



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 23, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, June 26:
 - Village Board, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers

- Tuesday, June 27:
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m. in Room 102
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. in Council Chambers
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m. in Room 124

- Wednesday, June 28:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Thursday, June 29:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Friday, June 30:
 - No meetings scheduled

Oak Park Pride Party this Saturday – Don't miss the Oak Park Pride Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday, June 24 on the south lawn at Village Hall. The free, family-friendly event organized by the Village to celebrate Pride Month will feature rainbow ice cream, face painting, a bounce house, games, a DJ, a magician and more. All planning to attend are encouraged to come dressed to impress in their best rainbow-themed outfit. More information about the Village's Pride Month celebration is available at www.oak-park.us/pridemonth.

Transgender panel discussion planned – The Village is hosting a panel discussion on the transgender experience in Oak Park from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28 at the Madison Street Theater. The event is hosted by the Village in partnership with OPALGA+, PFLAG and the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce. The panel will be moderated by Darien Marion-Burton, Board President for the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce. Admission is free but space is limited. [Click here to RSVP](#). More information about the Village's celebration of Pride Month is available at www.oak-park.us/pridemonth.

Blood drive Tuesday at Village Hall – The Oak Park Public Health Department is sponsoring a blood drive from 1 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27 at Village Hall to help supply local community blood centers. Though walk-ins are welcome at the blood drive, appointments are recommended. [Click here to register for an appointment](#). About every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood or platelets, and one blood donation often saves more than one life. Donors are encouraged to eat well the day of the drive, stay hydrated and

bring their ID. Contact the Health Department with questions at 708.358.5480 or health@oak-park.us.

Oak Park Avenue streetscaping open house – A public open house aimed at gathering input as part of the planning process for a 2025 streetscaping and utility project in the Hemingway District along Oak Park Avenue will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27 at the Oak Park Township Senior Center. A presentation at 6:45 p.m. will provide an overview of the program's scope, which involves replacing the sidewalks, roadways, lighting and amenities in the business district as well as creating new public spaces to replace deteriorated infrastructure and enhance the area. More information is available at www.renewtheavenue.com.

CDBeeGees video earns award – The Village recently received the 2023 John Sasso National Community Development Week Award at the National Community Development Association (NCDA) annual conference in Orlando, Fla. The award recognizes outstanding efforts to celebrate National Community Development Week. The Village was honored for its [Givin' Out Grants music video](#) to the tune of the BeeGees' *Stayin' Alive* created earlier this year by Media Production Manager Joe Kreml with the CDBeeGees – Grants Supervisor Vanessa Matheny, Grants Coordinator Nicholas Meier and HR Coordinator Don Gordon. The video served as a fun way to highlight the ways the Village assists local non-profits by administering the distribution of Community Development Block Grants in Oak Park. [Click here](#) for a photo of Village staff accepting the award at the NCDA Conference.

Vehicle license sales update – The Village sold 8,965 vehicle licenses over the first six weeks after sales began May 1 totaling \$569,903 in revenue collected. This represents a 64% jump from last year when only 5,477 licenses were sold during the same six-week period. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local vehicle license before July 15 to get the lowest rate, which increases by \$20 after the deadline. Parking enforcement officers use license plate recognition technology to ensure compliance. [Click here](#) for a chart comparing vehicle license sales over the past five years.

Solar Power Hour event planned – Oak Park residents and businesses have an opportunity to participate in [Solar Switch Chicagoland](#), a program that combines volume purchasing with community education to make solar panel installation more accessible and affordable. Interested property owners are invited to attend a free informational [Solar Power Hour](#) presentation scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12 at Oak Park Public Library's Dole Branch, 255 Augusta St. Attendees will learn about the basics of solar energy, its financial implications for a household and how the Solar Switch program works. After the session, interested attendees can sign up for an estimate and connect with the program's vetted solar installers. The event is organized by the Village's Office of Sustainability & Resiliency, the Oak Park Public Library and the Citizens Utility Board. Find more information about Solar Switch Chicagoland, including details about how to register today, at www.solarswitch.com/cookcounty.

Pesticide-free pledge – The Village's Office of Sustainability & Resilience is inviting Oak Park residents to pledge to eliminate synthetic chemical use on their lawn and garden. Complete the pledge by filling out the online form at www.oak-park.us/PesticideFreePledge. A limited number of pesticide-free yard signs are available upon request for residents who complete

the pledge. Gardening and lawn care chemicals can be harmful to humans, pets, wildlife and waterways. The good news is there are many surprisingly easy ways to care for your lawn and garden that avoid putting your family and wildlife at risk. Find more information about natural lawn care at www.oak-park.us/GoNatural.

Sustainability updates – The Office of Sustainability & Resilience hosted a table at the GreenTown conference this past Thursday with energy-efficiency games and prizes. The outreach effort was part of a Metropolitan Mayors Caucus initiative made possible through generous support from the Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation. Office of Sustainability & Resiliency staff also recently participated in a Metropolitan Mayors Caucus tour of the Countryside Municipal Complex, which is only the third net zero energy 24/7 building in the world. The 36,000 square foot facility includes a police station, council chambers and municipal departments. [Click here](#) for more information.

Fire Department swearing-in ceremony - This week the Fire Department celebrated three promotions with a swearing-in ceremony. Robert Murphy has been promoted to Battalion Chief while Mateo Sanchez and Chris Keenan have been promoted to Lieutenant. Firefighter/Paramedic Cassandra Noonan and Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Adams were also sworn in after completing their one-year probationary period. [Click here](#) for photos from the swearing-in ceremony on the Fire Department Facebook page.

Farmers' Market update – Health Department staff continues to plan special activities for kids, coordinate bake sales and welcome pop-up vendors from week to week at the Oak Park Farmers' Market. This Saturday special guest Matthew Owens and his Lockdown Puppet Theater will be performing three half hour shows beginning at 8 a.m. Find more details in the "This Month at the Market" section at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket. The Market takes place from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine every Saturday through October at 460 Lake St.

July 4th parade registration – There is still time to sign up to participate in Oak Park's annual July 4th Parade. Participants can register online at www.oak-park.us/paraderegistration. The deadline to register is June 28. The parade steps off at 10 a.m. on July 4 from Longfellow Park and marches north on Ridgeland Avenue to Augusta Street. Volunteers also are needed on the morning of July 4 to help monitor traffic crossings along the parade route. Email community@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5405 for more information or to sign up to volunteer.

Village receives MWRD grant – The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) has awarded the Village a \$497,321 grant to be used for the construction of two green alleys and a permeable parking lot project in 2024. The Village applied for the grant last fall. Plans call for the permeable parking lot to be installed in Lot 10, which is located just north of North Boulevard between Marion Street and Forest Avenue.

Street resurfacing project – Thermoplastic pavement markings are being installed this week on most streets included in this year's resurfacing project. The contractor also completed excavation of the existing roadway on Elmwood Avenue and will now turn attention to doing the same on Ontario Street. The full reconstruction of these two streets is expected to continue into early July.

Forest and Ontario improvements – Equipment is being dropped off in preparation for construction work in the area of the Forest Avenue and Ontario Street intersection. The project has been delayed due to sub-contractor conflicts, but the roadway will be closed to through traffic with one lane open for nearby residents once the project begins.

Pete's Fresh Market updated – AT&T completed its structural installation in the new cul-de-sac on Euclid Avenue near the new Pete's Fresh Market development on Madison Street. In the next few weeks AT&T will begin wire pulling, which should take two months. ComEd and Comcast utility work is also ongoing at the site.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Paving work is expected to begin along the entire stretch of Division Street in Oak Park in the next few weeks once crews wrap up concrete removal and replacement on the south side of the roadway. The first four alleys have been installed as part of this year's alley improvement project and the contractor is working on restoring garage aprons. Window installation is nearing completion for the new development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets, and green roof installation is scheduled to begin at the site next week. Along Roosevelt Road, Illinois Department of Transportation crews are saw cutting and patching the pavement and installing accessible pedestrian signal push buttons as part of the state's resurfacing project.