



Village Manager's Report Week ending August 18, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 21:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, August 22:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, August 23:
 - Tenant Workshop for Renters, 6 p.m. in Council Chambers
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
- Thursday, August 24:
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m. in Room 101
- Friday, August 25:
 - No meetings scheduled

Economic vitality update – The Village has issued a building permit for a new mixed-use development at 1034-1036 Lake St. The high-profile property is being re-developed after a structure fire in 2021 resulted in the total loss of the previous building on the site. The new four-story development will include approximately 2,600 square feet of commercial space on the first floor with two residential units on each of the second, third and fourth floors. [Click here](#) for an elevation drawing of the new building. The developer of the project has already completed the new building's foundation.

Resources for unhoused – The Village has launched a landing page on its website that provides a wealth of information on how unhoused individuals are being addressed in Oak Park. The page contains information that was shared during a policy discussion meeting last month, answers to frequently asked questions, community resources and useful links to partner agencies such as the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition, Housing Forward and Live4Lali. This resource will be regularly updated as new information becomes available. The Resources for the Unhoused page can be found at www.oak-park.us/unhoused. Downtown Oak Park recently shared a letter with its building and business owners regarding an encampment in that business district. The letter, which can be viewed [here](#), was developed by DTOP in consultation with staff from the Village Manager's Office (Communications & Engagement) and Development Customer Services.

EVCS locator in Park Oak Park app – An electric vehicle charging station locator tool has been successfully integrated into the Village's [Park Oak Park mobile app](#). Powered by the

U.S. Department of Energy, this tool allows users to search for and view nearby publicly-accessible EV charging stations. [Click here](#) to learn how users can navigate to this tool within Park Oak Park.

Opioid overdose awareness outreach – International Overdose Awareness Day is coming up on Aug. 31, and the Department of Public Health is partnering with Oak Park Township’s Opioid Task Force to educate the community on this topic all month long. Public Health Education staff members hosted “office hours” at the Oak Park Library’s Idea Box earlier this month to discuss the Village’s Opioid Overdose Prevention Project, including the free Narcan pouches available in boxes throughout the community. The Health Education team will be back at the Idea Box at 9 a.m. next Friday, Aug. 25. To mark International Overdose Awareness Day, the Health Department will join Village President Vicki Scaman, Live4Lali, the Way Back Inn, Riveredge Hospital, the Community Mental Health Board and other community partners from 2 to 5:30 p.m. in Scoville Park for a prevention resource fair and vigil for those lost to opioid overdose. More information about opioid overdose prevention is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/naloxone-project.

Building benchmarking workshops planned – Owners and managers of large buildings in Oak Park are invited to a two-part workshop hosted by the Village and Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) to assist with compliance with the Village’s new energy and water benchmarking ordinance, which requires buildings 10,000 square feet and larger to report their annual energy and water consumption using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. The first set of workshops will be held virtually and will focus on data collection, with owners/managers of multifamily properties scheduled for Aug. 22 and owners/managers of commercial properties scheduled for Aug. 23. The second workshop will take place in September and will focus on data entry, troubleshooting, and energy upgrade financing. More information and links to register for the workshops are available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/building-benchmarking.

Health Department hosting vaccine clinic – The Oak Park Public Health Department is hosting its monthly immunization clinic from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Aug. 22 at Cheney Mansion. Health Department staff will be offering free COVID booster shots, which are recommended for anyone who is immunocompromised, is 65 years or older or who has not received a bivalent booster. This clinic will also offer vaccines for children who have never been vaccinated for COVID. [Click here to register for an appointment](#). For more information about the monthly clinics, visit www.oak-park.us/covid19vaccine or contact the Health Department at 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us.

Village hosting tenant workshop for renters – Oak Park renters are invited to learn about a range of topics during a tenant workshop being hosted by the Village from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 23 in Room 101 at Village Hall. Tenant’s rights, lease agreements, fair housing, discriminatory practices, security deposits, maintenance issues, neighbor disputes, rental assistance, legal services and the Village’s Rental Tenant Landlord Ordinance are among the topics that will be discussed. Refreshments will be served. Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to register online – [click here to register](#). For more information, contact DEI@oak-park.us.

E2 update – The Village’s Equity & Environment staff team recently visited Trailside Museum for its August meeting. Cook County Forest Preserve staff presented on its organizational journey towards greater equity and sustainability, and demonstrated how to integrate traditional indigenous knowledge into educational programming and operations. E2 will be hosting a year-end coffee and cohort celebration at 3 p.m. on Sept. 7. All interested Village staff are invited to attend to learn more about E2 and how to join the new cohort.

Employee news – The Police Department celebrated the promotions of Matthew Schrock, Steven Guy and Derrick Verge to the rank of Sergeant with a swearing-in ceremony Friday afternoon. Matthew previously served in the detective bureau, Steven previously served within the patrol division and Derrick previously served in the community policing division as a Neighborhood Resource Officer. In other employee news, Dawn Skoda is the Village’s new Business License Officer in the Development Customer Services Department. Dawn comes to the DCS team after working for more than five years with the Public Works Department’s Water & Sewer Division. Prior to working at the Village, Dawn owned and operated her own business in Arizona.

Sustainability outreach – Village Sustainability staff will join community partners at the monthly meeting of COOP – Climate Ready Community Outreach to Oak Park – scheduled for next week. COOP is an initiative facilitated by local non-profit, One Earth Local. Learn more at www.oneearthcollective.org/one-earth-local.

Farmers’ Market update – Last week’s Corn Roast was a big success with more than \$2,300 in sales representing the Market’s highest-grossing Corn Roast since 2017. Oak Park Farmers’ Market officials are now turning their attention to the annual Pie Bake-Off scheduled for Sept. 9. Contest entry forms may be submitted through Sept. 1 at the Farmers' Market information tent or by emailing farmersmarket@oak-park.us. The contest is open to contestants aged 12 or over, or contestants 11 and younger who are accompanied by an adult baker. More details can be found on the contest entry form at www.oak-park.us/2023piebakeoff.

Federal disaster assistance available – Oak Park residents who were impacted by severe weather and flooding in July are now eligible for FEMA Individual Assistance, which could include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the storms. Disaster survivors and businesses who sustained damages in Cook County can begin applying for Disaster Assistance by calling 800.621.FEMA (3362), applying online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by using the [FEMA mobile app](#). More information about the disaster declaration is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/FEMAassistance.

Beware of electricity scams – Village staff is reminding residents that if someone calls or knocks on your door promising a better deal on electricity, be cautious – you could be misled into switching to a supplier that will cost more. Salespeople who offer to save you money may ask for your account number or to see your bill. Most likely they are selling a low introductory rate or trying to get your account number so they can switch you to a different provider without your permission. Representatives from the Village or its electricity supplier, MC Squared Energy Services, never solicit door-to-door or by telephone. More information,

including some basic guidelines to help avoid scams, is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/electricscam.

Water and sewer improvements – This week the contractor installed new water main on Augusta Street between the 600 blocks of N. Taylor Ave. and N. Humphrey Ave. The intersection of August and Lombard Avenue has been reopened to thru traffic, while Augusta east of Lombard remains closed. The contractor also cleared the intersection of the 600 blocks of N. Taylor Ave and Hayes Ave. in preparation for the Wright Ride bicycle event this Sunday. This work included the removal of debris, moving structures, cleaning, and hosing down the intersection.

Pete's Fresh Market update – The contractor for the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street is set to receive the final schedule from ComEd for the remainder of its work that includes line cuts and pole relocations along the development site. AT&T will begin phase two next week and proceed with related cable pulls.

Forest and Ontario improvements – The contractor has resumed boring operations related to the ongoing Forest/Ontario project. Work is progressing slower than expected due to the proximity of existing utility mains and services. The proposed conduit in the roadway will be open cut with single lanes of traffic closed while work is ongoing. Plates or temporary trench fill will be used to re-open both lanes of traffic by the end of each day.

Division Street improvements – The utility adjustments are complete and work has shifted to prepping the parkways for sodding. Next week crews will focus on applying the final surface to the roadway, which will be followed by the placement of pavement markings and sign installation.

Alley lighting project – Contractors have replaced roughly a quarter of the more than 1,000 alley lights throughout the Village as part of the ongoing project to install new energy efficient LED bulbs. Crews are currently working their way through the alleys between North Boulevard and Chicago Avenue after encountering minor delays due to weather this week.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Construction work on the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets is forging ahead with masonry façade installation on the southeast elevation and tile installation wrapping up and finished flooring set to begin next week. Elsewhere, the contractor for the ongoing Nicor Gas project is televising the 1000 block of S. Elmwood Ave. with partial lane closures anticipated while work is ongoing.

Southtown Summerfest this Saturday – Businesses in the Southtown Business District are hosting Summerfest event for all ages along the 800 block of Oak Park Ave. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 19. Plans for the new event include an artisan market, live music, sidewalk sales, special restaurant menus and field-day activities. More information is at www.sternglassworks.com/summerfest.

Oak Park Arts District business event – The Oak Park Arts District is hosting a special promotion today (Aug. 18) and Saturday, Aug. 19 during which customers can grab an Arts District passport from one of 11 participating Arts District businesses. With the passport in

hand, customer can then get it stamped by three or more of the participating businesses when making purchases within the Arts District. When a customer has finished shopping or snacking, they can turn in their stamped passport to any of the participating businesses to be entered into a drawing to receive a gift basket filled with Art District goodies. [Click here](#) for the list of participating businesses.

Microbrew Review this Saturday – The largest zero-waste craft beer fest in the Midwest happens this weekend right here in Oak Park. Tickets are available for the Oak Park Microbrew Review from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 19 in Downtown Oak Park. Proceeds from the event support Seven Generations Ahead. For more information, visit www.sevengenerationsahead.org/opmbr.

7th Congressional District meeting at Village Hall – U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis is hosting a town hall meeting with constituents from the 7th Congressional District, which includes Oak Park, at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 21 in the Council Chamber at Village Hall. The public forum will cover a variety of topics and include discussion of important issues affecting the community. For more information, call 773.533.7520.

CTA Blue Line project update – With the [Chicago Transit Authority's](#) Forest Park Blue Line project progressing on schedule, Blue Line riders can anticipate slight service changes next week. Trains to and from Forest Park will continue to begin and end at the Illinois Medical District stop. However, starting Sunday night Blue Line trains will resume serving the Clinton and UIC-Halsted stations with no service between the UIC-Halsted and Illinois Medical District stations. Free shuttle bus service is available near the construction zone along with reduced rail fare for customers boarding at Ashland/Lake and all stations west on the Green and Pink Lines, as well as those boarding at Illinois Medical District and all stations west on the Blue Line. Complete details about the Forest Park Blue Line project can be found on the CTA website at www.transitchicago.com/fprebuild.