



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 28, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, October 31:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, November 1:
 - Community Development Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, November 2:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, November 3:
 - Village Board Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, November 4:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Status report bulletin* heading**

Leaf collection set to begin – The annual fall leaf collection begins Monday, Oct. 31 and continues through the week of Dec. 5. Six pickups are planned for each quadrant of the Village, based on address. Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates. Leaves in the street are pushed into piles by Public Works crews during the night to reduce impact on traffic and parked cars, and then collected the following day by LRS, the Village's refuse hauler. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date should keep their leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup. Residents are urged to consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch instead of raking. [More information is posted on the Village website.](#)

South fire station renovations ongoing – Renovations aimed at creating a healthier and more equitable living space at the Oak Park Fire Department's south fire station are in progress, with a mid-December completion date being targeted. More than \$550,000 were budgeted for the upgrades, which include changes to the bunk room, locker room and bathrooms to accommodate male, female and nonbinary/transgender firefighter/paramedics. The south fire station, located at 900 S. East Ave., was built in 1961, a time when only male firefighters worked in the department. Prior to this renovation project, bathrooms were single gender with community shower stalls, and only limited repairs had been made to the bunk, locker and bathrooms. The project also included asbestos remediation. The Village Board initially approved funding for the project in its 2020 Capital Improvement Plan budget, but the project was on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the course of the project, the living areas were temporarily relocated to the opposite side of the building so the station could continue to operate.

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church ceremony Saturday – All are invited to participate in the installation of a commemorative plaque that marks the site of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, which served as the

cornerstone of Oak Park's aspiring African American community in the early 20th century. The ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 1100 Westgate St. The commemorative plaque and dedication ceremony are the result of a collaboration between the Oak Park Reparations Task Force, Black Residents of Oak Park, Oak Park River Forest Museum, Oak Park Area Arts Council and the Village of Oak Park.

Farmers' Market season wraps up Saturday – The Oak Park Farmers' Market season ends this Saturday, Oct. 29. Vendors will set up shop for the last time this year from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot at 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. In keeping with tradition, [stone soup](#) made from vendor vegetables will be served up from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty as a way of thanking patrons for supporting the Market this season. In addition, Pilgrim Church will be selling chocolate donuts and apple cinnamon donuts. More information about the Farmers' Market is posted at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Halloween trick-or-treating hours – Official hours for trick or treating in Oak Park are 4 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31. Parents are urged to accompany their young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. Police also are asking drivers to be extra cautious and watch for costumed pedestrians, particularly at intersections and along busy neighborhood streets. More information about Halloween in Oak Park is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/halloween.

Community survey now open to all residents – All Oak Park residents are invited to complete The National Community Survey through Nov. 16. Survey responses are intended to help the Village Board and other local policy makers better understand priorities for government action and citizen opinions on quality of life and public services. [Click here](#) for the link to the survey, which takes about 20 minutes to complete. The current open participation window is being conducted about one month after the survey was sent to a random sample of Oak Park households. Residents who received the survey in the mail are urged to respond by following the instructions provided in letters sent earlier this month. More information about the initiative, including links to past survey results, is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#). Village staff expects to present results from the survey at a Village Board meeting in early 2023.

Racial equity toolkit training held – Village department directors and supervisory staff completed the second of two racial equity toolkit training sessions this week. The training sessions were led by Dr. Danielle Walker, the Village's Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. The first session held last month provided an educational overview of the toolkit. The second session focused on thinking through and applying the toolkit to practical Village operations and decision making.

Hotel/motel occupancy continues to surge – The first nine months of the year have seen the highest occupancy rates among local hotel/motel operators in the past five years. The Village collected \$175,333 in hotel/motel taxes through September, marking a 2-percent increase over the same period in 2019. Payments from short-term rentals such as Airbnb continue to drive the increase. [Click here](#) for a more detailed, multi-year summary of the Village's hotel/motel tax collections.

Rental license renewal underway – The Development Customer Services Department delivered annual license renewal notices to about 200 owners of rental properties and annual condominium registration renewal notices to about 280 condo associations. Both the rental licenses and the condo registration registrations are due back by Dec. 31. More information about rental dwelling licenses is available at www.oak-park.us/housing.

Village parking garage update – The public's use of the three Village-operated parking garages continues to lag behind pre-pandemic rates. As compared to 2019, parking garage revenue this year

is down 27 percent at the Holley Court Garage, 45 percent at the Avenue Garage and 40 percent at the Lake & Forest Garage. [Click here](#) to see a detailed monthly revenue comparison from 2019 to present for the three garages.

Hyundai and Kia thefts cause for concern – The Oak Park Police Department is alerting residents about an increase in vehicle thefts involving Hyundai and Kia models manufactured from 2010 to 2021. The uptick in local thefts mirrors a nationwide trend where thieves target Hyundai and Kia vehicles that use a mechanical key to start rather than a key fob and push-button. If you own one of these vehicles, law enforcement officials recommend considering extra security measures such as a steering wheel lock device or engine immobilizer. Owners should also contact the manufacturer to learn more about additional safeguards. Officials recommend parking in a well-lit area if possible. If you park in a personal garage, keep the overhead door closed and lock any service doors. Lastly, call 911 if you see anyone attempting to break into a car or trying door handles. The Police Department's Residential Beat Officers are sharing the theft prevention tips during their regular meetings, and the Village's communications team is sharing the message through the Village's communications channels, including the Police Department's social media pages.

New CTA schedules in effect – Updated schedules for most CTA rail lines, including the Green and Blue lines that run through Oak Park, went into effect this week. The CTA adjusts schedules several times each year in an effort to make service operate more efficiently and to account for seasonal or changing ridership patterns. More information about the CTA rail system schedule is posted at www.transitchicago.com. The CTA also announced that it is hosting a virtual public hearing on its 2023 proposed budget at 6 p.m. on Thurs., Nov. 10. More information about the hearing and ways to participate and provide feedback is posted on the CTA website – [click here to view](#).

Pace planning bus route reductions – As part of its proposed 2023 budget, Pace is proposing to permanently eliminate dozens of bus routes that have been suspended since early in the pandemic. In Oak Park, this includes the Madison Street bus route 320 and also route 757 that originates in Schaumburg and runs along Harlem Avenue from I-290 to the CTA Green Line. The permanent elimination of routes would become effective on Nov. 10. Pace has also been running reduced service on route 311 on Oak Park Avenue and route 314 on Ridgeland Avenue since COVID-19 began. Pace is proposing to make these service reductions permanent. Pace hosted a public budget hearing Friday, Oct. 28 in Forest Park. More information is available on Pace's website – [click here to view](#).

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week – The Oak Park Health Department marked Lead Poisoning Prevention Week by reminding residents that Oak Park is an area with high risk of lead exposure because of the many homes in our community built before 1978 when lead-based paints were banned for residential use. If a healthcare provider identifies elevated lead levels in a child living in Oak Park, the Health Department will provide education, case management services and a home inspection for the affected family. Anyone who has questions or concerns about lead poisoning may contact the Health Department at 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us to speak with a lead specialist. [Click here for more information](#) about where lead can be found in or around the home.

Township hosting drug disposal event – Safely dispose of expired and unwanted prescription drugs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 29 at the Oak Park Township offices at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. The event is part of National Rx Take Back Day sponsored by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to help prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. The drugs should be in their original package. Liquids and hypodermic needles will not be accepted. The prescription drug collection box typically located in the Oak Park Police Department lobby is temporarily unavailable.

More information about safely disposing of prescription drugs is available on the U.S. Department of Justice website – [click here to view](#).

Pavement preservation project – The upcoming crack-filling and rejuvenation work is now expected to start in early November at multiple locations throughout the Village, though staff is still working with various contractors to obtain a final schedule for the work. The project includes patching of asphalt pavement, sealing cracks in the roadway and installing pavement rejuvenators to extend the life of the asphalt.

Sidewalk improvements – Contractors overseeing the Village’s annual sidewalk repair project will perform angle cutting over the next two weeks in areas between North Boulevard and Superior Street. The sidewalk replacement work is delayed due to the ongoing regional Portland cement shortage.

Sewer improvement project – The first two layers of asphalt were placed on Thomas Street between Grove Avenue and Linden Avenue this week. Parkway restoration will soon follow and will involve fixing areas of parkway that were disturbed during construction and installing new sod within the construction limits. Late next week the final layer of asphalt pavement is expected to be completed on Lenox Street. Prior to the pavement work, the Lenox intersections at Ridgeland Avenue and Elmwood Avenue will be milled down 2 inches in preparation for the final layer of pavement.

Street resurfacing update – The contractor is wrapping up placement of aggregate base course and fine grading on Maple Avenue and Kenilworth Avenue, with the first layer of asphalt to follow. Asphalt patching on Linden Avenue is also near completion, and next week the contractor aims to make final adjustments of utility structures within the pavement.

Pleasant & Marion update – Underground utility and electrical work is ongoing for the development at Pleasant and Marion streets. Crews are pouring concrete for the parking garage this week and installing concrete masonry walls for select rooms.