



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending January 6, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, January 9:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Tuesday, January 10:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chambers

- Wednesday, January 11:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chambers

- Thursday, January 12:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers

- Friday, January 13:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

New public art installation at District House – A new interactive public art piece has been installed on the northwest corner of Lake Street and Euclid Avenue. Titled *Shelter* by artist Zach Balousek, the unique piece features 18 organ pipes and is filled with glycerin and water to create a soothing chime when moved by touch. This latest addition to Oak Park's public art scene was installed as required in the Village's approval of the five-story mixed use District House development. Bluestone paving materials will be placed around the installation as weather permits. [Click here](#) to view a photo of the piece.

Big year for new business licenses – The Village processed 133 new business licenses in 2022, representing a new high-water mark as compared to recent years and a 33-percent increase over 2021. [Click here](#) to view a chart comparing the number of new business licenses processed the past four years. A list of businesses that received a license from the Village is posted at www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness.

Short-term rental licensing – Development Customer Service staff issued 88 short-term rental licenses in 2022. An additional 26 license applications have been submitted and are under review to be approved in early 2023. Short-term rentals through companies such as Airbnb pay the same 4-percent tax as the Village's hotel and bed and breakfast businesses.

Through November, short-term rentals had contributed \$105,505 in taxes, making the category the largest contributor to the Village's Hotel/Motel tax collections.

Plan Commission approves Turano application – The Plan Commission voted unanimously Thursday to recommend approval of the Turano Bakery planned development amendment application as proposed, with conditions. The application seeks to allow an expansion of Turano's existing office building parking lot to the west. The applicant is also proposing to include multiple solar arrays on the office building as well as in the parking lot. The parking lot addition includes eight oversized parking spaces for delivery vans. The application is anticipated to come before the Village Board in early February.

New signs reflect parking rate adjustment – The Parking and Mobility Services Division updated signage at The Avenue, Holley Court and Lake & Forest garages to indicate that free parking in the Village-owned garages was adjusted to 60 minutes with the start of the new year. In addition to [updated permanent signs](#), staff also placed [temporary signs](#) near the entrances to the garages as a way of notifying patrons of the new rates.

Vehicle license sales dip –The Village sold 17,587 vehicle licenses in 2022 totaling \$1,191,557 in revenue. This represents a 7-percent drop in revenue collected compared to last 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 license sales over the past four years.

Green Business Program webinar – Oak Park businesses looking to go green this year are invited to join an informational webinar at 2 p.m. next Tuesday, Jan. 10 to learn more Oak Park's Green Business Program. The webinar will include information about low to no-cost savings opportunities for businesses and how to start your sustainability journey. [Click here to register](#). The Green Business Program is a partnership between the Village and the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) at the University of Illinois. For more information, contact Cassie Carroll at 217.300.6477 or ccarrol2@illinois.edu.

Input sought as part of Village website redesign - The Village is seeking assistance from the community in ensuring its ongoing project to redesign the Village website results in a more user-friendly experience. [Click here to provide feedback](#) by participating in an online activity. The activity should take between 8 to 12 minutes to complete. Instructions are provided before you begin. The Communications Department shared the link to the online activity via the Village's communications channels this week. The link was also shared with members of Village commissions. The activity will assist in finalizing the information architecture for the new site, which is expected to launch later this year.

Fire Department calls up by 7 percent in 2022 – Oak Park firefighter/paramedics responded to 740 calls in December, bringing the yearly total to 8,594. This is a 7-percent increase from 2021. Emergency medical services calls continue to be the largest category with a total of 5,333 calls in 2022.

One more chance to recycle holiday trees – Holiday trees are being collected through next week (Jan. 9 – 13) from residential properties of five or fewer units served by the Village

refuse hauling contractor. All decorations and stands should be removed, and trees placed in the regular collection area by 7 a.m. on the property's standard refuse collection date. Since trees are mulched and used for soil enrichment, they should not be left in disposal plastic bags. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker to be attached. Wreaths and garlands cannot be collected for recycling because they contain wire, so should be placed in the trash container. More information is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Community Mental Health Board seeks input – The Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township is seeking input from interested stakeholders as it develops its 2023-2026 strategic plan and funding priorities. Two input sessions are planned at the Oak Park Library Veterans Room. Registration is required. The first will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 19 and is intended for anyone who lives, works, attends school or receives services in Oak Park and is a consumer of care. [Click here to RSVP](#). The second input session is scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m. on Jan. 26 and is intended for mental health, substance use and intellectual/developmental disability service providers. [Click here to RSVP](#). Input can also be provided by emailing cpotts@cmhb-oakpark.org by 5 p.m. on Jan. 20.

Pete's Fresh Market update – Sewer lining is set to begin at the site of the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street. The sewer lining work is expected to take about two weeks to complete and involves installing a new manhole and stabilizing the existing brick sewer. During the work street parking will not be permitted in front of 426-436 S. Euclid Ave. Access to the east/west alley north of Madison Street will also be closed at Euclid Avenue, but residents may access the alley via Oak Park and Wesley avenues.

Pleasant & Marion update – The contractor for the development at Pleasant and Marion streets is prepping the site for wood panel installation at the first level of residential framing. The panels were expected to be delivered today and will be set with the tower crane starting next week. The mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection contractors are also installing utilities throughout the common areas and lobby.

Sewer televising update – The contractor for the sewer televising project is currently working on locations in the west part of Oak Park. Partial lane closures are anticipated when work is in progress. The project is expected to wrap up in the next week.