



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 29, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, May 2:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom

- Tuesday, May 3:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
 - Environment and Energy Commission, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom

- Wednesday, May 4:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., via Zoom
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom

- Thursday, May 5:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Friday, May 6:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

930 North Boulevard update – A permit application to stabilize the multifamily building at 930 North Blvd. that was deemed uninhabitable last fall due to structural issues has been denied as questions about the approach remain. A 185-page engineering report and a nine-page slab reinforcement design was submitted as a part of the permit application. However, the Village’s engineering consultant denied the permit pending the submission of additional information by the building owner’s contractor, Cubed Construction. The apartment building has been vacant since it was declared uninhabitable in October 2021 after visible structural support issues and sloping floors were observed in the units during a routine remodeling inspection.

New public health initiative – The Health Department has reached an agreement with Oak Park Elementary School District 97 to partner on a new venture aimed at ensuring all uninsured children who attend school in the district have the vaccines needed to enroll in classes. Plans are being put in place for the new effort, which is being referred to as the Vaccine for Children program, to be rolled out in time for the start of the 2022-23 school year. The Health Department and District 97 will be sharing more details as they become available.

Fighting invasive moth – Residents who are battling the invasive [spongy moth](#) in trees on their property can take advantage of pricing the Village received in a competitive bid for treatment of trees on public property. A contractor hired by the Village will be injecting treatments into the trunks of 17 oak trees and scraping egg masses from 39 other parkway trees. Residents with private oak trees in the areas with the highest spongy moth population were notified by letter of the opportunity to get what is likely a lower cost than available to the typical consumer. Property owners have until May 6 to contact the Village contractor if they wish to participate.

Bird flu warning – The Health Department is urging residents not to set up bird feeders or baths at least through May as part of a statewide effort to help prevent the spread of avian influenza. Feeders and baths become gathering spots for birds and thus increase the chances of spreading the disease that is often deadly to fowl. While avian flu typically causes disease only in birds, individuals who have very close contact with infected live or dead birds can be infected. [Click here to learn more...](#)

Paper shredding reminder – As mentioned in last week’s report, residents can safely dispose of sensitive documents they no longer need tomorrow (Saturday, April 30) at the Public Works Center. A commercial document disposal company will set up a commercial paper shredder from 9 a.m. to noon. Similar events in the past have proven very popular, so each household is limited to two bags or small boxes of paper items. Only documents with personal information such as credit card and social security numbers, and medical information will be accepted.

Prescription drug collection – Residents may safely dispose of expired and unwanted prescription drugs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., tomorrow (Saturday, April 30) at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. The event is part of the National Rx Take-Back Day sponsored by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to help prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. The drugs should be in their original package. Liquids and hypodermic needles will not be accepted. Prescription drugs also can be safely disposed of in a box accessible any time in the lobby of the Police Department at Village Hall. More information about annual collection day is posted at www.takebackday.dea.gov.

AED/CPR classes return – The [Fire Department](#) will resume offering a variety of life-saving classes including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Classes are held in the Department’s American Heart Association certified community training center in the main station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. All courses are taught by an AHA-certified instructor. The class schedule and more information on the various types of training is posted at www.oak-park.us/cpr.

Biking the neighborhood beat – The Police Department’s community policing initiative, [Bike the Beat](#), returns this weekend. [Residential beat officers](#) will be biking through neighborhoods, and stopping to engage with residents, answer questions about the community, listen to feedback and even register bikes on-site. Officers are assigned to serve as RBOs for eight geographic zones throughout the Village. RBOs will about out starting at 10 a.m. this Saturday riding through Zones 3 and 5. More information about Bike the Beat, including dates and zones for upcoming rides, is available at www.oak-park.us/bikethebeat.

A Day in Our Village update – Some 80 organizations have signed up so far to participate in [A Day in Our Village](#). This year's in-person event – the first since 2019 – will be somewhat pared down, with a limit of 125 booths and hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Most other activities typical to the festival are planned, including live music and a food court featuring local restaurants. First held in 1973, the event draws thousands of people to Scoville Park on the first Sunday of June. To many Oak Parkers, it is the unofficial beginning of the summer special event season. Organizations or businesses interested in hosting a booth can register through May 13 at www.oak-park.us/DIOVregistration. Volunteers also are needed to help with the event. Representatives of any organization interested in participating may email dayinourvillage@gmail.com. For information on volunteering, contact the Community Relations Department at 708.358.5407 or community@oak-park.us.

Alley improvements – All utility work related to this season's alley improvement projects has been completed. With the concrete pavement poured and garage aprons going in this week, the north-south alley between East and Fair Oaks avenues south of Chicago Avenue should reopen next week. Crews were expected to begin removing pavement in the north-south alley between East and Clinton avenues and south of Garfield Street. Notices about the coming work have been distributed to affected residents within the construction area. The 10 alley segments included in this year's projects are scheduled to be completed by mid-July.

LeMoyne Parkway sewer project – Excavation and utility work are underway at East Avenue and LeMoyne Parkway for the sewer relief project. A new sewer structure placed at the intersection will be assembled and tied into surrounding sewers. Installation of 36-inch pipe and sewer laterals will begin soon along LeMoyne Parkway and extend up to Fair Oaks Avenue.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Utility relocations in the alley adjacent to the multifamily redevelopment project site at Marion and Pleasant streets could wrap up mid-May, as crews begin foundation excavation and curb, gutter and temporary street light removal. The remaining ComEd work for the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street should be completed by the end of May, followed by connecting new ComEd lines to the grid and starting work on the new combined sewer. Illinois Department of Transportation construction contractors have finished patching pavement on Harlem Avenue along the entire western border of Oak Park, as crews continue to adjust structures south of Lake Street and replacing curb.

Employee news – Erik Jacobsen has been named Interim Communications Director following the retirement of David Powers after 22 years in the position. Erik, who served as the Communications & Social Media Manager, joined the Village in 2016 and has since become an integral part of our public information team. His experience prior to joining the Village includes communications manager for the [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) and reporter for the Elgin Courier-News and several other suburban dailies in what was formerly the Sun-Times Media Group. Erik, who earned his journalism degree at the University of Missouri, has been an Oak Park resident for more than eight years. In other employee news, Oak Park's sole female firefighter/paramedic Melissa Schick successfully completed the mandatory one-

year probationary period. Photos of the ceremony held this week are [posted on the Fire Department Facebook page](#).

###