the area of environmental sustainability. [Click here for more information.](#)

Plan Commission update – The Plan Commission supported Oak Park and River Forest High School’s planned development application for a new addition and zoning ordinance allowances with a 6-0 vote Thursday. The Plan Commission received numerous positive written public comments prior to the hearing as well as some positive public comments at the hearing. Those who indicated they were neutral and those in opposition focused mostly on construction logistics and neighborhood impacts. There were three residents who participated in cross examination, again focusing mostly on construction logistics and potential neighborhood impact questions. The OPRF team was cooperative in agreeing to implementing appropriate mitigation techniques to help minimize neighborhood impacts. The application is anticipated to go before the Village Board in early September.

Economic Vitality - New Business License Update – During the first seven months of 2023, the Village issued 68 new business licenses, putting Oak Park on-target for achieving its third straight year of 100 or more new business licenses. A chart showing the number of new business licenses issued, going back to 2019, can be found [here](#). Through a joint program with the Village of Oak Park and the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce, all new business license recipients receive a free six-month Chamber of Commerce membership. A comprehensive list of all new business licenses issued by the Village, going back to the start of 2021, can be found at www.pickoakpark.com

Vehicle license update – While the deadline to renew or purchase a vehicle license has now passed, residents who have not yet secured their license(s) are still required to purchase a license for each of their owned or leased motor vehicle. Rates vary by type of vehicle and a \$20 late fee is now applied to purchases. Thus far, the Village has sold 17,067 vehicle licenses totaling \$1,113,717 in revenue collected. By comparison, during the same period of time in 2022, only 15,743 licenses had been purchased. [Click here](#) for a chart comparing vehicle license sales over the past few years. The 2023 information is as of July 31 while 2019 through 2022 information represents licenses purchased for those entire years.

Junior Citizen’s Police Academy – Kids interested in learning about law enforcement and careers in public safety will attend the Junior Citizen’s Police Academy hosted by the Oak Park Police Department and the River Forest Police Department next week. The program, which is being held at the River Forest Police Department this year, is free for kids ages 10 to 15 who live or go to school in Oak Park or River Forest.

Fire Department saves cat – The Oak Park Fire Department assisted with a special rescue operation Thursday morning in the 700 block of S. Humphrey Ave. A cat had become stuck on the cable lines – its claw embedded into the line and unable to move. With the assistance of ComEd, firefighters were able to successfully free the cat from the line. The cat, who the department decided to call Humphrey, did not have any identification and was taken to Animal Care League, where it was determined Humphrey did not have a microchip. Animal Care League representatives will attempt to find Humphrey’s owner or a good home if an owner was not found. Pictures and a video of the rescue were posted on the [Fire Department Facebook page](#).

Corn Roast coming to Farmers’ Market - The Oak Park Farmers’ Market is capping off [National Farmers’ Market Week](#) with its popular Corn Roast next Saturday, Aug. 12.

Fresh-picked corn from Market growers will be sold by the ear hot off the roaster from 9 a.m. until supplies are gone at the Market in the Pilgrim Church parking lot at 460 Lake St. This year's Corn Roast is a zero-waste event, meaning all corn cobs, wrappers and take-away bags are compostable. The annual Corn Roast is Oak Park's way of joining markets across the country in the celebration of National Farmers' Market Week running Aug. 7-13. This year's campaign focus is providing equal access for all Villagers to locally grown, nutritious sustainably produced food, regardless of income level.

7th Congressional District town hall rescheduled to Aug. 21 – Due to a schedule conflict, the 7th Congressional District town hall event that was slated to take place in Council Chambers next week has been moved to 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 21. U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7th District) will discuss a variety of topics with the public. The agenda includes the Affordable Care Act, jobs and the economy, education, immigration, international affairs and any other issue that residents might bring to the table. State and local government officials are expected to participate as well.

Pete's Fresh Market update – The majority of the utility relocation work for the Pete's Fresh Market development on Madison Street was completed in March, except for a few structures on Wesley Avenue that cannot be installed until the street widening occurs. AT&T completed phase one of its work associated with the project, which involved the installation of conduits. Once payment is received, AT&T will take about five weeks to complete phase two. The contractor submitted a proposal to the owner to lay binder and pour curbs in the parking lot, and the sheet piling contractor submitted plans to the Village for review. ComEd's remaining work includes two-line cuts and a few pole relocations. This work has not been scheduled.

2023 Water and Sewer improvements – Work officially started on Aug. 2 at the intersection of Lombard Avenue and Augusta Street. The contractor closed this intersection, completed the first cut and cap of water main and removed the first manhole. The first structure will be installed at the end of this week. It is anticipated the intersection will remain closed until temporary pavement the week of Aug. 14, at which time the intersection will be temporarily patched and reopened to thru traffic.

Forest and Ontario improvements – The electric sub-contractor found an unidentified duct while boring new conduit. The operation is stalled until the line can be identified, claimed, and disconnected. Once work resumes, the contractor is expected to finish installing conduit and pour lighting foundations. Conduit in the roadway will be open cut. Single lanes of traffic will be closed while the work is ongoing, but plates or temporary trench fill will be used to re-open both lanes of traffic by the end of each day.

Resurfacing of various streets – The 2022 street resurfacing project received the final installation of asphalt and pavement markings. The project is complete with the exception of restoration work on Elmwood Avenue and Ontario Street.

Division Street water and sewer improvements – The contractor installed the initial layer of asphalt on July 31 within the through lanes of Division Street. The first layer of asphalt within the intersections will be installed next. The utility contractor is also returning to the site on to

begin adjusting the utility structures to final grade. This work is expected to take a week to complete, at which time the final layer of asphalt will be installed.

Alley improvement project – Two additional alleys reopened this week after undergoing reconstruction as part of this year’s project. The final concrete alley is expected to be reopened next week. Once complete, the contractor will install one proposed asphalt alley and install concrete patches in a few alleys across town.

Alley lighting project – The contractors have installed approximately 250 light fixtures. This week, crews mostly focused on the alleys between Division Street and Chicago Avenue.

Pleasant & Marion update – Model bathroom tiles, cabinets and flooring are complete for level three at the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets. Drywall installation is nearing completion on level four and starting next week for level five. Drywall is also in progress for the lobby and amenity spaces.

Roosevelt Road resurfacing – Illinois Department of Transportation crews are removing the temporary tape along Roosevelt Road as part of the state’s resurfacing project. The tape was used for striping before the permanent markings were done. Crews have a couple of parking lines and restoration work left to complete within the Oak Park limits.