



## Village Manager's Report Week ending June 17, 2022

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, June 20:
  - Juneteenth – Village Hall closed
  
- Tuesday, June 21:
  - Disability Access Commission, 6 p.m. via Zoom
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom
  
- Wednesday, June 22:
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
  
- Thursday, June 23:
  - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
  
- Friday, June 24:
  - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Activity Reports are posted at [www.oak-park.us/covid19](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19)  
just click on the *Village Manager Reports* heading**

**Juneteenth parade and cookout** – The entire community is invited to participate in Oak Park's Juneteenth parade and cookout this Sunday, June 19. The parade steps off at 11 a.m. from Longfellow Park near Jackson Boulevard and marches north on Ridgeland Avenue to Augusta Street. Following the parade, a community cookout will be held starting at 1 p.m. at Taylor Park. Several dozen community members attended the annual Juneteenth flag raising at Village Hall on June 11. A video recording of the event is posted online – [click here to view](#). Oak Park's Juneteenth festivities are organized by community members and co-sponsored by the Village. More information is at [www.oak-park.us/juneteenth](http://www.oak-park.us/juneteenth).

**Village Hall closed for Juneteenth** – Village Hall will be closed on Monday, June 20 in observance of Juneteenth and will reopen for in-person services at 9 a.m. the following day. The Village Hall closure does not impact early voting, which continues daily through June 27 at Village Hall. More information about early voting hours can be found on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/earlyvoting](http://www.oak-park.us/earlyvoting).

**Storm cleanup** – The Forestry Division was busy this week cleaning up debris created by the severe thunderstorm that rolled through the region Monday evening. Forestry crews were out in Oak Park the night of the storm clearing four large tree limbs that were blocking roads. One small tree in a parking lot failed and three additional trees have been marked for

removal due to the significant damage they sustained. Forestry officials say the north part of Oak Park between North Avenue and Chicago Avenue appears to have been hardest hit. Crews continued picking up small and medium-sized limbs through Thursday.

**New Farmers' Market logo** – Plans are in the works for the Oak Park Farmers' Market to roll out a new logo this month. Now in its 47th year, the Market has been represented for more than 15 years by a block-print style logo featuring a pear and other produce designed by Charlotte Lyons. After reviewing design proposals from several artists in 2021, the Farmers' Market Commission selected a logo design from Oak Park-born designer Judith Mayer featuring a farm scene inspired by the Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Style design aesthetic. The new logo will debut on T-shirts, tote bags, and stickers available for sale at the Market starting June 25. [Click here to see the new logo.](#)

**Mohr property demolition** – The Village approved a demolition permit for the former Mohr & Sons Co. site. The permit covers the entire property at 1125 Garfield St. and the removal of a building at 915 S. Maple Ave. The former Mohr property was purchased earlier this month by Korhvan Development. Work at the new construction site can begin any time after June 22. The new owner will notify nearby property owners about the upcoming demolition activity.

**Employee news** – There have been several promotions within the Public Works Department over the past few weeks, including Jay Brown's promotion to Water & Sewer Supervisor and Sam Primer's promotion to Street Supervisor. Sam is a 16-year veteran of the Street Division and served in the roles of Senior Sign & Markings Technician and Equipment Operator prior to taking on his new role, which oversees both street and street lighting work. Jay has been a Public Works employee for three years and served as Water Meter Supervisor prior to his most recent promotion. Elsewhere at Public Works, Anita Bahena was promoted to full-time Customer Service Representative after previously serving in a part-time customer service role assisting the Environmental Services Division. And Vince Bryant has taken on the role of Interim Environmental Services Manager, which involves overseeing the Village's waste hauling contract with LRS. Vince also continues to handle duties associated with his Environmental Services Control Officer role.

**Business grant update** – The Village has processed 279 grant applications and distributed more than \$900,000 in grant funds since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as part of its ongoing program to distribute federally appropriated funding to licensed Oak Park businesses that qualify. The Village's business assistance programs have included 58 grant awards totaling \$94,236 in American Rescue Act (ARPA) funding for PPE reimbursement and 43 grant awards totaling \$198,178 in ARPA funding for past due rent/mortgage assistance. Two grants have also been awarded to the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce totaling \$17,100 and there have been 77 grants awarded totaling \$77,000 in APRA funding for vaccination card check assistance. Additionally, 84 grants totaling \$492,485 have been distributed via CDBG-CV funding to support the employment of LMI individuals in Oak Park businesses and 15 non-profit awards totaling \$30,280 in ARPA funding have been distributed to cover costs associated with PPE purchases.

**930 North Boulevard update** – The Village has approved a building permit for the property at 930 North Boulevard and construction work is expected to begin soon. The building was declared uninhabitable due to structural issues last October. Earlier this year Cubed Construction submitted a building permit application on behalf of the building's owners that included plans to stabilize the structure.

**New business license update** – The Village issued eight more new business licenses in May, bringing the year-to-date total to 47 and continuing an ongoing surge in new business license requests. The Development Customer Services Department processed what is believed to be a record 100 new business licenses last year, and DCS is on track to surpass that number in 2022. [Click here to view a chart](#) comparing the number of new business licenses processed over the past few years.

**Pete's Fresh Market update** – ComEd is working on utility relocation and anticipates completing this work by the end of June. There will be outages associated with transferring over electrical service from the old system to the newly installed system. ComEd will be notifying impacted customers of any scheduled outages. AT&T has awarded a contract to start its relocation work but construction is currently on hold while the company reviews an alternate design and scope at the request of Pete's in order to reduce costs associated with the relocation work. AT&T relocation work is anticipated to take up to five months to complete. Work to relocate the Village's water and sewer mains will overlap with the private utility relocation work for AT&T and others this fall. Pete's is anticipating starting work on its foundations this winter following the utility relocation work.

**LeMoyne Sewer Project** – All sewer underground work is now complete. The contractor has backfilled all trenches within the project limits, and the roads are temporarily accessible. Crews are currently focusing on removals and installing frames on new structures. In the next few weeks, concrete will be poured and preparation will begin for the new roadway. Village staff has been made aware that the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 50 is currently on strike against three material companies. Staff is working with the project contractor on alternatives for materials and timelines.

**Harlem Avenue resurfacing** – Crews have started pouring the surface course for the roadway between North Avenue and Lake Street. This work and the adjustment of structures in this area is expected to take a couple of weeks. Upon completion crews will move south toward I-290.

**Alley project nears completion** – The concrete contractor has placed alley pavement in all 10 alleys. All concrete work and brick installation have been completed. The entire project is expected to be complete by the end of this week with the exception of minor punch-list work, which will continue through June.

**American House update** – Alley concrete was completed this past Wednesday for the new American House building at 703 Madison St. Utility work on Madison started Thursday and is expected to continue through next week.

**Major project set for Union Pacific-West line** – Union Pacific Railroad recently began work on a major tie project on the UP-West Line, which runs through Oak Park. Metra riders may experience minor delays during the work, which is expected to last through the end of September. The project will cover a 40-mile stretch of track from Chicago’s west side to Elburn. [Click here to read a news release about the project issued by Metra.](#)