



Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 19, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, May 22:
 - Village Board, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Tuesday, May 23:
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m. in Room 102
- Wednesday, May 24:
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Thursday, May 25:
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m. in Room 215
- Friday, May 26:
 - No meetings scheduled

Farmers' Market opening day – More than two dozen regional vendors are slated to participate in the 48th season of the [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#), which kicks off this Saturday. The Market is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from May 20 through Oct. 28 in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot, 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. The first two weeks of the Market feature Go Green Days with a focus on environmental sustainability. The Village's Office of Sustainability & Resilience and Environment & Energy Commission will be on hand this sharing information about local efforts to respond to the climate crisis and ways residents can get involved. More information about the Farmers' Market season is [posted on the Village website](#).

Professional development around electric vehicles – Village staff from the Development Customer Services Department, the Office of Sustainability & Resilience, the Public Works Department and the Fire Department attended the 2023 Illinois Green Drives Conference this past week at Northern Illinois University's Naperville campus. In addition to attending several educational sessions focused on clean transportation infrastructure and technology, Fire Department personnel received training on procedures for responding to electric vehicle fires and emergencies. One of the Village's newest additions to its Electric Vehicle Fleet, a 2023 Nissan Leaf S, was featured in the conference's vehicle showcase of alternative fuel, electric, and hybrid vehicles.

Naloxone training session planned – As part of its Opioid Overdose Prevention Project, the Health Department is offering a free two-hour training open to the community, including any Village employee, on the use of Naloxone, also known as Narcan. This training will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 25 at Village Hall. Participants will receive

education on the proper use of Naloxone and what to do when they come into contact with someone who is experiencing an opioid overdose. At the end of the class, participants will also be equipped to provide bystander training to others. Those who are interested can email kmonty@oak-park.us to reserve a spot. Earlier this week five Naloxone boxes containing free opioid overdose kits were installed throughout Oak Park. Learn more about the project at www.oak-park.us/naloxone.

CDBG funding recommendations – The Community Development Citizen Advisory Commission (CDCAC) has developed its Program Year (PY) 2023 budget recommendations for the Village’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Village received 23 applications from 17 non-profit organizations requesting CDBG funding in the categories of public service, public facility improvement and/or administration. The Village has been allocated \$1,539,187 in CDBG funding for PY2023 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDCAC’s funding recommendations were made after commissioners heard presentations from the applicants over the course of two public meetings held in April. An additional public hearing related to the recommendations will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. on May 30 in the Council Chamber at Village Hall during which additional public comment will be allowed. The CDCAC’s recommendations and public comments will then be presented to the Village Board on June 20. Following Village Board consideration, the PY2023 CDBG budget will be included in the Village’s annual action plan and submitted to HUD for final approval.

Hotel/motel tax revenue soars – The Village collected \$50,785 in hotel/motel tax collections through March. The revenue generated by the longstanding 4% tax on room stays in hotels, bed and breakfasts and AirBnb-style short-term rentals represents the highest first-quarter return on record and a 19% increase over 2022. The data continues to provide a strong indicator that the hospitality industry is improving in the Oak Park area.

Gun lock giveaway – The Village gave away 33 free gun locks at the community outreach event hosted by the Health and Police departments on May 13. In addition to handing out the gun locks, staff from the two departments answered questions and provided flyers with information about gun safety. Anyone seeking a free gun lock is encouraged to reach out to the Health Department at health@oak-park.us.

Geothermal group purchasing program – Residents and businesses throughout the Chicagoland area are invited to participate in Grow Geo, a group purchasing program designed to pool buying power and secure discounts for geothermal heating and cooling systems. Anyone interested in the program is encouraged to participate in any of the free informational Geothermal Power Hours held virtually and in locations throughout the region. An informational session is scheduled for 7 p.m. next Tuesday, May 23. The hybrid event hosted by the Skokie Sustainable Environment Advisory Commission includes an option to participate via Zoom. [Click here for more information](#). Participants learn about the basics of geothermal, its financial implications for a household and how the Grow Geo program works. After the session, participants can receive a free, no-obligation site assessment from an installer. More information about the Grow Geo program is available at www.growgeo.org.

Juneteenth celebration on horizon – Plans are in the works for Oak Park’s annual Juneteenth celebration. The entire community is invited to the Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony on June 14 at Village Hall and the Juneteenth parade and community cookout on June 18. Community groups and organizations are invited to participate in the parade, which is being organized by members of the community and sponsored by the Village. The cookout will take place following the parade in Taylor Park. Find more information about the Juneteenth celebration, including a link to register to participate in the parade, at www.oak-park.us/juneteenth.

Health officials warn of Mpox resurgence – The CDC [issued an alert](#) this week about a resurgence of mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, in the Chicago area. Health officials say that without renewed vaccination and prevention efforts, spring and summer events could lead to a resurgence of cases. Learn more about mpox and preventing the spread at www.oak-park.us/communicable-diseases. Anyone needing assistance finding an mpox vaccine may contact the Health Department at 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Water quality report available online – Oak Park residents interested in knowing about the quality of the water they drink can find the latest annual report at www.oak-park.us/waterqualityreport. Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires communities to provide details on the quality of the local drinking water. In addition to analyses of substances in the water, the report also includes facts about the community's drinking water delivery system and source. An archive of past water quality reports is posted at www.oak-park.us/waterquality. For more information about Oak Park's drinking water or to request a paper copy of the annual water report, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Building Safety Month continues – As a part Building Safety Month this May, the Village is calling on the community to help advocate for building safety. Tips and tools to help raise awareness about building safety can be found on the International Code Council website – [click here to view](#). Members of the community are also invited to contact their Oak Park’s code officials at permits@oak-park.us to learn more about building safety.

What’s Bloomin’ on Harrison – The Oak Park Arts District is hosting its annual What’s Blooming on Harrison street festival from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. this Saturday, May 20. From Humphrey to Highland avenues, Harrison Street will transform into an art fair with live music, food vendors, a children’s carnival and more. Find more information about the family-friendly event on the Arts District website – [click here to view](#).

CRC grand opening this Sunday – The grand opening for the Park District of Oak Park’s new Community Recreation Center is set for 2 to 5 p.m. this Sunday, May 21. The new facility at 229 Madison St. will be open for guests to explore during the event, which will also feature family-friendly activities, games and giveaways. The CRC features an esports lounge, gymnasium, fitness center, indoor track and more. Find more information about the facility and grand-opening event at www.pdop.org.

C4 supporting paid job training – The Clean Energy Workforce Development Cohort, in partnership with Urban Efficiency Group, the Chicago Urban League and the Cross Community Climate Collaborative, is seeking local residents to participate in paid training to become professional energy efficiency technicians. Interested individuals can apply directly through an [online application form](#). The application deadline is May 24. The first group training begins on June 5 at the Local Ironworkers 63 facility in Broadview. The Village is a participant in the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4).

Street resurfacing project – The contractor spent the past week working on restoration of parkways. Most of the work is complete, and the remaining work will be finished in the coming days. Milling is scheduled for Monday through Wednesday of next week. This operation will be followed by patching, structure adjustments and final paving. The contractor anticipates having the first layer of asphalt completed in May.

Division Street water & sewer update – Utility work is complete at the intersection of Division Street and Oak Park Avenue and normal traffic patterns have been restored. Concrete work is in progress on the north side of the street across the Village. Once the north side is complete, the contractor will switch to the south side to ensure the safe passage for pedestrians at all times. The contractor expects paving for the project to begin in late June or early July.

South and Marion crosswalk improvements – The contractor is working on crosswalk repairs in the eastbound lane of the intersection at South Boulevard and Marion Street. Work may be concluded as early as May 26. In the meantime, South Boulevard remains closed to eastbound traffic from Harlem Avenue to Home Avenue. Travel in all other directions remains open, but drivers should anticipate delays in the area.

Pete's Fresh Market update – The remaining AT&T work associated with the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street is expected to start the week of May 29. Once AT&T completes its work in the cul-de-sac area, the contractor for the project will proceed with the cul-de-sac development on Euclid Avenue.

Alley improvements – Utility construction began this week for the 2023 alley improvement project with hopes of pushing the project ahead so concrete crews can begin their work on May 30. Hancock Engineering has also been meeting with residents regarding the garage apron replacement program associated with this project.

Pleasant & Marion update – The carpentry contractor is finishing up the installation of roof trusses and sheathing this week at the development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets. Exterior framing and sheathing are complete on the east elevation and is being installed on the north side of the building. Roof stocking and installation will start next week. After the roof is complete, the contractor will start thermal insulation and drywall.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The crack filling and rejuvenator contractors have completed their work., and minor cleanup will occur this week to wrap up the project. Along Roosevelt Road, crews continue to reinstall brick pavers and perform saw cutting for the upcoming patch work associated with the Illinois Department of Transportation's resurfacing

project. Elsewhere, the contractor for the Nicor Gas project televised the 1100 block of S. Lombard Ave and 1100 block of S. Ridgeland Ave. this past week.