



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 8, 2022**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 11:
 - Village Board, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, April 12:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, April 13:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, April 14:
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, April 15:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Activity Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Village Manager Reports* heading**

National Community Development Week – The Village is celebrating National Community Development Week from April 11 - 15 by raising awareness about the CDBG Program's impact on the community. The federally funded, but [locally administered program](#) is specifically earmarked to help support and nurture a wide range of programs and services for individuals and families that the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) defines as low and moderate income. For Program Year 2021, which began in October, Oak Park received more than \$1.6 million in federal funds through the Community Development Block Grant Program to support local initiatives. [Click here to read more](#) about local efforts.

Business license update – The Village has issued 29 new business licenses during the first three months of 2022, nearly double the 15 new business licenses issued for the same period in 2021. Twenty-one new businesses were issued in 2020 and 12 in 2019, according to the Business Licensing Division of the Development Customer Services Department. A list of new business licenses is updated monthly and posted online at www.oak-park.us/businessservices – just click on the *Business Licenses and List of New Businesses* title.

Fire hydrant testing – The Oak Park Fire Department has begun testing fire hydrants as part of a routine annual procedure to ensure proper operations of these vital emergency

response devices. Over the next few weeks, crews will be out in the community inspecting, flushing and measuring flow rates on all 1,240 fire hydrants in the Village. Residents on the same supply line as a hydrant being tested may notice cloudy water the first time a tap is opened after a nearby test, but the water should clear up if the tap is allowed to run for a few minutes. [Click here to read more about the procedure...](#)

ZBA actions – The Zoning Board of Appeals approved two variance applications this week – one for a 12-foot wall on Park District property and the other to allow a ground-floor real estate office within a downtown business district. The Park District sought a variance from the Zoning Code that limits fences and walls located more than 35 feet from a front lot line to eight feet tall. The proposed wall, which will feature a mural, will be part of a parking lot being added to the rear of its administrative building at 228-230 Madison St. Compass Realty sought a variance to open an office on the ground floor at 803 Lake St., which is a prohibited use within 50 feet of a street line in DT-1 and DT-2 Downtown Sub-Districts. The ZBA voted 5 – 1 to approve the Park District request and 6 – 0 to approve the Compass request.

Voter registration underway – The Village Clerk is reminding residents who plan to vote in the June 28 Gubernatorial Primary, but are not yet registered, that they can get help from her office. As the local election authority, the Village Clerk registers voters for local, state and federal elections from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Village Hall. If a currently registered resident moves even within Oak Park, the registration information must be transferred to the new address. Residents may call 708.358.5672, email clerk@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/clerk for more information on identification requirements. The Cook County Clerk also offers a wide range of election information and services at www.cookcountyclerk.il.gov/elections. In a related matter, planning is underway to offer early voting at Village Hall June 13 – 27.

New waste hauler on the job – The Village's new trash and recycling hauler, Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS), is now servicing residential properties with five or fewer units that are part of the municipal refuse hauling contract. The hauler change, the first in Oak Park since the 1990s, went into effect April 1. The change should have been seamless for most residents. Collection dates and rates and even the collection carts did not change, nor did related services like composting and collection of electronic and hazardous waste, yard waste and bulk items. Complete details about LRS's Oak Park collection program is posted online at www.lrsrecycles.com/oakpark.

Alleys improvements – Work is underway in the alley between Elmwood and Ridgeland avenues by Randolph and Pleasant streets. Once this alley is complete, crews will begin working on the alley between Iowa Street and Chicago Avenue by Austin Boulevard and Humphrey Avenue. Weather permitting, crews will begin work Monday (April 11) on the north-south alley between East and Fair Oaks avenues south of Chicago Avenue. Notices and parking passes are distributed to affected residents two weeks prior to any disturbance.

LeMoyne Parkway sewer – Traffic control and lane closures are expected to begin next week for the sewer improvement project on LeMoyne Parkway. Work will begin at East Avenue and

move east toward Edmer Avenue. Notices and parking passes have been distributed to affected residents.

Harlem Avenue resurfacing – Illinois Department of Transportation contractors have begun work related to resurfacing Harlem Avenue, a project that will extend past the Village’s entire eastern border along this busy north/south state highway. Curbs and sidewalks were removed last week by North Avenue, as the work moves south toward 26th Street. Temporary lane closures began this week for crews pouring concrete and are expected to continue for at least the next 10 days.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The contractor for the new Pete’s Fresh Market coming to Madison Street is awaiting clearance from ownership to install a construction fence across Euclid Avenue, but overhead utility work is underway in the alley between Oak Park Avenue and Euclid Avenue. Utility work in the west lot by Oak Park Avenue and sewer construction is expected to begin in the next four to eight weeks. To the west of the Pete’s site, crews have begun removing the construction fencing from around the senior living facility nearing completion at 703 Madison St., with site grading and excavation along the perimeter to follow. Closer to downtown, excavation for the foundation of the development planned for the southwest corner of Marion and Pleasant streets was expected to begin this week. Construction fencing is in place and pedestrian signage for this busy, offset corner of the intersection is being finalized.

Bike ambassador sought – The Park District has asked us to help spread the word that it is seeking a bike-riding ambassador to serve as a role model and engage park participants as a way to strengthen the community. Candidates for the seasonal role must be at least 16 years old and willing to lead a variety of park activities, including sports, songs, games and crafts. If you know an outgoing teenager in need of a seasonal gig, send them to www.pdop.org/jobs to apply.

Employee news - Charlotte Kenny has joined the Development Customer Services Department team as an Account Clerk in the Neighborhood Services Division. Charlotte, a lifelong resident of Oak Park and graduate of Oak Park and River Forest High School, has an accounting degree from Marquette University.

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