



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending Jan. 21, 2022**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Sunday, Jan. 23:
  - Village Manager Finalist Community Forum, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Monday, Jan. 24:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Jan. 25:
  - Village Board Meeting – Executive Session (Village Manager Finalists Meet & Greet), 5 p.m., Council Chambers
  - Disability Access Commission, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, Jan. 26:
  - Village Board Meeting – Executive Session (Village Manager Finalists Panel Interviews and Deliberations), 8:45 a.m., via Zoom
  - Community Design Commission, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, Jan. 27:
  - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Jan. 28:
  - 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**

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**Manager search public forum** – A virtual public forum is set for 7 p.m., Sunday (Jan. 23) for Oak Parkers to learn more about the finalists vying to be [Village Manager](#). The candidates for the Village's top administrative post will respond to questions curated from input gathered by the Village's professional search consultant, [GovHR USA](#). Residents were invited to submit topics and question suggestions to [oakpark@govhrusa.com](mailto:oakpark@govhrusa.com). GovHR reviewed the submittals and created a bank of questions for the candidates. More information about the selection process and how to view the forum is posted at [www.oak-park.us/managersearch](http://www.oak-park.us/managersearch).

**CDBG workshops set** – Village staff will host virtual workshops for local

non-profit organizations interested in applying for federal *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)* funding. Applicants are required to attend one of two, on-hour workshops scheduled for 3 p.m. on Jan. 25 and for 11 a.m. on Jan. 26. Attendance at one of the workshops is required to apply for funds during Program Year 2022, which runs from October 2022 through September 2023. The workshops will provide details about the application process, including an overview of required documents, timelines and reporting requirements. Representatives of organizations intending to apply for grants should email [grants@oak-park.us](mailto:grants@oak-park.us) to receive the registration link or for more information. More about the CDBG program in Oak Park is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/cdbg](http://www.oak-park.us/cdbg).

**Housing incentives program application released** - The Development Customer Services Department began accepting applications today (Jan. 21) for the Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program. Applications are due by 5 p.m., Feb. 21. Virtual meetings have been scheduled for 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Feb. 1 to answer questions about the program that has \$150,000 available for individual grant awards of up to \$10,000 to owners of multi-family buildings with four or more apartments. Grants must be matched two to one by the building owner and may be expended on common area improvements, security improvements or individual unit improvements. Applicants also will be eligible to apply for the Village's Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Grant Program. More information on these and other housing programs is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/housing](http://www.oak-park.us/housing).

**Paperless permit process a success** – The Village's paperless contractor registration and permit application process has demonstrated its value as the pandemic has restricted in-person services. Customers may register contractors and submit permit applications electronically, including uploading the required documents directly to the web-based [VillageView portal](#). Prior to the pandemic, Permits Processing Division counter staff had focused on one-on-one training of contractors as they came in person. The approach greatly reduced in-person traffic and laid the ground work for today's pandemic-driven remote approach. Anyone who encounters problems with the web portal may still get personalized assistance by calling 708.358.5430 or emailing [permits@oak-park.us](mailto:permits@oak-park.us).

**Rental heat requirement** – Staff is reminding landlords and alerting tenants that Village code requires that heat be provided to all Oak Park rental dwelling units from September 15 through May 15. An average minimum temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit must be maintained inside the apartment from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., and 65 degrees Fahrenheit from 11 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Complaints about lack of heat may be made by calling 708.358.5410 or emailing [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us).

**Salt supply holding** – The Public Works Department reports that with a quarter of a typical season's salt supply on hand, crews are well prepared to respond to any weather events that may occur in the weeks ahead. The Village purchases road salt annually through the state's joint purchasing program, which results in volume discounts the Village could not achieve on its own as a single purchaser. The salt is delivered as needed throughout the season. On average, the Public Works Department uses between 3,000 and 4,000 tons of road salt annually to treat the

roughly 250 lane miles of local streets and 50 miles of alleys. The goal of the snow and ice control program is to keep streets, alleys, sidewalks and bridges passable and safe. The key is to closely monitor weather forecasts and have sufficient personnel on call, equipment ready to go and mitigation materials such as road salt in sufficient quantity. Even with the planning, staff must stay flexible since no winter storm is the same and each event requires different response planning and management.

**Dealing with the cold** – As temperatures plunged, staff has focused community messaging on taking necessary precautions and checking in on friends and neighbors. Messages also have pointed out the importance of protecting pets since they also are susceptible to the impact of extreme cold. Information on hours and locations of local warming centers has been distributed as well. But since individuals likely to be most at risk may not have the resources needed to follow Village social media and other communications platforms, a key component of the message continues to urge residents to help spread the word to those in need. More information on dealing with the cold is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Nuisance wildlife** – Cold weather always means the likelihood increases of coming into contact with the surprisingly large numbers of wild animals that call Oak Park home as their search for food and shelter becomes more difficult. Typically, the biggest problem in a dense, built-up community like Oak Park is the property damage wild animals can cause when seeking shelter. Squirrels gnawing a hole in the soffit to get into the attic and raccoons, skunks and opossums burrowing under decks, porches and garage foundations are among the more common nuisance issues property owners face. The best defense against these intrusions is preventing their entry and eliminating any outdoor food source. More information is posted on the Village website – [click here to learn more](#).

**Pleasant/Marion redevelopment update** – Crews are wrapping up in the alley south of Pleasant Street in preparation for the new development planned for the former funeral home on the southwest corner of Pleasant and Marion streets. Excavation on Pleasant Street is next. The alley is closed to through traffic during work hours, but reopened when work is not occurring. This phase of the development project is still on track to be completed in about 14 days, weather permitting. Residents of the condominium building west of the alley are being allowed to park their vehicles in the surface lot of the former funeral home site during the work.

**Sewer inspections expanded** – An additional location was added to the annual sewer video inspection project. Crews are expected to start back up in the next two weeks on North Avenue between Harlem and Oak Park avenues.

**Pete's construction update** – ComEd crews remain on track to complete underground work in the east/west alley between Euclid and Wesley avenues in preparation for the new Pete's Fresh Market coming to Madison Street. Access to alley garages has been maintained and temporary parking passes provided to residences in the area. The manhole installation at 431 and 427 Euclid Avenue has been completed and underground work for the new manhole in the nearby alley has begun. The alley will

remain accessible from the west from Oak Park Avenue and from the north from Euclid Avenue.

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