



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending February 4, 2022**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Feb. 7:
  - Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Tuesday, Feb. 8:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Wednesday, Feb. 9:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Thursday, Feb. 10:
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Friday, Feb. 11:
  - 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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**Community safety engagement** – The launch of the online community safety citizen engagement platform currently is planned for next week. Contractor [Berry Dunn](#) has created a webpage that will anchor the project by allowing citizens to review materials and post comments as the project progresses. Planning is underway to announce the new web address and the first community meeting, which is tentatively set for early March. The Village Board will be provided a link to the page in advance of the public announcement.

**Ad makers active here** – Oak Park continues to be a popular site for creating television ads. The Community Relations Department worked with the Parking and Police department to facilitate the successful filming of two national commercials here last week. A crew filmed a commercial for the [By The Hand Club for Kids](#) afterschool program at Greater Chicago Church, 705 W. Jackson Blvd. A commercial for State Farm Insurance company also was filmed here last week, this one at a private home. Both productions ran smoothly with minimal neighborhood disruption thanks to cooperation between Village staff, residents and the production crews.

**ZBA updates** – The Zoning Board of Appeals this week considered petitions for special use permits from two new Oak Park businesses and for a fence variance. Applications to operate a massage service at 101 N. Marion St., Suite 302, and a day care at 1125-1105 Garfield St. were approved. No one spoke in opposition to the

massage service. Three people from the immediate neighborhood spoke in favor of the child care facility. The ZBA also voted unanimously to grant a variance to erect an eight-foot tall fence along the north interior lot at 508-510 S. East Ave. Code restricts fences to six-feet.

**Snow report** – Public Works Department crews spent more than 54 hours on the roads salting and plowing between about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday (Feb. 1) and noon today (Feb. 4). The nearly 10 inches of snow that fell on Oak Park – including considerable lake enhancement – meant that on average 16 workers per shift kept 26 pieces of equipment operating. Crews spread 350 tons rock salt, 2,500 gallons of calcium chloride to improve deicing at lower temperatures and 50 bags of *ecosalt*, an organic melting accelerator that is less corrosive on surfaces such as bricks. Salt supplies remain ample and include 300 tons in the silo at the Public Works Center, 700 tons in storage at a Cook County maintenance yard in Maywood and 450 tons on order to be delivered as needed.

**Pete's construction update** – Poor weather conditions meant that utility crews were unable to work most of the week in preparation for the new Pete's Fresh Market coming to Madison Street, but they were expected to be back on the job today (Fri., Feb. 4). The underground utility work across Euclid Avenue should occur early next week. Crews then will move west down the alley to finish tying into a new manhole. Work on ComEd's overhead infrastructure could begin the week of Feb. 14, but an exact start date or location have yet to be determined.

**Pleasant/Marion alley closures** – Crews working on the new residential development at Marion and Pleasant streets were delayed by the weather as well. Crews are onsite today (Fri., Feb. 4) continuing the underground utility work on Pleasant Street, which should wrap up early next week, weather permitting, followed by excavation activities in the south end of the alley. While the alley is closed to through traffic during work hours, it is reopened at the end of each work day. Residents of the condominium building west of the alley are parking their vehicles in the surface lot of the former funeral home site during the alley closure.

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