



Village Manager's Report
Week ending December 16, 2022

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, December 19:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, December 20:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, December 21:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, December 22:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, December 23:
 - Village Hall closes at noon in observance of Christmas Eve

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

Parking restrictions eased for holidays – On-street, overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets from 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 17 through the New Year's holiday. Restrictions will resume at 2:30 a.m., Tues., Jan. 4. Please keep in mind restrictions are not lifted in paid overnight permit areas, including posted on-street zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. More information about parking rules and regulations is posted at www.oak-park.us/parking.

Free holiday parking in businesses districts – Shopping local in Oak Park is easier than ever with free parking in public parking garages that began the Friday after Thanksgiving Holiday and will continue every Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 25. Shoppers have taken note of this benefit, with a total of 12,800 patrons taking advantage of the free parking in the Village's three public garages during the first three weekends of the holiday season through Dec. 11. Visit www.pickoakpark.com for a directory of local businesses, and visit www.oak-park.us/parking for more information about parking in Oak Park.

Village parking garage update – While the public's use of the three Village-operated parking garages remains up from last year, usage is still significantly behind pre-pandemic rates. As compared to 2019, parking garage revenue this year is down 27 percent at the Holley Court Garage, 45 percent at the Avenue Garage and 35 percent at the Lake & Forest Garage for

the first 11 months of the year. In total, revenue generated by the three parking garages is up \$103,486 over 2021 but down \$507,524 compared to 2019. [Click here](#) to see a detailed monthly revenue comparison from 2019 to present for the three garages.

Local businesses take advantage of gift guide support – In its ongoing effort to support Oak Park businesses, the Village recently partnered with the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce in helping to fund the Wednesday Journal’s 2022 Holiday Spectacular Shopping & Dining Guide. [Click here to view a digital copy](#). Licensed Oak Park businesses received a \$100 subsidy toward an ad in the gift guide, which was published Dec. 7. A total of 75 licensed Oak Park businesses participated.

Holiday traffic enforcement – The Oak Park Police Department is participating in a national enforcement campaign to crack down on impaired and unbuckled drivers through Jan. 2. The holiday enforcement effort is made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. [More information is posted on the Village website](#).

Free COVID-19 testing event – With respiratory illnesses spreading throughout the community, local health officials are urging residents to make sure they don’t give the gift of COVID-19 to friends and family during the holidays. The Oak Park Health Department’s mobile response van is hosting a free COVID-19 testing event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22 at the intersection of Lake Street and Humphrey Avenue between Stevenson Park and the Gymnastics Recreation Center. In addition to sharing information about the event via the Village’s communications channels, the details are also being shared with parents and staff in Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and Oak Park and River Forest High School as a way of ensuring these target audiences are aware of the opportunity. For more information about local COVID-19 testing resources, visit www.oak-park.us/testing.

Light In All the Colors Unity Event – The entire community is invited to participate in the [Light In All the Colors Unity Event](#) taking place from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21 in Scoville Park at the corner of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue. The anti-hate event will feature hot cocoa, a peace circle, speeches by various community leaders and story time for children provided by the Oak Park Library. Organizers say the event is intended to offer an opportunity to take a stand against antisemitism, racism and other forms of bigotry.

Home for the Holidays this Saturday – Free hot cocoa, sleigh rides, musical entertainment and a visit with Santa are all on tap for Downtown Oak Park’s Home for the Holidays event from noon to 3 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 17 in the vicinity of Lake and Marion streets. [Click here](#) for more information. And it’s not too late to participate in the Downtown Oak Park’s Shopper’s Rewards program – which allows shoppers who save their receipts to earn money while supporting local business. Learn more at www.downtownoakpark.net/event/shoppers-reward.

Employee news – Building on the partnerships formed through the 2022 IPLAN process, Health Education Manager Sara Semelka was accepted into the [National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health](#) for the 2023 program year along with colleagues at the Park

District of Oak Park, the Community Mental Health Board and Oak Park Township. The goal of the Academy is to bring together leaders from multiple sectors to build capacity to improve health and advance equity in their communities. The Oak Park team was one of 12 teams nationwide chosen to participate. Throughout 2023, the Oak Park team will collaborate on a community-wide project to prevent substance use and drinking among youth by providing mental health first-aid training for young people and life skills training for parents.

Pete's Fresh Market update – Traffic control has been installed on Madison Street for sewer work related to the new Pete's Fresh Market. The contractor will begin digging and installing the first manhole for the new sewer next Thursday, Dec. 15. The sewer work will take approximately one month to complete, during which parking will not be permitted on Madison between Oak Park and Wesley avenues.

Sewer televising update – The contractor for the sewer televising project is currently working on locations south of Chicago Avenue. Once completed, the contractor will move to the areas south of Lake Street. Temporary partial lane closures are anticipated in areas where work is ongoing.

Pleasant & Marion update – Crews are installing a new gas main at the future garage location for the new development at Pleasant and Marion. Concrete masonry unit walls are also being installed at stairwells, maisonette units and the future first floor.