



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending July 17, 2020**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, July 20:
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., remote via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, July 21:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, July 22:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7:30 p.m., remote via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, July 23:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, July 24:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Local small business loans** – The Village has begun accepting applications for a federally funded, but locally administered loan program intended to help small businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Loans of up to \$5,000 each are available initially to registered local businesses with 10 or fewer employees and average annual gross receipts of less than \$2 million. The loans are from the Village share of \$300,000 in [federal CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funds](#). If funds remain unallocated after an initial 30-day application window, the program will be expanded to include Village businesses with 25 or fewer employees. More information is posted at [www.oak-park.us/covid19businessloan](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19businessloan).

**COVID-19 reporting frequency** – With the state announcing a [new COVID-19 mitigation plan](#) this week to help combat a resurgence of cases, the Oak Park Health Department will begin reporting local testing results three times a week, rather than weekly. Reports on the latest COVID-19 coronavirus cases now will be posted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at [www.oak-park.us/covid19](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19), which is the online repository for local information. The frequency of reporting could change based on number of positive cases. Local demographic case data will continue to be posted weekly.

**Health department collaboration** – The Cook County Health Department has asked other state-certified health departments including Oak Park to collaborate on drafting a guideline related to travel to and from any high-risk state. The guideline would recommend that any person who lives in or visits a high-incidence state self-quarantine for 14 days after entering Cook County or for the duration of their stay here, whichever is shorter. Public health guidelines are recommendations for action

and strongly endorsed by officials, but are not enforced by legal action. A list of the high-incidence states would be updated regularly and posted online. More information will be provided once the guideline has been finalized.

**Dementia-friendly designation** – The Village has been officially designated as a *Dementia Friendly Community* by the non-profit organization [Dementia Friendly America](#). The designation comes after more than a year of work by the Village Board, residents, the Aging in Place Commission, community partners and Development Customer Services Department staff. A dementia-friendly community is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with the disease, their families and caregivers, and provides supportive options that help improve quality of life. The final step in the process will be Village Board consideration of a resolution supporting the designation. More information on the local effort is posted at [www.oak-park.us/dimentiafriendly](http://www.oak-park.us/dimentiafriendly).

**Development news** – The Development Customer Services Department has issued a certificate of occupancy for the seven-unit townhome development at 6603 North Ave. A certificate of occupancy also has been approved for a new Dollar Tree Store set to open at 6226 Roosevelt Road. At 15,400 square feet, the new Oak Park store is one of the company's largest outlets in Illinois. The former Fair Share Grocery store site underwent a complete interior renovation and façade improvement.

**Lake Street update** – The streetscape project shifts into high gear downtown next week as the intersection of Marion Street and Lake Street is closed for at least 14 days to reconstruct the brick junction and decorative crosswalks. In addition, crews will be installing bluestone sidewalk from Maple Avenue to Marion, as work on the granite planters continues between Marion and Forest Avenue. Crews also are on the north side of Lake between Kenilworth and Oak Park avenues installing electrical conduit to the new light pole foundations. The asphalt leveling layer is being installed on Lake east of Euclid Avenue, with final surface pavement and markings scheduled to be completed by the end of July. The project field office remains closed during the pandemic, but questions may be sent via email to [info@betterlakestreet.com](mailto:info@betterlakestreet.com). Detailed information also is updated regularly at [www.betterlakestreet.com](http://www.betterlakestreet.com).

**Fiber optic ring** – Work was expected to be completed this week on the fiber optic ring between Holmes and Mann schools, the first segment of a joint Village and School District 97 project. The next segment will connect Holmes School to the Village infrastructure by the Holley Court Garage and work then will move to the segment between Hatch and Whittier schools. Directional boring is being used to install the conduit for the fiber on Village parkways and in alleys between the schools and Village sites. The ring eventually will connect D97 sites and Village sites to provide greater data security and better reliability for both organizations. Residents along the proposed fiber path are notified in advance of any potential construction or parking impacts when work passes through their area.

**Austin Boulevard closing** – The City of Chicago soon will close Austin Boulevard between Lake Street and Chicago Avenue for a week or more for utility work. Traffic will be detoured onto Madison Street via Central and Chicago avenues. An exact date for the work has not been set. Chicago crews also are paving the east side of Austin Boulevard from Lake Street to Iowa Street. In the meantime, the Village has begun mobilizing equipment for the local water main improvement project on Austin

between Lake Street and Chicago Avenue. Work is set to begin next week by West Suburban Medical Center, but access to the hospital emergency room will be maintained. Residents have been notified of the work and the availability of lead-filtering water pitchers. The project, which will include paving the Oak Park side of Austin Boulevard from Lake to Chicago, is expected to wrap up in October.

**New Madison Street pedestrian beacon** – Work is underway on the foundation for an additional flashing pedestrian crossing beacon to be installed later this month in the median at Madison Street and Scoville Avenue. The beacon uses flashing yellow LED lights to alert drivers when pedestrians are about to enter the crosswalk, which should help improve safety at the busy crossing.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Concrete is being removed and sidewalks poured along the southbound lane of East Avenue on the bridge deck over the Eisenhower Expressway. Work also is underway on the sidewalk crossing at the southwest corner of the bridge, with joint repairs being made at the north and south abutments. The bridge has remained open to vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Nicor Gas has resumed routine infrastructure inspections from Flournoy Street to Jackson Boulevard, and Scoville Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

**Employee News** – The Oak Park Fire Department celebrated three promotions this week as Ronald Kobyleski was named Deputy Chief, Jerome Cote was promoted to Battalion Chief and Robert Murphy was promoted to Lieutenant. Firefighter/Paramedic Eugene Marino also was recognized for completing his probation period. Ron, who recently celebrated 35 years with the Department, had been serving as interim deputy. Jerry's son, who is in the Navy, took part in the ceremony. In other employee news, Kimberly McFarland has joined the Adjudication Department as the Hearing Clerk. Kimberly previously was a Customer Service Representative in the Parking Services Division of Development Customer Services Department.

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