



Village Manager's Report Week ending June 9, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, June 12:
 - Village Board, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Tuesday, June 13:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 6 p.m. in Room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Wednesday, June 14:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Thursday, June 15:
 - Building Code Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m. in Room 215
- Friday, June 16:
 - No meetings scheduled

Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony – Oak Park's celebration of Juneteenth kicks off with a flag-raising ceremony from 6 to 8 p.m. next Wednesday, June 14 in the courtyard at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The free event will feature speakers, food and more. The entire community is also invited to Oak Park's Juneteenth parade and community cookout on Sunday, June 18. The parade steps off at 11 a.m. from Longfellow Park near Jackson Blvd. and will march north on Ridgeland Ave. to Augusta St. Following the parade, a community cookout featuring food trucks, a DJ, live entertainment, games and more will be held at Taylor Park, 400 Division St. Find complete details about Oak Park's Juneteenth celebration at www.oak-park.us/juneteenth.

Oak Park Pride Party set for June 24 – Mark your calendar for the Oak Park Pride Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 24 on the south lawn at Village Hall. The free, family-friendly event organized by the Village will feature rainbow ice cream, face painting, a bounce house, games, a DJ, a magician and more. All planning to attend are encouraged to come dressed to impress in their best rainbow-themed outfit. More information about the Village's Pride Month celebration is available at www.oak-park.us/pridemonth.

Health Department hosting blood drive – To help supply local community blood centers, the Oak Park Public Health Department is sponsoring a blood drive from 1 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27 at Village Hall. About every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood or platelets, and one blood donation often saves more than one life. Though walk-ins are welcome at the Health Department blood drive, appointments are recommended. [Click here](#) to schedule an appointment or call 877.258.4825. Donors are encouraged to eat well the

day of the drive, stay hydrated and bring their ID. Contact the Health Department with any questions at 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us.

Village e-waste recycling recognized – The Village’s efforts around e-waste recycling were recently highlighted in the Illinois City/County Management Association’s monthly newsletter. The article explores how the Village’s Information Technology Department worked with the organization [PCs for People](#) to donate more than 4,700 pounds of retired technology previously used by Village employees. Usable computers were refurbished and distributed to low-income customers to help bridge the digital divide, and all other items were responsibly recycled according to PCs for the People’s zero landfill policy. [Click here](#) to read the article. The entire newsletter is available online – [click here to view](#).

Short-term rental license update – The Village has issued 109 short-term rental licenses since the program began in 2022. [Click here](#) for map showing the general location of Oak Park’s licensed short-term rental units. Eleven additional short-term rental applications have been submitted to the Village and are currently under consideration for approval. Short-term rentals, through companies such as Airbnb, pay the same 4% tax as the Village’s hotel and bed and breakfast businesses to support the Village’s general fund. The Village collected \$111,453 in taxes from short-term rentals in 2022. Through the first four months of 2023, the Village’s tax receipts from short-term rentals have increased almost 23% over last year.

Business licensing remains brisk – The Village issued 46 new business licenses through the first five months of 2023, equaling the record-setting total from the same time period in 2022. [Click here](#) for a chart comparing the number of new business licenses issued going back to 2019. Through a joint program with the Village and the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce, all new business license recipients receive a free six-month Chamber of Commerce membership. A list of new business licenses issued dating back to 2021 is available at www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness.

Vehicle license sales update – The Village sold 6,783 vehicle licenses over the first four weeks after licenses went on sale May 1. These sales add up to \$480,408 in revenue and a 36% increase in renewals compared the same four-week timeframe last year. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local vehicle license before July 15 to get the lowest rate, which increases by \$20 after the deadline. Parking enforcement officers use license plate recognition technology to ensure compliance.

Zoning Board of Appeals update - The Zoning Board of Appeals met this week to discuss a petition filed by Chetranda Gray seeking a special use permit to continue operating a reception/banquet facility located at 6435 North Ave. The application received a 6-0 vote to send a positive recommendation to the Village Board. Previously, a restriction was in place limiting the use of the facility to 50 people. With this ZBA decision, the number of customers allowed in the facility will be based on occupancy restrictions.

Building improvements result in energy savings – Public Works and Sustainability staff have achieved big energy savings through the utility-sponsored Strategic Energy Management program. To date, building improvements and behavioral change campaigns have resulted

in 343,318 kWh in energy savings, which is equal to 623,720 miles driven by a gasoline-powered car.

EPA assistance for local clean water initiatives – The Village has been awarded technical assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency’s [Water Infrastructure Environmental Finance Center](#). Public Works and Sustainability staff are working with the technical consultants to develop a State Revolving Fund (SRF) to advance local clean water initiatives.

Sustainability updates – Staff from the Office of Sustainability & Resilience attended the Resilient Infrastructure & Sustainable Communities convening, a cohort initiative to assist U.S. and Canadian municipalities adapt to climate change through green stormwater infrastructure. The Office of Sustainability & Resiliency is also promoting an opportunity to learn about how to participate in Oak Park’s year-long monarch butterfly initiative by attending a virtual event hosted by the National Wildlife Federation titled *Supporting Picky Eaters in Your Native Habitat*. The event is scheduled for 2 to 3 p.m. on June 12. More information and a link to register are on the Sustain Oak Park website – [click here to view](#).

Farmers’ Market transportation available – Curb-to-curb transportation to and from the Oak Park Farmers’ Market is available every Saturday. The Oak Park Township’s wheelchair-accessible bus will transport shoppers of all ages to locations within Oak Park and River Forest. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling 708.383.4806 between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A \$1 donation is suggested. For more information about the Farmers’ Market visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Metra concrete repairs planned – Metra will be making concrete repairs along the Union Pacific railroad line near the northeast corner of North Boulevard and Forest Avenue starting Monday, June 12. The bike rack at this location will be temporarily removed through July 5 and the sidewalk in area will also be closed. Signs have been posted at the bike rack asking cyclists to remove their bikes by Monday morning. Any bikes that are left on the rack will be moved to the police station with owners able to schedule a time to pick them up by calling 708.386.3800 or emailing police@oak-park.us.

Forest and Ontario improvements – Construction work is expected to begin next week in the vicinity of the Forest Avenue and Ontario Street intersection as part of a project that will add an additional curbed median on Forest, replace deteriorated brick crosswalks, resurface the roadway and upgrade the lighting with a focus on pedestrian level lighting. The roadway will be closed to through traffic during the project with one lane open for nearby residents at all times.

Street resurfacing project – The contractor has completed the installation of the hot mix asphalt binder on all streets included in this year’s resurfacing project with the exception of Elmwood Avenue and Ontario Street. The utility contractor is currently working on adjusting frames and grates to the final roadway elevation. The final layer of asphalt is expected to be placed late next week. Concrete work is in progress on Elmwood and Ontario with plans for these two streets to be fully reconstructed by early July.

Pleasant and Marion update – Installation of the elevator is expected to begin and permanent roof installation is on schedule to wrap up next week at the new development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets. Exterior framing and sheathing are complete on the east and north elevations, and crews continue to use the tower crane to set the remaining windows.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Concrete removal and replacement has started on the south side of Division Street and should continue through next week as part of the ongoing sewer replacement and resurfacing project along Division. At the site of the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street crews from AT&T and Comcast are making progress with their structural work, with Comcast expected to wrap up by June 23. Along Roosevelt Road, Illinois Department of Transportation crews are making structure adjustments and placing the surface pavement as part of the state's resurfacing project.