



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending November 18, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, November 21:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, November 22:
 - Disability Access Commission, 6 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, November 23:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, November 24 – Friday, Nov. 25:
 - Thanksgiving holiday – no meetings scheduled
- Monday, November 28:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, November 29:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, November 30:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, December 1:
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m. via Zoom
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, December 2:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Status report bulletin* heading**

First Alternative Call Response Taskforce meeting held – An initial kickoff meeting was held this week for the Village’s new Alternative Call Response Taskforce. The purpose of the taskforce is to bring to the table a wide range of experts, community members and specialists from Oak Park to advise the Village Manager on an alternative call response model for Oak Park to specifically help individuals suffering from a mental health crisis. This week’s meeting offered a chance for taskforce members to get to know each other and included background about the community safety project from BerryDunn that led to the creation of the taskforce.

New ordinance ready to go into effect – A new Village ordinance prohibiting the operation of service stations and retail goods establishments between midnight and 5 a.m. is set to go into effect following a ruling in the Circuit Court of Cook County earlier this week. Following the ruling, the

Village issued a news release and posted information through its social media channels as a way of alerting the community about the change. More information is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Village Hall closures – Village Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance. More information on Village Hall is [posted online](#).

Holiday traffic enforcement – The Oak Park Police Department is joining law enforcement agencies across the state in a traffic enforcement safety campaign to remind drivers to Click It or Ticket and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. Extra officers will be on the streets starting today through Nov. 28, during what is expected to be one of the busiest travel times of the year. The effort is made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. More information is [posted on the Village website](#).

Parking restrictions eased – [Overnight on-street parking restrictions](#) will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during the Thanksgiving holiday. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 23 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Nov. 28. Restrictions will remain in effect in paid overnight permit areas, including on-street zones. Posted daytime restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety also remain in effect. More information about parking guidelines and restrictions is posted www.oak-park.us/parking.

Refuse collection impacted – Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed by the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday's collections will be delayed until Friday, and Friday's collection delayed until Saturday. The [collection schedule is posted](#) on the Village website.

Free weekend parking set to begin – Shopping local will be easier than ever beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving through Dec. 25 when Saturday parking will be free in public garages and for two hours at pay-by-plate stations and marked meters downtown and in the vicinity of south Oak Park Avenue. Parking in Oak Park is always free on Sundays throughout the year. Village officials say they hope this holiday gesture will benefit both customers and the businesses they patronize. Retail sales benefit not only local retailers, but the entire Village since 2 percent of every retail sale comes back to municipal coffers to fund vital public services. For many retailers, the holiday season is the most important time of the year. Visit www.pickoakpark.com for a directory of local businesses. Information about parking in the Village is posted at www.oak-park.us/parking.

Vehicle license sales update –The Village has sold 17,322 vehicle licenses this year totaling \$1,170,109 in revenue. This represents a 9-percent drop in revenue collected compared to last year, though residents can still purchase vehicle licenses through the end of the year. The Police Department's Parking Enforcement Officers continue to use license plate recognition technology to ensure compliance. [Click here](#) to view a chart that compares year-end vehicle licenses sales over the past three years with sales through October of this year.

Village parking garage update – While the public's use of the three Village-operated parking garages is up from last year, usage continues to lag behind pre-pandemic rates. As compared to 2019, parking garage revenue this year is down 28 percent at the Holley Court Garage, 45 percent at the Avenue Garage and 38 percent at the Lake & Forest Garage for the first 10 months of the year. [Click here](#) to see a detailed monthly revenue comparison from 2019 to present for the three garages.

Vehicle immobilizations to resume – The Village is restarting its vehicle immobilization program, with the first step being the issuance of immobilization notices that were sent today. Any vehicle with five or more unpaid parking citations is eligible to receive a notice. The notice gives the vehicle owner 21 days to pay the outstanding amount. Vehicle owners may enter into a payment plan to avoid immobilization if they have not previously defaulted on a payment plan. The Village will initially concentrate on vehicles with the highest number of outstanding citations. The actual booting/immobilization of vehicles will begin in 2023. More information is available by contacting the Adjudication Department at Hearings@oak-park.us or 708.358.5630.

Tips for reducing common illnesses – As colder weather arrives, the Oak Park Health Department is reminding residents of ways to reduce the impact and spread of common fall and winter illnesses. Health officials say there has been an increase in respiratory illnesses both nationally and locally, and children have been particularly affected. Taking simple steps such as staying home when sick, washing hands regularly, covering coughs and sneezes, maximizing indoor ventilation, staying up to date on vaccines and wearing masks in crowded spaces can help reduce the spread of illnesses. As part of the effort, the Health Department worked with Oak Park Elementary School District 97 to ensure consistent messaging about ways to prevent the spread of common illnesses in schools. More information is available at www.oak-park.us/reducespread.

Be wary of electricity service scammers – The Village is reminding residents that if someone calls or knocks on the door promising a better deal on electricity, be cautious. MC Squared Energy, the Village's electricity aggregation contractor, sent an alert this week about an uptick in door-to-door solicitors in the region. Salespeople who offer to save you money may ask for your account number or to see your bill. Most likely they are selling a low introductory rate or trying to get your account number so they can switch you to a different provider without your permission. Representatives from the Village and MC Squared Energy never solicit door-to-door or by telephone. More information, including some basic guidelines to help avoid scams, is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Happy Apple Pie Shop earns state recognition – The [Happy Apple Pie Shop](#) is one of 30 Illinois small businesses, or “Makers,” that have been recognized as part of the Illinois Office Of Tourism's [Illinois Made Program](#). Visit Oak Park nominated Happy Apple, located at 226 Harrison St., to be included among the group of small businesses that exemplify the hidden gems, experiences and one-of-a-kind products that make Illinois a great place to explore for residents and visitors alike. [Click here](#) to read the state's news release announcing the Illinois Made businesses.

Visit Oak Park update – The Visit Oak Park Board of Directors has hired GovHRUSA, a national recruiting firm, to assist in filling the newly titled Executive Director position for the organization. Anyone interested in obtaining more information about this opportunity can contact GovHRUSA representatives Heidi Voorhees at hvoorhees@govhruse.com or Maureen Barry at mbarry@govhrusa.com. Eric Wagner, President and CEO of Visit Oak Park, has resigned but will remain with the organization until Nov. 30. Mr. Wagner is moving out of the county to pursue international opportunities. Visit Oak Park is a tourism bureau serving Oak Park and 20 additional communities in the Oak Park area.

New Oak Park business hosts open house – [Mosaic Counseling & Wellness](#) recently held an open house at its new facility at 215 Harrison St. in the Oak Park Arts District. Mosaic purchased and renovated the long-standing vacant building at the location and has plans to renovate the back portion of the building space in order to add to the services the facility already provides.

Concrete shortage delays projects – A regional concrete shortage is leading to delays for several Village infrastructure projects. Plans to repair the crosswalk at the intersection of Marion Street and South Boulevard are being pushed to next spring after the project’s contractor was notified that the concrete supplier could not fulfill the Village’s request for decorative concrete. The annual sidewalk repair project has also largely been postponed to next spring due to the shortage. Approximately 4,000 square feet of concrete is being installed this year at various locations where the need for repairs is particularly urgent. Other trip hazards are being patched with asphalt to mitigate known issues until work is complete. The concrete shortage combined with general delays on the part of the contractor has also resulted in pavement preservation work being delayed to 2023.

Pete’s Fresh Market update – Comcast completed installation of the underground conduit for the relocation of its facilities associated with the future Pete’s Fresh Market building construction on Madison Street. The concrete shortage delayed Pete’s relocation of the Village’s water and sewer mains. Manholes for the next phase are expected to be delivered the first week of December with construction work generally starting at Madison Street and working north on Euclid Avenue.

Pleasant & Marion update – Crews are pouring concrete slabs for the future lobby and maisonette units at the site of the new development on the southwest corner of Pleasant and Marion streets. Ongoing work includes installing walls for the parking garage and miscellaneous utility work.