



## Village Manager's Report

Week ending October 7, 2022

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, October 10:
  - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, October 11:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, October 12:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, October 13:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, October 14:
  - 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

**Farmers' Market conducting customer survey** – As the Village gets ready to wrap up the 47th season of the Oak Park Farmers' Market at the end of October, staff is already looking forward to next year. To help plan for next season, Market officials are gathering feedback from customers about various aspects of the Market in a short online survey. The survey is available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/FMSurvey22](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FMSurvey22), and will give insights into the customers' purchasing preferences and experiences at the Market. Survey questions aim to gather feedback on the variety of products offered, hours, pricing, sustainability efforts at the Market, special events and suggestions for future programming. Village staff and the Farmers' Market Commission will use this data to improve customer experiences and tailor programming and offerings at the Market. Survey participants can enter their name and contact information at the end of the survey to be entered in a raffle to win a free basket of Market goodies at the penultimate Market of the season on Saturday, Oct. 22.

**Business license activity remains brisk** – The Village has processed 87 new businesses licenses through the first eight months of 2022, marking a 19-percent increase over the same period in 2021. Last year the Development Customer Services Department processed what is believed to be a record 100 new business licenses, and the Village is on pace to surpass that number this year. [Click here](#) to view a chart comparing the number of new business licenses processed over the past few years. The latest list of businesses that have received a license from the Village this year is posted at [www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness](http://www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness).

**Hotel/motel tax update** – The Village collected \$153,384 in hotel/motel taxes through the first eight months of the year, marking a 2-percent increase over pre-pandemic hotel/motel tax collections over the same period in 2019. Payments from short-term rentals such as Airbnb continue to drive the increase. The tax is also collected by local hotels and bed and breakfast operations. [Click here](#) for a more detailed, multi-year summary of the Village’s hotel/motel tax collections.

**7 Van Buren groundbreaking** – The Oak Park Residence Corporation (OPRC), a nonprofit community development organization, held a ceremonial groundbreaking event at its 48-unit apartment complex being constructed at 7 Van Buren St. The new development aims to provide high-quality multifamily rental housing at reasonable rates for households of all income levels. Village President Vicki Scaman spoke at the event, which was also attended by Village Trustees Chibuike Enyia and Ravi Parakkat. OPRC has already begun the process of installing the foundation at the property. Construction updates are being posted on the OPRC website at [www.oakparkrc.com/7vanburen](http://www.oakparkrc.com/7vanburen).

**Plan Commission approves cohousing development** – The Plan Commission voted unanimously Thursday to recommend the approval of the cohousing planned development proposed for 839 Madison St. Plans call for the building to run almost entirely on electricity once completed. The planned development request is expected to come before the Village Board in November.

**Kitten rescue gets national attention** – Fire Chief Ron Kobyleski recently received a letter in the mail from Ingrid Newkirk, President of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), thanking the Fire Department for rescuing a kitten that was trapped in the engine of a parked vehicle last month. Word of the rescue spread far and wide after staff posted a photo of the rescue on the Fire Department [Facebook](#) page and Village [Instagram](#) account. The Instagram post reached 5,269 people and was liked 669 times while the Facebook post reached 4,374 people and generated 257 reactions.

**Filming in Oak Park** – The backdrop of fall in Oak Park continues to be popular among film producers. The Community Relations Department is processing a permit request submitted by the producers of the NBC television series *Chicago P.D.* to film scenes for an upcoming episode next Tuesday at 831 Clinton Ave.

**Employee news** – Tina Brown recently received her International Code Council (ICC) Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector certification and completed her Lead Risk Assessor training. Both accomplishments are tied to her role as Neighborhood Services Division Supervisor within the Development Customer Services Department. In other employee news, Nick Amandes has been promoted to Property Maintenance Community Development Inspector and will begin his new role within the DCS Neighborhood Services Division on Monday. Nick has been with the Village since

August when he came on board as a Customer Service Representative in the DCS Parking Services Division.

**Visit Oak Park President & CEO search begins** – A search is underway for a new Visit Oak Park President and CEO following the recent announcement that Eric Wagner is leaving the role. The Visit Oak Park Board of Directors intends to engage in a national search to fill the position. Cameron Davis, Assistant Director of the Village's Development Customer Services Department, is a member of the Visit Oak Park Board of Directors search committee along with Chairperson Jim Prescott (Prescott & Associates), Jennifer Fournier (Principal of Via Digerati Marketing and Chair of the Riverside Economic Development Commission), Jackie Iovinelli (Executive Director of the Park District of Forest Park) and Susan Crane (Historic Properties and Special Events Manager of the Park District of Oak Park).

**Library names new executive director** – The Oak Park Public Library Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the hire of Joslyn Bowling Dixon as the Library's next executive director at its meeting Thursday. Bowling Dixon is slated to begin her new role Nov. 7. She most recently served as Director of Newark (N.J.) Public Library. Early in her career, she worked at the Oak Park Public Library as a Circulation Manager and as a Library Associate. More information is posted on the Library's website – [click here to view](#).

**FLW Race volunteers needed** - The Park District of Oak Park is seeking volunteers to help at the upcoming Frank Lloyd Wright Races on Sunday, Oct. 16. Assistance is needed for preparations before the event and also along the course on race day to help make the longstanding fall tradition a success. Volunteers are asked register at [www.flwraces.com](http://www.flwraces.com). All volunteers will receive a race t-shirt for participating.

**Sewer improvement update** – With sewer installation complete on Thomas Street, crews are now removing and replacing sidewalk and curb within the construction zone, with full depth removal of the roadway to follow. Once the pavement is removed, asphalt paving will occur shortly thereafter, during which time there will be no access to driveways within the construction zone. Residents impacted by the construction have received temporary parking passes in the mail. Elsewhere, general cleanup and a few landscape items were completed at sewer improvement sites on Lenox Street and Kenilworth Avenue.

**Street resurfacing update** – Utility adjustments are underway on the stretches of Taylor Avenue and Superior Street that are undergoing street resurfacing, and concrete work is wrapping up on Linden, Maple and Kenilworth Avenues. The remaining roadway excavations will occur after the Park District's Frank Lloyd Wright races on Oct. 16. A map showing the streets scheduled to undergo street resurfacing can be found under the project tab at [www.oak-park.us/construction](http://www.oak-park.us/construction).

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – The underground utility, electrical and structure waterproofing work associated with the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets is ongoing, and concrete crews are mobilizing to start prepping slabs for the garage, lobby and maisonette units. At the site of the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street, the underground water detention system has been installed and work has begun to install private utility structures.