



Village Manager's Report Week ending March 3, 2023

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 6:
 - Village Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers
- Tuesday, March 7:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m. in Room 101
- Wednesday, March 8:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chambers
- Thursday, March 9:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chambers
- Friday, March 10:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Steering wheel lock giveaway – The Oak Park Police Department gave away around 80 steering wheel locks to owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles during an event held Feb. 25 in the police station lobby at Village Hall. An additional 20 steering wheel locks were reserved by residents. Community Policing Sergeant Robert Monty helped coordinate the event and is working to obtain additional locks for the dozens of residents who have been added to a waiting list should supplies become available. More information about the initiative is posted on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Health Department completes certification process – Oak Park's Department of Public Health received notice this week that its community needs assessment and health plan, also known as the IPLAN, has been approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health. All state-certified health departments must complete a community health assessment and strategic plan every five years. Oak Park is one of only four communities in suburban Cook County with its own state-certified municipal health department along with Evanston, Skokie and Stickney. With the approval of the IPLAN, the Oak Park Health Department is certified through September 2026. [Click here to read the certification letter from IDPH](#).

Racial equity needs assessment – The Village recently issued a request for proposals from contractors to conduct a comprehensive racial equity community needs assessment. Responses can be returned to Dr. Danielle Walker, the Village's Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, by the 5 p.m. deadline on Tuesday, March 14. The RFP is posted along with the Village's other current bid requests on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/bid.

EEC set to discuss single-use plastics – The Environment and Energy Commission will meet to discuss a proposed policy on single-use plastic foodware at 7 p.m. next Tuesday, March 7 in Room 101 at Village Hall. Members of the community are invited to attend to hear the presentation and provide public comment in person or in writing to the Village Clerk. The commission agenda can be viewed at www.oak-park.us/EEC. Local business owners and other community members are also invited to learn more about the policy and complete a survey at www.engageoakpark.com/single-use-plastics.

Village receives HUD funding allocation – The Village will receive \$1,539,187 in funding from the U.S. Department of Urban Development (HUD) for the Program Year (PY) 2023, which will run from Oct. 1, 2023 through Sept. 30, 2024. The funding represents a 1-percent decrease from PY2022 totals. The funding will be distributed through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which provide low-and moderate-income (LMI) households with viable neighborhoods, which incorporate decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include housing rehabilitation and preservation, public services, infrastructure improvements, code enforcement, public facilities improvements, economic development, fair housing outreach, and planning/administration. More information about the Village's role in distributing CDBG funds is available at www.oak-park.us/cdbg.

Annual Landlord Management Housing Seminar - The Village's annual Landlord Management Housing Seminar will return to an in-person setting when it is held at 9:30 a.m. next Wednesday, March 8 in the Council Chamber at Village Hall. The seminar provides information on Village ordinance updates that effect landlords, the obligations associated with the Residential Tenant Landlord Ordinance (RTLO) and other important matters. Attending the seminar fulfills the property owner's obligation to participate in a training session once a year as specified in the Village Code.

Historic preservation outreach at local home show – The Unity Temple Restoration Foundation is hosting its second annual Vintage Home Show from 1 to 4 p.m. this Saturday, March 4 at Unity Temple. Susie Trexler, the Village's Historic Preservation Urban Planner, will be on hand fielding questions and providing recommendations to Oak Park residents about historic preservation in Village. The Vintage Home Show offers an opportunity for owners of historic homes and buildings to attend seminars, visit vendor booths and ask experts about their home renovation questions. More information is at www.utrf.org/event/homeshow.

New business license update – The Village issued five licenses for new businesses in February, continuing a steady pace that has resulted in 13 new business licenses issued through the first two months of the year. [Click here](#) to view a chart comparing the number of new business licenses processed over the past few years. A list of new business licenses issued dating back to 2021 is available at www.pickoakpark.com/newbusiness.

Wild Fork ribbon cutting – Staff from the Development Customer Services Department was on hand for a recent grand opening ribbon cutting event at Wild Fork, 435 N. Harlem Ave. [Click here](#) for a photo from the ribbon cutting event, which was organized by the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce. Wild Fork is owned by JBS S.A., a Brazilian company

and one of the largest food distributors in the world. Wild Fork offers customers a wide selection of high-quality meat and seafood that is blast-frozen for freshness.

Community survey results available – Results of the most recent [National Community Survey](#) continued to demonstrate that Oak Park residents feel a strong sense of community, while also pointing toward an opportunity for growth in the area of community safety. The survey, which polled a statistically valid random sample of Oak Parkers by mail last fall, reported that 9 in 10 residents rate Oak Park as an excellent or good place to live and would recommend living in the Village to someone who asks. [Click here](#) to view the complete survey results on Tableau. The survey was conducted by Polco (formerly the National Research Center), a social science research firm that specializes in gathering and analyzing information for public sector entities, including local governments. Last year's survey marked the ninth time since 2000 that the National Research Center assisted with surveys here, standardizing questions for accurate comparisons of findings over the years. Results of these past surveys are posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/communitysurveys.

Information about Oak Park's historic districts – Oak Park is home to three historic districts that are listed both locally and on the National Register of Historic Places and 71 local landmarks. The Historic Preservation Commission and Architectural Review Guidelines serve to guide preservation of these significant resources, furthering Oak Park's mission to promote the economic, educational, cultural and general welfare of Oak Park through the preservation of its architectural heritage. Residents can find out if they live in a historic district by searching their property address on the [Community Portal](#). More information about what makes the districts and landmarks significant can be found in the Historic Preservation Commission guidelines posted on the [Village website](#).

Community Health and Wellness Fair – The Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce is hosting its seventh annual Community Health and Wellness Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 23 at FFC Oak Park, 1114 Lake St. The Oak Park Health Department will be among the local health and wellness professionals on hand providing a wide range of services such as sports medicine/orthopedic screenings, vascular disease screenings, pain assessments, COVID testing, blood pressure testing, chiropractic screenings and nutrition screenings. Space for vendors and sponsors is still available. Find more information at www.oprfchamber.org/health-wellness-fair or by contacting Tasha Carlisle, Special Events Manager for the Chamber of Commerce, at tcarlisle@oprfchamber.org.

Water main valve replacements – The replacement of an existing valve at 902 S. Austin Blvd. is scheduled to start next week. The two remaining valve replacements will be scheduled for late March to coincide with Oak Park Elementary School District 97's spring break to avoid impacts at school drop off and pickup. Residents in the area of the valve replacements will be notified of any disruptions to their water service.

Division Street water and sewer improvements – Traffic control signs and barricades will arrive along Division Street next week as the surveyor completes construction staking and layout for this year's water and sewer improvement project. Construction materials are set to be delivered the week of March 13 with plans calling for the contractor to break ground the

week of March 20. All work will be within the right-of-way on Division Street. The project will include full road closures. Residents impacted by the construction will receive parking passes.

IDOT Roosevelt Road improvements – The Illinois Department of Transportation’s upcoming Roosevelt Road project consists of resurfacing and ADA improvements along the busy state highway from Des Plaines Avenue to Belt Railway. In addition to Oak Park, the project will impact neighboring Forest Park, Berwyn, Cicero and Chicago. Work is expected to begin in March with an estimated completion date of November.

Pete’s Fresh Market update – Work is underway to connect the newly installed watermain to the existing watermain on Euclid Avenue as part of ongoing construction for the new Pete’s Fresh Market on Madison Street. The contractor will also reroute the water service for 431 S. Euclid Ave. as part of the work. Affected residents and property owners have been notified.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The installation of fourth floor wall panels is set to wrap up this week at the new development at the intersection of Pleasant and Marion streets. Crews are also installing suspended piping for the future garage, and structural steel installation is ongoing. Elsewhere, the Nicor Gas inspection project is now expected to begin the week of March 6 after the start was delayed this past week. Partial lane closures are anticipated when Nicor’s project is underway.