



Village Manager's Report Week ending July 21, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, July 24:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, July 25:
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m. in Room 101
- Wednesday, July 26:
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Thursday, July 27:
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m. in Room 101
- Friday, July 28:
 - No meetings scheduled

Save the date for community conversation on climate plan – The Village is marking the one-year anniversary of the adoption of the [Climate Ready Oak Park plan](#) by hosting a community discussion on Oak Park's progress and goals in the area of environmental sustainability. 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. Chief Sustainability Officer Marcella Bondie Keenan will be joined by other community partners in providing information about Oak Park's climate plan and gathering feedback around three key questions: Where are we today on climate as a community? Where do we want to go in the next year? How do we get there in a climate-just way? After the event, the Village will publish a brief report celebrating Oak Park's collective progress over the past year and community strategies for moving forward in the next year. Anyone planning to attend can register for the event on the Library's website – [click here to register](#).

Opioid overdose prevention update – Two months after the installation of boxes throughout the community where members of the public can access free Naloxone and other resources related to opioid overdoses, the Public Health Department's Opioid Overdose Prevention Project has distributed more than 450 doses of the life-saving medication. In May, five boxes were installed in locations based on opioid overdose data collected from Oak Park first responders. Two more boxes were installed in July at the Main Branch of the Library and in Maple Park. The boxes are restocked with supplies weekly by the Health Department, or whenever the department is notified that more kits are needed. A total of 165 kits have been distributed via the boxes, most of which are accessible to the public 24 hours a day, and more than 60 additional kits have been distributed by the Health Department staff

through trainings and community events. More information, including a map showing where the boxes are located, is at www.oak-park.us/naloxone.

Still time to offer Oak Park Avenue streetscape feedback – The Village continues to gather input as part of the planning process for a 2025 streetscaping and utility project in the Hemingway District along Oak Park Avenue. Anyone who was not able to attend an open house last month can learn more about the project and offer feedback at www.engageoakpark.com/renew-the-avenue. The page includes a survey and opportunities to share ideas related to the project, the scope of which includes replacing sidewalks, roadways, lighting and amenities in the business district as well as creating new public spaces to replace deteriorated infrastructure and enhance the area.

Health Department hosting COVID booster clinic – The Oak Park Public Health Department is hosting its monthly immunization clinic from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 27 at Cheney Mansion. Health Department staff will be offering free COVID booster shots, which are recommended for anyone who is immunocompromised, is 65 years or older or who has not received a bivalent booster. This clinic will also offer vaccines for children who have never been vaccinated for COVID. [Click here to register for an appointment](#). For more information about the monthly clinics visit www.oak-park.us/covid19vaccine or contact the Health Department at 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us.

Vehicle license sales up almost 10% - The Village sold 16,190 vehicle licenses before the deadline to purchase at the lowest rate passed on July 14. While the annual rate increased by \$20 after the deadline, residents who have not yet purchased their license are urged to do so to avoid receiving a citation. Every resident is required to purchase a license for each owned or leased motor vehicle. This year's sales are up 9.7% compared to the same 11-week period last year. [Click here](#) for a chart comparing vehicle license sales over the past few years.

930 North Boulevard update – Work continues at the multi-family building at 930 North Boulevard, which was declared uninhabitable by the Village in October 2021 due to structural issues. This week, Development Services Department staff inspected repairs with the property's contractor, Cubed Construction. The property's engineers outlined the process of installing a metal bracket on structural concrete columns throughout the building. Upon completion of this work, Cubed Construction will schedule inspections by both the Village and a third-party agency to ensure the brackets are installed per design. It is understood that the floors will remain unlevel for the remaining life of the structure even after work to fix the identified structural problems is complete. Village staff was also informed that monitors will be installed and surveyors will be hired to monitor the structure for movement over the next five years.

Economic vitality update - Short term rental opportunities in Oak Park are generating a lot of business. Since the Village's start of the short-term rental licensing program in 2022, the Village has issued 112 licenses. In addition, 15 short-term rental license applications have been submitted and are currently under consideration for approval by Village staff. Short-term rentals, through companies such as Airbnb, pay the same 4% tax as the Village's hotel and bed and breakfast businesses. To date, the tax has resulted in more than \$64,500 in

revenue, which amounts to the highest five-month total on record. [Click here](#) for a chart showing an overview of the current short-term rental licensing landscape.

Oak Park business district news – Development Customer Services Department staff is working to assist interested business owners in both the Pleasant Business District and the Hemingway Business District as they work to re-form previously active business associations. This week, Assistant DCS Director Cameron Davis attended the first meeting of a large group of Hemingway Business District representatives who are beginning their work in forming the business association. In addition, Cameron continues his work with interested business owners in the Pleasant District as they continue to do their due diligence in forming their business association.

Vehicle immobilization reminder – As a reminder, vehicle owners with 20 or more unpaid citations are subject to immobilization. Registered vehicle owners will receive a notice giving them 21 days to pay all outstanding citations to avoid immobilization of their vehicles. Notices are sent to the address listed as the vehicle's registered address with the Illinois Secretary of State or the applicable state department of motor vehicles if the vehicle has an out-of-state registration. A \$150 fee will apply to all vehicles that are immobilized. Towed vehicles will incur additional charges. Vehicle owners will be able to pay online through the new *ParkOakPark* app, available for free download from the [App Store](#), [Google Play](#) or on the web at parkoakpark.org. Questions should be directed to the Village's Adjudication Office at 708.358.5630 or adjudication@oak-park.us.

Green Landscape Technology Town Hall held – Village staff joined counterparts from the Park District of Oak Park as participants in a Green Landscape Technology Virtual Town Hall hosted Thursday by the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4) and the Urban Efficiency Group. The event offered 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.

Regular bulk item collection resumes – Free collection of flood-damaged bulk items is wrapping up this week. The regular requirement for pink stickers to be attached to all bulk items will return next week. Residents still in need of assistance with collection of flood debris can contact Public Works at 708.358.5700. More information about disposal of bulk items and where to purchase pink stickers is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/refuse.

Bee allergy registry – The Village allows residents to keep bees on their property, but will not issue a permit for an apiary on a property within 150 feet of a residence of a person with an anaphylactic reaction to bee stings. Anyone who has been diagnosed with such an allergy by a licensed physician is urged to provide documentation to the Public Health Department at health@oak-park.us. More information about beekeeping in Oak Park is at www.oak-park.us/health.

Registration open for Pie Bake-Off – Registration is open for the Oak Park Farmers' Market's annual Pie Bake-Off. The contest will take place Sept. 9 and is open to contestants aged 12 or over, or contestants 11 and younger who are accompanied by an adult baker. More

details can be found on the contest entry form at www.oak-park.us/2023piebakeoff. Entry forms may be submitted through Sept. 1 at the Farmers' Market information tent or by emailing farmersmarket@oak-park.us. The Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine every Saturday through October. More information is at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

International Monarch Monitoring Blitz planned – Oak Parkers are invited to join thousands of participants from across Canada, Mexico and the United States in the International Monarch Monitoring Blitz during a 10-day period from July 28 to Aug. 6. The initiative calls for people to look for monarchs and milkweed plants and examine them for monarch eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises. The Blitz is organized by the Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership. [Click here](#) for more information and to learn about how to submit your data. The data collected helps researchers answer key questions about monarch butterflies so that conservationists can identify and prioritize actions to conserve the species.

Sustainability events in the area – The Office of Sustainability and Resilience is highlighting several events taking place locally over the next few weeks. A tour of native garden tours presented by West Cook Wild Ones and Interfaith Green Network is taking place from 1 to 5 p.m. this Saturday, July 22. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets. A bilingual tree walk is also planned for 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, July 28 at the Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago. More information is on the Sustain Oak Park website – [click here to view](#).

Community solar program – Illinois' community solar program allows electricity customers to enjoy the benefits of solar energy without installing panels on their own homes. A community solar subscription offers residents a monthly share of a solar farm that will help offset some of their home's electricity usage. Thanks to affordable clean energy expanded under the Illinois Clean & Equitable Jobs Act, community solar customers can save roughly 10-20% on the supply portion of their electric bills. More information is available on the Citizens Utility Board website – [click here to view](#).

Forest and Ontario improvements – The electric sub-contractor for the project around the intersection of Forest Avenue and Ontario Street will start conduit installation on Monday, July 24. Concrete removals are delayed to coincide with the upcoming brick removal and replacement work. Traffic patterns may be altered throughout the day to accommodate work, but one lane will remain open for nearby residents at all times.

Water and sewer improvements – Detour signage for eastbound and westbound traffic was installed this week in the area around Augusta Street and Lombard Avenue. Construction work will begin next week starting at the Augusta/Lombard intersection. All impacted residents have been notified and received parking passes.

Division Street improvement project - Roadway milling along Division Street is complete and patching is wrapping up. Binder course is expected to be installed along the length of the roadway in Oak Park next week.

Street resurfacing project – The contractor placed the final lifts of asphalt and placed final pavement markings this week for this year’s resurfacing project. Restoration work and other punch list items are expected to continue through July.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Asphalt will soon be placed on the first few reconstructed alleys scheduled for improvement this year. Alley lighting upgrades are ramping up, with the replacement of bulbs expected to take 30 to 60 minutes per alley with minor traffic disruptions. The tower crane has been removed from the new development at the intersection Pleasant Street and Marion Street, and drywall hanging, taping, and pointing work is ongoing for the third and fourth levels. Along Roosevelt Road, Illinois Department of Transportation crews are cleaning drainage structures and installing temporary pavement striping as part of the state’s resurfacing project.