



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 28, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, May 1:
 - Village Board meeting, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Tuesday, May 2:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Wednesday, May 3:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m. in Room 124
- Thursday, May 4:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Friday, May 5:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Alternative Response Mental Health Call Taskforce update – The Alternative Response to Calls Mental Health Taskforce presented its recommendations to the Village Manager on Friday. The taskforce has been meeting since November, bringing to the table a wide range of experts, community members and specialists to advise on an alternative call response model for Oak Park to specifically help individuals suffering from a mental health crisis. Next steps include a presentation before the Village Board scheduled for June 12. More information about the project is available at www.engageoakpark.com/alternative-response-taskforce.

Paper shredding event a success – A total of 557 households participated in the Village's paper shredding event on April 22 at the Public Works Center. The event provided an opportunity for Oak Park residents to safely dispose of sensitive documents. While each household was limited to two bags or small boxes of paper items, the event nonetheless resulted in 12,802 pounds of paper goods being collected. [Click here](#) to find more data from the event included in the certificate of destruction document provided by R4 Services, which assists the Village with paper shredding. Plans are already in the works for the Village's next paper shredding event, which is set for 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 23 at the Public Works Center.

Earth Day neighborhood clean-up events – The weather may have been cold and dreary last weekend, but that didn't stop Oak Park residents on eight different blocks from hosting neighborhood clean-up events in celebration of Earth Day. The neighborhood clean-up program is part of the Keep Oak Park Beautiful initiative. The Village will provide up to 10 heavy duty trash bags, 10 pairs of gloves and 10 pink refuse stickers to residents and organizations for use collecting litter from alleys and parkways. Brooms and shovels are also available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. The participating blocks on Earth Day were 1100 S. Humphrey Ave., 800 S. Humphrey Ave., 900 S. Euclid Ave., 400 S. Kenilworth Ave., 1100 Highland Ave., 200 N. Harlem Ave., 1100 S. Elmwood Ave. and 200 S. Scoville Ave. Visit www.oak-park.us/neighborhoodcleanup for more information about the program and to access an online sign-up form.

Proposed residential apartment project – Ambrosia Homes is in the process of formulating a planned development application for a new residential apartment complex at the northwest corner of Ridgeland and Chicago avenues. The parcel of land in question has long been occupied by a professional dental practice. This proposed apartment development is required to go through the Village's extensive planned development process. At this stage, the developer has met with a group of nearby residents and has held the required neighborhood meeting to gauge community feedback regarding the proposed plans. As part of the planned development application process, Ambrosia Homes Development must now summarize the comments made at the required neighborhood meeting so that the Village can review the concerns expressed by neighbors. The Village has not yet received the planned development application for this proposed apartment development. However, since this proposed project is in a historic district, the developer has met with the Village's Architectural Review Committee, a subcommittee of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), which provided some initial recommendations. The developer is required to meet with the HPC to discuss the plans prior to submitting the final planned development application for public hearing. The HPC will provide an advisory review no earlier than its May 11 meeting, but at this time no plans have been submitted for the meeting. After being fully reviewed by the HPC, Ambrosia Homes' planned development application will go to the Village's Plan Commission. The Plan Commission will then review the HPC recommendations and accept comments and letters from the public, prior to providing an overall recommendation regarding the proposed development. The recommendation from the Plan Commission will then go to the Village Board for consideration.

Energy and water benchmarking workshop – The Village's Office of Sustainability & Resilience coordinated an energy and water benchmarking workshop Friday for Oak Park's governmental partners, in partnership with Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and Illinois Green. Participants learned about the benefits of benchmarking and had hands-on support with importing facility data into Energy Star Portfolio Manager, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's building benchmarking tool.

Vehicle license sales set to begin – Village vehicle licenses for the 2023/2024 season are scheduled to go on sale May 1. The Village will soon send a courtesy renewal reminder to all customers who currently have an active vehicle license. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local license before July 15 to get the lowest rate, which increases by \$20 after the deadline. Vehicles leased or owned by

businesses and parked/stored in Oak Park overnight and/or on weekends must also have an Oak Park vehicle license. Failure to purchase a license also could result in a ticket. Vehicle license rates vary by type of vehicle, with discounts for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and active-duty veterans. For more information, email parking@oak-park.us.

Historic Preservation Award yard signs – In recognition of National Historic Preservation Month this May, the Historic Preservation Commission is inviting winners of Oak Park's 2022 Historic Preservation Awards to display a yard sign recognizing their recent historic preservation project. This is the third year the HPC has organized the yard sign project. In an effort to be sustainable, signs are returned to the Village and reused each year. Nominations are being accepted for the 2023 Historic Preservation Awards through Sept. 29. More information about the awards and an online nomination form are available at www.oak-park.us/preservationawards.

May is Building Safety Month – Next week marks the beginning of May and [Building Safety Month](#), offering an opportunity for the Village to remind the community that adopting and following building codes helps keep the community safe. The Village's Permit Processing Division is responsible for ensuring that the buildings, structures and properties within Oak Park are constructed, improved and preserved with regard to safety of life and property. The Oak Park Fire Department also reviews all building blueprints for fire alarm and sprinkler system installations prior to construction to ensure the systems meet or exceed current fire code regulations. The Village joins the International Code Council, its members and a diverse partnership of professionals from the building construction, design and safety communities, in promoting Building Safety Month. More information about the Village's approach to building safety is at www.oak-park.us/buildingsafety.

Ribbon cutting at Smoothie King – Development Customer Services Department staff joined Village President Vicki Scaman and Chamber of Commerce representatives in welcoming the owners of the new Smoothie King restaurant during a grand-opening ribbon cutting this past week. [Click here for a photo from the ribbon cutting](#). The new business is located at 1010 Lake St. Visit [Smoothie King's website](#) for information about hours, the menu and more.

Free reusable bags available at Village Hall – Oak Park residents are encouraged to do their part to help the environment by bringing reusable bags on shopping trips. Free reusable bags made from 85% post-consumer waste are available in the lobby at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Village Code requires Oak Park retail stores of 5,000 square feet or more to charge customers 10 cents for each single-use paper or plastic bag provided at the checkout counter. More information about the bag fee is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/bringyourbag.

Property tax appeals process underway – Appeals of the assessed valuations of Oak Park properties will be accepted by the Cook County Assessor's office through May 15. Individuals with concerns about their property taxes may contact the [Oak Park Township Assessor's office](#) at 708.383.8005 to set up appointments during the appeal period. Every three years the [Cook County Assessor](#) reassesses the value of properties to ensure that tax bills are based on current valuations. The assessment will be used to calculate property taxes from

2024 to 2024, unless changed by an appeal. More information is posted on the Oak Park Township website – [click here to view](#).

Pavement preservation project – Crack sealing and pavement rejuvenation work is set to begin at various locations throughout the Village. The project was originally scheduled for last fall but was postponed to this spring. The tentative schedule calls for crack sealing to begin next week and rejuvenation to begin the week of May 8. The majority of the crack sealing work will take place south of the I-290 expressway. Roads will be temporarily closed for about an hour while work is ongoing. No parking signs will be posted 24 hours before work begins at all locations. [Click here](#) for a map showing where pavement preservation work is scheduled to take place. Questions about the project can be directed to publicworks@oak-park.us.

Division Street water & sewer update – Sewer work in the intersection of Division Street and Ridgeland Avenue is now complete, but Division may remain closed from Ridgeland to East Avenue until mid-May while pavement patching operations are completed. Further to the west, AT&T utility work at Division and Oak Park Avenue is complete. The contractor has started installing the east-west sewer on Division between Oak Park and Grove avenues and the north-south sewer between Division and Berkshire streets. The intersection of Division and Oak Park will remain closed during this portion of the project, which could continue through May.

Crosswalk repairs – The replacement of damaged paver crosswalks at the intersection of South Boulevard and Marion Street is expected to continue through next week. Work in the eastbound lanes is set to begin now that work in the westbound lanes is complete. South Boulevard is closed to eastbound traffic between Home and Harlem avenues. Travel in all other directions remains open, but drivers should anticipate delays in the area.

Street resurfacing update – The new water main on Pleasant Street has been chlorinated and final connections have been made. All concrete work for the wider street resurfacing project will be completed this week, except on Elmwood Avenue, Ontario Street and at various cul-de-sacs, where concrete work will take place at later date.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Sidewalk removals and brick paver replacement is ongoing along Roosevelt Road as part of the Illinois Department of Transportation's street resurfacing project. This week the contractor for the Nicor Gas project is televising the 1000 and 1100 blocks S. Elmwood Ave. At the site of the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets, balcony and window installation and exterior framing is in progress.