



Village Manager's Report Week ending August 11, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 14:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, August 15:
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7 p.m. in Room 215
- Wednesday, August 16:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. in Room 101
- Thursday, August 17:
 - Building Code Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m. in Room 215
- Friday, August 18:
 - No meetings scheduled

Farmers' Market Corn Roast this Saturday – The Oak Park Farmers' Market is celebrating National Farmers' Market Week with the return of its popular Corn Roast this Saturday, Aug. 12. Fresh-picked corn from Market growers will be sold by the ear hot off the roaster from about 9:30 a.m. until supplies are gone. Patrons are encouraged to bring cash to the event as credit cards are not accepted when purchasing corn, which will be sold for \$2 per ear. This year's Corn Roast is a zero-waste event, meaning all corn cobs, wrappers, and takeaway bags can be composted. More information about the Corn Roast and National Farmers' Market Week is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/cornroast23.

Economic Vitality update – The Village is happy to report about economic vitality progress on a portion of the property previously owned by Mohr Concrete south of the Eisenhower Expressway. Residents may have noticed a construction fence surrounding the property bounded by S. Maple Ave., Garfield St., Wisconsin Ave. and the alley. Demolition activity, underground improvements and a building foundation have all been completed. The developers of this property secured the final building permit this past week and the above-ground steel infrastructure is already being installed. When completed, this wonderful new Kiddie Academy development, a further example of the ongoing economic vitality occurring in Oak Park, will provide educational child care in the new 13,100 sq. ft. building. A photo of the steel infrastructure being installed, taken on August 11th, can be viewed [here](#).

Home Decarbonization 101 presentation – Community members can learn about building decarbonization, the benefits of building electrification, new tax credits, and more when the [Citizens Utility Board](#) leads a presentation titled *Home Decarbonization 101: Smart Home*

Energy Improvements and Programs at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 17 the Oak Park Public Library Maze Branch, 845 Gunderson Ave. The presentation will include information about rebates for home energy improvements available through the Inflation Reduction Act and a discussion of heat pumps, induction stoves, and free programs designed to save you energy and money. Anyone planning to attend can register in advance on the Library website – [click here to register](#). The event is organized by the Village's Office of Sustainability and Resilience and the Oak Park Public Library.

Alley lighting project – This summer contractors have now installed nearly 300 LED lighting fixtures in alleys throughout the Village. This week the contractor encountered equipment issues while continuing to work in alleys between Division Street and Chicago Avenue. Residents who have questions or concerns about these new fixtures are encouraged to contact Public Works directly at 708.358.5700 or via email at publicworks@oak-park.us so that they may be addressed.

Ribbon cutting at Amelie Café – Another new business has opened in the Village of Oak Park. Amelie Café, 103 S. Oak Park Ave., held a ribbon cutting this week to celebrate their opening. [In this photo](#), business owner Rosana Gonzales Linares is shown with her staff, Village staff and Chamber of Commerce representatives, celebrating on Friday. Contact Amelie Café today at 708.434.5077. Amelie Café is one of 68 newly licensed businesses that have opened in Oak Park just since the start of 2023. For a full listing of new Oak Park businesses, please go to pickoakpark.com.

Climate plan conversation a success – Close to 100 people participated in the Community Conversation on Climate Ready Oak Park (CROP) plan this past Monday at the Oak Park Public Library. The event offered a chance for community members to help track Oak Park's progress and goals in the area of environmental sustainability one year after the adoption of the Climate Ready Oak Park plan. The discussion featured a world café-style setup where participants rotated between various stations where a facilitator and documenter captured the conversation, answered questions, and gathered feedback. Anyone who was unable to attend or wishes to provide additional input can offer feedback online at www.engageoakpark.com/climate-ready-oak-park-community-conversation. The next steps will include the Village publishing a brief report celebrating Oak Park's collective progress over the past year and community strategies for moving forward in the next year.

Parking sign update set to begin – The first phase of a project to update parking restriction signs is set to begin the week of Aug. 20. The updated signage, which standardizes existing daytime parking restrictions to a three-hour weekday daytime restriction, was tested as part of the Village's Parking Pilot Program and approved by the Village Board this past March. The changes are intended to simplify and streamline the community's parking rules and regulations, and the sign installation effort marks the culmination of a comprehensive evaluation of the parking pilot program that included a robust public outreach process and survey along with numerous public meetings with the Transportation Commission and the Village Board. An additional benefit of the approved changes is the expansion of the daytime parking restriction exemption for residents who park on their block. Going forward, residents with a valid Village vehicle license are exempt from the three-hour weekday daytime restrictions that will be posted on their blocks. Residents affected by this first phase of

parking changes will receive an informational letter from the Village in the mail next week explaining the updated rules and regulations.

Local gas tax analysis – The Development Customer Services Department is continuing to analyze the amount of revenue generated by Oak Park’s 6% municipal gasoline tax per gallon sold. Through the first six months of the year, the Village collected \$261,075. This continues a downward trend in gasoline tax revenue over the past few years. By comparison, the tax collected in the first six months this year is down 31% compared to the same time period in 2018 when the revenue total was \$376,253. [Click here](#) for a graph comparing the tax revenue over the same six-month period from 2018 to 2023. All of the municipal gasoline tax revenue helps fund the Village’s capital improvement plan. During the entire five-year period from 2018 to 2022, nearly \$3.1 million was generated through the municipal gasoline tax.

Tenant workshop planned for Aug. 23 – The Village is hosting a tenant workshop for renters from 6 to 8 p.m. on Aug. 23 in Room 101 at Village Hall. The workshop will cover a range of topics including tenant’s rights, lease agreements, fair housing, discriminatory practices, security deposits, maintenance issues, neighbor disputes, rental assistance, legal services, and the Village’s Rental Tenant Landlord Ordinance. Refreshments will be served. Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to register online – [click here to register](#). [Click here](#) for a flyer promoting the event. For more information, contact dei@oak-park.us.

Building benchmarking workshops planned – The Village and Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) are offering a two-part workshop to help owners and managers of large buildings in Oak Park comply with the Village’s energy and water benchmarking ordinance, which requires buildings 10,000 square feet and larger to report their annual energy and water consumption using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. The first set of workshops will be held virtually and will focus on data collection, with owners/managers of multifamily properties scheduled for Aug. 22 and owners/managers of commercial properties scheduled for Aug. 23. The second workshop will take place in September and will focus on data entry, troubleshooting, and energy upgrade financing. More information and links to register for the workshops are available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/building-benchmarking.

Free outdoor yoga– [Ahimsa](#) is conducting a series of free outdoor yoga classes on the south lawn at Village Hall (123 Madison St.) between August 14-20 with nearly 25 classes available throughout the week. Offerings for all levels of experience include one-hour sessions of restorative, stretch, strength & mobility, and more. Classes are available at various times throughout each day. For the complete schedule, and to reserve your spot, please visit www.ahimsayogastudios.com/oak-park-schedule. Note that all events in this series are listed as “ FREE Outdoor...”

Mosquito spraying completed – In an effort to reduce the number of mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus, the [Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) sprayed for adult mosquitoes on Thursday night. [West Nile virus](#) has been found in mosquitoes throughout Illinois, including Oak Park. This was the first time spraying has occurred in Oak Park this

season, though the mosquito abatement district does treat all street catch basins to kill larvae every seven to 10 days during the mosquito-breeding season. More information is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Forest and Ontario improvements – Operations are set to resume now that utility companies have cleared a duct that was identified while boring a new conduit. Next steps involve wrapping up the conduit installation and pouring lighting foundations. Conduit in the roadway will be open cut with single lanes of traffic will be closed while work is ongoing. Plates or temporary trench fill will be used to re-open both lanes of traffic by the end of each day.

Division Street improvements – The contractor is working on utility adjustments in the roadway and will next shift to prepping parkways for sodding. The week of Aug. 21 is being targeted for preparing the pavement for the final surface, with pavement markings being placed the following week. Sod placement in the parkway is expected to occur after Labor Day.

Alley improvement project – All concrete work for the alley improvement project is complete. The contractor expects to wrap up with asphalt placement in the remaining alleys next week before proceeding with pavement patching and punch list work.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Parkway restoration is the last task associated with the 2022 street resurfacing project, but this is on hold until after Labor Day while the contractor waits for better sod planting conditions. Along Roosevelt Road, Illinois Department of Transportation crews are removing temporary tape and reinstalling brick pavers damaged during the state’s resurfacing project.

Water and sewer improvements – This week the contractor installed the water main from Lombard Avenue to Hayes Avenue. Two water valve vaults were also installed on the 600 block of N. Taylor Ave. The contractor expects to complete the upcoming water main interconnect on Lombard Avenue by the end of the week.

Pleasant & Marion update – Masonry façade is being installed on the southeast elevation of the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets. Bathroom tile and floor preparation are in progress for level three. Courtyard installations, including the pouring of concrete piers, have also started on level three.

Pete’s Fresh Market update – Utility relocation work continues at the Pete’s development site located on Madison St., just east of Oak Park Ave. Pete’s contractors will be meeting with both AT&T and ComEd representatives next week to finalize past work completed and additional work yet to be completed on the last utility relocations required for this project. Pete’s representatives estimate that the final utility relocation work will take approximately one month. Pete’s also aims to submit the formal permit application for the project’s foundation installation work in late August or early September. Madison Street streetscape improvement projects, adjacent to the development site, are anticipated to begin this fall.