



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending March 18, 2022**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, March 21:
  - Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, March 22:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, March 23:
  - Police Assessment Community Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m., via Zoom
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, March 24:
  - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, March 18:
  - 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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**Block parties return** – The Village has returned to pre-pandemic rules and regulations governing block parties and sales. All restrictions have been lifted and residents once again can have two block parties and/or sales per season. The online block party registration portal is open at [www.oak-park.us/blockparties](http://www.oak-park.us/blockparties) and the number of events per weekend returned to 30, up from the 20 allowed during the height of the pandemic. Residents must download the required petition and gather the signatures of their neighbors before submitting a request through the online portal for a specific date. A block party requires a petition signed by at least 10 separate addresses on the block, or a majority of residents on a smaller block. The Fire Department still will not be going out to individual block parties, however, as we re-evaluate staffing and scheduling challenges.

**Federal grant notification** – The Village Engineer learned this week that a request through U.S. Senator Dick Durbin for \$200,000 in funds was included in the federal omnibus appropriation bill recently passed in Congress. The Village request was to support a safety improvement project on North Avenue. Many of the project funding details are still to be worked out and a discussion with the Village Board is tentatively scheduled for early next month.

**Financial report honored** – For the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the [Government Finance Officers Association](#) has given the Village’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) a *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*. The Village’s fiscal year 2020 CAFR, which is for the audit year that ends on Dec. 31, received the best possible result with a *proficient* grade in every grading category. The GFOA calls the certificate the “highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.” GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving more than 20,000 government finance professionals. [Click here to read the letter](#) from the GFOA. Village CAFRs and other financial reports are [posted online](#).

**Community award winners** – More than 40 individuals, organizations and businesses have been recognized through the Village's annual community awards stewardship program. The [Community Design Commission](#) recognized 16 Cavalcade of Pride Award winners, the [Historic Preservation Commission](#) presented eight Preservation Awards and the [Environment & Energy Commission](#) handed out eight Green Awards. More information on the awards and the winners is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Project groundbreaking** – Village staff joined current and former elected officials at groundbreaking ceremony held yesterday (March 17) for the new mixed-used development coming to the corner of Marion and Pleasant Streets. In addition to Trustee Jim Taglia, former Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb and former Trustee Simone Boutet were there to support the construction of a new structure with 158 residential units and 1,200 square feet of commercial space. In addition to Development Customer Services Director Tammie Grossman and Village Planner Craig Failor, attendees also included OPEDC Executive Director John Lynch, OPEDC Economic Development Manager Eric Mazelis, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Liz Holt and representatives of the [Focus](#) development team.

**Village parking garage use** – The public use of the Holley Court, Avenue and Lake & Forest parking garages continues to slowly rebound from COVID-19-related impacts. Overall daily garage revenue collected in January and February of this year is averaging about 50 percent higher than revenue collected through the same period in 2021. However, collections are still 45 percent below 2019, pre-Covid-19 totals. [Click here to see the comparison of revenue](#) by month from 2019 to the present in each of the three parking garages.

**Water protection survey** – A survey arriving soon in the mailboxes of all Oak Park property owners will help the Village protect the community’s drinking water. The [Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#) requires communities to survey all of its water customers every three years to identify and eliminate connections that could allow contaminants to accidentally flow back into the drinking water from sources such as fire protection sprinkler systems, boilers, lawn sprinklers and swimming pools. The solution when issues are found is to install a backflow prevention device. More information about the effort is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Local development recognized** - The [Urban Land Institute](#) has published a case study on District House, 147 N. Euclid Ave., as an example of best practices in urban resilience as a part of its *Developing Urban Resilience* series. Completed in 2018 with an investment of nearly \$20 million, the development was recognized for showcasing how green

infrastructure can be leveraged to address climate change while creating compelling unit and building amenities. The article is posted online – [click here to view](#).

**Women’s history month event** –Women Owned Works (WOW!) will highlight and celebrate the women-owned business that have flourished in the [Arts District](#) at an event set for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow (March 19). Hours may vary by individual business. The Arts District is re-energizing the celebration this year with businesses adding blue and yellow decorations in support of Ukraine. [Click here to read the news release](#).

**Employee news** – Building Inspector Dennis Johnson Jr., recently earned his first professional certificate from the [International Code Council](#). Dennis, who joined the Village in 2019 and manages construction sites throughout the Village, is now certified as a *Residential Mechanical Inspector*. In other employee news, Marilyn Sudkamp has joined the Engineering Division of Public Works Department and Rিকেита Wiley is a new Sanitarian in the Health Department. Marilyn earned her degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and brings both municipal government and private sector experience to the job. Rিকেита, who is an experienced sanitarian, holds a degree in public health from Northern Illinois University with an emphasis in environmental health.

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