



Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 27, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Sept. 30:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Oct. 1:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, Oct. 2:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Thursday, Oct. 3:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Sept. 4:
 - No meetings scheduled

Local sites on solar tour – Three Oak Park sites will be among the scores of solar homes and businesses across the state that will open their doors to the public on Sat., Sept. 28 for the [Illinois Solar Tour](#). Hosted by the [Illinois Solar Energy Association](#), the tour is a free open-house-style event that allows the public to view real-life examples of how local businesses and residents have reduced their utility bills by using solar energy. Sites will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oak Park sites are 144 N. Elmwood Ave., 165 N. Taylor Ave. and 1185 Gunderson Ave.

Pedestrian bridge opening delayed – The reopening of the Home Avenue pedestrian bridge has been pushed to mid-October after the contractor determined that the extent of deck surface repairs exceeded the initial assessment. Crossing guards stationed temporarily on Oak Park Avenue will remain at their posts and all parking restrictions, detour signs and other protective measures will stay up until the bridge reopens. School District 97 officials have been notified of the closure extension.

Street harassment session – Oak Park Police will join representatives of the Cook County State Attorney's Office to offer information, training and safety tips for dealing with street harassment and cat calls. The event is set for 7 to 8:30 p.m., Mon., Sept. 30 at the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. The information to be shared is intended for middle-school and teenage students. [Click here to view the event flyer...](#)

Recreational marijuana town hall –Police Chief LaDon Reynolds will offer a law enforcement perspective on legal sales of recreational marijuana as part of a town hall meeting set for 7 to 8:30 p.m., Wed., Oct. 2 at Percy Julian Middle School. State

Sen. Kimberly Lightford and a representative of the Cook County State Attorney's Office also are scheduled to participate. [Click here to view an event information flyer...](#)

Dementia-friendly initiative – The [Aging in Place Commission](#) will launch the local initiative to make Oak Park a [Dementia Friendly Community](#) on Thurs., Oct. 17. An event set for 8 a.m. to noon at the Nineteenth Century Club will bring together community leaders and the public to learn about and discuss dementia and to develop an action plan for the future. In true intergovernmental fashion, the Village is partnering with the Township, Library and Park District on the effort to earn the *Dementia Friendly Community* designation from the non-profit organization [Dementia Friendly America](#). The designation demonstrates a commitment to being informed, safe and respectful of individuals affected by the disease, while providing supportive options that improve their lives. More information on the local effort is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/dementiafriendly.

One-on-one customer service results – Since Permits Processing Division staff began offering one-on-one assistance at the counter in Village Hall, the number of permits processed through the online system climbed to 79 percent in August compared to 58 percent in July. Staff has been using the computer terminal at the counter to teach walk-ins how to use the [VillageView portal](#), explaining the advantages such as access anywhere at any time on a computer, tablet or smartphone. The goal is to have 90 percent of all property services activity occur through the online system.

Visit Oak Park marketing approach – The local visitors' bureau [Visit Oak Park](#) has hired a private video firm to capture popular attractions throughout region, including Brookfield, Forest Park, Riverside and Oak Park. The crew focused on the specialty microbreweries with locations in the Village, including [Kinslahger Brewing Co.](#), One Lake Brewing, [Wild Onion Brewery](#) and [Oak Park Brewing Co.](#) The crew also was scheduled to film in the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District this week, featuring the Home and Studio.

Madison Street update – Installation of the final asphalt surface began this week on Madison Street at Harlem Avenue and is expected to take about four days. Should rain delay work today (Fri., Sept. 27), crews may return on Saturday if the weather is dry. Installation of about 65,000 feet of thermoplastic road markings is expected to take an additional four weeks after all paving is completed. This final phase includes markings for bicyclists and a wide range of specialty symbols. Any changes to the schedule will be included in the weekly email updates sent to subscribers who signed up for specific project alerts as well as posted on the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

Downtown construction update – Restoration of the alley west of Forest Avenue by the former Community Bank building began this week and is expected to extend into next week. Crews also are scheduled to begin grinding the surface of portions of Forest Avenue and Lake Street along the Albion project's south and east frontages in preparation for resurfacing. Restoration of the brick alley north of Lake Street adjacent to Austin Gardens is scheduled to start early next week, requiring closing the alley for about two weeks and limiting garbage collection to the alley's west access points.

Utility projects – Restoration of Clarence Avenue between Roosevelt Road and Harvard Street is scheduled to begin next week as the water/sewer project nears the late-October completion goal. Paving of Berkshire Street between Grove and Linden avenues got underway this week, with parkway restoration to follow. The Berkshire Street project is anticipated to be completed by mid-October. Replacement of the water and sewer mains on Scoville Avenue from Roosevelt Road to the alley adjacent to the new Turano headquarters construction site continued this week, while replacement of the water main on Austin Boulevard between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street remains on schedule to begin the week of October 7.

Street resurfacing projects – The final layer of asphalt was installed this week on all project streets including Wisconsin Avenue, Marion Street, Clarence Avenue, Randolph Street and Iowa Street. Crews continued treating various streets throughout the community with a special material to extend life, improve ride quality and preserve deeper layers of the pavement structure.

Employee news – Joe Schultz has joined the Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department as a Property Maintenance Inspector/Community Development Technician. Joe has more than 27 years of architectural and construction experience. He has bachelor's degree in architecture degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is a state-licensed architect. Joe will coordinate the work scope and construction management side of some of the Village's CDBG-funded programs and assist with residential and commercial property maintenance and building code inspections. In other employee news, five new recruits were scheduled to graduate from the Chicago Police Academy today (Fri., Sept. 27). The new graduates are Kaitlin J. Howell, Lee Kim, Patrick E. Burgess and Jonathan G. Lemmenes. Each of the new graduates will now begin a 12-month probationary period that includes a comprehensive in-house and on-the-job training program.

###