



Village Manager's Report
Week ending December 13, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Dec. 16:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, Dec. 17:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
 - Liquor Control Review Board special meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, Dec. 18:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 191
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, Dec. 19:
 - Plan Commission Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- Friday, Dec. 20:
 - No meetings scheduled

Cannabis license approved – Oak Park's lone medical marijuana clinic has received state approval to sell recreational cannabis when the new state law goes into effect on Jan. 1. [Seven Point](#), located at 1132 Lake St., was among the four locations whose license approvals were announced Wednesday (Dec. 11) by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Representatives of Seven Point have met with staff, including from the Police and Fire departments, and indicated they intend to begin recreational sales on Jan. 1. *Same-site* licensees – those with an existing medical dispensing license – also may open a second, separate location without additional state approval. However, local laws, including zoning regulations, govern all locations regardless of state approvals. [Click here to read the news release from the state announcing the latest round of licenses...](#)

Community awards presented – More than 60 individuals, organizations and businesses were recognized at Village Hall this week for their commitment to protecting Oak Park's heritage and making the Village a vibrant place for residents and visitors alike. Seven Preservation Awards were presented by the Historic Preservation Commission and five Green Awards were distributed by the Environment & Energy Commission, including a joint award for a project that combined preservation with environmental sustainability. The Disability Access Commission also presented two awards for providing extraordinary accessibility for patrons with disabilities and their families. In addition, the Community Design Commission's Cavalcade of Pride awards were presented for 17 properties whose owners were

deemed to have done an exceptional job of maintaining and improving the exteriors of their homes and businesses. New this year, the Aging in Place Commission presented six awards for efforts to provide easy access to older residents, create an inviting physical space and offer a welcoming, helpful, service-oriented attitude. More on the ceremony, including a complete list of award winners and links to photos, is [posted on the Village website](#).

Shared community calendars— The Village and its Communications staff have collaborated with our fellow Oak Park taxing bodies to launch a shared digital resource that aggregates our public calendars. The free application allows users to [sign up online](#) to follow their choice of agencies. A quick [video on how it works is available on YouTube](#). An added benefit of the Village setting up the feed to the shared application is that we were able to add an option to save to a personal calendar any event posted on the Village website as well. Communications staffs of the participating organizations will be working together to promote the shared calendar in the weeks ahead.

Fleet wins environmental award – The Village’s municipal vehicle fleet operations has earned Oak Park a leadership award as the best performing municipality for 2019 by [Chicago Area Clean Cities](#). The award is in recognition of our efforts to lower the municipal fleet’s carbon footprint and reduce emissions. In addition to citing the new charging stations at Village Hall, the award announcement also noted our five new all-electric Nissan LEAF sedans and hybrid truck that uses a battery-powered bucket lift rather than the vehicle’s main engine to reduce emissions at a job site. Fleet Division Manager Ken Crowley has long been an advocate for reducing emissions, including making Oak Park an early adopter of B20, a lower-emission diesel fuel made in part from agriculture waste products. More information about the award is posted online – [just click here](#).

Restaurant news – One new restaurant was scheduled to open in Oak Park this week, while another announced it is closing after nearly four decades. [Kalamata Kitchen](#), 105 N. Marion St., was expected to open today (Fri., Dec. 13) after an extensive renovation that combined two smaller spaces. News of the Kalamata opening came just as we were learning of the decision of [Select Restaurants, Inc.](#) to close [Winberie’s Restaurant & Bar](#) on Dec. 28 after 37 years at the intersection of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue – [click here to read the company’s official news release](#). Staff will be working with the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation to help the property owner find a suitable tenant for high-visibility space.

Leaf collection wraps up – The annual fall leaf collection program officially wrapped up this week. The season’s early snow and ice accumulation appeared to have created a higher volume of leaves earlier this year, crews say, and complicated collection on many blocks. Crews will be going back through the community next week cleaning up any errant piles and sweeping up the remnants.

Brief snow response – Wednesday morning’s brief round of light snow had Streets Division crews out salting streets, school crosswalks and other public ways prior to the typical morning traffic rush. Eight pieces of equipment were put into service to ensure safe travel for both vehicles and pedestrians. The quarter-inch accumulation quickly dissipated as traffic increased and the temperatures remained high enough

for the salt to be effective. Salt reserves remain plentiful and staff is prepared to respond quickly and effectively to anticipated snow events in the weeks ahead.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The resurfacing of Austin Boulevard between Iowa Street and North Avenue is substantially complete. Crews may be on Lake Street next week by the Albion development site at Lake Street and Forest Avenue to complete punch-list items. Work on Madison Street is still on track to wrap up before Christmas, barring any additional weather delays.

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