



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending December 9, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, December 12:
  - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Tuesday, December 13:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
  - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, December 14:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, December 15:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, December 16:
  - No meetings scheduled

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

**Filing period for consolidated election set to begin** – Individuals interested in running for the offices of Village of Oak Park Trustee, Park District of Oak Park Board member or Oak Park Public Library Board member in the Consolidated Election to be held on April 4, 2023 may file their nominating petitions with the Office of the Village Clerk. Prospective candidates may submit their petitions from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning on Monday, Dec. 12 through Friday Dec. 16 and on Monday, Dec. 19, at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. For more information, please contact the Village Clerk's Office at 708.358.5672 or [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).

**MPV emergency declaration set to expire** – The Oak Park Health Department plans to ramp down its updates related to the Monkeypox Virus (MPV) after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the national MPV emergency declaration will expire at the end of January. Rather than issuing weekly reports, the Health Department plans to issue two more local updates at the end of December and the end of January.

**Multi-family housing incentive grants** – The Development Customer Services Department will accept applications for the Village's Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program from Dec. 12 through Jan. 23. DCS is contacting multi-family building owners with information about the program and invitations to two question and answer sessions being held via zoom at 11

a.m. and 5 p.m. on Dec. 19. The presentations will be recorded and posted on the Village website. A total of \$150,000 is available through the program for individual grant awards of up to \$10,000 to owners of multi-family buildings with four or more apartment units. The grants must be matched 2:1 by the owner of the building. Grant funds may be used for improvements to common areas, security or individual units. Qualified grant recipients are required to enter into a three-year marketing services agreement to affirmatively market their rental units with the cooperation and assistance of the Village and the Oak Park Regional Housing Center. More information about the program is available at [www.oak-park.us/housing](http://www.oak-park.us/housing).

**Historic Preservation Commission update** – The Historic Preservation Commission held public hearings Thursday regarding two separate demolition requests. The commission unanimously approved a request to demolish a historic garage at 424 Pleasant St., a contributing property within the Ridgeland-Oak Park Historic District. Repairs to the garage were found to be economically infeasible. The commission also voted 5-1 to deny a request to demolish a house at 742 N. Marion St., a contributing house within the Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District. The applicant provided materials regarding the construction date and questioned whether it was built within the period of significance for the historic district. The HPC determined that the house remains a contributing building and therefore demolition is not permitted. The applicant may withdraw their application, appeal to the Village Board, or request a Certificate of Economic Hardship, which would go before the Historic Preservation Commission.

**Zoning Board of Appeals update** – The Zoning Board of Appeals did not have a quorum at its regularly scheduled meeting this week. The items that were up for discussion will be added to the ZBA's January meeting agenda. These items include public hearings on separate special use permit applications filed by Prosperous Platforms LLC to operate daycare centers at 326 Lake St. and 404 Lake St and a request for a variance application extension related to construction at 639 Highland Ave.

**Vehicle license sales update** – The Village has sold 17,438 vehicle licenses this year totaling \$1,260,989 in revenue. This represents a 7.9-percent drop in revenue collected compared to last year, though residents can still purchase vehicle licenses through the end of the year. The Police Department's Parking Enforcement Officers continue to use license plate recognition technology to ensure compliance. [Click here](#) to view a chart that compares year-end vehicle licenses sales over the past three years with sales through November of this year.

**Short-term rental licensing update** – Development Customer Service staff has issued 80 short-term rental licenses since the Village Board approved the new licensing program. An additional 26 license applications have been submitted, and Village staff is busy scheduling the inspections needed to complete the licensing process. Short-term rentals through companies such as Airbnb pay the same 4-percent tax as the Village's hotel and bed and breakfast businesses.

**Keep the Wreath Green campaign underway** – The Oak Park Fire Department's Keep the Wreath Green safety campaign is underway through Jan. 1. The lighted wreath hanging in

the Central Fire Station window at 100 N. Euclid Ave. isn't just a holiday decoration – it's a visual reminder to practice fire safety during the holiday season. Each time a fire occurs, a green bulb will be replaced with a red one as a reminder of the dangers posed by trees, faulty lights and cords, candles and burning wrapping paper in fireplaces. The wreath will remain on around the clock through the holiday season. Help keep it green this year by following a few simple guidelines posted at [www.oak-park.us/holidaytreesafety](http://www.oak-park.us/holidaytreesafety) and [www.oak-park.us/winterholidaytips](http://www.oak-park.us/winterholidaytips).

**Police offer tips to help prevent seasonal crime** – The Oak Park Police Department is working to raise public awareness of some common crimes of the season by offering tips to help reduce the chances of becoming a victim. From package theft and pickpockets to auto burglaries and motor vehicle theft, criminals can become especially bold during the holiday season. More information is posted on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

**Winter safety reminders** – The Village's Development Customer Services Department encourages all property owners to have furnaces cleaned and checked annually by a professional. It is also recommended to keep any combustible material a safe distance from fuel burning appliances such as furnaces, water heaters and space heaters. This is also the time of year when the Village starts reminding residents and businesses to help improve walking conditions and public safety by removing snow and ice from sidewalks after a storm. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. More information is at [www.oak-park.us/sidewalk-shoveling](http://www.oak-park.us/sidewalk-shoveling).

**Information about Oak Park's historic districts** – Oak Park is home to three historic districts that are listed both locally and on the National Register of Historic Places and 71 local landmarks. The Historic Preservation Commission and Architectural Review Guidelines serve to guide preservation of these significant resources, furthering Oak Park's mission to promote the economic, educational, cultural and general welfare of Oak Park through the preservation of its architectural heritage. Residents can find out if they live in a historic district by searching their property address on the [Community Portal](#). More information about what makes the districts and landmarks significant can be found in the Historic Preservation Commission guidelines [posted on the Village website](#).

**Health Department marks awareness weeks** – The Oak Park Health Department recognized Handwashing Awareness Week and National Influenza Vaccination Week by sharing messages on the topics through the Village's social media channels. The handwashing message reminded residents that the simple act of washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds is key to stopping the spread of winter illnesses. Important times to wash hands include before and after preparing food, changing diapers, blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, touching garbage, feeding your pet or caring for someone who is sick. The flu vaccine message reminded residents that it's not too late to get a flu vaccine and that numerous medical providers, commercial pharmacies, grocery stores and other retail sites in the Oak Park area offer the vaccine. Visit [www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines](http://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines) to search for a convenient location.

**Pete's construction to impact traffic on Madison** – Traffic will be disrupted on Madison Street between Oak Park Avenue and Wesley Avenue for about one month for sewer work associated with the new Pete's Fresh Market construction project. Traffic control will be set up Monday, Dec. 12 with work expected to begin the following day. All traffic on Madison will be shifted to the far south part of the roadway. Crews will maintain one lane of traffic in each direction. Parking will not be permitted on Madison Street within the construction zone. All businesses within the area have been notified and no parking signs are being posted.

**Sewer televising** – The annual sewer cleaning and inspection is underway, with crews starting in the north half of town and working south. Locations that are adjacent to schools will have the sewer televising work performed between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. or during the upcoming holiday break to avoid disrupting regular school traffic.

**Pleasant & Marion update** – Concrete masonry unit walls are being installed this week at stairwells and perimeter columns as part of construction of the new development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets. Utility work is also ongoing at the site.