



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 21, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, October 24:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, October 25:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Disability Access Commission, 6 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, October 26:
 - Police Pension Board, 8 a.m., Police Roll Call Room
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, October 27:
 - Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, October 28:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Status report bulletin* heading**

Early voting starts Monday - Suburban Cook County voters can cast an early ballot for the 2022 Gubernatorial Election starting Monday, Oct. 24 through Monday, Nov. 7 at Village Hall. A range of information about early voting, including weekday and weekend hours, is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/earlyvoting. Voting booths will again be in Room 101, and voters will enter Village Hall via the courtyard entrance. Voters who park in the main lot will be directed to walk around the outside of the building to enter from the courtyard. Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day Nov. 8. More information about the election, including Election Day polling place locations, is available at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections.

Health Department vaccinates vulnerable populations – The Oak Park Health Department has wrapped up a week of special vaccination events for residents particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. The community health and emergency preparedness teams, along with volunteers and other Health Department staff, vaccinated nearly 300 people last week. In addition to the regularly-scheduled Tuesday clinic, staff vaccinated more than 200 older adults living in the congregate settings of Mills Tower, Oak Park Arms and The Oaks. These residents are often homebound and have health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to infection. The Health Department will continue regularly scheduled COVID vaccination clinics at Cheney Mansion every Tuesday this fall. More details about COVID clinics, vaccinations and boosters as we head into winter can be found at www.oak-park.us/vaccine.

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church historical marker – The community is invited to participate in the installation of a commemorative plaque that marks the site of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, which served as the cornerstone of Oak Park's aspiring African American community in the early 20th century. The ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 1100 W. Westgate St.

The commemorative plaque and dedication ceremony are the result of a collaboration between the Oak Park Reparations Task Force, Black Residents of Oak Park, Oak Park River Forest Museum, Oak Park Area Arts Council and the Village of Oak Park.

CDBG Program Year 2022 underway – Each year the Village receives an allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. CDBG funds are intended to support a wide variety of community and economic development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development and improved community services. For Program Year 2022, which began Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30, 2023, the Village received an allocation of than \$1.5 million in CDBG funds. The funding will support the following organizations that serve Oak Park: Beyond Hunger, Community Support Services, Hephzibah Children’s Association, Housing Forward, IWS Children’s Clinic, NAMI Metro Suburban, New Moms, North West Housing Partnership, Oak Park Regional Housing Center, Our Future Reads, Sarah’s Inn, Thrive Counseling Center, UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago, Way Back Inn and Y.E.M.B.A. In addition, CDBG funds will also support the Village’s Single-Family Rehabilitation Program, Small Rental Rehabilitation Program, Lead Hazard Reduction Program and code enforcement efforts, all of which are overseen by the Development Customer Service Department’s Neighborhood Services Division. Sidewalk improvements, alley improvements, street resurfacing and waterline improvements overseen by the Public Works Department and Farmers’ Market operations overseen by the Health Department will also be bolstered by CDBG funds in the coming year. More information about the CDBG program is at www.oak-park.us/cdbg.

Village provides support for Way Back Inn – October is Youth Substance Use Prevention Month, offering the opportunity to highlight the work being by the non-profit [The Way Back Inn](#), which receives support through the Village’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for facility improvements at its Oak Park-based residential treatment facility, Grateful House, and its counseling program for family members of participants in recovery. The Way Back Inn has been providing treatment services in Oak Park since 1974. The Grateful House is one of the oldest recovery homes for women in the United States. The Extended Residential Care Program, offered at Grateful House, provides participants with personalized addiction therapy, stress reduction training, nutritional guidance and financial management training. Each participant lives in the home for 90 to 365 days to successfully achieve sobriety. The Village’s Communications Department recently worked with the Development Customer Services Department to produce a video highlighting The Way Back Inn’s contributions to the community – [click here to view](#).

American House ribbon cutting – A ribbon-cutting event was held Thursday at the American House Senior Living Facility at 703 Madison St. Trustees Chibuike Enyia and Ravi Parakkat were joined by Village Manager Kevin Jackson and staff from the Development Customer Services, Fire and Police departments at the celebration. The seven-story, 177-unit development offers independent living, assisted living and memory care and features dining areas, fitness centers, multiple outdoor terraces, a movie theatre and indoor parking. American House is working to achieve LEED Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. As part of the Village’s development agreement with American House, several improvements have been completed along Madison Street, and the developer REDICO has installed a new public art sculpture in front of the building.

Short-term rental licensing update – Development Customer Service staff has issued almost 76 short-term rental licenses since the Village Board approved the new licensing program. An additional 12 license applications have been submitted and Village staff is busy scheduling the inspections needed to complete the licensing process. Short-term rentals through companies such as Airbnb pay the same 4-percent tax as the Village’s hotel and bed and breakfast businesses. Through the first

eight months of 2022, short-term rentals have contributed \$81,025 in hotel/motel tax dollars to the Village's general fund.

Vehicle license sales update – The Village has sold 17,101 vehicle licenses totaling \$1,152,228 in revenue. This represents a 10-percent drop in sales compared to last year, though residents can still purchase vehicle licenses through the end of the year. The Police Department's Parking Enforcement Officers continue to use license plate recognition technology to ensure compliance. [Click here](#) to view a chart that compares year-end vehicle licenses sales over the past three years with sales through Oct. 14 of this year.

Sewer improvements update – The first two layers of asphalt pavement are being placed on Thomas Street this week, followed by utility surveys and pavement milling of the three intersections within construction limits. On Lenox Street, pavement milling will be performed at the Elwood Avenue and Ridgeland Avenue intersections, followed by the installation of a new detector loop for the Ridgeland traffic signal. Parkway restoration, including the installation of new sod, is planned for Thomas, Lenox and Kenilworth avenues, which are the three sites undergoing sewer improvements as part of this year's project.

Street resurfacing update – Construction work is complete on Taylor Avenue, Superior Street and East Avenue, with the exception of landscaping and thermoplastic pavement markings. Landscaping is set to begin next week at these locations and wrap up by Nov. 4. Elsewhere, pavement reconstruction is underway along Kenilworth Avenue. Next week the contractor is expected to install the initial layer of asphalt on Kenilworth, Maple and Linden avenues. This will be followed by one final adjustment of roadway utility structures to grade across the various street resurfacing locations.

Pavement preservation – The contractor pushed back the start of the pavement preservation project to the week of Oct. 24. The project includes patching of asphalt pavements, sealing cracks in the roadway and installing pavement rejuvenators to extend the life of the asphalt. Work will be taking place at multiple locations throughout the Village, with crack filling primarily occurring in the south half of the Village. The contractor will be posting *No Parking* signs in advance of any work impacting on-street parking.

Sidewalk repair project – This year's sidewalk repair project will focus on east/west sidewalks in the north half of the Village. Plans call for work to begin as soon as next week, but the project may be delayed due to a concrete shortage currently impacting a range of construction projects in the region.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Work for the relocation of the Village's water and sewer mains at the site of the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street has been delayed due to the current concrete shortage and is now planned to start the week of November 21. Meanwhile, underground utility and electrical work is ongoing for the new development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets.