



**Village Manager's Report  
Weeks ending Dec. 17 & 24, 2021**

**Meetings scheduled for next two week:**

- Monday, Dec. 20:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Dec. 21:
  - Environment & Energy Commission, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday, Dec. 22:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, Dec. 23:
  - Village Hall closes at noon in observance of Christmas Eve
- Friday, Dec. 24:
  - Village Hall closed in observance of Christmas Day
- Monday, Dec. 27 – Thursday, Dec. 30;
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, Dec. 31:
  - Village Hall closed in observance of New Year's Day

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

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**Plan Commission supports Van Buren project** – The Plan Commission voted 5 to 3 last night (Dec. 16) to approve the planned development application for 7 Van Buren St, and voted 6 to 2 to approve the street vacation application. All of the Plan Commission members commended the applicant for a desire to provide mixed-income, affordable housing within a net zero, sustainable building. Opponents expressed concerns over potential detrimental impacts to the surrounding neighborhood due to low parking space count, increased traffic from waste haulers and inadequate bicycle storage. However, the majority of commission members said these issues were not sufficient to oppose the proposal and all required standards for a planned development had been met. The proposal had been vetted through four plan commission meetings since October. The applications should come to the Village Board for consideration in January.

**Village Hall holiday hours** – The Village Hall lobby will remain [closed to the public](#) through Jan. 3. However, services are being provided online and by appointments made through the 708.358.5700 number to the call center at Public Works. In observance of the upcoming holidays, the call center will close at noon on Thurs., Dec. 23 and remain closed all day Fri., Dec. 24 for the Christmas holiday. The call center also will be closed all day, Fri., Dec. 31 in observance of New Year’s Day. Many services also are available at [www.oak-park.us/onlineservices](http://www.oak-park.us/onlineservices). Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to the Police Department non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance. More information on Village Hall hours is [posted online](#).

**Pete’s Market update** – Village officials, both past and present, joined representatives from the developer to break ground Wednesday (Dec. 15) for the new Pete’s Fresh Market that will be built on the north side of Madison Street between Oak Park and Wesley avenues. Village President Vicki Scaman and immediate past President Anan Abu-Talab along with Trustee Chibuike Enyia, Pete’s Market executive and owner Stephanie Dremonas and others involved in the project, donned hardhats and grabbed ceremonial shovels to officially launch the project – more about the project is [posted on the Village website](#). In the meantime, ComEd crews will begin relocating underground utilities Monday (Dec. 20) at Euclid Avenue from Washington Boulevard to the alley north of Madison Street. Parking passes have been provided to affected residences during the projected three-week utility relocation portion of the project.

**Jackson Boulevard closure** – Repairs to Forest Park’s underground water meter vault began this week on Jackson Boulevard. Eastbound Jackson Boulevard traffic between Humphrey Avenue and Austin Boulevard will be detoured around the work site at Lombard Avenue for about three weeks.

**Alley closures** – The alley west of Marion Street and south of Pleasant Street will be closed during days for about three weeks beginning Monday (Dec. 20) to install underground conduit for the new development coming to the southwest corner of the intersection. Steel plates will be used to cover pavement openings and allow alley access when work is not occurring. The private contractor will be responsible for snow removal in the work area in the alley. Two-way traffic will be maintained on Pleasant Street. Residents of the condominium building west of the alley at 200 – 224 S. Maple Ave. will be allowed to park their vehicles in the surface parking lot of the funeral home during the alley work.

**Sewer inspections** – The annual ritual of inspecting sewer mains via video camera began this week. The upcoming sewer televising project will begin December 16 on Maple Avenue between Jackson Boulevard and Harrison Street. Partial lane closures are expected. Crews will inspect 17 locations throughout Oak Park over about three weeks.

**Holiday traffic enforcement** – The [Oak Park Police Department](#) is participating in a national enforcement campaign to crack down on impaired and unbuckled drivers

through Jan. 3. The holiday enforcement effort is made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the [Illinois Department of Transportation](#). More information is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Employee news** – Deputy Police Chief Shatonya Johnson has received the Public Safety Executive Leadership Award from Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. The [prestigious award](#) was presented earlier this month at the 500th graduation ceremony for Center’s School of Police Staff and Command. By successfully completing the Center’s entire sequence of management programs (Supervision of Police Personnel, School of Police Staff and Command, and Executive Management Program), program officials said Deputy Chief Johnson has demonstrated a commitment to delivering the best, most professional service to her community. The [Northwestern University Center for Public Safety](#) was established originally in 1936 to expand the scope of university-level education in traffic safety, having since broadened its scope to include police operations and management. The center has taught nearly a quarter of a million law enforcement professionals from all 50 states and 38 foreign countries.

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