



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending March 11, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 14:
 - Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, March 15:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, March 16:
 - Police Assessment Community Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m., North Cafeteria, Oak Park and River Forest High School
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, March 17:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, March 18:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Activity Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Village Manager Reports* heading**

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday – Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 a.m. this Sunday, March 13. Clocks should be set ahead one hour. The Oak Park Fire Department typically recommends using the time change as a reminder to test and replace the batteries on detectors that use alkaline batteries. As an alternative to changing batteries each year, they now recommend replacing old smoke alarms with new ones that have both smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in one device. These dual monitoring alarms also contain a sealed 10-year battery, which costs a bit more upfront but actually saves money over the life of the alarm by eliminating battery replacement. State law requires these sealed battery alarms in homes by 2023. For more information on fire safety, visit www.oak-park.us/fire.

A Day recruitment begins – The [online registration portal](#) has opened for *A Day in Our Village*, which is set to return to Scoville Park on Sun., June 5. Exhibitors from past years are being contacted directly to make sure they know the iconic event will return in person for the first time since 2019. Hours this year will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., rather than 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. as in past years. The number of exhibitors may have to be limited since the event had all but outgrown Scoville Park prior to the pandemic. More details will be shared as messaging to drive attendance begins.

Housing voucher list opens – For the first time since 2004, the [Oak Park Housing Authority](#) will accept pre-applications to add 150 new households to the waiting list for the *Housing Choice Voucher Program* that helps very-low-income households pay their monthly rent. Formerly known as Section 8, the voucher program is a locally administrated federal initiative that helps pay a portion of the rent based on a qualified household's monthly income. The 150 new households added to the Oak Park list will be selected at random from all pre-applications received between 8:30 a.m. on Mon., March 14 and 3 p.m. on Fri., March 25. The online portal for pre-application portal opens Mon., March 14. [Click here for more information...](#)

Policing assessment update – The first meeting of the public input phase of Oak Park's comprehensive community safety study was held virtually last night (March 10), giving interested residents an opportunity to weigh in on ways the Oak Park Police Department can improve the equitable delivery of services. A second meeting will be held in person from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wed., March 16 in the North Café at Oak Park and River Forest High School. This in-person meeting will focus on the Police Department's calls-for-service model and police operations. A similar meeting focusing on the calls-for-service model will be held virtually from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 23. Zoom links, details about other participation opportunities and general information on the project are posted on the project's engagement web page www.oak-park.us/policeassessment.

Holiday traffic enforcement – Oak Park Police will be joining law enforcement agencies across the state and country in stepping up traffic enforcement during time leading up to St. Patrick's Day. In addition to looking for alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers, the Oak Park Police Department also will be focusing on seat-belt enforcement, particularly at night when seat-belt usage rates are lowest. Speeding, distracted driving and other traffic laws also will be strictly enforced. The campaign will run through March 18. More information is [posted on the Village website](#).

Climate plan update – Efforts are well underway to garner input from residents to help craft a comprehensive climate plan for Oak Park. The equity-centered, community-driven plan is expected to guide Oak Park's sustainability efforts for years to come and help Oak Parkers stay and thrive in the Village in the face of climate change. From transportation and recycling to agriculture and open space, official messaging is stressing the fact that the Village Board wants to hear the voices of the community. Feedback is being gathered via an interactive platform at www.oak-park.us/climateplan.

Business licensing update – This year appears to be building on the 2021 pace of business licensing, with 20 new licenses issued through February of 2022. For the same period in 2021, 10 new business licenses had been issued, compared to 12 in 2020 and 6 in 2019. A list of new business licenses is updated monthly and posted online at www.oak-park.us/businessservices – just click on the *Business Licenses and List of New Businesses* title.

Construction update – ComEd will begin overhead utility work next week in the alleys between Madison Street, Wesley Avenue, Oak Park Avenue and Washington Boulevard as

part of the new Pete's Fresh Market project. Residents in the work area will be able to access garages and driveways with minimal disruption. Remaining work on the underground utilities should begin in early April, but should not impact traffic or parking. Crews will restore the sidewalk by United Methodist Church sometime next week. In other construction news, ComEd crews have installed utility poles at the north and south ends of the alley adjacent to 203 Marion St., as part of the preparation for a new development on the former funeral home site. Underground work associated with the new utility poles should be completed next week.

Employee news – Jazmin Ortega has joined the Development Customer Services Department as an Account Clerk. Prior to joining the Village, she served two years as an administrative clerk with the U.S. Census Bureau, where she handled scheduling, meetings and travel planning for the Chicago region, as well as helped prepare correspondence, presentations and daily reports. In other employee news, Keisha Wheaten and Jewel Dillard of Development Customer Service Department have passed the rigorous process to be certified in property maintenance code through the International Code Council.

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