



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending May 6, 2022**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, May 9:
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Tuesday, May 10:
  - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m.
  - Environment and Energy Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
  
- Wednesday, May 11:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Thursday, May 12
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
  
- Friday, May 13:
  - Fire Pension Board, 9 a.m. via Zoom

**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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**Vehicle license sales underway** – Village vehicle licenses for the 2022/2023 season went on sale this week. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local license before July 15 to get the lowest rate, which increases by \$20 after the deadline. Failure to purchase a license also could result in a ticket. Renewal notices are being sent to residents who had an active vehicle license in the past three years. A current vehicle license is needed to purchase a parking permit. Windshield decals are no longer issued. Parking enforcement officers use remote electronic recognition technology to scan license plates to ensure compliance. [Vehicle licenses may be renewed online](#). Vehicle license rates vary by type of vehicle, with discounts for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and active-duty veterans. More information is available at [www.oak-park.us/vehiclelicenseinfo](http://www.oak-park.us/vehiclelicenseinfo) or by emailing [parking@oak-park.us](mailto:parking@oak-park.us).

**Short-Term Rental Business License Process Begins** – The Village will be mailing letters next week to short-term rental operators informing them of the Village’s new licensing requirement and directing owners to the Village View portal where they can apply and pay for their required business license. Village staff has identified approximately 150 potential short-term rental operations in Oak Park. Once applications are submitted, Village staff will

schedule inspections of each property. In order for a license to be issued, short-term rental operators are required to submit their license application, provided license payment and complete an on-site inspection.

**Police activity summaries available online** – The Police Department regularly publishes summary reports on the enforcement activities of its officers. Each report includes brief summaries of responses to calls about crime, complaints and arrests for specific dates. The summaries are typically issued every weekday, with weekend police activity included in the Monday report. An archive of all police summary reports dating to 2018 is available on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/summaryreports](http://www.oak-park.us/summaryreports). In addition to sharing these reports with local media contacts, the reports are also posted on the Police Department’s [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

**Zoning Board of Appeals Update** – The ZBA unanimously approved a request this week for a variance to allow a property owners John & Michelle Silvey on the 1100 block of Highland Avenue to exceed the maximum impervious surface area required under Village ordinance as part of a garage construction project. The ZBA also unanimously approved a variance allowing a newly planned detached garage direct access from Harrison Street for property owner Mina Properties, LLC on the 1100 block of Harrison St. A petition filed by Chetrandra Grey to operate a reception/banquet facility at 6435 North Avenue was continued to June 1.

**Energy efficiency matching grant update** – The Village has exhausted \$200,000 in budgeted grant funding to help residents cover the costs of energy efficiency upgrades. A total of 40 matching grants were awarded with funding ranging from \$275 to \$10,000. The most popular energy efficiency projects funded were the replacement of furnaces and the installation of insulation. Grant funding remains available to income-eligible residents for energy efficiency projects and to all residents for solar projects. More information about the grant program and a chart showing the percentage of grant funding spent can be found on the Village’s dedicated website related to the project at [www.sustainoakpark.com](http://www.sustainoakpark.com).

**Business license update** – The Village issued 10 more new business licenses in April, bringing the total number of new businesses licenses issued during the first four months of the year to 39. This marks a significant increase over the same period last year when 24 new business licenses were issued, according to the Business Licensing Division of the Development Customer Services Department. [Click here](#) for a chart comparing the number of new business licenses issued from January to April over the past four years. A list of new business licenses is updated monthly and posted online at [www.oak-park.us/businessservices](http://www.oak-park.us/businessservices) – just click on the *Business Licenses and List of New Businesses* title.

**Artists sought for mural project** - Artists are being sought to create murals that will continue the transformation of the railroad retaining walls along the Green Line corridor from dull, blank concrete into canvases as part of the [Oak Park Area Arts Council's](#) Mini-Mural Program. Each artist selected receives \$500 for materials prior to beginning the project and another \$500 upon completion. The deadline to apply for the first round is May 13. A second round of applications will be accepted until June 17. Find more information, including the program application form, at [www.oak-park.us/minimural22](http://www.oak-park.us/minimural22).

**Water billing kiosk available** - Oak Park property owners can now pay their water bills 24/7, 365 days a year at a new kiosk located in the Police Department lobby in the lower level of Village Hall, 123 Madison St. The kiosk accepts checks, credit/debit cards and cash, and issue payment receipts. The kiosk cannot provide change, however, but if paying with cash any excess amount will be credited to the account. Plans are to have the kiosk accept payments for other services as well. Property owners also can [pay their water bills electronically](#), either by using a credit card online or setting up an automatic debit from a checking, savings or credit card account. In addition to water, the quarterly bill includes charges for sewer, garbage disposal and recycling. For more information, call 708.358.5478 or email [waterbilling@oak-park.us](mailto:waterbilling@oak-park.us).

**Protecting our trees** – The Forestry Division has begun actively enforcing restrictions against placing items like swings, lights, ropes and seasonal decorations in parkway trees. These objects can create a public hazard for passersby, as well as threaten the health of the trees. When items are observed hanging from a tree on public property, the adjacent property owner will be notified and given time to remove them before Village crews act. A wide range of information on the care and safety of the 18,000 trees on public property in our community is posted online at [www.oak-park.us/trees](http://www.oak-park.us/trees).

**Celebrating Seniors Week** – The community is invited to join in a number of events taking place May 12 to 19 as part of Celebrating Seniors Week. The festivities are coordinated by [Celebrating Seniors](#), a local non-profit that honors, recognizes and serves seniors in Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park. Included among the events is a [community blood drive](#) taking place from 2:30 to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 13 at Oak Park Township’s Senior Services Meeting Room, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. The Village’s Communications Department also worked with Celebrating Seniors to [produce a video promoting a Celebrating Seniors Scavenger Hunt](#) that kicks off May 14. The video is available on the Village’s [YouTube page](#) and is being shared on the Village’s other social media channels.

**Imagine OPRF open house** – Oak Park and River Forest High School is hosting an open house for residents interested in touring the school’s most significant renovations in 50 years. The Imagine OPRF Project 1 Open House will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. next Monday, May 9. Guests will be able to visit the new Student Resource Center and revamped South Cafeteria, Student Commons, and Welcome Center as well as the Physical Education learning spaces slated for Project 2, which is under discussion but not yet approved by the District 200 Board of Education. Find more information about the open house at [www.oprfhs.org/about/facilities-master-plan](http://www.oprfhs.org/about/facilities-master-plan).

**LeMoyne Parkway Sewer Project** – The LeMoyne Relief Sewer project is still in progress at East Avenue and LeMoyne Parkway. The second manhole structure at this intersection is expected to be installed by the end of the week. Work will progress east towards Fair Oaks Avenue. The project is on track to be completed by the end of July.

**Alley improvements** – The north-south alley between the east side of Fair Oaks Avenue and the south side of Chicago Avenue was expected to reopen this week. Construction on the north-south alley between East of Clinton and south of Garfield started earlier this week.

Notices have been distributed to affected residents within the project area two weeks prior to any disturbance.

**Harlem Avenue Resurfacing** – Illinois Department of Transportation construction crews continued adjusting and cleaning structures between Garfield Street and Roosevelt Road this week before proceeding to curb replacement in this area. In the next few weeks, crews will begin surface removal from North Avenue to Lake Street.

**Senior Living Center at 703 Madison** – The alley adjacent to the American House building has been paved and the contractor for this project will begin pouring curbs on Wesley Avenue and sidewalks this week through next week.

**Pete's construction update** – The remaining ComEd work for the new Pete's Fresh Market was delayed due to weather. Contractors anticipate completing wire pulling by the end of next week. The upcoming AT&T work in the project's west parking lot will start in the coming weeks. The contractor will start the proposed sewer work after the ComEd work and order materials once the Village approves the latest plans.

**Pleasant & Marion Development** – Utility relocation in the alley adjacent to Marion and Pleasant for the new development is still on track to be completed by May 16. Over the next two weeks, crews will start foundation excavation, elevator excavation, curb and gutter removal and street light removal.

**Employee news** – Longtime staff member Tina Brown has been promoted to the position of Supervisor in the Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department. Tina, who joined the Village staff in October 2000, began her employment in the Public Works Department. She then moved to DCS, where she served as a Parking Restrictions Coordinator and, most recently, as a Business License Officer. In her new role Tina will assist Manager Jeff Prior and the rest of the Neighborhood Services Division team in ensuring quality customer service for Oak Park residents as it relates to Village's various [housing programs](#).

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