



Village Manager's Report Week ending August 5, 2022

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 8:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, August 9:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, August 10:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, August 11:
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, August 12:
 - 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

Solar Power Hour events coming to Oak Park - The Village and [Grow Solar Chicagoland](#) are teaming up to host two free Solar Power Hour events this month for residents interested in learning about the basics of solar energy, its financial benefits and how a solar group buy program can lower the cost of installing solar panels. A virtual meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11 via Zoom – [click here to register](#). An in-person session will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 22 at the Oak Park Public Library's Maze Branch, 845 Gunderson Ave. Grow Solar Chicagoland is a program offered by the [Midwest Renewable Energy Association](#) and [Citizens Utility Board](#) for home and business owners in Cook, Will, DuPage, Lake and Kane counties to help pool their buying power to secure significant discounts that make installing solar more affordable. More information is at www.growsolar.org/chicagoland.

New business license surge continues – The Village has processed 79 new business licenses through the first seven months of 2022, marking a 54-percent increase over the same period in 2021. Last year DCS processed what is believed to be a record 100 new business licenses, and the Village is well 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.oak-park.us/businessservices.

Hotel/motel tax exceeding expectations – The Village collected \$22,959 in hotel/motel taxes during the month of June, marking the sixth highest monthly total in Oak Park history according to the Development Customer Services Department. Hotel/motel tax payments from short-term rentals like Airbnb continue to drive the increase. The \$110,609 in hotel/motel taxes collected in the first six months of the year represent a 4.5-percent increase over pre-pandemic hotel/motel tax collections in 2019. [Click here](#) for a more detailed, multi-year summary of the Village’s hotel/motel tax collections.

Pawfficer Howie out and about – Pawfficer Howie, the Oak Park Police Department’s Community Service Dog, has been maintaining a busy schedule this summer. Last month Howie made a trip to Highland Park to provide comfort to volunteers, police officers and members of the community as part of the victim assistance program set up in the aftermath of the mass shooting at Highland Park’s July 4th parade. Closer to home, Howie has been making regular trips to visit block parties, Thursday Night Out, vaccine clinics for kids and other community events in Oak Park. Howie’s role with the Police Department includes assisting with officer wellness, helping with victim comfort services for traumatic incidents and increasing community engagement at public events. Residents can keep tabs on Howie’s exploits by following his Instagram page at www.instagram.com/pawfficer_howie. Pawfficer Howie can also be reached via email at pawfficerhowie@oak-park.us.

ALPR units now in operation – The Oak Park Police Department began operating eight Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) units this week at various locations in the community. ALPR systems capture an image of a vehicle’s license plate, read the image using software, compare the plate number read against databases containing stolen vehicles and, ultimately, alert an officer when the system has captured the license plate of a vehicle of interest. More information, including a map of camera locations, details about the Police Department’s guidelines for use and answers to frequently asked questions, is available on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/ALPR.

Farmers’ Market news – Plans are underway for the Oak Park Farmers’ Market’s Corn Roast, which will be held next Saturday, Aug. 13, one week later than initially planned due to a delay in this year’s corn crop following a cool and wet spring. The event features fresh-picked corn sold by the ear hot off the roaster. More info can be found at www.oak-park.us/marketweek. And from now until Sept. 19, supporters can cast a vote for the Oak Park Farmers’ Market as part of a \$10,000 grant giveaway organized by the American Farmland Trust and the Farmers Market Coalition. Market officials say the grant funding would be used to help with the smooth operation of the Market, which is now in its 47th year. [Click here to register a vote for the Oak Park Farmers’ Market](#).

Employee news – The Development Customer Services Department welcomed three new team members this week as Executive Secretary Bella Polidoro, Customer Service Representative Nick Adames and Business License Officer Jonathan Wilson joined the organization. Bella previously worked as an administrative assistant in property management and handled HR duties and payroll at a medical billing/coding company. Bella

is also an avid volunteer with the Crisis Text Line. Nick grew up in western Washington state and recently relocated to Oak Park with his family. His career includes several increasingly responsible customer service positions, most notably with Nordstrom's, and he will be putting his customer service skills to use with the Village's Parking and Mobility Services Division. Jonathan, who will assist with business services, has a bachelor's degree from Illinois State and has previously served as a 911 dispatcher in DuPage County.

Street resurfacing project – Work related to the Village's annual street resurfacing project is expected to begin next week. A total of 25 blocks throughout Oak Park will undergo improvements consisting of removal and replacement of curb and gutter, sidewalk repairs, installation of ADA ramps, driveway repairs, minor drainage improvements, cold-milling of asphalt roadways, installation of hot-mix asphalt, drainage structure adjustments, pavement striping and parkway restoration. A map showing the streets scheduled to undergo street resurfacing can be found under the 2022 project tab at www.oak-park.us/construction.

Sewer improvement project – The contractor expects sewer replacement on Kenilworth Avenue between Lake and Ontario streets to be completed by Monday, Aug. 8. The removal of sidewalk, curb and driveway aprons will follow the completion of the sewer work. Meanwhile, sewer replacement work is slated to begin Tuesday, Aug. 9 on the entire stretch of Lenox Street between Ridgeland and Elmwood avenues.

Pleasant & Marion development – Crews completed sewer installations for the new development on the southwest corner of the intersection at Pleasant and Marion streets. ComEd work associated with the project will start next week. Sewer work on Marion Street has been completed and all street plates have been removed.

Miscellaneous construction updates – ComEd crews are wrapping up the remaining utility work associated with the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street while the contractor awaits approval to start work in the west lot of the property. Elsewhere, all sitework has been completed for the Senior Living Center at 703 Madison Street.