



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending February 3, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, February 6:
 - Village Board meeting, 6:45 p.m., Council Chambers
- Tuesday, February 7:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, February 8:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., Room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chambers
- Thursday, February 9:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., Room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers
- Friday, February 10:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program update – Nineteen applications for the Village's Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program (MFHIP) were received by the Development Customer Services Department prior to the end of the application window on Jan. 23. The applications will be reviewed by the Housing Programs Advisory Committee at its March 15 meeting, with the committee's recommendations expected to come before the Village Board in May. A total of \$150,000 is set aside for the program, with grant awards of up to \$10,000 available to owners of eligible multi-family buildings with four or more apartment units. The grant funding must be matched 2:1 by the building owner. Grant funds may be used for common area improvements, security improvements or individual unit improvements. The applications received came from properties located throughout the community.

Landscape service survey underway – The Village is asking residents to complete a short survey at www.engageoakpark.com/landscaping-practices in an effort to better understand how community members manage their fallen leaves and landscaping needs. The feedback will help inform policymaking around sustainable landscaping practices, which are important steps Oak Park can take to reach the community's Climate Ready Oak Park goals. More than 240 responses have been submitted since the survey was posted Tuesday.

New business license update – The Village had a strong start to the new year with eight new business licenses issued during the month of January. [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.

Short-term rental licensing update – The Village has issued 91 short-term rental licenses since the program began in 2022. An additional 18 short-term rental applications have been submitted and are under review by the Development Customer Services Department. Short-term rentals through companies such as Airbnb pay the same 4-percent tax as the Village’s hotel and bed and breakfast businesses. [Click here](#) for more data related to short-term rentals.

Black History Month Honors Celebration – Plans are in the works for the Village to host a [Black History Month Honors Celebration](#) from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Nineteenth Century Club. Chief DEI Officer Dr. Danielle Walker is helping to organize the family-friendly event, which will include food, entertainment and speakers. Invitations for the event are expected to be sent in the coming days.

DCS staff attends CDBG training – Grants Supervisor Vanessa Matheny and Grants Coordinator Nicholas Meier attended the annual National Community Development Association (NCDCA) legislative, policy and professional development training last month in Washington D.C. With the Village’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application window about to begin, the training offered a chance for Vanessa and Nicholas to learn more from their peers and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials. Training topics included *Understanding Census Data*, *Using Funds for Homeless Initiatives* and *HUD Program Updates and Planning Requirements*.

Employee news – Diana Bobadilla was promoted this past week to be the Village’s first-ever Assistant Director of Human Resources. Diana has been with the Village for more than 10 years. Her municipal career began in 2012 as a part-time Cashier. She later served as a Records Coordinator in the Finance Department for four years and most recently as an HR Generalist since August 2016. Diana holds her Master’s Degree in Training and Development from Roosevelt University and has earned SHRM-CP Certification. One of the key initiatives Diana will be working on in her new role is reviewing and updating the Village’s performance management and evaluation process. In other employee news, Osvaldo Robles recently joined the Adjudication Department as the new Adjudication Intern. Osvaldo is currently a senior at the University of Illinois Chicago majoring in Criminal Justice and minoring in Communications. As the Adjudication Intern, he will work with youth and parents that interact with the adjudication process.

Vote for the Oak Park Farmers’ Market – Even in the midst of freezing winter temperatures with the start of the Oak Park Farmers’ Market season still months away, there is a way to support the Market with the click of a button. The Oak Park Farmers’ Market is among the nominees for the Best Farmers’ Market in the Chicago Rader “Best of Chicago” contest. [Click here to cast a vote for the Oak Park Farmers’ Market](#). Voting runs until noon on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Free COVID-19 testing events continue – The Health Department continues to host free COVID-19 testing clinics every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at various locations in the community. Both PCR and rapid antigen tests are available at the clinics. Visit www.oak-park.us/testing for more information, dates, times and locations of upcoming clinics and links to register ahead of time. The webpage also includes information about ordering free at-home COVID-19 tests.

Pleasant & Marion update – The installation of third-floor wall panels, floor trusses and sheathing will soon be completed. Nicor installed a permanent gas meter this week, which wrapped up the installation of all underground utilities for the project. Mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection contractors continue to install suspended piping and equipment throughout the building's common areas and lobby.

Pete's Fresh Market update – No work was performed this past week due to the cold weather. Next week, the contractor will install the insertion valve located north of Washington Boulevard as part of the upcoming watermain work. This will not impact residents' water, but parking will be restricted in the area while the work is ongoing. No parking signs will be posted 24 hours prior to the restriction going into effect.