



## Village Manager's Report Week ending August 19, 2022

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 22:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, August 23:
  - Disability Access Commission, 6 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, August 24:
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, August 25:
  - Historic Preservation Architectural Review Committee, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, August 26:
  - 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**

**Community Relations Commission accepting grant applications** – The Community Relations Commission is administering a small grant program to support community activities that advance its 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. Applications are being accepted via an [online form](#) through Sept. 14. More information is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/CRCgrant](http://www.oak-park.us/CRCgrant).

**Overnight on-street permit revisions under review** – The Transportation Commission will discuss proposed revisions to several Village overnight on-street permit zones at its 7 p.m. meeting on Sept. 13. As part of the Commission's continued evaluation of policies enacted as part of the Village's *Parking Pilot Program*, the Commission is discussing the potential for improving access to night permit parking in certain areas of the community. The Development Customer Service Department's Parking and Mobility Services Division has distributed letters to properties adjacent to or near a street frontage on which the Village is considering changes.

**In-person Solar Power Hour event** – Community members can learn about the basics of solar energy, its financial benefits and how a solar group buy program can lower the cost of installing solar panels at an in-person Solar Power Hour event set for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 22 at the Oak Park Public Library’s Maze Branch, 845 Gunderson Ave. More than 100 individuals registered for a virtual Solar Power Hour event that was held earlier this month. A recording of the virtual meeting is available by [clicking here](#). The Solar Power Hour events are organized by Grow Solar Chicagoland, a program offered by the [Midwest Renewable Energy Association](#) and [Citizens Utility Board](#) for home and business owners in Cook, Will, DuPage, Lake and Kane counties to help pool their buying power to secure significant discounts that make installing solar more affordable. More information is at [www.growsolar.org/chicagoland](http://www.growsolar.org/chicagoland).

**Corn Roast a big success** – A grand total of 975 ears of corn were sold at the Oak Park Farmers’ Market’s Corn Roast on Aug. 13. The event coincided with the biggest turnout at the Market so far this year as staff estimates more than 5,000 individuals visited the Market last week. Attention is now turning to the Market’s Pie Bake-Off, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 17. Market officials are seeking both contestants and judges for the event. The contest is open to professional and amateur bakers ages 16 and older. There is no registration fee, but pre-registration is required. More details can be found on the [contest entry form](#), which may be submitted to the Farmers’ Market Information Booth or via e-mail to [farmersmarket@oak-park.us](mailto:farmersmarket@oak-park.us) on or before Sept. 3. Anyone interested in judging the contest is encouraged to send a paragraph or two explaining why they should be selected to [farmersmarket@oak-park.us](mailto:farmersmarket@oak-park.us) by Aug. 31. More information about the Pie Bake-Off is available at [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket). And voting is still underway as part of a \$10,000 grant giveaway organized by the American Farmland Trust and the Farmers Market Coalition. [Click here to cast a vote for the Oak Park Farmers’ Market](#).

**Fire Department training** – Members of the Oak Park Fire Department engaged in training this week to simulate the rescue of a downed firefighter. The Fire Department held the drill at the old Mohr concrete site was recently sold to new owners and is awaiting redevelopment. Fire officials say they are grateful to be granted access to the property given that the site offers real-world challenges that enhance training exercises.

**Business community outreach** – Development Customer Services Assistant Director Cameron Davis and Parking Services Manager Sean Keane attended the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce new member breakfast and spoke to 35 people in attendance about Village business services, grant applications and parking services. A list of newly licensed businesses is available at [www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness](http://www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness).

**Short-term rental licensing update** – Development Customer Service staff has issued almost 40 short-term rental licenses since the Village Board approved the new licensing program. Additional license applications have been submitted and Village staff is busy scheduling the inspections needed to complete the licensing process. Short-term rentals through companies such as Airbnb pay the same 4-percent tax as the Village’s hotel and bed and breakfast businesses. Through the first half of 2022, short-term rentals have contributed \$62,868 in hotel/motel tax dollars to the Village’s general fund.

**Home rehab assistance available** - Helping Oak Park homeowners pay for needed repairs they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford is what the Village's single-family rehab loan program is all about. The rehab program offers loans of up to \$25,000 to correct health and safety issues and building code violations, such as broken pipes or a leaking roof. Eligibility is determined by federal income limits. For example, a family of four with a total household income of less than \$83,350 and a family of two with a household income less than \$66,700 would qualify for assistance. For more information visit [www.oak-park.us/housing](http://www.oak-park.us/housing), email [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us) or call 708.358.5410.

**Visit Oak Park lines up airtime for Oak Park events** – In an effort to promote local tourism, [Visit Oak Park](#) has been successful in its efforts to attract free media coverage for various Oak Park events. Most recently, the [Oak Park Micro Brew Review](#) that is taking place this Saturday in Downtown Oak Park was featured on NBC-5's Chicago Today program – [click here to view the segment](#). Other businesses and events that have been featured in Chicago media outlets thanks to Visit Oak Park's efforts include the Happy Apple Pie Shop, What's Blooming on Harrison, One Lake Brewing, Carnivore and Anfora Wine Merchants. The Pleasant Home Foundation's [Silent Movies on the Porch](#) is also set to be featured on Fox-32 Chicago in the coming days.

**Free parenting workshops** – Families with young children can sign up for a series of free parenting workshops offered in early September, sponsored by the [Collaboration for Early Childhood](#). The 12-week virtual programs are offered in both English and Spanish and will help parents/caregivers be more consistent with parenting strategies, gain confidence and meet other parents/caregivers raising young children. More information and a link to register is available on the Collaboration for Early Childhood website – [click here to view](#).

**Demolition work begins 7 Van Buren Ave.** – The Oak Park Residence Corporation has begun demolition work at the site of what will be the new, previously approved, residential apartment building at 7 Van Buren Ave. As with all permitted demolition projects in the community, Village staff is monitoring the activity.

**Sewer improvements** – The contractor for the sewer improvement project began replacing the sewer main and sewer services on Lenox Street, with work starting at Ridgeland Avenue and moving west toward Elmwood Avenue. Sewer replacement work will continue on Lenox next week with concrete removals and replacements to follow. On Kenilworth Avenue, the concrete contractor removed and replaced the first phase of sidewalk, curbs and driveway aprons that were identified for replacement.

**Pleasant & Marion** – Crews for the development at Pleasant and Marion installed jersey barriers at the crosswalk on Marion Street and ordered additional signage for sidewalk closures, crosswalks and construction traffic that could be installed as soon as next week. ComEd work associated with the project is also tentatively scheduled for next week.

**Pete's Fresh Market update** – ComEd's latest schedule shows a completion date of Aug. 24 for its work associated with the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street. However, ComEd discovered a fiber optic line in its duct work and the relocation work has not been

scheduled. The upcoming sewer installation that will follow the ComEd work is pending approval.