



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending January 13, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, January 16:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, January 17:
  - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Wednesday, January 18:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Housing Programs Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- Thursday, January 19:
  - Building Code Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Room 215
- Friday, January 20:
  - No meetings scheduled

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

**Village commemorating MLK Day** – Village Hall will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The community is also invited to join in a special commemoration honoring Dr. King as part of the Village Board's next meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17. The meeting will begin with a special youth vocal performance by students from Julian Middle School and the reading of a proclamation recognizing Dr. King. The Village Board meeting will be streamed live and archived online at [www.oak-park.us/boardtv](http://www.oak-park.us/boardtv) as well as cablecast on VOP-TV, which is available to Comcast subscribers on channel 6 and ATT Uverse subscribers on channel 99.

**Offender in officer shooting sentenced** – Earlier this month Enrique Rosa of the 2200 block of W. Monroe St. in Chicago was sentenced to 21 years in prison after entering a plea agreement for attempted murder of a police officer stemming from an [April 8, 2021 incident](#) in Oak Park. Numerous members of the Oak Park Police Department attended the hearing in solidarity and support of Officer Ken Tworek, who was injured in the shooting. Tworek received an Oak Park Police Department Award for Valor for his actions during the incident, the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Police Department.

**New EV charging stations installed** – The Parking and Mobility Services Division recently installed four new dual-port electric vehicle charging stations for public use. Two of the new

charging stations were installed at the Avenue Garage, 720 North Blvd., while the other two were installed at Village public parking lot No. 10, located on North Boulevard between Marion Street and Forest Avenue. The new additions bring the number of public EV charging stations operated by the Village to 13 with a total of 26 available ports. The Village also operates four EV charging stations for the exclusive use of the Village's fleet of electric vehicles. The public charging stations support the Village's goal of increasing access to EV charging stations, specifically for those residents who do not own a garage, as outlined in *Climate Ready Oak Park*. Residents are reminded that they can find nearby EV charging stations by downloading the ChargePoint App in the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can view available charging stations in the area, read driver tips and even sign up to receive notifications when a new charging station becomes available.

**Commercial façade improvement success** – In 2018, the Village established a Commercial Façade Improvement Program (C-FIP) to assist sales-tax-generating Oak Park businesses looking to improve the building facades of their establishments. Over the past five years, the Village has assisted 18 businesses with façade improvements that have included new windows, doors, awnings and signage. Since the start of the program the Village has provided \$79,647 in C-FIP grant awards for projects that have resulted in \$396,722 in façade improvements throughout the community. This year, the Village is already partnering with Crepas Culichi, Oak Park's newest restaurant at 1101 Lake St., on a C-FIP signage project that will continue this program's success in assisting local businesses. For information about the Commercial Façade Improvement grant program, contact the Development Customer Services Department at [business@oak-park.us](mailto:business@oak-park.us). [Click here](#) to see a list of C-FIP grant recipients.

**Engagement website goes live** – The Village's new engagement website went live this week at [www.engageoakpark.com](http://www.engageoakpark.com). The new site, which is one component of the Village's Granicus Government Experience Cloud contract, is intended to serve as an online destination for residents who wish to provide input, share ideas and influence policymaking related to various local issues. An initial project on the site is intended to gather feedback related to the Village's building benchmarking initiative. The site includes other opportunities to ask questions or provide general feedback, and more projects will be added to the site in the coming weeks and months. Meanwhile, the Communications Department is also continuing the process of building the main Village website, which is expected to launch later this year.

**2023 What's Blooming date set** – The Oak Park Art's District has set Saturday, May 20 as the date for its annual What's Blooming on Harrison event. The Arts District is busy planning for the event, which will include local businesses, art vendors, refreshments, a main stage with entertainment and more. For more information, contact [annettee@oakparkartsdistrict.com](mailto:annettee@oakparkartsdistrict.com) or visit the Arts District website – [click here to view](#). Details about the 2023 event were shared during the Arts District's annual business meeting held this week. Development Customer Services Department staff attended the meeting along with several members of the Village Board.

**Prescription drug drop box returns** – Residents can once again safely dispose of unwanted prescription medicines in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department in the lower level at Village Hall. The drop box had temporarily been removed last summer due to a fire at the

facility that processes the discarded items. In addition to the Police lobby location, an addition disposal box is available to the community in the Oak Park Township parking lot located at 105 S. Oak Park Ave. More information is available at [www.oak-park.us/drugdisposal](http://www.oak-park.us/drugdisposal).

**Tree pruning underway** – Residents are urged to move their cars from the streets when temporary no-parking signs go up to allow private contractors to prune parkway trees quickly and safely during the winter pruning cycle. One third of the Village's 18,000-plus parkway trees are [scheduled to be pruned this winter](#). The focus will be trees located between Madison Street and Chicago Avenue. Crews follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines for tree care to address three key issues – tree health, resident safety and protecting property from damage. Residents may call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us) with questions or concerns about the type or quality of work being performed by contractors. More information on the care of trees on public property is posted at [www.oak-park.us/trees](http://www.oak-park.us/trees).

**Pleasant & Marion update** – A tower crane will be placing wall panels over the next three months as part of the residential framing phase of the development project at the corner of Pleasant and Marion streets. Mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection contractors are also continuing to install suspended piping and equipment throughout the common areas and lobby.

**Pete's Fresh Market update** – Sewer lining work is expected to be completed soon and excavation has begun for a new pipe that will run north from Madison Street to serve the new Pete's Fresh Market on Madison Street. A climate-controlled tent has been installed on Euclid Avenue as part of the ongoing work.

**Sewer televising update** – The sewer televising contractor will be back in town on Monday, Jan. 16 to finish the remaining contract. The last phase will include sewer televising on North Boulevard near Marion Street and Forest Avenue.

**Employee news** – Luwanda Johnson-Harper will soon be making a move within the Development Customer Services Department when she assumes the role of Account Clerk on Jan. 23. Luwanda came on board at the Village last summer as a Customer Service Representative in the Parking and Mobility Services Division. She previously worked as an educator in the Chicago school system, supporting students with their technology needs.

**Celebrating positive customer feedback** – The Development Customer Services Department maintains two thank you bulletin boards on the walls at Village Hall. Both boards are filled with thank you e-mails, cards and notes from customers expressing appreciation for staff's work over the course of the year. This week, both thank you boards were cleared to make room for words of appreciation to come in 2023. [Click here](#) to see a photo of one of the bulletin boards filled with messages sent last year.