



Village Manager's Report Week ending September 8, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, September 11:
 - Village Board Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers
 - Village Board, 8:30 p.m. in Council Chambers

- Tuesday, September 12:
 - Aging in Communities Commission, 6 p.m. in Room 102
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers

- Wednesday, September 13:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101

- Thursday, September 14:
 - Village Board, 6 p.m. at Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Ave.
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers

- Friday, September 15:
 - No meetings scheduled

Business license update – The Village issued 72 new business licenses during the first eight months of the year, putting it on target for a third consecutive year of 100 or more new business licenses. [Click here](#) for a chart showing the number of new business licenses issued going back to 2019. Through a joint program with the Village and the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce, all new business license recipients receive a free six-month Chamber of Commerce membership. A list of new business licenses issued dating back to 2021 is available at www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness.

Pie Bake-Off at Farmers' Market – The Oak Park Farmers' Market's annual Pie Bake-Off is taking place from about 9 to 11 a.m. this Saturday, Sept. 9 in the Pilgrim Church parking lot at 460 Lake Street. A panel of judges will choose a first, second and third place winner from this year's entrants. To top it off, slices of pie will be given away to Market visitors after the contest on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the Market, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

BarrieFest returns this Saturday – The South East Oak Park Community Organization (SEOPCO) is hosting its annual BarrieFest event from noon to 5 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 9 at Barrie Park, 1011 S. Lombard Ave. The neighborhood celebration features food, fun and friendship. Joe Kreml, the Village's Media Production Manager, produced a video to help promote the event. [Click here to view the video](#) on the Village's YouTube page.

Opioid overdose prevention update – Three months after its debut, the Oak Park Department of Public Health’s [Opioid Overdose Prevention Project](#) has distributed more than 800 doses of the life-saving medication Naloxone, commonly known as Narcan. The Health Department is continuing to offer training to interested community members on how to recognize signs of an overdose and how to administer Narcan. The next free training is at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 21 at Village Hall – [click here to register](#). More information about the Opioid Overdose Prevention Project and how it has been embraced by the community is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Record month for Fire Department – The Oak Park Fire Department responded to 881 calls in August, the highest total on record for a single month. Fire officials have not yet been able to pinpoint the reason for the jump. One factor being considered is the extreme heat that impacted the area last month, but officials say the high daily totals extended beyond the heat wave. Of the 881 calls last month, 69% were for emergency medical service.

Employee news – Cameroun Reeves and Javonni Harrell have joined the Police Department as probationary Police Officers. The duo was sworn in during a ceremony Friday morning at Village Hall and will start training at the Chicago Police Academy next week. Meanwhile, the Police Department bid farewell to Commander John Curtin, who retired after 29 years of service to the community. In other employee news, the Village also bid farewell this week to Chief Financial Officer Steve Drazner, who is leaving the organization to pursue a similar position at the Village of Northbrook.

National Suicide Prevention Month – September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and the Village is partnering with the Oak Park Township and Community Mental Health Board to provide education and resources for the community throughout the month. Nationally, there is a death by suicide every 11 minutes, and according to the CDC, suicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 25-34 years in 2021. However, health officials are reminding everyone that suicide is preventable. Learn more about the warning signs at www.cdc.gov/suicide, and call 988 if you or a loved one are experiencing a mental health crisis. Stay tuned for more resources for suicide prevention throughout the month.

Shredding and foam recycling event this month – Residents are encouraged to mark their calendar for the Village's free paper shredding and foam recycling event scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 23 at the Public Works Center. This will mark the first Public Works event where residents can drop off foam products with the No. 6 symbol, which are not accepted as part of the Village's single-stream recycling program. Please collect foam products in a clear, translucent bag. For paper shredding, each household can bring two bags or small boxes of paper items with personal information such as canceled checks and documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information. Find more details about the event on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/shred923.

Economic Vitality update – Oak Park business Sparkle Aesthetics, currently located at 1053 Madison St., is preparing to move to its new and expanded location at 1000 Madison St. Business owner Danice Sher has been working for months to update both the exterior and interior of the new location. In preparing the new building and space, the business brought

in a mural artist named Gibbs Rounsavall, who created an original work of art on the building. [Click here](#) to view a photo of the building's exterior. Find more information about Sparkle Aesthetics at www.sparkleaesthetics.com.

Chamber of Commerce annual meeting – The Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce has scheduled its annual meeting for 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Thurs., Sept. 21 at the Lake Theatre, 1022 Lake St. Attendance for members is complimentary and includes light breakfast and networking. More information is available on the Chamber of Commerce website at www.oprfchamber.org/annual-meeting.

Division Street improvements – The contractor finished placing the final asphalt surface on Division Street and is scheduled to start installing pavement markings next week. Sod placement in the parkways will occur the week of Sept. 18, weather permitting.

Sidewalk improvements – The Village's annual sidewalk repair program will begin the week of Sept. 18. The focus for this year's project will be sidewalks on east-west streets in the south half of the Village. Squares will be removed and replaced on one side of the street at a time to allow for pedestrian access. Typical sidewalk closures last approximately one week. The anticipated completion date for the project is mid-October.

Street resurfacing project – The contractor installed tree protection and performed root pruning along stretches of Augusta Street, Berkshire Street and Greenfield Street where street resurfacing is scheduled for this fall. Tree protection work for the remainder of the locations will be completed next week. Crews spent the past few days placing traffic controls signs at all resurfacing locations. Curb and sidewalk removals also began and will continue into next week.

Water and Sewer improvements – The contractor completed the transfer of water services to the newly installed water main along Augusta Street between Humphrey Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Construction layout and saw cutting also occurred at the intersection of and Augusta and Hayes Avenue in anticipation of the upcoming sewer work at that location.

Forest and Ontario improvements – The electric contractor is finishing the installation of conduits for lighting features. The remaining conduits need trenching, and the open cuts will impact traffic. Single lanes of traffic will be closed, but plates or temporary trench fill will be used to re-open both lanes of traffic by the end of each day. Concrete and brick removals are also expected to begin shortly.

Pete's Fresh Market update – The contractor is working on scheduling the final restoration work for underground improvements associated with the new Pete's Fresh Market development along Madison Street. The work will consist of milling and resurfacing the asphalt pavement on the 300 block and 400 block of S. Euclid Ave and the 600 block of Washington Blvd. The work is anticipated to take approximately three weeks.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Approximately 800 new energy-efficient LED bulbs have been installed in alleys so far as crews for the project continued their work in alleys between Madison Street and I-290. Construction at the new development at Marion and

Pleasant streets continues to progress, with crews working on the masonry façade, floor preparation in the amenity spaces, drywall installation and preparations for ComEd work slated for mid-September.