



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending December 2, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, December 5:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, December 6:
 - Environment and Energy Commission, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
 - Housing Programs Advisory Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, December 7:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, December 8:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, December 9:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Holiday light show this Saturday – The community is invited to celebrate the arrival of the holiday season with a special drone light show at 4:45 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 3 near Scoville Park at the corner of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue. Weather permitting, the professional, holiday-themed drone art show will feature unmanned aerial vehicles flying in a coordinated fashion with light fixtures attached. The blocks of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue adjacent to the park will be temporarily closed to traffic between 4 and 5 p.m. to accommodate crowds gathering for the show. Free parking will be available in the Village-owned Avenue Garage, Lake and Forest Garage and Holley Court Garage the day of the drone light show and every Saturday in December. Community members unable to attend the show in person are invited to view a livestream of the special event through the Village's [Facebook page](#). The light show will commence after the conclusion of [Downtown Oak Park's Winterfest](#), which is being held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Marion Street between Lake Street and North Boulevard. The drone light show is made possible by a private donation that was initially intended to be used for a July 4th fireworks display. More information about the free event is available at www.oak-park.us/holidaylights.

Village selected for Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness program – The Village is one of 16 communities in the region selected to participate in the first cohort of the [EV Readiness Program](#), facilitated by the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus and ComEd. Cohort members will receive free technical assistance and training in a variety of critical areas as they work toward the designation of *EV Ready Community*. The EV Readiness Program will help guide future strategic investment in EVs and EV charging infrastructure as expected grant funding becomes available. The State of Illinois has prioritized the electrification of transportation in its budget plans. Up to \$13.3 million in funds from the Volkswagen settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan will be allocated for light-duty EV charging infrastructure in

Illinois. In the Rebuild Illinois six-year capital plan that passed in 2019, \$70 million is designated for investment in EV charging infrastructure. Other possibilities in the future include funding from the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program or the Drive Clean Chicago program. Participation in the cohort is expected to position the Village nicely to take advantage of the various potential funding opportunities available. [Click here](#) to read more about the initiative in a press release issued by ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus.

PlantGreen Leaders Forum is Dec. 9 – Sustainability Coordinator Marcella Bondie Keenan is slated to speak at the 11th annual PlantGreen Leaders Forum from 9 to 11 a.m. next Friday, Dec. 9 in the Veterans Room at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Marcella will be discussing the Village's Climate Plan implementation strategy during the event, which is hosted by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation and Seven Generations Ahead. [Click here](#) to RSVP to attend. The forum is intended for leaders and practitioners from municipalities, taxing bodies, community institutions, community-based organizations, businesses and the faith-based community.

Village issues 300th business assistance grant – The Village reached a milestone as it processed its 300th COVID-19 business assistance grant. The Village has now distributed more than \$941,600 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 73 grant awards totaling \$117,651 in American Rescue Act (ARPA) funding for PPE reimbursement and 43 grant awards totaling \$198,178 in ARPA funding for past due rent/mortgage assistance. Two grants have also been awarded to the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce totaling \$17,100 and there have been 77 grants awarded totaling \$77,000 in ARPA funding for vaccination card check assistance. Additionally, 84 grants totaling \$492,485 have been distributed via CDBG-CV funding to support the employment of LMI individuals in Oak Park businesses and 21 non-profit awards totaling \$30,280 in ARPA funding have been distributed to cover costs associated with PPE purchases.

New business licenses up 22 percent – The Village has processed 115 new business licenses through the first 11 months of the year, representing a 22-percent increase over the same period in 2021. [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.

Village partners with Chamber of Commerce – The Village is partnering with the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce in helping to fund the Wednesday Journal's 2022 Holiday Spectacular Shopping & Dining Guide. Through the Chamber, the Village offered licensed Oak Park businesses a \$100 subsidy toward an ad in the gift guide, which is scheduled to be published on Dec. 7.

Hospital zoning discussion continued – The Plan Commission voted unanimously Thursday to continue the public hearing for a zoning ordinance text amendment application regarding the H-Hospital Zoning District. This application was submitted by residents who live near Rush Oak Park Hospital asking for changes to height and setback regulations for the Rush Oak Park Hospital campus. Both the Hospital and neighbors agreed to the continuation of the hearing until March 2, 2023 to allow Rush Oak Park Hospital time to prepare for the hearing.

Police Department accepting toy, coat donations – The Police Department is once again serving as a drop-off site for Toys for Tots and the Seasons of Hope Winter Clothing Drive. Drop off boxes are located in the Police Lobby in the lower level of Village Hall at 123 Madison St. The mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is to collect new, unwrapped toys each year and distribute those

toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community. The Police Department's site will be accepting donations through Dec. 10. More information about the campaign is at www.toysfortots.org. The Seasons of Hope Winter Clothing Drive, sponsored by River Edge Hospital, will be accepting new or gently used winter clothing until Jan. 15.

Leaf collection wraps up next week – The final round of pickups for the annual leaf collection program are set for next week (Dec. 5-8) in each quadrant of the community. Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates indicated on the map. Residents are urged to consider composting or using the leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/leafcollection22, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Regular yard waste collection ends – Starting next Monday, Dec. 5, yard waste will be picked up by appointment only during the winter months. To arrange a special yard waste pick-up after this week, call LRS at 844.633.3577. More information about yard waste collection is available at www.oak-park.us/refuse. Compost collection also switches to a bi-weekly schedule at a discounted rate during the winter months. Visit www.oak-park.us/compost to see the winter compost collection schedule and for more information about the Village's food scrap composting program.

Visit Oak Park seeking Executive Director – Visit Oak Park is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director through Jan. 9. The Visit of Oak Park Board of Directors hired GovHR, a national executive search firm, to help fill the vacant position. More information about the job posting is available on GovHR's website – [click here to view](#).

Pete's Fresh Market update – The contractor for the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street anticipates starting sewer work Dec. 12. Work will begin at the intersection of Madison and Euclid Avenue and move north. All traffic on Madison will be shifted to the far south part of the roadway from Oak Park Avenue to Wesley Avenue and all on-street parking and bike lanes will temporarily be unavailable during this phase of the project, which is expected to take about one month to complete.

Pavement preservation update – Despite some delays this week due to cold weather, pavement patching work is nearly complete. The crack sealing and rejuvenator portion of the project has been postponed until spring 2023.

Sidewalks repairs – While the bulk of the Village's sidewalk repair project has been delayed to spring 2023, a small number of urgent sidewalk repairs were recently completed. Surrounding parkways have been leveled and seeded at these locations. Other sidewalks with trip hazards have been patched with asphalt and will be fixed in the spring.

Sewer inspections set to begin – The Village's annual sewer cleaning and inspection project is scheduled to begin in early December. Crews will inspect approximately 30 different locations throughout Oak Park.