



## Village Manager's Report Week ending August 21, 2020

### Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Aug. 24:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Aug. 25:
  - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Wednesday, Aug. 26:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, Aug. 27:
  - Disability Access Commission, 6:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Friday, Aug. 28:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Loan program eligibility to expand** – The Village is preparing to expand eligibility for the federally funded, but locally administered loan program intended to help local small businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Beginning on Fri., Aug. 28, Oak Park businesses with 25 or fewer employees will be eligible to apply for \$5,000 grants funded by the Village share of \$300,000 in [federal CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funds](#). When launched on July 28, grants were offered only to local businesses with 10 or fewer employees, the intent to give these businesses a 30-day head start. Since launched last month, 54 small businesses have submitted applications, with 10 approved and four in final review. Seven applications have been denied for not meeting qualification and three businesses withdrew their applications. The remaining 30 loan requests remain under review as staff works with businesses that submitted incomplete applications. Staff will contact the local businesses that will qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria. More information on the program, which will be updated prior to the eligibility expansion, is posted at [www.oak-park.us/covid19businessloan](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19businessloan).

**Mosquito abatement district sprays** – For the first time since 2018, the [Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) sprayed for adult mosquitos in Oak Park as part of its efforts to eliminate mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus. Trucks were on local streets from about 9 p.m. to midnight on Tues., Aug. 18. Abatement District officials chose to spray came after pools of mosquitoes from traps in Oak Park had consistently included increasingly higher levels of [West Nile virus](#). Additional spraying may be considered depending on continued surveillance of the mosquito population. Typically, the Village is given at least 24-hour notice before spraying is scheduled, which allows us to [alert the community](#) via social media and the [emergency](#)

[notification system](#). Questions regarding spraying, including options for those medically sensitive to the insecticide, should be directed to the Abatement District at 708.447.1765, which determines when spraying will occur across the 77-square-mile area the authority manages.

**Lake Street progressing** – The surface was milled and the asphalt binder course applied this week on Lake Street between Harlem and Forest avenues. The final pavement surface is scheduled to be installed next week, with markings to follow. Crews also have worked diligently to install new brick in the intersection of Forest and Lake in hopes of opening it to north-south traffic by this weekend or early next week. The final pavement markings were scheduled to be completed this week from Euclid Avenue to Austin Boulevard, with landscaping the only task remaining. Since the construction office remains closed due to the pandemic, anyone with questions about any aspects of the Lake Street improvement project is asked to send them via email to [info@betterlakestreet.com](mailto:info@betterlakestreet.com). Detailed information also is updated regularly at [www.betterlakestreet.com](http://www.betterlakestreet.com).

**Farmers' Market update** – Sat., Aug. 15 marked the halfway point in the 45<sup>th</sup> season of the Oak Park Farmers' Market. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> of 23 markets planned through October of this year. Attendance was the second largest of the season, nearing 3,000 patrons, which is only about 200 shy of the June 27 record. The pre-order option continues to be popular, but three of the available 120 slots were not filled this past weekend. Staff had been gradually increasing capacity since the option launched with 60 spots. The upcoming market may be an indicator that pre-order capacity has sufficiently met the demand, since slots typically fill up days before the market. The logistics of organizing and distributing the pre-orders has been challenging, but seems to have been a real value-added component of the market that could remain popular in future years regardless of factors such as those that led to its adoption this season.

**Storm cleanup continues** – Village Forestry Division staff and private contractors remained on the streets all week picking up debris from the fierce storm that swept through the Village on Mon., Aug. 10. With the initial sweeps and clean-up of the Village expected to be completed by the end of this week, work will transition to removing trees damaged beyond saving and repairing the canopies of those that can be saved with pruning. The work is expected to continue for at least the next few weeks.

**Madison/Euclid pre-development construction** – Preparation activities resumed this week to relocate the water and sewer lines to allow the 711 Madison Senior Living LLC project to begin. Water and sewer connections on Madison Street were expected to wrap up this week, ending the need for temporary shifts in traffic patterns. The project involves relocating water and sewer mains onto the 725 Madison St. site where the building was recently demolished. The Village retains an access easement for future maintenance and repairs.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Installation of conduit for the Village's new fiber optic ring has now progressed to between Irving and Lincoln schools. A protective coating was applied to the new concrete as repairs to the East Avenue bridge are wrapping up. The westbound lane of Chicago Avenue is expected to remain closed into next week at Austin Boulevard for the Village water main

replacement project. Traffic will be detoured at Austin onto Augusta Street via Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard, while lane shifts and traffic control on Austin have been extended from Erie Street to Lake Street. Routine inspections of Nicor infrastructure on Harrison Street between Scoville and Humphrey avenues continue to require periodic lane shifts into the adjacent parking lanes. Residents are notified in advance when parking near them may be affected.

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