



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Dec. 10, 2021

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Dec. 13:
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom

- Tuesday, Dec. 14:
 - Village Board Personnel Committee, 6 p.m. via Zoom
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
 - Board of Health, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

- Wednesday, Dec. 15:
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom

- Thursday, Dec. 16:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom

- Friday, Dec. 17:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Pete's Madison Street groundbreaking – A groundbreaking ceremony marking the official start of construction of the new *Pete's Fresh Market* is tentatively set for noon, Wed., Dec. 15 on the northeast corner of Madison Street and Oak Park Avenue. Once open for business late next year, the 46,000 square-foot grocery store is estimated to generate about \$587,000 in real estate taxes and \$546,000 in sales taxes annually as well as employ 140 to 180 workers. In the meantime, the construction fence is expected to go up soon around the site and ComEd crews are busy relocating underground utilities to accommodate the new building.

Ceremony for new Fire Chief – A ceremonial swearing-in event for new Fire Chief Ron Kobyleski is scheduled for 9 a.m. next Fri., Dec. 17 at the Central Fire Station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. The ceremony will be held in the open bay to allow for proper social distancing as well as available on Zoom at www.oak-park.us/chiefkobyleski for Ron's family and friends who may not be able to attend in person.

New business update – The Village has licensed 94 new Oak Park businesses in 2021 through November compared to 54 in 2020 and 69 in 2019. A list of new

business is updated monthly and posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/businessservices.

Rental assistance round two – The [Illinois Housing Development Authority](http://www.illinoishousinghelp.org) recently opened up the second round of the state program intended to provide emergency rental aid to Illinois residents. As with the prior round, qualified applicants must rent in Illinois, have a household income that does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area where they live and have one or more household members who qualify for unemployment benefits, experienced a reduction in household income or experienced other financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides a one-time grant of up to \$25,000. More information is posted at www.illinoishousinghelp.org.

Jackson Boulevard closure – Eastbound Jackson Boulevard will be closed between Humphrey Avenue and Austin Boulevard for about three weeks beginning Monday (Dec. 13) to repair the water meter vault owned by Forest Park. The roof of the vault is collapsing, creating unsafe conditions for vehicles that must drive over it. Eastbound Jackson Boulevard traffic will be detoured around the work site at Lombard Avenue.

Hazmat training – The Oak Park Fire Department recently conducted a hazardous materials training exercise at Rush Oak Park Hospital as part of the department's efforts to be prepared for any type of emergency situation. The Fire Department's hazardous materials team joined teams from our Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) partners and hospital personnel to review and practice decontamination processes through a mass event simulation. Exercises of this type are critical components of the Fire Department's ongoing training programs.

Green Garage showing – Oak Park finished sixth in this year's *Green Garage* competition sponsored by the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) that included competitors from across the United States and Canada. The contest is designed to bring together managers of environmentally committed fleets to share eco-friendly best practices for vehicle maintenance and repairs. Oak Park Fleet Services Superintendent Ken Crowley was one of only three individuals invited to be featured speakers at the organization contest announcement webinar. [Click here to see the list of winners.](#)

Toys for Tots success – The Oak Park Police Department collected scores of gifts for children as part of the Toys for Tots drive. Santa and his team of helpers came by the Oak Park Police Department this week to pick six large boxes brimming with new toys to help spread holiday cheer distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community. The mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is to collect new, unwrapped toys each year and This year our campaign! Thanks to all who contributed. More information about Toys for Tots is posted at www.toysfortots.org.

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