



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending March 25, 2022**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, March 28:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, March 29:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, March 30:
  - No meeting scheduled
- Thursday, March 31:
  - Police Operations and Essential CFS Responses Community Meeting, 6 – 8 p.m., Barrie Center, 1011 S. Lombard Ave.
- Friday, April 1:
  - 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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**Police Chief to retire** – After nearly 28 years with the Oak Park Police Department, Chief Reynolds has announced his retirement effective April 15. He said he is retiring to spend more time with his family and assess his future career options. Retirement from the Oak Park Police Department is not likely the end his law enforcement career, however. His November 2021 nomination to be U.S. Marshal of the Northern District of Illinois is on U.S. Senate Executive Calendar awaiting action. The focus of the Village Manager's Office is on identifying an interim chief and determining how best to permanently fill this critical public safety role. A national recruitment effort for Oak Park's next Police Chief is likely the best long-term option. More details on this effort will be provided as they are finalized. The news release announcing the retirement is [posted on the Village website](#).

**In-person policing forum** – An in-person forum to gather feedback and ideas about how the [Oak Park Police Department](#) delivers services is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on Thurs., March 31 in in the Barrie Center, 1011 S. Lombard Ave. The meeting will focus on the Police Department's tradition calls-for-service model and gather feedback and ideas about policing and public safety in the Village. In addition to attending in person and virtual community meetings, residents are encouraged to provide feedback directly via a dedicated web portal at [www.oak-park.us/policeassessment](http://www.oak-park.us/policeassessment). The site includes a race equity survey and a space

to provide feedback about the Police Department. For more information about the initiative, visit [www.oak-park.us/safetymeetings](http://www.oak-park.us/safetymeetings).

**New refuse hauler begins** – Lakeshore Recycling Services will take over the weekly [collection of trash and recycling](#) for residential properties with five or fewer units on April 1. Pink refuse and green yard waste stickers from LRS are now available at Village Hall, Pete's Fresh Market, Sugar Beet Food Co-Op, Jewel Food Stores in Oak Park and River Forest and Schauer Hardware in Forest Park. LRS will continue to honor Waste Management refuse and yard waste stickers through Sept. 2, 2022. More information about bulk item and yard waste collection at [www.lrsrecycles.com/oakpark](http://www.lrsrecycles.com/oakpark).

**Pete's construction update** – A fence is expected to go up within the next two weeks around the construction site of the new Pete's Fresh Market planned for Madison Street east of Oak Park Avenue. The fence will cross Euclid Avenue, which was vacated to extend the project site further east. Residents who may be affected will be notified via email. In the meantime, underground utility work in the alleys between Madison Street and Washington Boulevard is expected to be completed by early next week. Access to nearby alleys will not be affected.

**Marion development update** – Work on the foundation is expected to start next week at the site of a mixed-use development planned for the southwest corner of Marion and Pleasant streets. Parking spaces will be closed along Marion Street and on Pleasant Street from Harlem Avenue to Marion. Portions of the sidewalks also will be closed and some of the lighting fixtures removed temporarily during construction. A temporary pedestrian crossing will be installed soon on Marion Street and fencing will go up around the construction site. The project entails a new structure with 158 residential units and 1,200 square feet of commercial space,

**Madison Street senior center update** – Exterior work on the senior housing facility under construction at 703 Madison Street is nearing completion as the final exterior façade is installed. Construction crews then will start improvements planned for the adjacent public rights of way, including replacing the alley behind the building and the sidewalks along the new building's frontage. Fencing around the site should be removed next week and the alley and sidewalk improvements completed by the end of April.

**Sustainability plan marketing** – Village staff will be incorporating paid advertising to generate more citizen participation in the effort to create a comprehensive, long-range climate plan for Oak Park. In addition to 10 days of digital advertising in the Wednesday Journal, print ads are planned for next week and will continue into early May. These broad-based messages are in addition to targeted outreach to community organizations, paid social media boosts and regular promotion via the Village's established communication channels. More information about the climate plan is [posted online](#) via a dedicated citizen engagement platform.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – The Village has been notified that the Illinois Department of Transportation has set mid-April to begin resurfacing Harlem Avenue from 26th Street to North Avenue. In addition to resurfacing the roadway, the project includes new curb, gutter and sidewalks. In other construction news, staff is monitoring the start of

construction for the [Park District's new 40,000 square-foot recreation center](#) at 229 Madison St. A groundbreaking ceremony was held last week and occupancy is set for April 2023.

**Employee news** – Jade Flagg recently joined the Office of Administrative Adjudication as the Community Service Coordinator. Her primary role will be to work with youth who have received various types of citations. Jade is a licensed social worker, has a Master's in Social Work from Dominican University and a Bachelor's in Broadcast Communication from Columbia College Chicago. Prior to joining the Village, Jade worked for the Department of Children & Family Service, Lutheran Social Services and the Cook County Health Department. In other employee news, Community Development Services Department Director Tammie Grossman is the recipient of the Roberta "Bobbie" Raymond award for distinguished service in advocating for fair housing. She was among 50 women named *Heroines in Housing* by the Oak Park Regional Housing Center at special luncheon yesterday (Thurs., March 24) as part of the Center's celebration of 50 years of service to the community. [Click here](#) to see the award,

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