



Village Manager's Report
Weeks ending December 23 & 30, 2022

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, December 26:
 - Village Hall closed in observance of Christmas Day
- Tuesday, December 27 – Friday, December 30:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Monday, January 2:
 - Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Day
- Tuesday, January 3:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, January 4:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, January 5:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, January 6:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Holidays affect Village Hall hours – Village Hall will close at noon on Friday, Dec. 23 and remain closed all day Monday, Dec. 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Village Hall also will be closed all day on Monday, Jan. 2 in observance of New Year's Day. The holidays also will delay garbage and recycling collection by one day for each of the next two weeks. When incidents that don't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency call occur when Village Hall is closed, residents can call the Police Department non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance. Always call 911 in an emergency.

New overnight emergency shelter – Housing Forward is preparing to operate a new overnight emergency shelter in Oak Park starting Jan. 4. The shelter will be open from 7 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. seven days a week at St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church, 38 N. Austin Blvd. The site will be limited to 15 beds per night and open to men, women, non-binary individuals and families. The shelter will provide dinner, breakfast, sack lunch, overnight sleeping accommodations and showers. Federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act was allocated to Housing Forward by the Village to support the emergency shelter project for a two-year period. The funds will also help support Housing Forward's new Emergency Shelter Coordinator position to oversee the program's operations. The shelter will be staffed by volunteers and supplemented by Housing Forward employees.

Cold weather safety – In anticipation of dangerously cold temperatures this week, the Village has been using its communications channels to remind residents to limit time outdoors for themselves and their pets, as well as to check in on friends and neighbors who may need assistance when extreme cold weather strikes. The messages also include information about local warming centers. More information and tips for staying safe in cold weather are posted on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

COVID-19 vaccine outreach – The Health Department wrapped up its COVID-19 vaccine clinics this month. The department partnered with Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 and the Park District of Oak Park to host clinics throughout the community during the past year at various locations including schools, Park District facilities and local churches, offering primary series and booster shots for all eligible age groups. In 2022, the Health Department hosted approximately 95 clinics and provided more than 4,700 vaccinations. In addition, Health Department staff made more than 70 visits to homebound residents to administer vaccines in 2022 and distributed about 175 flu shots to Village employees and residents.

COVID-19 testing clinics continue – The Health Department’s mobile response van will be out in the community for a series of free COVID-19 testing in the coming weeks. The testing event scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 5 at Lindberg Park, 1150 N. Marion St., is being promoted as an opportunity for school-aged children and adults to get tested before returning to school and work after the holidays. Find dates, times and locations for the mobile testing clinics at www.oak-park.us/testing. The webpage also includes information about ordering free at-home COVID-19 tests.

Budget overview available online – An overview of the FY23 Village budget is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/FY23budget. The overview highlights how the municipal budget was developed with a focus on community affordability while also ensuring the delivery of essential services and furthering the Village’s commitment to community safety, leading in racial equity, investing in a sustainable future and supporting vibrant, diverse neighborhoods. The information will be featured in the next OP/FYI newsletter being mailed to all residential households in early January and shared via the Village’s communications channels.

Holiday tree collection – Holiday trees will be collected the weeks of Jan. 2 and Jan. 9 from residential properties of five or fewer units served by the Village refuse hauling contractor. Be sure to remove all decorations and stands, and place the tree in the regular collection area before your regular collection day during these two weeks. If your regular collection point is in an alley, be sure to place the tree in the alley and not in the parkway in front of your residence. Since the trees are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment, please do not leave them in plastic disposal bags or they will not be collected. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker to be attached. Stickers are available for \$3.10 each at most local grocery and hardware stores, as well as at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Wreaths and garlands cannot be collected for recycling because they contain wire – place them in the trash container. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

New smoke alarm law going into effect – The Oak Park Fire Department is reminding the community about a new state law that goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2023 requiring any new smoke alarm installed in a single or multi-family home to have a 10-year sealed battery. These new alarms eliminate the task of replacing batteries. Fire officials recommend testing your smoke alarms monthly and replacing any alarm that fails a test or is more than 10 years old. More information on the new smoke alarm law can be found at www.ifsa.org/smoke-alarm-law.

Pete's Fresh Market update – Crews installed and backfilled new structures on Madison Street this week as part of ongoing sewer work at the site of the new Pete's Fresh Market. Next week the contractor will install a tent at the construction site to help keep material and equipment at the proper temperature for the new sewer lining operation that will begin in early January.

Pleasant & Marion update – All concrete work on the ground level is complete at the new development at the corner of Pleasant and Marion streets, and the remaining concrete masonry unit installation is expected to wrap up by the end of December. Utility work is also in progress for the building's parking garage, common areas and lobby.

Sewer televising update – The contractor for the sewer televising project focused this week on locations in the east part of the Village north of the I-290 expressway. Next week the work will move west toward Ridgeland Avenue. Partial lane closures are anticipated in areas when the sewer televising work is in progress.