



## Village Manager's Report Week ending July 14, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, July 17:
  - Village Board, 6:00 p.m. at 19<sup>th</sup> Century Club, 178 Forest Ave.
- Tuesday, July 18:
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7 p.m. in Room 215
- Wednesday, July 19:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 124
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
  - Housing Programs Advisory Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
- Thursday, July 20:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, July 21:
  - No meetings scheduled

**National Night Out event set for Aug. 1** – The Oak Park Police Department is making plans for a National Night Out event from 5 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1 on the south lawn at Village Hall. The free, family-friendly event will feature a bounce house, music, food, beverages and more. More than 17,000 communities nationwide participate in the [National Night Out](#) campaign, which takes place each year on the first Tuesday in August. The Oak Park Police Department's celebration aims to strengthen partnerships and positive interactions between law enforcement officials and members of the community.

**Parkway planting community engagement** – The Village is seeking feedback from the community about a proposal to amend the Village code to allow residents to plant in the parkway adjacent to their properties. The effort would also specifically promote the planting of native and pollinator plants in the parkway as a way of reaching Climate Ready Oak Park goals around biodiversity and green infrastructure. The parkway is the public property located between the sidewalk and the street curb. Residents can take a survey, leave comments and find more information at [www.engageoakpark.com/parkway-planting-ordinance](http://www.engageoakpark.com/parkway-planting-ordinance).

**Economic vitality update** – The Village collected more than \$100,000 in hotel/motel tax revenue through the first five months of the year. The revenue from the longstanding 4% tax on room stays in Airbnb establishments and Oak Park's bed and breakfast and local hotel translate to more than \$1.6 million spent on local lodging from January through May. The

five-month totals are the highest hotel/motel tax collections on record, outpacing by 15% the total from 2022, which is the next highest total on record for the same time period.

**CDBG action plan update** – Each year the Village prepares an annual action plan in order to receive federal CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A draft of the PY2023 action plan is posted at [www.oak-park.us/cdbg](http://www.oak-park.us/cdbg). A public hearing on the action plan is scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. on July 24 in Room 101 at Village Hall. The action plan describes the funding allocations the Village is making for PY2023, which begins on Oct. 1, 2023. The purpose of the CDBG program is to meet the needs of primarily low and moderate-income persons. Any comments concerning the Draft PY2023 Action Plan can also be submitting in writing to Grants Supervisor Vanessa Matheny at [grants@oak-park.us](mailto:grants@oak-park.us).

**Alley lighting upgrades** - More than 1,000 lights mounted on power poles in alleys throughout the Village are in line for an upgrade. Next week crews from contractor Lyons & Pinner will begin replacing the old mercury vapor lights with new LED bulbs that will reduce energy consumption, provide better lighting levels and reduce maintenance costs. The project is expected to last three months, with work in each alley expected to last 30 to 60 minutes. The new light fixtures are also designed to direct light to the ground rather than into the sky, making them dark sky compliant since they do not contribute to light pollution.

**Hispanic Heritage Month planning** – The Village’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is making plans to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month, which takes place from September 15 to October 15. Any member of the community who would like to participate in the planning process is invited to email [DEI@oak-park.us](mailto:DEI@oak-park.us) to get involved.

**Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program vouchers available** – Oak Park Township is accepting applications from income-eligible seniors age 60 and older to receive \$50 vouchers that can be used at the Oak Park Farmers’ Market. The vouchers are available through the federally funded Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program. Vouchers are available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. To apply, please bring ID and proof of income to the Oak Park Township Senior Services office at 130 S. Oak Park Ave. between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on weekdays. A new feature in 2023 is each eligible senior in a shared household may apply. Information about eligibility requirements is posted in the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program section at [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket).

**Adjudication hosts youth martial arts camp** – The Adjudication Department teamed up with Master S.H. Yu Martial Arts to host the Village’s first-ever one-day youth martial arts camp Wednesday morning at the Julian Middle School gymnasium. The free camp welcomed kids ages 6 through 14 who live or attend school in Oak Park and included activities such as learning about blocks, kicks, punches, falls and throws. The camp was also intended to help kids develop skills that focus on discipline, confidence, awareness, personal edification and self-defense, including forms of conflict resolution and techniques for identifying danger.

**Employee news** – The Village welcomed Huzaifa Nadeem as a new Systems Analyst in the Information Technology Department. Huzaifa recently graduated from University of Illinois Chicago with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. His concentration was in data analytics, mobile app development and UX/UI design.

**Protect against West Nile Virus** – The [Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) is warning that recent heavy rains combined with warm temperatures will likely lead to an increase in the mosquito population, which will in turn raise the threat of the mosquito-borne [West Nile Virus](#). Illinois reported 32 human cases and three deaths last year. The severity of this season has not been established, but public health officials recommend taking precautions against being bitten and eliminating mosquito breeding opportunities. These steps include using insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol. Residents also are urged to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites by cleaning roof gutters, storing containers upside down and emptying birdbaths every few days. For more information visit [www.oak-park.us/fightthebite](http://www.oak-park.us/fightthebite).

**CTA blue line project to impact Oak Park riders** – The Chicago Transit Authority is encouraging anyone who uses the Blue Line Forest Park branch to consider alternate routes starting July 23 when the first phase of a multi-year improvement project begins. The Blue Line Forest Park branch includes the Austin, Oak Park and Harlem stops in Oak Park. The multi-phased project aims to make the Blue Line's Forest Park Branch faster, safer, more reliable and accessible for riders. During the initial phase, which is expected to continue into early October, trains to and from Forest Park will begin and end at the Illinois Medical District stop. Riders who use the Blue Line in Oak Park to reach the Loop or all points beyond to O'Hare can consider using local buses or the Green Line. Complete details about the project and information about alternative routes can be found on the CTA website at [www.transitchicago.com/fprebuild](http://www.transitchicago.com/fprebuild).

**Green Landscape Technology Town Hall planned** – The Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4) is joining with the Urban Efficiency Group to host a Green Landscape Technology Virtual Town Hall from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, July 20. The event offers an opportunity for community members, landscape industry professionals and elected officials to learn about the adverse impacts of gas-powered technology in today's landscape and join the conversation about the necessary steps to transition to electrically-operated lawn care. [Click here to register](#). C4 is also conducting a community survey related to green landscape technology. [Click here to complete the survey](#).

**Sidewalk sales happening this weekend** – The Downtown Oak Park and Hemingway business districts are teaming up to host the Shop Outdoor Sale at participating retailers. The event began Thursday and continues through Sunday, July 16. Click here for a list of retailers offering end-of-season sales. Find a list of retailers offering end-of-season sales at [www.downtownoakpark.net/event/shop-outdoor-sale](http://www.downtownoakpark.net/event/shop-outdoor-sale). The Oak Park Arts District is also hosting its Sizzling Summer Sidewalk Soiree this Saturday, July 15.

**Illinois Solar for All funding available** – Illinois Solar for All is a state-funded solar energy program that allows income-qualified homeowners, renters and nonprofits to take advantage of the benefits of solar. This program supports installing panels on rooftops and also subscribing to community solar, with no panels required. Learn more and find details about eligibility requirements on the Illinois Solar for All website at [www.illinoissfa.com](http://www.illinoissfa.com).

**Library hosting Disability Pride March** – The Oak Park Public Library is hosting a Disability Pride March from 11 to 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, July 25 at the Main Library. The march is

intended to celebrate disabled people and disability as an identity and is for disabled people and allies. More information is on the Library website – [click here to view](#).

**Forest and Ontario improvements** – Curb, sidewalk and pavement removals will continue into early next week as part of the construction project in the area of Forest Avenue and Ontario Street. Electric work will begin once the concrete is replaced. Traffic patterns may be altered throughout the day and include closures to through traffic to accommodate work, but one line will remain open for nearby residents at all times.

**Water and sewer improvements** – Construction for this year’s water and sewer project is tentatively scheduled to start the week of July 24. The contractor is working on material deliveries, saw cutting and setting up traffic control along Augusta Street, where the project will begin. When work along Augusta is completed later this year, crews will move to Euclid Avenue for water and sewer repairs just south of Lake Street.

**Street resurfacing project** – The contractor is ready to place the final surface course on Elmwood Avenue and Ontario Streets. Thermoplastic pavement markings will follow next week. Restoration work and other punchlist items are expected to continue through July.

**Division Street improvement project** – This week the contractor continued to mill the existing pavement along the entire stretch of Division Street. Asphalt binder course is expected to be installed next week and the surface course pavement is expected to be installed the first week of August

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – The first five alleys in this year’s alley improvement project are complete, the sixth is scheduled to open next week and all locations should be wrapped up by mid-August. Along Roosevelt Road, crews are installing pavement and temporary striping from Kenilworth Avenue to Harlem Avenue as part of the Illinois Department of Transportation resurfacing project.