



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending Oct. 15, 2021**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Oct. 18:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
  - Village Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Tuesday, Oct. 18:
  - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 5 p.m., via Zoom
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Wednesday, Oct. 20:
  - Village Board Personnel Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
  - Community Relations Commission, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Thursday, Oct. 21:
  - Village Board Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Friday, Oct. 22:
  - No meetings scheduled

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

\*\*\*

**Monarch waystation certified** – The Public Works Center is now home to a certified Monarch butterfly waystation. The area behind the Center is planted with milkweed and native nectar plants to provide migrating Monarchs essential nutrients as they make their annual trip from the U.S. and Canada to the mountains in central Mexico. The project grew from the [Monarch pledge](#), which originally was as part of a wider effort to encourage municipalities to support these important pollinators by creating, conserving and protecting their habitats. In addition, the Public Works site serves as a [bioswale](#), capturing stormwater runoff and allowing it to be absorbed slowly and naturally to reduce impact on nearby properties.

**Ribbons for awareness** – The purple ribbons tied around trees and lamp posts around town - including outside Village Hall – are there to raise awareness of [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#). The Village Board approved a motion this month to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Oak Park and

recognize the work done locally by Sarah's Inn to help survivors of domestic violence. The Oak Park Police Department works closely with Sarah's Inn to help victims of domestic violence. More information about the work Sarah's Inn does in the community is posted at [www.sarahsinn.org](http://www.sarahsinn.org).

**Plan Commission activity** – The Plan Commission recommended by a 5 to 3 vote to approve the zoning ordinance text amendment allowing additional options for accessory dwelling units. In addition to the currently permitted coach house, the commission's recommendation is to add options to construct a detached accessory dwelling unit, a first-floor garage conversion and an addition to an existing single-family home. The garage option would require maintaining parking on the property, and all options would still be required to meet underlying zoning regulations. The Plan Commission did not support the attic and basement conversion that were originally included by staff. In other business, Commission heard the applicant's presentation, staff and consultant reports, and sought commissioners' initial feedback for the 45-unit residential development proposed for the southwest corner of Austin Boulevard (7 Van Buren St.). The project review was continued to Nov. 4 when public testimony will begin.

**Commission meeting availability** – Boards, committees and commissions can meet simultaneously by providing the public direct links to the virtual meetings via the agenda and/or website calendar event. While only one meeting will be streamed live at [www.oak-park.us/commissiontv](http://www.oak-park.us/commissiontv), all meetings will be available live via Zoom or GoToMeeting. Meeting recordings then will be uploaded to [www.oak-park.us/commissiontv](http://www.oak-park.us/commissiontv) the following morning. Major meetings of bodies such as the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, will continue to be streamed live, particularly when required public hearings are scheduled. This simple, no-cost solution should allow all commissions to schedule meetings on dates and times that best accommodate the schedules of both commissioners and staff liaisons.

**School climate, discipline forum** – Oak Park Police Chief LaDon Reynolds participated in an online listening session with senior members of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights this week to gather information on school climate and discipline practices in the nation's schools. DOE officials set up the session to hear from law enforcement leaders about their experience, research and best practice recommendations. The effort is based on a Presidential [Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#). The order is a commitment to pursuing “a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.”

**Pie bake-off winners** – Three Oak Parkers took top honors in last weekend's pie baking contest at last weekend's Farmers' Market. Monica Fiala's spiced latte pumpkin pie took first placed, followed by Azmer Khans' Pakistani perfection apple pie in second and Demetri Sianis' French apple cream cheese pie in third. The recipes for these winning pies and other entries are posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket).

**Local street resurfacing to begin** – Resurfacing is about to begin on eight blocks of various streets in the community. Construction staging should be completed this week, and barriers installed to protect parkway trees. The paving activity is expected to be completed in late November.

**Ridgeland Avenue bridge repair update** – The second stage of the project to repair the Ridgeland Avenue bridge over the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway began this week. Traffic over the expressway remains restricted to one lane in each direction, but the lanes have been diverted to the west side of the roadway and the east side has been closed for repairs. Pedestrian access is limited to the west side of the bridge. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

**Employee news** – Robert Graff has joined the Health Department as the new Animal Control Officer. Bob brings a wide range of related experience gained during his 25-year career, which includes pest and nuisance wildlife control. He also has state certifications in nuisance wildlife removal, as well as in wild goose control and abatement. His duties with the Village include enforcing ordinances that govern care and keeping of animals as well as impounding strays, finding owners of lost animals and investigating animal-related complaints.

###