



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending August 13, 2021**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 16:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, August 17:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 6 p.m., via Zoom
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, August 18:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, August 19:
 - Personnel Committee of the Village Board, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, August 20:
 - No meetings scheduled

Preliminary Census data report – Preliminary 2020 Census data released yesterday (Thurs., Aug. 12), indicates that Oak Park’s population has grown by 2,705 residents since the 2010 Census – 54,583 compared to 51,878. Early internal analysis of the data indicate that Oak Park also is following the national trend of becoming more diverse, especially among individuals who report themselves as being more than one race. The trend toward more multiracial self-identification likely will be most obvious among those Oak Parkers who identify themselves as white only and those who identify themselves as being African-American only. While staff has begun to make some deeper dives into the early available data, the U.S. Census Bureau will be publishing official detailed track data in the weeks ahead. Waiting for official analyses may be advisable, according to some national sources, since new privacy practices at the U.S. Census could make some of the early block-by-block data less reliable. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and provide more detailed updates as they become available. [Click here to view the early data...](#)

Market corn roast is tomorrow – Fresh-picked corn from Oak Park Farmers’ Market growers will be sold by the ear hot off the roaster from about 9:30 a.m. until the corn is sold out tomorrow, (Sat, Aug. 14) at the annual Corn Roast in the Pilgrim Church parking lot. The corn is donated by long-time Market vendors Geneva Lakes Produce and R. Smits & Sons. Customers will be able to dip their ears of corn into butter provided by Brunkow Cheese, another Market vendor. More details about the corn roast are posted at www.oak-park.us/news/farmers-market-hosting-corn-roast.

Taking vaccinations to the community – The Oak Park Department of Public Health’s mobile response van was prominent on Marion Street by Westgate Street at [Thursday Night Out](#) last night (Thurs., Aug. 12) in downtown Oak Park. The Health Department team vaccinated seven and tested another 10 individuals for COVID-19. One of the Department’s dedicated volunteers talked four self-proclaimed vaccine-hesitant individuals into getting the shot, going so far as to sit through the procedure with a man who had expressed his fear of getting vaccinated. A young lady who just turned 12 that day also was vaccinated. The staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to draw attention to vaccination opportunity demonstrated the confidence that comes from good training, and helped create a model that can be used at other community events to get more residents vaccinated.

Storm damage report – Four trees were lost to high winds during the storms that swept through the region Wednesday night into Thursday morning (Aug. 11 and 12). Numerous branches also came down. While some tree damage was reported throughout the Village, indications are that the damage was most focused to the south. All downed trees were quickly removed and no streets are blocked. Village crews and contractors likely will still be picking up brush from parkway trees through today.

Pawfficer Howie update – Oak Park Police comfort dog Pawfficer Howie was front and center at a gathering of about 300 officers and their families at McCormick place this week to share emotional support following the recent murder of Chicago Police Officer Ella French and the wounding of her partner during a routine traffic stop. Pawfficer Howie spent time with the small kids, but some 100 sworn officers also petted and hugged Howie, who used his deep pressure therapy training to help ease their stress. Howie’s handlers for the day, Sgt. Samantha Deuchler and Officer Peter Marchese explained Howie’s primary job with the Oak Park Police Department. More information about Pawfficer Howie and his role with the Department is [posted on the Village website](#).

Homeless assistance – Suburban Cook County residents who are homeless or who know someone who is homeless or at risk of being homeless, now have a single resource for support services. Called *Entry Point*, the service is a coordinated system for all Cook County’s homeless services. Trained staff works with households to understand their strengths and needs using a standardized assessment based on federal eligibility guidelines and uniform prioritization policies. The goal is to ensure individuals are referred to the right programs based on their preferences and needs. The service is available through the Suburban Cook Call Center at 1.877.426.6515 and Housing Forward, 6634 W Roosevelt Rd. More information about the program is posted online at myentrypoint.org.

Employee news – Marcella Bondie Keenan has joined the Village Manager’s Office as a Sustainability Coordinator to assist with essential sustainability initiatives including the Comprehensive Sustainability and Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. Marcella is an environmental professional with nearly 20 years of experience, much of it in local government. Most recently, she was the director of climate programs for the Center for Neighborhood Technology, where she was involved in a wide range of projects,

including drafting climate plans, climate adaptation toolkits and comprehensive plans for cities such as Detroit, Mich., Bloomington, Ill., and Carrboro, North Carolina. Marcella holds a master's degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois Chicago and a bachelor's degree in Biology, with an emphasis in environmental science and planning. She also has professional certifications as a LEED accredited professional and from the American Institute of Certified Planners. With Marcella's hiring the Village now has two full-time sustainability professionals on staff along with a part-time graduate fellow.

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