



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending January 17, 2020**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Jan. 20:
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Village Hall closed
  
- Tuesday, Jan. 21:
  - Employee Years of Service Awards – 7 p.m. reception, 7:15 p.m. ceremony, Council Chamber
  - Village Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Wednesday, Jan. 22:
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St.
  - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Thursday, Jan. 23:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- Friday, Jan. 24:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Village Hall closed Monday** – Village Hall will be closed on Mon., Jan. 20 in observance of [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#). Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 call occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to call the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

**Cannabis sales, cultivation recommendations** – The Plan Commission voted unanimously last night (Thurs., Jan. 17) to recommend a range of guidelines regulating the sales and cultivation of recreational marijuana, including making sales a special use in all business and commercial districts and limiting the number of outlets in Oak Park to three. Other recommendations include making craft growers a special use; prohibiting on-site consumption; maintaining a 1,500-foot buffer between cannabis sales and cultivation sites; and maintaining a 500-foot buffer from sensitive, pre-existing land uses such as schools, daycare centers, children's museums and public parks measured from lot line to lot line. Staff will return the findings of fact report for commission review on Jan. 23.

**New community event calendar** – The Village has joined the Library, Township, Park District and school districts 200 and 97 in a shared calendar that allows users to create a free, personalized community event feed. In addition to synching events to calendars, users can choose to receive notifications if event details change. To sign

up for the calendar go to [www.burbio.com](http://www.burbio.com) or download the app, which is available for both Android and Apple operating systems. Information on Village events continues to be available at [www.oak-park.us/calendar](http://www.oak-park.us/calendar), where individual Village events also can be added to an individual's calendar with a click on a link.

**Sign variance request** – The Oak Park Arms is seeking a Sign Code variance to install two commercial real estate signs on the south elevation of the building, a location with no street frontage. The variance request, which was continued from Nov. 20, is scheduled to be considered at the Jan. 22 Community Design Commission meeting. Current code allows one commercial real estate sign no more than 16 square feet per street frontage. The proposed signs would be approximately 360 square feet and 236 square feet.

**Plan Commission updates** – The Plan Commission continued the review of the planned development application for 435 Madison St. until March 5. The continuance came following numerous cross-examination questions and multiple public comments on the proposal for a five-story residential development with 48 rental units and 48 parking spaces. The commission recommended more emphasis on aesthetics, building massing on the south side abutting the single family residence and parking garage access. The need for additional compensating benefits, energy efficiencies and thought regarding the public art proposal also were recommended.

**Homelessness awareness movie screening** –The Oak Park Homelessness Coalition will host a screening of [The Public](#) at 7 p.m., Wed., Jan. 22, at the Lake Theater. The film is about a group of homeless individuals who occupy the Cincinnati Library during a polar vortex. A discussion will follow the movie and proceeds will benefit the Coalition. More information is [posted on the Coalition's website](#).

**Weather events** – Light snow and the continued threat of freezing rain had crews on the job over much of the past weekend to ensure safe travel on streets and public walkways. Crews were back on the street Monday and Wednesday mornings (Jan. 13 and 15) as well, treating elevated surfaces to address freezing rain and drizzle. The weather forecast for the coming weekend includes the possibility for more snow beginning late today (Fri., Jan 17) and continuing into Saturday with several inches of accumulation possible. Fluctuating temperatures could mean rain, ice and snow at varying times over the weekend, followed by falling temperatures on Sunday and into next week. Sufficient salt is on hand, all equipment is ready and staff is standing by as conditions evolve.

**Social media sensation** – This week's ceremonial retirement of Oak Park's lone K-9 Officer has made Zeke something of a local social media sensation. A post on the [Police Department's Facebook page](#) about Zeke's retirement received more than 500 likes, reached more than 11,000 people and garnered dozens of comments in the first 24 hours after being posted on Tuesday (Jan. 14). The eight-year-old Police veteran's retirement also was featured in both the [Wednesday Journal](#) and the [Oak Leaves](#).

**Lighting, signal work** – The installation of LED lighting in all of the viaducts was expected to wrap up today (Fri., Jan. 17) with the final work from Home Avenue to Harvey Avenue, barring any weather setbacks. Repairs were made to the traffic

signals at Ridgeland Avenue and Jackson Boulevard to remedy a timing issue caused by an intermittent hardware failure that was causing traffic backups.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – With construction at a typical winter season minimum, the only activity continues to be related to sewer inspections and safety infrastructure tweaks along Madison Street. A private contractor is using video cameras to inspect Village sewers in multiple locations throughout the Village, cleaning the pipes as needed. Minor punch-list work also continued this week on Madison Street, with crews likely to be on site periodically through much of January to adjust signs and other related items.

**Employee news** – Forty-two Village employees will be recognized for their years of service to the community at an event prior to the Mon., Jan. 21 Village Board meeting. A reception is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber, followed by the ceremony at 7:15 p.m. In other employee news, two Fire Department veterans were promoted at a recent ceremony at Village Hall. Lieutenant Daniel McInerney was promoted to Battalion Chief, while Ryan Marinier was promoted to Lieutenant. Both Battalion Chief McInerney and Lieutenant Marinier have been with the Oak Park Fire Department since 2000.

###