



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending May 21, 2021**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, May 24:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
  - Village Board Public Meeting, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, May 25:
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, May 26:
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, May 27:
  - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, April 28:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Season's first Farmers' Market** – The Oak Park Farmers' Market returns for its 46th season tomorrow (Sat., May 22), back in its regular location in the Pilgrim Church parking lot. The market will adhere to the latest public health guidance related to outdoor gatherings, including limiting the number of patrons allowed within the sales area at one time and one-way travel among the farmers' stands. Patrons will be required to enter on foot through a designated entrance on Lake Street and mandatory COVID-19 safety measures will be in place, including requiring face coverings and proper social distancing. The Oak Park Farmers' Market will be held every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., from opening day through October. [Click here for more information...](#)

**Holiday traffic enforcement** – The Oak Park Police Department is stepping traffic enforcement as part of a national campaign to remind motorists to [Click It or Ticket](#) now through Memorial Day weekend. Oak Park Police officers will be taking a no-excuses approach, writing citations day and night. Motorists caught not buckled up will be ticketed, and those caught driving impaired will be arrested. [Click here to read more about the local enforcement effort...](#)

**State rental assistance program** – The Illinois Housing Development Authority this week opened its [2021 Illinois Rental Payment Program](#) to landlords. The program is designed to support renters in Illinois who have been unable to make payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The application portal is available at [ilrpp.ihda.org](http://ilrpp.ihda.org). The program has two application periods. Housing providers may initiate joint

applications with tenants through June 7. Tenants will then have until June 14 to complete their portion of the landlord-initiated application. Tenants also may initiate their own application from June 9 through June 28, with landlords given until July 6 to complete their portion of the tenant-initiated application. [Click here to review the program brochure...](#)

**Vehicle license sales** – Since vehicle licenses went on sale this month, more than 2,100 had been sold through yesterday (May 20), capturing about \$174,700 in revenue to help fund public services. It is too early to tell if sales of 2021/2022 vehicle licenses will rebound to pre-pandemic levels when renewals typically exceed 20,000 by the fall. Last year, the mid-July deadline was extended to mid-September due to the pandemic. Of the 2021/2022 vehicle license sales to date this month, more than 96 percent were via the online system, a trend that has been growing steadily since the option became available. This is the third year vehicle licenses have been virtual and a physical window decal not required. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a local license before July 15 to get the lowest rate, which increases by \$20 after the deadline. Parking enforcement officers use remote electronic recognition technology to scan license plates to ensure compliance.

**New business licenses** – Eight new businesses were licensed to open in Oak Park in April, six of them home-based. These latest licenses bring the number of new businesses opened here in 2021 to 23. New businesses that opened in April include *Snoopy's* restaurant, 6317 North Ave.; home-based arts studio with online sales *Designed by Daedalus*, 850 N. Cuyler Ave.; home-based kitchen *Lyman Avenue Bakery*, 1117 Lyman Ave.; home-based kitchen *Lit Cake Bakery*, 949 Mapleton Ave.; home-based kitchen *Pain De Chicago*, #2, 204 Superior St.; online broker *Boyd Insurance Group*, 1101 Lake St., Suite 405E; home-based service agency *All Sufficient Home Care*, 1139 Garfield St.; and home cottage business *Prairie School Coffee*, 1129 S. Clinton Ave.

**Catalytic converter thefts** – Oak Park Police are reporting an uptick in thefts of catalytic converters, the vehicle emissions exhaust component that contains precious metals thieves can sell. The thefts typically take only minutes and leave vehicle owners with a costly repair bill. Police recommend parking in a garage or well-lit area when possible. And if you hear what sounds like power saw noise, especially at night, call 911 immediately. Owners also can have a mechanic install a security device that makes the converter harder to steal. [Click here to watch a VOP-TV video about catalytic converter thefts and prevention...](#)

**Oak Park Avenue improvements** – Two-way traffic on Oak Park Avenue could return today (May 21) between Van Buren and Jackson streets unless weather interferes with ongoing street restoration. Crews currently are installing new water service lines between Randolph and Madison streets. This work may require completely closing this section of Oak Park Avenue temporarily as water service lines are connected to individual properties on each block. In the meantime, traffic continues to be limited to northbound travel through this section during work hours. Sewer lining between Harvard Street and Roosevelt Road continues to require some night work, which can

only be done during lower-flow time periods. The overall project, which includes resurfacing Oak Park Avenue from Roosevelt Road to North Avenue, remains on schedule to be completed in November. Construction details and schedules are posted at [www.opaveanew.com](http://www.opaveanew.com).

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Work continues on two state projects – the repaving on North Avenue between Harlem and Cicero avenues, and making corner sidewalk crossing ramps on Harlem Avenue from Roosevelt Road to North Avenue ADA compliant. In the downtown area, ComEd still is planning late-night, temporary power outages to allow for infrastructure repairs in the alley south of the 1100 block of Lake Street. Punch-list works related to the Lake Street reconstruction project between Harlem and Euclid avenues also continues, including electrical tasks associated with the street lighting and traffic signals.

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