



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending February 10, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, February 13:
  - Village Board meeting, 7 p.m., Council Chambers
  
- Tuesday, February 14:
  - Aging in Place Commission, 6 p.m. in Room 101
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
  
- Wednesday, February 15:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., Room 215
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., Room 101
  
- Thursday, February 16:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Room 215
  
- Friday, February 17:
  - 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**

**Business assistance grants surpass \$1 million** – The Village has awarded 414 business assistance grants totaling \$1,032,755 since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant awards were intended to help local businesses persevere in the face of challenges brought on by the pandemic and have been awarded as part of six separate grant assistance programs. Of those programs, the one that is still in effect aims to support Oak Park childcare providers. Operators of licensed child care businesses in Oak Park are encouraged to contact the Development Customer Service Department at [business@oak-park.us](mailto:business@oak-park.us) for information about obtaining grant funding.

**CDBG workshop held** – Fifty individuals representing 31 organizations participated in the Village's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) workshop on Feb. 3. During the workshop participants learned about the Village's status as a HUD entitlement community, the Program Year (PY) 2023 application process and what's required regarding documentation and reports. The PY23 application window is open now through 5 p.m. on March 13. Development Customer Service Department staff also reviewed the Community Development Citizen Advisory Commission (CDCAC) timeline for considering applications and making recommendations to the Village Board. CDBG Program Year 2023 will begin on October 1, 2023. Visit [www.oak-park.us/cdbg](http://www.oak-park.us/cdbg) to learn more about the Village's CDBG program.

**Community award winners recognized** – More than 30 individuals, organizations and businesses have been recognized through the Village's annual community awards stewardship program. The Community Design Commission recognized 15 Cavalcade of Pride Award winners, the Historic Preservation Commission selected five Preservation Award winners and the Environment & Energy Commission handed out 14 Green Awards. Find a list of this year's winners on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

**Black History Month Honors Celebration** – The community is invited to the Village's Black History Month Honors Celebration, which will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Nineteenth Century Club. Space is limited for the family-friendly event, which will include food, entertainment and speakers. [Click here to RSVP](#). For more information about the celebration, email [DEI@oak-park.us](mailto:DEI@oak-park.us). The Village also marked Black History Month with a special performance from special African dance performance from Kuumba Kids dancers at the beginning of Monday's Village Board meeting. Video footage of the performance is available as part of the meeting recording – [click here to view](#).

**Promoting walkable blocks** – The Village's sustainability and communications offices are teaming up with sustainability-minded volunteers in the community to promote ways to maintain walkable blocks during the winter. Information about ways to ensure safe sidewalks for all was recently [posted on the Village website](#) and shared via the Village's social media channels. Tips include driving carefully, clearing sidewalks of snow and ice and trimming away branches and bushes from sidewalks. Similar information is being shared by other sustainability partners in the community as part of a coordinated effort to promote ways residents can help work toward goals mapped out in the Village's comprehensive climate plan. [Click here to read more](#).

**Valve replacements underway** – The Public Works Department's water valve replacement project that was delayed last year due to long lead times for materials is getting started with the installation of a new valve on the 600 block of S. Maple Ave. The project will involve replacing a total of four water valves at various locations in the Village. Residents will be notified of any temporary disruption to their water service in advance.

**Pleasant & Marion update** – The contractor for the new development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets spent the week detailing interior walls and wrapping up the installation of floor trusses and sheathing. Support steel for the maisonette units will be erected next week, followed by cold form metal framing for the lobby. Installation of wall panels for the fourth floor is also set to begin.

**Pete's Fresh Market update** – The contractor for the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street completed the installation of the new combined sewer associated with this project. The traffic control equipment on Madison Street was slated to be removed Friday. Water filter pitchers are being distributed to residents at 431 S. Euclid Ave. whose water service will be disrupted as part of upcoming water main work. Nicor has also completed its utility work associated with the project.

**Employee news** – The Village welcomed two new employees this week as Lanyea Griffin joined the organization as the newest Civil Engineer in the Public Works Department and

Karthy Mathew stepped into the role of Finance Coordinator in the Finance Department. Lanyea is a Professional Licensed Engineer with many years of roadway design and construction experience. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and various leadership programs, including the Edgar Fellows Program. Karthy earned her bachelor's degree in business administration in India and is currently a Certified Public Accountant candidate working toward her CPA license. Since moving to the United States, she has worked as an account clerk and later as a federal/state grants processor for Winchester City Public Schools in Virginia.