



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending Oct. 29, 2021**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Nov. 1:
 - Village Board Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Tuesday, Nov. 2:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Nov. 3:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, Nov. 4:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, Nov. 5:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Activity Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Village Manager Reports* heading**

Population count certified – In a recent letter from the Illinois Secretary of State, Oak Park's 2021 Census population count of 54,583 residents was officially certified. This is an increase of 2,705 residents from the 51,878 residents certified from the 2010 Census. The Illinois Municipal Code requires the Secretary of State to certify the latest Census data for each municipality in the state. [Click here to see the official certification](#) and letter from the Illinois Secretary of State.

Trick-or-treating set – Official trick-or-treating hours will be 1 to 5:30 p.m. again this year. Guidelines and recommendations on how to celebrate as safely as possible with COVID-19 still present in the community have been widely disseminated to the public and posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/halloween. The website also has signs residents can download and print to make it clear if they are participating in trick-or-treating or have opted out. A news story also has been posted on the Village website home page should anyone need to check last minutes for hours – [click here to view](#).

Leaf collection begins next week – The annual fall leaf collection begins Monday (Nov. 1) and continues through the week of Dec. 6. Six pickups are planned for each quadrant of the Village, [based on address](#). Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates, to be

collected the following day. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep their leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. In addition, residents are urged to consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch instead of raking. [More information is posted on the Village website.](#)

Season's final Farmers' Market – The Oak Park Farmers' Market season comes to a close tomorrow (Sat. Oct. 30). The tradition of serving [stone soup](#) made from vendor vegetables will return, with soup ladled up from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty. Patrons are urged to help make the event earth-friendly by bringing their own mugs. In addition, Pilgrim Church will be selling chocolate donuts and plain donuts with chocolate and apple cinnamon icing. More information on the Oak Park Farmer's Market is posted at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Booster clinic planned - The Oak Park Health Department has organized a drive-through COVID-19 vaccine booster clinic that will be hosted by the Illinois Department of Public Health from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5 at the Oak Park Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Health officials anticipate that the Prizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will be available at the clinic. More information, including a link to register, will be posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/vaccine early next week once plans are finalized. The Health Department is also reminding residents that booster shots are widely available to those who are eligible at most national pharmacy chains.

Storm damage report – The Forestry Division of the Public Works Department reported that a tree fell across Oak Park Avenue near Iowa Street on Sunday night, as high winds swept across the region. Most of the local damage was reported in south Oak Park, where several large limbs fell into streets, and many smaller limbs littered the parkways. All of the limbs and brush had been cleared by mid-week.

Parking pilot feedback update – Efforts still are underway to solicit feedback on the parking pilot program. Seventy-five signs have been placed throughout the parking pilot area to encourage residents and parkers to take the [online parking pilot program survey](#). The signs will remain up through November 15. Residents who live within the pilot area bounded by Harlem Avenue east to Oak Park Avenue and South Boulevard south to Harrison Street, including portions of the adjacent business districts, were specifically asked to take the survey. However, residents Village wide also are invited to participate since results may help determine if aspects of the pilot program should be implemented in other areas of the community. The policies the survey is rating include standardized parking limits, exemptions, meter time extensions and graduated pricing at pay stations with the goal of simplifying Oak Park's parking restrictions and regulations.

Ridgeland Avenue bridge repair update – The second stage of the bridge repair project over the I-290 Eisenhower expressway is still in progress. Due to material delays, the project is now anticipated to be completed mid-November. Traffic over the expressway remains restricted to one lane in each direction. The two lanes of open traffic currently are diverted to the west side of the roadway, and the east side is closed for repairs. Pedestrian access is limited to the west side of the bridge.

Oak Park Avenue update – Topsoil placement was delayed again due to weather and material shortages. Parkway restoration and sod installation are expected to begin early next week. Updates on the Oak Park Avenue project are posted at www.opaveanew.com

Resurfacing project update – Weather delayed progress on the upcoming resurfacing project of various streets. Paving activity is now expected to begin November 1. The project is still on track to be completed by late November.

Miscellaneous construction updates - Pete's Fresh Market is scheduled to fence off its construction site in early November. Work to relocate the underground electrical and communications facilities on Euclid Avenue from Madison Street to Randolph Street will start in early to mid-November.

Employee news – There are several new faces among Village staff. Donald Gordon is our new HR Coordinator, Arlene Pedraza has joined the Finance Department as a Budget & Revenue Analyst, Vanessa Matheny is the new Grants Supervisor in the Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department and Cindy Hansen has joined the Health Department as an Administrative Assistant. Donald, who is a graduate of Roosevelt University, previously served as an HR specialist with Meijer, an employee relations specialist for Walgreens and has held a number of other HR and recruiting roles. Arlene, who has a finance degree from the University of Illinois Chicago, has worked in operations and trading for petroleum products in Chicago, Houston and New York, as an analyst at the Chicago Board of trade and most recently as a long-term substitute teacher in School District 97. Vanessa, who brings a masters of social work from Aurora University and a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, previously was the contracts manager for the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township. A career administrative professional with 20-plus years of experience in office management and executive administration, Cindy has worked for Planned Parenthood of Illinois, Chicago Public Media (WBEZ 91.5 FM) and the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. She has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois Chicago and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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