



Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 14, 2022

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, October 17:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber
- Tuesday, October 18:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, October 19:
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, October 20:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, October 21:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Both the Oak Park Health Department and Oak Park Police Department are doing their part to shine a light on Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Members of the Police Department are showing support by wearing special pink patches and pins throughout October in honor of survivors and those currently facing the disease. The highly visible patches help bring attention to the importance of early detection, an issue the Oak Park Public Health Department is working to highlight by sharing local resources available to help fight the disease, including the availability of free mammograms at Rush Hospital. More information is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/breastcancer.

Sustainability grant update – The Village has awarded 75 grants totaling \$511,000 to help residents pay for housing repairs that help improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The grants have been used to pay for the installation of new HVAC systems, insulation, solar panels, water heaters and energy efficient lighting. In some cases, grant recipients made multiple improvements to their homes. Grant funding is broken into three categories, and funding for two of the categories has already been exhausted. A total of \$200,000 was set aside for energy-efficiency grants for non-income-based residents, and all of those funds were distributed through 39 grants that averaged \$5,128. All \$225,000 set aside for solar grants were distributed to 24 recipients through grants that averaged \$9,375. There is still \$134,000 in grant funding available for income-eligible residents seeking to make energy-efficiency improvements. So far 12 income-eligible grants have been awarded, with each grant averaging \$7,170. More information about the grant program, which is administered

by the Development Customer Services Department's Neighborhood Services Division, is available at www.oak-park.us/housing.

Betty White memorial tree planting – Village officials were joined by Smokey the Bear and partners from the U.S. Forest Service, the National Association of Foresters and the Ad Council for a tree planting ceremony Friday to recognize Betty White and her lifelong dedication to protecting wildlife. A new swamp white oak tree was planted in the median along Randolph Street between Lombard and Harvey avenues. The location was chosen because it is approximately one block south of where Ms. White briefly lived after being born in Oak Park. Accompanying the tree is a plaque that acknowledges Ms. White as a devoted advocate for wildlife prevention, protecting our nation's forests and promoting Smokey Bear's message.

More filming in Oak Park - The Community Relations Department is currently working to process permits for the filming of two national television commercials next week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be in town next Wednesday and Thursday (Oct. 19-20) filming an anti-smoking campaign commercial with tips for former smokers. A second commercial produced by the Servant Foundation is also planned for Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 630 S. Kenilworth. This promotional spot will take a look at different viewpoints of religion.

Police Department receives federal grant – The Police Department learned this week it was awarded a \$9,745 grant to assist with training around de-escalating conflicts in the field. The grant was issued as part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Policing Development (CPD) grant program. The Police Department intends to use the grant funding to train select personnel in de-escalation techniques so those individuals can then train other members of the department.

Frank Lloyd Wright Races this Sunday – The Park District of Oak Park's annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races will bring street closures along the route from about 7 to 10 a.m. this Sunday, Oct. 16. Several streets will be closed and traffic flow on others will be restricted to one way. The Police Department will assist with traffic control during the event. Please observe all no parking signs and give yourself extra time to maneuver around the race course. [Click here](#) to view a map of the race route. More information about the event is posted at www.flwraces.com.

National Fire Prevention Week – The Oak Park Fire Department has marked [National Fire Prevention Week](#) by urging residents to practice a fire escape plan. This year's prevention week theme is an important one: "*Fire won't wait. Plan your escape.*" Fire officials say you may have as little as two minutes to escape after a smoke alarm sounds, which is why they recommend planning ahead and practicing an escape plan for your home. Messages highlighting the importance of planning a fire escape have been shared via the Village's social media channels throughout the week.

Pavement preservation work to begin – Crews are expected to begin pavement preservation work Monday at various locations throughout the Village. As part of the project, three concurrent contractors will be performing crackfilling, pavement rejuvenation and pavement

patching. On streets designated for patching, the contractor will grind areas of the road, sweep the area and fill the area with new asphalt. On streets designated for rejuvenation, the contractor will apply a thin layer of asphalt emulsion to reduce oxidation, seal the surface and increase the service life of the roadway. A map showing the streets selected for patching and rejuvenation is posted on the Village website – [click here to view](#). Due to the nature of the project, it is difficult to determine when contractors will arrive on each block selected for improvements. The contractor will post no parking signs 24 hours prior to work beginning, and letters have been sent to impacted households. The estimated completion date for the entire project is Nov. 21.

Sewer improvement update – Work continued along Thomas Street this week with the replacement of curbs and sidewalks and the removal of pavement between Grove and Linden avenues. Plans call for the initial layer of asphalt to be placed along Thomas next week.

Street resurfacing update – Crews completed minor concrete work at all resurfacing locations and placed the initial layer of asphalt along Euclid Avenue this week. Pavement work will begin next week along Kenilworth and Maple avenues. Final landscaping restoration will also be completed in the coming weeks. A map showing the streets undergoing resurfacing is available under the project tab at www.oak-park.us/construction.

Miscellaneous construction updates – All private storm sewer connections were installed this week at the site of the new Pete’s Fresh Market on Madison Street, and ComEd is also close to finish its fiber work for the project. At the new development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets, underground utility and electrical work is ongoing and slabs are being prepped for the garage, lobby and maisonette units.