



## Village Manager's Report Week ending September 1, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, September 4:
  - Labor Day – Village Hall closed
  
- Tuesday, September 5:
  - Village Board, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
  - Board of Health, 6 p.m. in Room 101
  - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 102
  
- Wednesday, September 6:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
  
- Thursday, September 7:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Friday, September 8:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Village gathering feedback about housing** – The Village is partnering with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus in a comprehensive review of housing in Oak Park that will result in an updated Homes for a Changing Region Housing Report for the community. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has completed four focus group sessions and conducted one-on-one interviews with key Village staff members. Individual interviews with Village Trustees are also being scheduled. This week the Village launched a community survey aimed at gathering feedback about key housing challenges and priorities in the community. All Oak Park residents and stakeholders are invited to participate by completing the survey at [www.engageoakpark.com/housingsurvey](http://www.engageoakpark.com/housingsurvey). A public meeting is also planned for 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 at Village Hall, offering community members another opportunity to provide feedback for the study, which aims to identify top housing issues in Oak Park and develop goals against which Village officials can evaluate housing programs, policies and development outcomes.

**Economic vitality update** – Development Customer Services Department staff have processed a record number of Commercial Façade Improvement Program (C-FIP) grants in 2023. Seven Oak Park businesses have completed façade improvements this year, investing more than \$63,000 in new signage, awnings and window improvements at their properties. In total, the Village has granted \$31,608 in 2023 to help make these business façade improvements a reality. Owners of commercial property or businesses who are considering façade improvements are encouraged to contact the Village at [business@oak-](mailto:business@oak-)

[park.us](#) for more information about the Commercial Façade Improvement Program. [Click here](#) for a complete list of the 25 improvements completed with C-FIP funding since 2018.

**Vehicle license update** – The Village has sold 17,574 vehicle licenses totaling more than \$1.15 million in revenue since licenses went on sale in May. This represents a 7.5% increase compared to the same time period last year. [Click here](#) for a chart comparing vehicle license sales over the past few years. While the 2023 information in the chart is through Aug. 25, the 2019-2022 data reflects licenses purchased for those entire years. 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. Rates vary by type of vehicle, and a \$20 late fee is now applied to purchases.

**Parking restrictions eased for holiday weekend** – Starting tonight, overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced on most Oak Park streets for Labor Day weekend. Overnight on-street parking will be lifted at 2:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2 and resume at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6. All other parking regulations remain in effect, including restrictions in zones reserved for permit holders, daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. The holiday parking schedule for all of 2023 is posted at [www.oak-park.us/holidayparking](http://www.oak-park.us/holidayparking).

**Holiday traffic enforcement** – As residents plan their end-of-summer celebrations to mark Labor Day weekend, the Oak Park Police Department is partnering with law enforcement agencies across the state to stop unbuckled and impaired driving. Police officials remind drivers that even a small amount of alcohol or other drug can impair judgment and reaction times, making driving unsafe. The enforcement campaign began in August and runs through the early-morning hours of Sept. 5. More information is on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

**Village Hall closed for Labor Day** – Village Hall will be closed on Mon., Sept. 4 in observance of Labor Day. Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection services will also be delayed by one day next week as a result of the holiday. Regular Village Hall business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are encouraged to call the Police Department non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

**Division Street improvement project** – Crews placed the final asphalt surface on Division Street this week. Thermoplastic striping is expected to be installed next week, which will conclude scheduled work in the roadway for the season-long project that included water and sewer main upgrades and utility improvements. Installation of sod in parkways along Division will occur later in the month but will be less disruptive to vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

**Dog leash reminder** – The Health Department and Office of Communications are teaming up to remind dog owners to “*use a leash, capiche?*” [Click here](#) for a graphic featuring that tagline that is being used with Village social media posts noting that all dogs using any street, sidewalk, parkway or public area within Oak Park must be on a leash no longer than 8 feet controlled by the owner. The Park District of Oak Park offers two areas where dogs

can run off leash in Maple Park and Ridgeland Common. Both dog parks are free to Oak Park residents who have obtained a dog park pass. [Find more information about dog parks on the Park District website](#). More information about Animal Control is available on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/animalcontrol](http://www.oak-park.us/animalcontrol).

**Employee news** – Cindy Morgan, a Customer Services Representative in the Development Customer Services Department’s Permit Processing Division, recently earned her International Code Council (ICC) Permit Technician certification. In doing so she passed an exam comprised of material that includes the international building code, international zoning code, legal aspects of code enforcement and the international property maintenance code. In other employee news, the Village bid farewell to Residential Beat Officer John Rumoro, who retired this week after 30 years with the Police Department. Officer Rumoro is a familiar face to many in town as he served 25 years of his career with the Community Policing Division.

**Sustainability update** – The Park District of Oak Park is hosting a discussion titled *Native Seeds: Fall Planting* from 6:30 to 8 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 2 at the Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center. The talk will teach participants about how some native seeds need to be planted in the fall in order to bloom in the spring. The fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents. [Click here to register](#). Anyone interested in native gardening is also encouraged to complete the Village’s [pesticide-free pledge](#) and to fill out the Village’s [biodiversity survey](#), which aims to gather information on where there are existing projects in Oak Park that support biodiversity.

**Monarch butterfly migration** – Be on the lookout for monarch butterflies in the coming days as officials say monarch populations in the Chicago area tend to peak the first week of September. [Click here](#) for a map showing monarch butterfly fall and spring migration. The Village is doing its part to help support the monarch, an iconic North American species whose populations have declined dramatically in recent years. In addition to signing the [Mayors’ Monarch Pledge](#), the Village plants native milkweed and nectar plants on public properties when appropriate across the community, including traffic diverters, cul-de-sacs, medians and planters. The Public Works Center is also home to a [certified Monarch butterfly waystation](#). Anyone interested in getting involved as a monarch and pollinator advocate can check out a panel discussion recording from the National Wildlife Federation titled “[How to Plant With A Purpose](#).” More resources are available on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/monarchpledge](http://www.oak-park.us/monarchpledge).

**Visit Oak Park update** – Annie Coakley, Executive Director for Visit Oak Park, and Cameron Davis from the Village’s Development Customer Services Department met this week with the owner of the Carlton Hotel to discuss ways that Visit Oak Park can continue to offer promotional assistance to the hotel, along with Oak Park’s local Harvey House Bed and Breakfast and all of the owners of area short-term rental properties that make-up the community’s overnight stay hospitality businesses. As a part of Visit Oak Park’s efforts, a new promotional video was released this week highlighting overnight accommodation opportunities in the area, with special emphasis on Oak Park. [Click here to watch the video](#).

**Oak Park Commons groundbreaking planned** – A groundbreaking ceremony for the Oak Park Commons intergenerational cohousing development is planned for 1 p.m. on Sept. 14 at 839 Madison St., the site of the 24-unit development. The project is Illinois' first official cohousing community. Cohousing is a style of living in which each unit is individually owned, but common space is shared. Common space consists of elements that foster connection and social interaction among residents such as a large communal kitchen and dining area, laundry, and recreational spaces. The idea behind cohousing is to bring residents together to enjoy community activities such as movies, parties and games, while assisting each other with things like pet care, home repair, carpooling and elder care. For more information, visit [www.oakparkcohousing.org](http://www.oakparkcohousing.org).

**Arts District event set for Sept. 9** – Save the date for the Oak Park Arts District's Harvest on Harrison event from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. The event offers an opportunity for patrons to visit favorite Arts District businesses and unique sidewalk vendors all while under the crescent moon, which will be visible in the daytime skies. [Click here](#) for a flyer promoting the event.

**2023 street resurfacing project** – Construction activity related to the Village's annual street resurfacing project will begin in the next few weeks. The project will consist of resurfacing various streets and replacing curbs/gutters and sidewalks as needed. This week, the contractor installed inlet filters at all locations and placed no parking signs on stretches of roadway scheduled for resurfacing on Augusta Street and Cuyler Avenue, where resurfacing will begin. Once those two locations are complete, the contractor will start at the northern part of town and move south for the remaining locations. The anticipated completion date for the entire project is the end of November. All affected residents and nearby schools have been notified. Meanwhile, the final task for the 2022 resurfacing project that carried over to this summer is parkway restoration that is slated for early September but may be delayed by warm weather.

**Forest and Ontario improvements** – The electric contractor is continuing to install conduit for lighting features. Single lanes of traffic will be closed, but plates or temporary trench fill will be used to re-open both lanes of traffic by the end of each day. Concrete and brick removals are expected to begin next week.

**Water and sewer improvements** – This week the contractor finished disinfecting and sampling the new water main on Augusta Street between Taylor Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Once the sampling results are reviewed, the contractor will transfer water services to the new water main. New storm structures were also installed this week at the corners of Augusta and Hayes, Humphrey and Taylor avenues.

**Alley lighting project** – Approximately 700 lights new energy-efficient LED bulbs have been installed so far this summer. The contractor expects to finish work in alleys between Madison Street and I-290 this week and wrap up the bulk of the project later this month.

**Pete's Fresh Market update** – The contractor for the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street is working on drafting construction notices for upcoming resurfacing work. Once the letters are approved and distributed to residents, the contractor will begin posting no parking signs on Euclid Avenue from Madison Street to Randolph Street.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – The Illinois Department of Transportation’s resurfacing project along Roosevelt Road that impacted Oak Park and several surrounding communities is now complete. Elsewhere, the contractor for this year’s alley improvement project will be working on punchlist items and any corrective work over the next few weeks, but residents will be able to access the alleys at all times. Work at the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets is forging ahead, with masonry façade being installed on the north and south elevations, bathroom tile, door and cabinet installation ongoing and preparations being made for ComEd electrical work at the site.