



Village Manager's Report Week ending August 28, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Aug. 31:
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 1:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Sept. 2:
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, Sept. 3:
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Friday, Sept. 4:
 - No meetings scheduled

Bike the Beat Police initiative – The Oak Park Police Department's residential beat officers rolled out a new *Bike the Beat* community policing initiative to engage with residents while staying socially distanced and outdoors. The RBOs will be teaming up to bike each of the Village's eight neighborhood zones to interact directly with the residents they serve. The first *Bike the Beat* was scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. today (Fri., Aug. 28) in Zone 1, which encompasses northeast Oak Park ([click here for a map of zones](#)). A new zone will be biked each week, weather permitting, through October. More details are [posted on the Village website](#).

Major progress downtown – With the final asphalt surface scheduled to be placed today (Fri. Aug. 28) between Harlem and Forest avenues, this section of Lake Street is expected to reopen to traffic by the end of next week (Fri., Sept. 4), barring any unexpected delays. The Forest Avenue and Marion Street intersections at Lake Street already are open to north-south traffic and crews are set to install pavement markings and seal the pavement surface next week, as well as complete installation of the remaining bluestone pavers, light poles and irrigation drip lines.

Other Lake Street construction updates – As reviewed by the Village Board of Trustees as part of July 6, 2020 Village Board meeting, streetscape work on Lake Street is scheduled to move from downtown into the Hemingway District between Oak Park and Euclid avenues after Labor Day, which will require removing the outdoor dining before work begins. Business owners had previously said they preferred the fall completion of the project rather than making it part of the earlier water and sewer work or postponing until next spring. and the Village Board directed staff proceed with the business community consensus. Further east, sewer manholes

are being repaired from Ridgeland Avenue to Austin Boulevard, but should not affect the new pavement. Landscaping is scheduled follow in September. 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. Detailed information also is updated regularly at <http://www.betterlakestreet.com>.

Slow streets pilot update – [The slow streets pilot program](#) is set to move partially into the second phase next week. In the first phase, Van Buren Street was designated a slow street between Kenilworth and Harvey avenues and Kenilworth and Harvey made slow streets for three blocks between Madison and Van Buren streets. Plans now are to extend the Kenilworth Avenue designation from Chicago Avenue to Thomas Street, adding Thomas Street to Harvey Avenue and Harvey to Chicago Avenue to the network. Connecting the existing south segment to this new north segment is still being evaluated given the number of major streets and construction zones the routes would cross. Since the pilot program was launched on Aug. 3, more than 900 individuals have shared their opinions via an [online survey](#). About 75 percent of the respondents said they support or somewhat support the program, while the remaining 25 percent don't support it. The majority of the respondents (46 percent) live on a slow street or near one (21 percent). Another 12 percent of the respondents said they travel a slow street. More information about the program is posted at www.oak-park.us/slowstreets.

Fargo wraps up – After filming in Oak Park across nearly five months, the popular [television series Fargo](#) wrapped up production here this week. Season four, which tells the story of two crime syndicate families brought together by fate in 1950 Kansas City, used the iconic Oak Park home on the northeast corner of Euclid Avenue and Randolph Street for both interior and exterior filming. Community Relations Director Cedric Melton, who manages film projects for the Village, reported that production ran smoothly, complied with all COVID safety requirements and there was minimal impact on the neighborhood thanks to the support of the Police, Fire and Public Works departments and the Parking Division of the Development Customer Services Department. The production company said Oak Park was selected because of its beautiful historic homes and uncomplicated film permit process. The series, which stars comedian Chris Rock, is expected to premiere on September 27 on the [FX network](#).

Miscellaneous construction – Crews will start patching and treating various streets throughout the community next week with a special material to extend life, improve vehicle ride quality and preserve deeper layers of the pavement structure. This project is scheduled to be completed in late September. Installation of conduit for the Village's new fiber optic ring has now progressed to between Lincoln and Brooks schools. 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 is being 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. The overall project is expected to be completed by the end of October. ComEd is planning an underground project in the area near Randolph Street and Euclid Avenue, with Village staff working to make sure impacts on the neighborhood are properly managed. 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.

###