



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending July 16, 2021**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, July 19:
  - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Executive Session, 7 p.m. Regular meeting via Zoom
- Tuesday, July 20:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee; 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, July 21:
  - Disability Access Commission, 6 p.m., via Zoom
  - Housing Programs Advisory Commission, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, July 22:
  - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, July 23:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Downtown vacancy rates** – Vacancy rates for nine Lake Street office buildings currently are at 7.2 percent, according to a recent report from [David King & Associates](#), which markets much of Oak Park's commercial space. The rates are considered very low, given that overall suburban Chicago vacancy rates are about 26 percent. National reports on east/west corridor vacancy rates, which are considered most comparable to Oak Park, range up to about 24 percent.

**Lake Street demolition/training** – The Oak Park Fire Department took advantage of the pending demolition of the former bank drive-through facility at [835 Lake St.](#) to conduct special training this week. Firefighters practiced vertical roof ventilation, an approach that allows super-heated smoke and gasses to escape and cooler, clear air to move in and improve conditions for anyone inside, whether crews battling the blaze or civilians who may be trapped. This particular building offered an especially useful training site because it has both a flat and sloped asphalt shingle roof, which is common to most single family homes in Oak Park. The construction site is fully fenced and the department was granted permission for the training as demolition of the structure is scheduled to begin soon. A six-story, residential building with 78 units and both underground and rear surface parking for 88 vehicles is set to be built on the high-visibility site, with occupancy possible by early 2023.

**Special needs registry** – The Fire and Police departments are urging Oak Parkers with special needs that should be considered in an emergency situation to register confidentially with the Village to ensure first responders are aware when dispatched via a 911 call. Knowing that they are being dispatched to a home where someone may have a hearing or visual impairment, mobility limitation, cognitive impairment or uses an electrically powered medical device could prove vital to emergency medical personnel. Residents or their caregivers can register online at [www.oak-park.us/911registry](http://www.oak-park.us/911registry). A form also is available via email to [prepare@oak-park.us](mailto:prepare@oak-park.us) or by calling 708.358.5489.

**Farmers' Market news** – Local non-profit organizations seeking fundraising opportunities are urged to consider reserving space at an upcoming Farmers' Market. The Farmers' Market bake sale guidelines and application form are available at [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket). Space is available each Saturday through Oct. 30. In the meantime, market patrons are urged to bring reusable bags and containers to carry purchases home as a way of reducing single-use plastic. Members of the Village's [Environment & Energy Commission](#) are at the market throughout the month talking to residents about reducing their reliance on single-use plastic as part of [Plastic Free July](#), an annual international movement that challenges citizens to reduce single-use plastic waste.

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