



## Village Manager's Report Week ending September 9, 2022

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, September 12:
  - Village Board Finance Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Tuesday, September 13:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, September 14:
  - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, September 15:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, September 16:
  - No meetings scheduled

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

**Employee news** – Dave Jacobson has been named Interim Deputy Police Chief, filling a vacancy created when Joe Moran recently retired following 30 years of service to the community. Jacobson brings more than 27 years of experience to the position. For the past three years he served as a Patrol Commander and Field Training Commander. During his tenure he has also been a Department Instructor, Community Policing Sergeant, Special Events Coordinator, Range Officer and Residential Beat Officer. A longtime Oak Park resident, Jacobson will primarily oversee the Police Department's field services bureau in the Interim Deputy Chief role.

**Chicago Fire filming in Oak Park** – The Community Relations Department is processing a permit request submitted by the producers of the NBC television series *Chicago Fire* to film scenes for an upcoming episode in Oak Park next week. Plans are tentatively set for filming to take place from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. next Wednesday and Thursday at the pawn shop located at 6151 W. North Ave. As part of the Village's film permit requirements, neighbors are notified by the film crew in advance of the shoot. More information about film permits is posted on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

**New business license update** – The Village has processed 81 new business licenses through August, marking a 42-percent increase over the same period in 2022. [Click here](#) to view a chart comparing the number of new business licenses processed over the past few years.

The latest list of businesses that have received a license from the Village this year is posted on the Pick Oak Park website at [www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness](http://www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness).

**Zoning Board of Appeals update** – The Zoning Board of Appeals approved three requests at its Sept. 7 meeting. A special use petition to operate a vehicle repair and service business at 6212 Roosevelt Rd. received a positive ZPA recommendation by a vote of 4-0, with conditions. A variance application requesting to exceed the maximum building coverage of 50 percent of the lot to permit construction of a new garage at 833 S. East Ave. was approved by a 4-0 vote. Lastly, a special use petition to operate a day care facility at 6139-6147 North Ave. received a positive recommendation by a vote of 4-0.

**Oak Park school safety in national news** – The Associated Press on Thursday published an in-depth look at school safety through the lens of an incident that occurred last spring when a student was arrested for bringing a loaded gun onto the campus at Oak Park and River Forest High School. The thorough and thoughtful recounting of the incident explores the impact it has had on the community in the context of the larger national conversation about school safety. [Click here to read the article.](#)

**Community award nominations** – The Village is again planning to recognize efforts made by organizations, individuals and businesses to improve Oak Park through property preservation and sustainability. Nominations are now being accepted for the annual Cavalcade of Pride, Historic Preservation and Sustainability awards. The deadline to submit nominations is Oct. 15. More information and links to the online nomination form for each award category is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

**BarrieFest this Saturday** – The Village’s sustainability team will be among the community organizations on hand at the annual BarrieFest event this Saturday at Barrie Park. Organized by the South East Oak Park Community Organization (SEOPCO), Barrie Fest will take place from noon to 5 p.m. and feature activities for kids, food from Takeout 25, live music and more. The Village’s sustainability team will be sharing information about Climate Ready Oak Park, the community’s newly-adopted comprehensive climate plan, and ways Oak Parkers can do their part to combat the impacts of climate change.

**Fire Department rescues kitten** – The Fire Department responded to a relatively unusual call this past Sunday when it was reported that an animal was trapped in the engine compartment of a car in the 700 block of Washington Boulevard. Upon arrival, the engine crew heard loud meowing from under the car and found a kitten trapped between some engine components. The crew used a hydraulic jack to lift the car to provide access so the kitten could be disentangled. With no collar and no one in the area claiming the kitten, the shift commander was going to transport it to an animal shelter, but the owner of the car decided to step in and adopt the lucky kitten. A few photos from the feel-good rescue have been posted on the Fire Department’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/vopfire](http://www.facebook.com/vopfire).

**Deadline near for Community Relations grant** – Online applications are being accepted through Sept. 14 for the Community Relations Commission’s small grant program to support community activities that advance the commission’s goals of ensuring good human, race and community relations in Oak Park. Funds to support community programming will be

allocated by evaluating the project's alignment with the CRC mission, intended outcomes, audience and likelihood of success. Funds may not be used for any political activities or events. Funds also cannot be used for retroactive activities or events. More information is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/CRCgrant](http://www.oak-park.us/CRCgrant).

**Sewer improvement project** – Sewer replacement began this week at Thomas Street and Grove Avenue with work proceeding east toward Linden Avenue. When crews reach Oak Park Avenue, a detour will be in place for northbound traffic on Oak Park to move around the work zone. On Lenox Street, selected sidewalks and curbs have been removed and replaced and pavement removal is expected to begin next week. Residents on Lenox Street who will not have access to their driveways while pavement replacement is ongoing have received parking passes in the mail.

**Street resurfacing project** – The contractor completed utility structure reconstruction at various street resurfacing locations and is in the process of prepping curb, gutter and sidewalk for placement next week. All concrete work is expected to wrap up in September, at which time the contractor will shift operations to reconstructing and/or milling the streets.

**Pete's Fresh Market update** – The vacated portion of Euclid Avenue has been fenced off as work gets underway at the site of the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street. Crews are working on demolition in the west lot. Excavation for the underground storm water detention system began Friday and should take approximately one week to complete. ComEd is also working to schedule the relocation of its duct along Euclid Avenue.

**Pleasant & Marion development** – Crews for the development at Pleasant and Marion are installing wood perimeter guardrails this week. ComEd completed its work associated with transferring service from Harlem Avenue to the site. Crews have also begun excavation for final grading of the stone subbase.