



Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 13, 2022

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, May 16:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, May 17:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, May 18:
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, May 19:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, May 20:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Activity Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Village Manager Reports* heading**

Lake & Forest Garage maintenance - The Village's Lake & Forest Parking Garage at 938 Lake St. will remain open for daily parking use as it undergoes a preventative maintenance and repair project beginning Monday, May 16. This maintenance project is necessary to ensure the long-term operational efficiency of the of the facility. During the maintenance and repair effort, the internal traffic pattern at the garage will be altered to accommodate the work being done. The Village anticipates that preventative maintenance work will conclude by the end of May.

National Public Works Week – Oak Park is set to celebrate National Public Works Week from May 15-21. The Village's [Public Works Department](#) has several internal activities planned, including an opportunity for employees to spend a day working in a different division for a day. Several Public Works employees also plan to attend the two-day American Public Works Association's Chicago Metro Expo and Conference at the Odeum in Village Park. Throughout the month of May a photo gallery displaying the wide range of tasks associated with maintaining the community's public infrastructure has also been on display in the Oak Park Area Arts Council gallery at Village Hall. The photos, taken by Media Production Manager Joe Kreml, will return to their permanent home in the Public Works Center administrative offices next month. The nation-wide theme for 2022 Public Works

Week is *Ready and Resilient*. Learn more about National Public Works Week at npww.apwa.net.

Health and Wellness Fair - The [Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce](#) is hosting a Community Health and Wellness Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Sunday, May 5 at FFC Oak Park, 1114 Lake Street. More than 50 health and wellness professionals will be on hand offering free screenings, children's activities, healthy snacks and more. The Oak Park Health Department's mobile response van will also be parked in the vicinity offering COVID-19 tests. Find complete details about the Health and Wellness Fair on the Chamber of Commerce website - [click here to view](#).

Farmers' Market update - Final preparations are underway for opening day of the Oak Park Farmers' Market on Saturday, May 21. More than 20 regional vendors will be offering fresh fruits and vegetables, honey, cheese, frozen meat, bread and baked goods this season at the Market, which is held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from opening day through October 29 at 460 Lake St. Village staff has finalized the [2022 Market Map and Vendor Directory](#), which is now posted on the Farmers' Market webpage at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Volunteers needed for A Day in Our Village - Volunteers are needed to help at this year's A Day in our Village celebration, specifically in the afternoon. Oak Park's annual festival is set to return Sunday, June 5, after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The community event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Scoville Park by Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue. Organizers are looking for volunteers to help from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to email dayinourvillage@gmail.com or call 708.358.5405. In other A Day in Our Village news, online registration for participants is now closed as organizers begin the process of mapping out the Scoville Park layout for the celebration.

Business grant update - The Village has processed 261 grant applications and distributed more than \$878,000 in grant funds since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as part of its ongoing program to distribute federally appropriated funding to licensed Oak Park businesses that qualify. The Village's business assistance programs have included 57 grant awards totaling \$94,184 in American Rescue Act (ARPA) funding for PPE reimbursement, 43 grant awards totaling \$198,178 in ARPA funding for past due rent/mortgage assistance and 77 grant awards totaling \$77,000 in ARPA funding for vaccination card check assistance. These grants are in addition to the 84 previously awarded Cares Act assistance grants provided to Oak Park businesses totaling \$492,485. Information about the Village's business assistance grant programs can be found at www.oak-park.us/covid19grant.

Vote by mail applications being accepted - Mail ballot applications for the June 28, 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election are now being accepted by the Cook County Clerk's Office. Any registered suburban Cook County voter with a driver's license, state ID or social security number on file may request a mail ballot using an [online](#) or paper application. Cook County is now offering permanent vote by mail, which allows residents to vote by mail in all subsequent elections held in Cook County. [Early voting will also be held at Village Hall](#) from June 13 to 27. Find more information about ways to vote on the [Cook County Clerk's website](#).

Village provides support to NAMI Metro Suburban – May is Mental Health Awareness Month, offering an opportunity to highlight the work done locally by [NAMI Metro Suburban](#), which receives support through the Village's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for its wellness and job readiness programs at its Oak Park Drop-In Center. NAMI Metro Suburban is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities affected by mental illness by providing education, support, and advocacy, free of charge. Since 1993, NAMI Metro Suburban has been operating the Drop-In Center, a space for individuals to build social skills, embrace wellness, and reintegrate back into the community. The Drop-In Center offers social engagement, life skills development, job readiness and placement all within a safe community setting. The Village's Communications Department recently worked with the Development Customer Services Department to produce a video highlighting NAMI's contributions to the community – [click here to view](#).

Tree planting set to begin – This week crews will begin planting more than 250 new trees in parkways across Oak Park as part of regular planting that occurs every spring and fall. This spring's tree planting consists of 23 different genera and 34 different species. Visit www.oak-park.us/trees for more info about tree planting and the Village's efforts to care for the 18,000-plus trees on parkways and other public landscaped areas.

Refuse cart replacement and repairs – The Public Works Department is reminding residents they can request replacement refuse, recycling and compost carts by contacting LRS at 844.633.3577 or Service@LRSrecycles.com. Residents can also change the size of their carts, replace damaged lids or receive an extra recycling cart. Find complete details about the LRS collection program at www.lrsrecycles.com/oakpark.

Pete's construction update – ComEd has completed most of its work associated with the new Pete's Fresh Market. The remainder of the work should be completed by the middle of June. AT&T is anticipated to begin its underground work the week of May 23, starting on the south side of Madison Street and working north across the street. Traffic access will be maintained during the installation process. Shortly after AT&T completes its work, sewer work will begin on Euclid Avenue. Around this time, Euclid Avenue will be shut down indefinitely.

LeMoyne Parkway Sewer Project – Underground work has been completed at the intersection of LeMoyne Parkway and East Avenue. This work included replacement of permanent sewers and watermain. This intersection will be backfilled and reopened temporarily as construction work moves east toward Fair Oaks Avenue. The intersection will be closed again in the coming weeks when paving of the streets takes place.

Alley update – Four alleys have been paved so far as part of the alley repair project. The north-south alley between Elmwood Avenue and Ridgeland Avenue and south of Pleasant Street was fully reopened this past Thursday. The contractor is currently working on preparing the first green alley for permeable pavers at the north-south alley between East Avenue of Clinton Avenue and south of Garfield Street.

Harlem Avenue Resurfacing – Crews for the Harlem resurfacing project are finishing up curb replacement between Lexington Street and Roosevelt Road, with sidewalk replacement to follow early next week. Crews have completed roadway surface removals between North Avenue and Division Street. They will continue moving toward Chicago Avenue during the next two weeks.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Curb replacement has been completed on Wesley Avenue for the American House senior living center at 703 Madison St., with alley concrete work and landscaping to follow. At the new development at Marion and Pleasant streets, excavation and utility work is in progress and will continue over the next few weeks.

Employee news - Four Public Works employees completed the department's Leadership Development Program earlier this month. This was the second group to go through the program, which includes sessions consisting of lessons about the public works mission, vision and values as well as ethics, Village Code, budgeting, customer service, supervision, performance measures, project management and best practices. This year's class included Administrative Assistant Shawnya Williams, Fleet Services Crew Chief Otto Hartl, Civil Engineer Christopher Kim and Equipment Operator Giorgio Bellini. In other employee news, Takeshi Thompson has been promoted to Parking Restrictions Coordinator in the Parking and Mobility Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department. Takeshi joined the Village staff last September as a Customer Service Representative after working previously in the financial services industry.