



Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 4, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Oct. 7:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, Oct. 8:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Oct. 9:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, Oct. 10:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. Council Chamber
- Friday, Sept. 11:
 - No meetings scheduled

Fire Department open house – The Oak Park Fire Department will open the doors of the Central Fire Station to the public from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., this Saturday, Oct. 5. Oak Parkers of all ages with an interest in modern firefighting and emergency medical services are invited to get up close to the equipment and talk to the firefighter/paramedics who help keep the community safe. In addition to touching all of the cool equipment essential to the mission of a modern fire department, the event will include tours of the fire house, presentations about safety, refreshments and fun handouts. For more information, email fire@oak-park.us.

Community survey beginning – Information gathering for the Village-wide community survey is about to begin, as Oak Park residential addresses selected at random begin receiving questionnaires by mail. New this year, residents selected to participate in the survey will be able to submit their answers online using a special code intended to ensure that the respondent sample is truly random, a factor critical to ensuring the validity of the findings. The survey is being conducted by the [National Research Center, Inc. \(NRC\)](#), a social science research firm that conducted surveys here in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. Results of past surveys are posted on the Village web site at www.oak-park.us/communitysurveys. To read more about the new survey, [just click here...](#)

Multi-family housing grant report – The Development Customer Services Department reports that 30 applications had been submitted by the Oct. 1 deadline for the Village's recently rebooted [Multi-Family Housing Incentive Program](#). The applications

will be reviewed by staff and the [Housing Programs Advisory Commission](#), which will make recommendations to the Board for consideration. Property owners with questions regarding this and other Village housing programs are urged to email housing@oak-park.us.

Census kick off update – More than 60 stakeholders attended this week’s [Census 2020](#) kick-off event at Village Hall. The event, organized by the Development Customer Services Department, included a presentation by a representative of the Census Bureau and group discussions about resources available to help stakeholders make sure Oak Park’s population is accurately reflected in the count. The Communications Department created a web repository for a wide range of information resources and tools created by the Census Bureau to help committee members better reach various hard-to-count groups, including renters, seniors and the homeless. The information is available at www.oak-park.us/census2020. Additional *Complete County Committee* meetings will be scheduled as needed.

Plan Commission action – The Plan Commission voted unanimously this week to recommended approval with conditions of an application for a proposed development at 6033 North Ave. The project applicant had received prior approval to construct 10 townhomes on the property, but later determined the project was not feasible. The new proposal calls for three, four-story, brick-faced apartment buildings with eight units in each building. Each residential unit will have the required one parking space with access from Humphrey Avenue. In addition, the applicant will close the existing curb cut along North Avenue. Allowances requested include increasing density to 24 from 17 units, reducing the rear yard setback on the west lot line, no loading and no landscaping island in the parking lot. No residents spoke in opposition to the plan. The application will be prepared for consideration by the Village Board.

Parking improvements – The Parking and Mobility Services Division is well into what is likely to be a record year for board-approved capital improvements to this important community resource. Among the projects completed or well underway, are repairs to the OPRF and Holley Court garages, as well as the installation of 28 new pay stations and more than 400 signs. Other projects include installing four new electric vehicle charging stations in public parking lots and surface striping and sealing of multiple areas as part of the ongoing maintenance of the Village’s parking infrastructure.

Madison Street update – The final layer of asphalt has now been installed on the entire Madison Street corridor. Next steps include applying pavement markings and adjusting the signage and traffic signals to accommodate the new lane configuration, tasks that likely will take the remainder of the month. Construction updates, including scheduling details, will continue to be posted on the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com and distributed via weekly via email to subscribers until the project is completed.

New North Avenue pedestrian island – The Chicago Department of Transportation will soon install a pedestrian refuge island on North Avenue at Hayes Avenue. The center island will give pedestrians a safe placed stand while crossing the busy roadway

between Chicago and Oak Park. A specific date has not been set for construction to begin, but the week-long project is expected to get underway this season.

Pedestrian signal improvements – Installation of new LED countdown signals and controllers at various pedestrian crossings is scheduled to begin on October 14. The equipment will provide a clear and consistent message of time remaining before a signal change. The project is supported with a federally funded [Safe Routes to School Program](#) grant.

Downtown construction update – The alley west of Forest Avenue by the former Community Bank building has been repaved and was scheduled to reopen to vehicles by the end of this week. Crews are scheduled to begin grinding portions of the surface on Forest Avenue and Lake Street along the Albion project's south and east frontages in preparation for resurfacing. Restoration of the brick alley north of Lake Street adjacent to Austin Gardens is scheduled to start next week. The work will require closing the alley for about two weeks and limit garbage collection to the alley's west access point.

Utility projects – Replacement of the water main on Austin Boulevard between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street is scheduled to begin next week. Work will begin at Chicago Avenue and progress south. Replacement of the water and sewer mains on Scoville Avenue from Roosevelt Road to the alley adjacent to the new Turano headquarters construction site was expected to be completed this week. The Berkshire Street project moved nearer to its projected mid-October completion goal with the first layer of asphalt installed between Grove and Linden avenues and parkway restoration getting underway. Restoration of Clarence Avenue between Roosevelt Road and Harvard Street continued this week as the water and sewer project nears the late-October completion goal.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Work continued this week on the Home Avenue pedestrian bridge, as crews work toward the new projected completion target of mid-October. All scheduled local street paving projects have been completed and striping applied at all locations. However, parkway landscaping and restoration is still underway and will take a few more weeks to complete. Crews are expected to wrap up the application of pavement preservation material on various streets next week.

Employee news –Permit Processing Division Inspector Eric Balthazar is now a certified Residential Electrical Inspector. Prior to joining the Village last November, Eric worked for a company that provides building inspections for municipalities throughout the western suburbs. The electrical inspector designation is a nationally recognized certification that requires successful completion of a rigorous study program and testing conducted by the [International Code Council](#), a nonprofit association that, in addition to certification training, also develops model building codes and standards used worldwide.

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