



Village Manager's Report Week ending June 16, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, June 19:
 - Juneteenth – Village Hall closed
- Tuesday, June 20:
 - Village Board, 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Wednesday, June 21:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7 p.m. in Room 124
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. in Room 101
- Thursday, June 22:
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7 p.m. in Room 101
- Friday, June 23:
 - No meetings scheduled

Juneteenth parade and cookout – Don't miss Oak Park's Juneteenth parade and community cookout this Sunday, June 18. 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 sponsored by the Village and Park District of Oak Park will be held until 5 p.m. at Taylor Park, 400 Division St. The cookout will feature barbecued meat, vegan options, sides, dessert and drinks as well as a DJ and games. Ahimsa Yoga Studio will host a free yoga/meditation session at 2 p.m., and a live performance from the band Funkadesi is scheduled to start around 2:30 p.m. Find more information about the celebration at www.oak-park.us/juneteenth.

Village Hall closed for Juneteenth – Village Hall will be closed on Monday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth and will reopen at 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 20. The refuse and recycling collection schedule will not be affected by the holiday and will occur as regularly scheduled next week. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 call occur when Village Hall is closed, call the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance. Regular Village Hall hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. [Click here for more information about Village Hall.](#)

GreenTown conference is June 22 – The GreenTown Climate & Equity conference is being held June 22 at Triton College in River Grove, and the [Cross Community Climate Collaborative \(C4\) will be celebrated](#) during the event. The Village is serving as the lead community sponsor for GreenTown, which offers the opportunity for communities across the

Chicago metropolitan area to come together to tackle climate change, promote equity and achieve sustainability outcomes. The day's agenda covers a broad range of topics, including energy, transportation, waste management, workforce development, water conservation, technology innovation and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. Village President Vicki Scaman, Chief Sustainability Officer Marcella Bondie Keenan and Public Health Director Dr. Theresa Chapple-McGruder are among those scheduled to speak during the conference. Many other leaders from the Village will be attendance to hear from inspiring speakers, learn case studies and discuss actionable steps to address climate change, economic development and social equity. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Tony G. Reames, Deputy Director for Energy Justice at the U.S. Department of Energy. Find more information about the event at www.greentownconference.com.

New Community Policing Sergeant –Sgt. Traccye Love has been assigned to lead the Police Department's community policing division. As part of the role she will oversee the Police Department's Residential Beat Officer program and the officers who work the Downtown and the Avenue business areas. Sgt. Love joined the Police Department in 2011 and was promoted to Sergeant in 2021. She is a former RBO for zones 4 and 6. More information about the RBO program can be found at www.oak-park.us/rbo.

Junior Citizen's Police Academy – Kids interested in learning about law enforcement and careers in public safety are invited to register for the Junior Citizen's Police Academy hosted by the Oak Park and River Forest police departments from August 7 to 11. The free program is available to kids between the ages of 10 and 15 who live or go to school in Oak Park and River Forest. A wide range of activities related to community policing and public safety are planned. More information is at www.oak-park.us/police.

Economic vitality update – The Village has been proactive in assisting businesses as they recover from the effects of the COVID-19 emergency. Since the start of the pandemic, the Village has administered six separate business assistance grant programs that have resulted in 339 financial assistance awards to Oak Park businesses. More than \$1.24 million in assistance has been provided to Oak Park businesses that have applied for one or more of these various grant programs. The Village's final business assistance grant program, which aids licensed Oak Park child care providers, is coming to an end on June 30. Thus far, 27 licensed child care businesses have received \$275,500 in grant assistance to aid in their recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.

National Pollinator Week - The Village's Office of Sustainability and Resilience is celebrating National Pollinator Week from June 19-25 and inviting the community to participate in the Wings of Dreams Bioblitz contest throughout the week and the Gardening for Monarchs workshop on June 21 and June 23. Find more information about the events at www.sustainoakpark.com/community-events. Learn more about the Village's support for pollinators such as the monarch butterfly at www.oak-park.us/monarchpledge.

Oak Park Avenue streetscaping project – The Village is seeking input from the community as part of the planning process for a streetscaping and utility project in the Hemingway District along Oak Park Avenue between Pleasant Street and Ontario Street. A public open house will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27 at the Oak Park Township Senior Center.

Attendees will be able to learn more about the project, which is being planned for construction in 2025. A presentation at 6:45 p.m. will provide an overview of the project's scope, which includes replacing the sidewalks, roadways, lighting and amenities in the business district as well as creating new public spaces to replace deteriorated infrastructure and enhance the area. More information is available at www.renewtheavenue.com. Village staff is working with Terra Engineering, the project's contractor, to promote the open house and directly engage with businesses and property owners along this stretch of Oak Park Avenue prior to the event.

Street resurfacing project – The contractor is placing the final surface on the majority of streets included in this year's resurfacing project and will install thermoplastic pavement markings next week. Roadway excavation is underway on Elmwood Avenue and will soon begin on Ontario Street. Resurfacing at those locations was delayed until after the completion of the school year.

Forest and Ontario improvements – Construction work in the area of the Forest Avenue and Ontario Street intersection is delayed due to sub-contractor conflicts. Once work starts, the roadway will be closed to through traffic with one lane open for nearby residents at all times.

Alley improvement project – The first three alleys have been installed as part of this year's alley improvement project and the contractor is working on restoring garage aprons. The first alley could reopen by the end of next week. Meanwhile, utility construction is nearly complete for the rest of the alleys included in the project.

Pleasant & Marion update – The permanent roof installation is ongoing for the new development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets. Exterior framing and sheathing are wrapping up at the north elevation and the masonry façade work has begun on west elevation. The crane that has been onsite to set windows will be coming down soon as that portion of the project wraps up.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Concrete removal and replacement will continue into next week along the south side of Division Street as part of the sewer replacement and resurfacing project along Division for the entire width of the Village. At the site of the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street, AT&T is in the midst of one month of structural work to be followed by two months of cable pulls. Along Roosevelt Road, Illinois Department of Transportation crews are placing surface course and pavement markings as part of the state's resurfacing project.