



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending Nov. 5, 2021**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Nov. 8:
 - Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom

- Tuesday, Nov. 9:
 - Energy & Environment Commission, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom

- Wednesday, Nov. 10:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom

- Thursday, Nov. 11:
 - Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom

- Friday, Nov. 12:
 - No meetings scheduled

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

Standard time returns Sunday – Standard time officially returns at 2 a.m., Sun., Nov. 7, and clocks should be set back one hour. The [Oak Park Fire Department](#) urges residents to use the time change as a reminder to replace batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Working detectors can double the chances of survival by providing critical extra time for safe escape, they say. More information on fire safety is posted at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Downtown hotel proposal update – The developer who received a special use permit in November 2019 to operate a hotel at 1140 Lake St. has filed a new variance request. The original special use permit has expired, requiring the process to begin anew. The new application calls for converting the office building into a 68-room Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hotel, with the addition of one floor over the front half of the existing structure. After an initial internal review of the new application, staff determined that a parking variance would not be required. Patrons of the hotel could park in the nearby Holley Court Parking structure, which has 1200 spaces and is operating currently at 75-percent capacity. The Zoning Board of Appeals will consider

the application at an upcoming meeting, then provide a written report to the Village Board for consideration.

New business licenses – The Business Licensing Division of the Development Customer Services Department has licensed 82 new local business through October. For the same time period in 2020 and 2019, licenses had been issued to 45 new and 75 new businesses respectively. The list of new business licenses issued this year is updated each month and posted at www.oak-park.us/businessservices.

ZBA action update – The Zoning Board Appeals this week voted six to zero to approve a variance to allow Chicago-based law firm LaRose & Bosco Ltd. to relocate its offices to the ground floor at 1011 Lake St. The variance was related to Section 8.3 (Table 8-1: Use Matrix) of the Oak Park Zoning Ordinance, which prohibits office uses within the first 50 feet of the street lot line on the ground floor of any building within the downtown business district.

Hotel/motel tax update – The 4 percent local hotel/motel tax collected this year continues to track below pre-Covid-19 levels. Through September 2021, the Village had collected about \$130,400 dollars, which is about \$42,000 less than the \$172,500 collected in 2019. However, 2021 collections so far are running well above the \$61,100 collected for the same period in 2020 as the pandemic affected travel. The current trends suggest total collections for 2021 to be between \$150,000 and \$155,000. The Village is committed to providing the regional tourism and convention bureau [Visit Oak Park](http://VisitOakPark.com) \$155,000 in hotel-motel tax funds this year.

Coronavirus Recovery Grant Program update - The Development Customer Services staff has processed \$134,508.51 in grants to local businesses and non-profit organizations through the Coronavirus Recovery Grant Program funded by federal [American Rescue Plan Act](http://AmericanRescuePlanAct.com) funds. Some 27 applications from businesses seeking PPE reimbursement have been approved, with another 12 applications pending. Eighteen grants for \$59,500 have been processed for businesses seeking rent or mortgage assistance, with another 36 applications still being processed. About \$22,800 in grants also have been approved for local non-profits seek reimbursements for PPE.

Pawfficer Howie now on Instagram – Pawfficer Howie, the wellness and community service dog for the Oak Park Police Department, has a new [social media presence on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/pawfficer_howie). Residents can follow [@pawfficer_howie](https://www.instagram.com/pawfficer_howie) to get a behind-the-scenes look at the life of the therapeutic service dog and receive public safety information from the Police Department through the voice of Howie. In addition to Pawfficer Howie's Instagram account, the Police Department also has [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pawfficer_howie) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/pawfficer_howie) pages.

Construction update – Lake Street near the Lake Theater will be closed overnight beginning at about 10 p.m., Tues., Nov. 9 to relocate a fire hydrant from the north to the south side of the street. The move will add a parking space along the busy roadway. Activity on the construction site for the new Pete's Fresh Market is expected to begin this month as the site is enclosed with a fence and relocation of underground electrical and communications infrastructure gets underway on Euclid

Avenue between Madison and Randolph streets. The second and final stage of the Ridgeland Avenue bridge repair project is expected to wrap up by Nov. 15. In the meantime, traffic over the I-290 Eisenhower expressway remains restricted to one lane in each direction. A shortage of sod has slowed restoration of the parkways along Oak Park Avenue. Local street resurfacing projects are expected to wrap up by late November.

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