



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending November 4, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, November 7:
 - Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 8:
 - Environment and Energy Commission, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, November 9:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, November 10:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, November 11:
 - Fire Pension Board, 9 a.m. via Zoom

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

Record-setting year for new business licenses – The Village has processed 103 new business licenses through the first 10 months of the year, surpassing the 100 new licenses issued in all of 2021 with two months to spare. The spike in new business licenses so far this year marks a 26-percent increase over the same 10-month period in 2021. For perspective, last year's total marked the first time in recent history that the Village reached triple digits for new business licenses, so a new high-water mark will be established this year. [Click here](#) to view a chart comparing the number of new business licenses processed the past few years. A list of businesses that have received a license from the Village this year is posted at www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness.

Farmers' Market wraps 47th Season - The Oak Park Farmers' Market season ended Oct. 29 with the traditional [Stone Soup](#) event and a farewell to the vendors and customers for the last day of the 2022 season. The Market saw several changes this year, including a new logo by Oak Park-born designer Judith Mayer, and the transition of Market management from the Development Customer Services Department back to the Health Department. A few highlights of the season were the return of live music and children's events, a bustling corn roast in August, and a Pie Bake-Off featuring produce from Market vendors in September. Planning is already underway for the 2023 season, aided by the results of a shopper survey.

Affordable housing projects update – Five local organizations responded to the Village's request for affordable housing project proposals as part of Village's effort to distribute \$3.25 million to address affordable housing needs in Oak Park. Housing Forward, the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition, the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, the Oak Park Residence Corporation and the West Cook YMCA all submitted proposals for projects that in total added up to \$1.78 million. The five proposals will be presented to the Housing Programs Advisory Committee (HPAC) at its Nov. 16 meeting. HPAC will

then make a recommendation to the Village Board during a special meeting Nov. 30. Information about the five project proposals is posted on the HPAC webpage at www.oak-park.us/hpac.

Zoning variance request continued – The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting this week included a request from OP Office Partners LLC to reduce the number of off-street parking spaces by 37 spaces for its property at 1010 Lake St. Two ZBA members voted for approving the request and two voted against. Four affirmative votes are required to approve the variance, so the owner's request was continued to allow ZBA members who were absent this week to weigh in at the ZBA's next meeting Dec. 7.

Home Avenue rezoning request – Plans are in place for the request from an applicant to reclassify 327-329 Home Ave. from the R-5 Two Family Zoning District to the R-6 Multiple Family Zoning District to appear on the agenda for the Village Board's Nov. 21 meeting. The outcome of the Plan Commission hearing on the matter resulted in a 3-2 vote, resulting in a negative recommendation as the applicant needed five votes to move forward with a positive recommendation.

Climate Plan community outreach – Sustainability Coordinator Marcella Bondie Keenan was a featured speaker Thursday morning at the Interfaith Green Network's annual sustainability breakfast. She presented Climate Ready Oak Park, the climate and sustainability plan adopted by the Village Board earlier this year, and offered specific actions and resources to help faith communities and organizations take action on climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.

Police Department attends resource fair – Community Policing Sergeant Bob Monty recently attended a parent/caregiver resource fair to share information about the Police Department's emergency ID bracelet program that aims to help improve communication between emergency first responders and individuals with autism and other mental health needs. The resource fair took place Tuesday at Oak Park and River Forest High School and was coordinated by OPRF, Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township. Parents and guardians of Oak Park residents who may have difficulty communicating in an emergency are encouraged to sign up for a free silicone bracelet that includes a metal face plate with a unique identification number and directions for contacting the Oak Park Police Department. Bracelets are available by contacting the Oak Park Police Department at 708.386.3800, police@oak-park.us or by visiting the Police Department at Village Hall. More information is available at www.oak-park.us/mentalhealthawareness.

Turn back clocks, check alarms - Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m., this Sunday, Nov. 7, at which time clocks should be set back one hour. The Oak Park Fire Department urges residents to use the time change as a reminder to replace batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Working detectors can double the chances of survival by providing critical extra time for safe escape, Fire officials say. More information on fire safety is posted at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Visit Oak Park President & CEO Search – This week the Visit Oak Park Board of Directors approved a contract with GovHR to facilitate a national search for the next Visit Oak Park President and CEO. Visit Oak Park considered proposals from four different search firms. Cameron Davis, Assistant Director of the Development Customer Services Department, sits on the search committee. The Visit Oak Park Board expects the search process to take approximately 90 to 120 days. Eric Wagner, the organization's current President and CEO, is re-locating to Taiwan in 2023. Village staff appreciates Mr. Wagner's three-plus years of service leading the local tourism bureau.

Early voting ongoing – Early voting continues all weekend at Village Hall for the Nov. 8 Gubernatorial Election. Voters can cast a ballot from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday and

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday. Residents are reminded that Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day on Nov. 8. Voting takes place at designated polling sites on Election Day – [click here to search Election Day polling sites](#). More information about early voting in Oak Park is posted at www.oak-park.us/earlyvoting.

Community solar program featured in Tribune – An Oak Park resident who is signed up for the Village’s community solar program was the focal point of a recently published [Chicago Tribune feature article](#). The article dug into specifics about the community solar initiative, which is growing in Illinois as a way of allowing subscribers to support clean energy generation and reduce their monthly electricity bills without installing or maintaining solar panels on their property. [Click here for a PDF version of the article](#). More information about Oak Park’s community solar program is available at www.oak-park.us/communitysolar.

Crosswalk repair project – South Boulevard will temporarily be closed to eastbound traffic from Harlem to Home avenues as crews work to remove paver crosswalks and install decorative concrete at the intersection of South Boulevard and Marion Street. Work is expected to begin next week and wrap up by Thanksgiving. Construction is not expected to impact parking. Village staff is alerting businesses in the area about the upcoming work.

Sidewalk improvements – Saw cutting and concrete removal work is scheduled to begin next week in areas designated for repairs as part of the Village’s annual sidewalk improvement project. Temporary *No Parking* signs will be installed in locations where work is being performed.

Pavement preservation update – Asphalt patching is expected to begin next week at various locations designated for pavement preservation. Work on any given street is expected to start and finish within a two-day span. The contractor will be posting *No Parking* signs in advance of any work impacting on-street parking.

Sewer improvement update – Parkway restoration was completed at the Kenilworth Avenue, Lenox Street and Thomas Street locations that have undergone sewer improvements as part of this year’s project. The restoration work involved dressing up topsoil and replacing any grass in the parkways that was damaged during construction. Pavement milling and surface prep is being completed and, weather permitting, the final layer of pavement is expected to be placed this weekend at the intersections of Lenox and Ridgeland Avenue, Lenox and Elmwood Avenue, Thomas and Grove Avenue, Thomas and Oak Park Avenue and Thomas and Linden Avenue. The roads will remain open and flaggers will be present to direct traffic while the work is ongoing.

Street resurfacing update – All roadways scheduled for resurfacing have received an initial layer of asphalt. Crews have adjusted utility structures to final grade and are set to install the final layer of asphalt. Pavement markings and sod will be placed next week.

Pleasant & Marion update – The installation of wood panels is set to begin next week at the development located at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets. In the meantime, miscellaneous utility work is ongoing and crews continue to pour concrete for the garage slab.