



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Dec. 4, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Dec. 7:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Dec. 8:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, Dec. 9:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, Dec. 10:
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Dec. 11:
 - No meetings scheduled

Lake Street reopens – Lake Street is now open to traffic across the entire Village, as the final section of the streetscape project between Oak Park and Euclid avenues was substantially completed before Thanksgiving. Crews still are busy putting the finishing touches along sections of the downtown and Hemingway business districts, including pouring the remaining concrete sidewalk restoration patches, installing bluestone at two ComEd vault locations and removing remaining barricades. General site cleanup and miscellaneous site restoration will continue into next week. Crews will return in the spring to freshen up the landscaping, activate the irrigation system and address any weather-dependent punch-list items.

Demolition set to begin – The owner of the former Foley-Rice auto dealership building on Madison Street has obtained a demolition permit from Cook County and the Village of Oak Park. Pre-demolition activities have started including ensuring utilities are shut off and erecting construction fencing around the site. Demolition could take up to six weeks to complete.

Farmers' Market roundup – The 2020 season Oak Park Farmers' Market attracted nearly 62,500 in-person and online shoppers over 23 Saturdays, according to data compiled by the Farmers' Market Commission. COVID-19 meant a completely reconfigured market that would allow for proper social distancing, while maintaining the energy and feel of the time honored annual activity. While in-person shopping was impressive given the challenges of the pandemic, the on-line preorder pilot program proved to be a real highlight, generating more than \$127,700 in sales. The complicated and somewhat labor-intensive pickup system– as well as the overall market – could not have been possible without the help of more than 60 volunteers

and a significant contingent of Village staff who stepped up to help make the 45th season of the market possible. Planning for the 46th season already is underway, with high hopes for a return to more traditional practices.

Package theft challenge – Oak Park, like communities across the region and country, continues to experience package delivery thefts as the COVID-19 pandemic has substantially increased online shopping. With the online shopping trend expected to grow even more during the holiday season, the Oak Park Police Department is urging residents to take proactive steps to reduce their chances of being a victim of this crime of opportunity. Prevention tips include requesting a signature required upon delivery, having your packages delivered to an affiliated business or secure location and shopping locally at retailers offering curbside pickup and delivery options with personalized service. Other tips are posted on the Village website, [click here to review...](#)

Miscellaneous construction updates – The fiber optic ring infrastructure project is expected to wrap up within the next two weeks. Crews are splicing the new fiber cables at various locations in the Village. The sidewalk contractor was back in town this week wrapping up the project with some remaining angle-cutting to address trip-hazards, a less invasive technique that does not require removing and replacing otherwise sound squares.

Fleet certification – The Fleet Division of the Public Works Department has earned Blue Seal re-certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Fleet has been Blue Seal certified each year since 2009, which is a testament to the commitment of the crew to improving their knowledge through ongoing training in the latest best practices. [ASE Blue Seal certification](#) requires at least 75 percent of our Fleet technicians to be certified to diagnosis and repair a wide range vehicles and automotive components. In addition, certification requires each area of service offered in the shop to be staffed by at least one ASE-certified technician.

Employee news – Vanessa De La Mora recently joined the Health Department in the role of Community Health Advisor. She already has had an immediate impact assisting with contact tracing efforts. She also will assist with vaccine administration as the mental health supervisor at the point of dispensing. Beyond playing a role in the Village's COVID-19 response, Vanessa's position will support vulnerable populations within the community, serving as the Health Department's liaison to organizations such as Oak Park Township, Thrive and Housing Forward that advance mental health initiatives. Prior to coming to the Village, Vanessa worked with the DuPage County Health Department as a clinician/therapist focusing on suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, nutritional wellness and behavioral health. She has a master's degree from the Jane Addams College of Social Work at UIC with a concentration in mental health.

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