



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 7, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 10:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers

- Tuesday, April 11:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 6:30 p.m. in Room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers

- Wednesday, April 12:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m. in 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers

- Thursday, April 13:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 102
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers

- Friday, April 14:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Busy week for Earth Month events – The Village is hosting several events next week as part of a community-wide effort to focus on local sustainability efforts and opportunities during Earth Month this April. A special presentation titled *Greening from the Ground Up* focusing on the integration of ground source heat pumps into historic buildings is planned for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13 in the Council Chambers at Village Hall. The event is being hosted by the Historic Preservation Commission in collaboration with the Environment & Energy Commission. [Click here for more information](#). The Public Works Department is also hosting a series of lunchtime talks. Fleet Superintendent Ken Crowley will discuss the Village's ever-evolving green fleet and answer questions about electric and hybrid vehicles from noon to 1 p.m. on April 14 and April 21. [Click here for more information](#). Forestry Superintendent Grant Jones plans to discuss how the Village is working to diversify the new trees it plants in the parkway and cares for young trees as well as answer questions during walks scheduled for noon to 1 p.m. on April 14 and April 21. The walks will begin in the median near 1000 Kenilworth Ave. at the intersection of Berkshire Street. [Click here for more information](#). Find a full list of Earth Month activities taking place in Oak Park and surrounding communities at www.sustainoakpark.com/community-events.

Budget wins award – The Village has received the [Distinguished Budget Presentation Award](#) for the 2023 budget from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award, which the Village has won multiple times, is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by the organization. In the words of the letter from the GFOA, this award “reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.” [Click here](#) to read the entire letter. To receive the budget award, Finance Department staff had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that required our budget to be not only a policy document and financial plan, but also an operations guide and communications device. The current and past budgets are posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/budget-summaries.

National Public Health Week – As part of National Public Health Week from April 3-9, the Oak Park Public Health Department opened nominations for the William Fitzsimmons awards, which recognize residents, organizations and business who excel in the categories of public health leadership, community and health equity. More information and a nomination form are available at www.oak-park.us/healthawards. The Village has also marked Public Health Week by sharing messages through its communications channels highlighting the Public Health Department’s role in the community. Health Director Dr. Theresa Chapple-McGruder also gave the keynote speech Tuesday afternoon at University of Illinois Chicago to introduce a screening of the documentary “Aftershock,” which focuses on the Black maternal health crisis in the United States.

Positive response for employee discount parking – The Village’s employee discount parking program offers Oak Park businesses owners and managers an opportunity to purchase discount cards for their business staff that allow parking in the Holley Court and The Avenue parking garages. The program is available for employees who earn \$20 per hour or less. In an effort to increase access to the program, the Village recently increased the number of discount cards available for sale, an action that aligns with the Village Board’s goal of community affordability. Businesses owners and managers responded enthusiastically to the changes. During the first quarter of 2023, approximately 100 Oak Park businesses took advantage of the program, with almost 550 discount cards purchased. The program has been so successful that employee discount parking program cards have sold-out for the second quarter of the year.

Village’s green fleet grows – The Village recently purchased six new Nissan Leaf electric vehicles and a Ford electric van. The Nissan Leaf models are replacing six internal combustion engine vehicles and will be used as pool vehicles for property maintenance inspectors and other staff members. The van is being upfitted for the Water & Sewer Division to replace an old diesel van. Two dual port electric vehicle chargers were also recently installed at the Public Works Center, allowing multiple vehicles to charge at the same time.

National Community Development Week - The Village is ready to celebrate National Community Development Week from April 10-14 by raising awareness about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program’s impact on the community. Each year the Village receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

through the CDBG program. For Program Year 2022, which began in October, Oak Park received more than \$1.6 million in federal CDBG. The federally funded, but locally administered program is specifically earmarked to help support and nurture a wide range of programs and services for individuals and families that HUD defines as low and moderate income. A share of the funds also goes toward public infrastructure improvements for persons with disabilities and in areas of the Village that meet income-eligibility requirements based on census data. As part of National Community Development Week, the Village will be sharing information about the CDBG program through its various communications channels. The Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, which assists Village staff in determining how CDBG funds are allocated in Oak Park, has also penned a letter to the editor for the Wednesday Journal.

Business license update – The Village issued 15 new business licenses in March, bringing the total number of new business licenses issued in the first quarter of the year to 28. The strong start to the year matches the pace from 2022 when the number of new business licenses issued was the highest on record. [Click here](#) to view a chart comparing the number of new business licenses processed over the past few years. A list of new business licenses issued dating back to 2021 is available at www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness.

Short-term rental licensing update – The Village has issued 99 short-term rental licenses since the program began in 2022. An additional 12 short-term rental applications have been submitted and are under review by the Development Customer Services Department. Six applications were also recently withdrawn by the property owners. Short-term rentals through companies such as Airbnb pay the same 4-percent tax as the Village's hotel and bed and breakfast businesses. The Village collected \$111,453 in taxes from short-term rentals in 2022.

Employee news – Mary Avinger has been promoted to the role of Human Resources Generalist. A Village employee for more than 23 years, Mary spent the past several years as a Human Resources Coordinator after previously working in the Public Works Department. Mary holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in Human Resources. In her new role, she will support the department and organization by taking on recruiting responsibilities and other key HR program administration duties. In other employee news, Sam Pikula is the newest Engineering Technician in the Public Works Department after joining the organization this week. He spent the past five years at the City of Naperville in the Transportation, Engineering and Development Business Group. Sam graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Sustainability. In the Development Customer Services Department, Nick Amandes passed his International Code Council Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector certificate. Nick is a Property Maintenance Community Development Inspector in the Neighborhood Services Division.

Division Street water & sewer project – With watermain installation on Division Street between East and Elmwood avenues now complete, work has shifted to the sewer main on Ridgeland Avenue. As a result, a planned closure to southbound traffic at the intersection of Ridgeland and Division will continue through next week.

Sidewalk repairs – Sidewalk repairs in the north section of the Village are in full swing. This week the sidewalk sections designated for replacement on the north side of streets were removed, barricaded and framed. Concrete work is ongoing and the sidewalks should be open to the public next week, at which time removal of sidewalk sections on the south side of the street will begin.

Street resurfacing project – The sidewalk and curb has been removed on one side of the street in preparation for the installation of the water main on Pleasant Street near Taylor Avenue. The construction work is part of the Village's larger street resurfacing project. The remaining concrete in this section is scheduled to be removed next week.

Water main valve replacements – This week crews finished replacing the watermain valve at Berkshire Street and Grove Avenue. With all replacements now complete, pavement patching and curb replacement is underway and expected to continue through next week.

Pete's Fresh Market update – The contractor for the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street completed majority of the utility relocation work associated with the project. The contractor will be onsite performing right-of-way restoration over the next few weeks.

Roosevelt Road resurfacing – Electric work is getting underway at the southeast and southwest corners of the intersection of Roosevelt Road and Oak Park Avenue as part of the Illinois Department of Transportation's resurfacing project. Crews have also started to sawcut sidewalk ramps and curbs on the east portion of the project, which is running through Oak Park and several other surrounding communities.

Miscellaneous construction updates – A tower crane and mobile crane are in place to assist with the installation of prefabricated wood stairs and windows at the site of the new development at the intersection of Marion and Pleasant streets. Elsewhere, the contractor for the Nicor Gas project spent the week televising the 800 block of S. Lombard Avenue and 1100 block of Lyman Avenue, resulting in partial lane closures.