



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending March 10, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 13:
 - Village Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers

- Tuesday, March 14:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chambers

- Wednesday, March 15:
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., Room 215
 - Housing Programs Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., Room 102

- Thursday, March 16:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Room 215

- Friday, March 17:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Annual Landlord Management Training Seminar – More than 50 individuals attended the Village’s Annual Landlord Management Training Seminar held this for Oak Park landlords and/or property managers. Attendees heard presentations from the Police Department, the Development Customer Services Department, the Community Relations Department, the Oak Park Regional Housing Center and the Oak Park Housing Authority. Numerous questions were asked and answered. Attending the seminar fulfills the property owner’s obligation to participate in a training session once a year as specified in the Village Code. More information is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Hotel/motel revenue soars in 2022 – The Village collected \$225,341 in 2022 as part of its longstanding 4-percent tax on room stays in hotels, bed and breakfasts and Airbnb-style short-term rentals. This is believed to be a new record high and marks a 1-percent increase over the pre-pandemic total collected in 2019, which Developmental Customer Services Department staff says points to the ever-improving hospitality and tourism industry in the Oak Park area. [Click here](#) for a detailed, multi-year summary of the Village’s hotel/motel tax collections.

Short-term rental licensing update – The Village has issued 92 short-term rental licenses since the program began in 2022. An additional 19 short-term rental applications have been submitted and are under review by the Development Customer Services Department. Short-term rentals through companies such as Airbnb pay the same 4-percent tax as the Village’s hotel and bed and breakfast businesses. The Village collected \$111,453 in taxes from short-term rentals in 2022 out of approximately \$2.8 million in total sales. [Click here](#) for more data related to short-term rentals.

930 North Blvd. building update – Construction work is expected to begin soon at 930 North Blvd. following the Village’s approval of building permits to stabilize the apartment building’s structure. Village staff recently met with Cubed Construction, the contractor overseeing the work at the property, which was declared uninhabitable by the Village in October 2021 due to structural issues. The property’s engineers outlined the process of installing a metal bracket on structural concrete columns throughout the building. Upon completion of this work, Cubed Construction will schedule inspections by both the Village and a third-party agency to ensure the brackets are installed per design. However, Village staff was notified that upon completion of the work, the floors at 930 North Blvd. will continue to remain unlevel for the remaining life of the structure. Staff was also informed that monitors will be installed and surveyors will be hired to monitor the structure for movement over the next five years.

Holiday traffic enforcement – Oak Park Police will be joining law enforcement agencies across the state and country in stepping up traffic enforcement during time leading up to St. Patrick’s Day. In addition to looking for alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers, the Oak Park Police Department also will be focusing on seat-belt enforcement, particularly at night when seat-belt usage rates are lowest. Speeding, distracted driving and other traffic laws also will be strictly enforced. The campaign will run through March 19. More information is posted on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Registration open for A Day in Our Village – Local groups and volunteers are invited to participate in the 49th annual A Day in Our Village, Oak Park’s annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. Scheduled for Sun., June 4, the event features activity and information booths and live entertainment in Scoville Park at Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue. Groups can register for a booth at www.oak-park.us/diovreregistration. In addition to participants, volunteers are needed to help with both planning for the celebration and ensuring things run smoothly the day of the event. For more information about participating or volunteering to help with the 2023 A Day in Our Village celebration, call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

All-electric homes tour – The Village’s Office of Sustainability and Developmental Customer Services Department coordinated a tour of [Greenline Homes](#) All-Electric Homes on Thursday at 4559 S. Prairie Ave. in Chicago as a way of giving local building professionals a feel for all-electric homes and sharing information about the [ComEd Electric Homes Program](#). ComEd offers financial incentives for achieving a set of best practice energy efficiency requirements in all-electric homes – tighter envelope, high efficiency heat pump HVAC, heat pump water heaters, ENERGY STAR appliances, LED lights and efficient plumbing fixtures. ComEd is

increasing the incentives for projects starting in 2023. Depending on the size of a project, property owners could be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per unit.

Green business support – The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) is offering one-on-one consultations at no cost for Oak Park small businesses looking to be more sustainable. In addition to the individualized assistance, business operators can also participate in the Green Business Baseline program, which includes a sustainability assessment and roadmap with cost-saving and environmentally-friendly recommendations. The individualized assistance is available through the Village's partnership with [Illinois Green Business Association](#) and SEDAC. More information is available at www.sustainoakpark.com/greenbusinessprogram.

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday – Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 a.m. this Sunday, March 12. Clocks should be set ahead one hour. The [Oak Park Fire Department](#) recommends using the time switch as a reminder to test and replace the batteries on detectors that use alkaline batteries. Better yet, consider changing your alarms to one of the newer devices, which have both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in one device. These devices also contain a sealed 10-year battery, which costs a bit more upfront but actually saves money over the life of the alarm by eliminating battery replacement. For more information on fire safety, visit www.oak-park.us/fire.

Alternative Response Taskforce engagement – Several dozen community members participated Tuesday in the first of two public engagement sessions focusing on how first responders should handle mental health crisis calls. The meeting was hosted via Zoom by the Oak Park Alternative Response Taskforce as part of its process for developing recommendations for Village leadership about alternative responses to emergency calls related to mental health. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 16 at the Oak Park Elementary School District 97 Administration Building, 260 Madison St. More information and a recording of the first meeting are available at www.engageoakpark.com/alternative-response-taskforce.

Arts District celebrates women-owned businesses – The Oak Park Arts District is hosting its annual Women Owned Works (WOW!) event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 18. The event serves as an opportunity to celebrate and support all of the unique, women-owned businesses flourishing on Harrison Street and features bright yellow decorations inside and outside of participating businesses. More information is available on the Arts District website – [click here to view](#).

Arts Council seeks Sculpture Walk applications - The [Oak Park Area Arts Council](#) is seeking artists to temporarily display their work as part of the Oak Park Sculpture Walk, which is returning later this year. Plans call for at least 12 sculptures to be installed in May as part of a year-long outdoor exhibit in the [Downtown Oak Park business district](#). All participating artists will receive an honorarium of \$2,000. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2023. The Sculpture Walk guidelines and application form are available on the Arts Council website – [click here to view](#).

Roosevelt Road resurfacing update – The Development Customer Services Department is reaching out to businesses along Roosevelt Road to alert them to the Illinois Department of Transportation’s street resurfacing project along the busy east-west state highway. The project consists of resurfacing and ADA improvements along the entirety of Roosevelt Road in Oak Park and will also impact neighboring Forest Park, Berwyn, Cicero and Chicago. Work is expected to begin in March with an estimated completion date of November. IDOT plans to maintain through traffic in both directions throughout the project, but some parking impacts are expected.

Division Street improvements – The sewer and water improvement project on Division Street began with root pruning this week and will be followed by tree protection and sewer lining next week. Equipment and materials are also slated to be delivered next week. The project includes road closures, and residents impacted by work are receiving parking passes. The sewer and water portion of the project is expected to continue through May and will be followed by street resurfacing along the east-west thoroughfare.

Water main valve replacements – Crews began replacing the existing water main valve at 902 S. Austin Blvd. this week. Two remaining valve replacements will be scheduled for late March to coincide with Oak Park Elementary School District 97’s spring break to avoid impacts at school drop off and pickup.

Pete’s Fresh Market construction – The new water main installation and Madison Street patch work are complete for the ongoing Pete’s Fresh Market construction project. Next steps include the contractor pressure and chlorine testing the water main and finishing the storm sewer on Wesley and Oak Park avenues.

Miscellaneous project updates – The contractor for the Nicor Gas project started televising this week, with plans calling for work to be done on the 300 block of Harrison Street, 700-800 blocks of Gunderson Avenue, 700 block of Harvey Avenue and 800 block of Cuyler Avenue. Elsewhere, the contractor for the new development at Pleasant and Marion streets completed the installation of wall panels for the fourth floor, and floor sheathing for the fifth level is nearing completion as utility work for the third floor of residential units begins.

Employee news – The Village welcomed two new employees this week as Pamela Abdul-Hakim joined the organization as a Licensed Health Practitioner in the Health Department and Cindy Morgan came on board as a Customer Service Representative in the Permit Processing Division of the Development Customer Services Department. Pamela has a degree in Biological Sciences and a Masters in Health Education. Cindy has an associate’s degree from Los Angeles Harbor College and also studied psychology at Cal State Long Beach.