



Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 25, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Sept. 28:
 - Yom Kippur – no meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Sept. 29:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Wednesday, Sept. 30:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, Oct. 1:
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Friday, Oct. 2:
 - No meetings scheduled

Grant for Lemoyne sewer– The Village received notice of an award of a grant to help fund a sewer relief project on Lemoyne Parkway between East and Edmer avenues. The Village requested \$500,000 in [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District](#) grant funds to install a main sewer line with connections to undersized lines to divert flow to a 48-inch combined sewer on East Avenue. Final terms and conditions as well as verification of grant amount will be included in a required intergovernmental agreement that will come to the Village Board for consideration. [Click here for more details](#) on the grant and the application.

Mortgage, rental assistance participation – The Development Customers Services Department is reporting that 244 Oak Park households have been determined eligible to receive mortgage or rental assistance from the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Emergency Rental Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance programs due to the COVID-19 emergency. More information about the program is [posted online](#).

Lake Street project honored – The [Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers](#) will recognize the [Lake Street Corridor Improvement Project](#) with an Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award. The project's combination of utility, streetscape and resurfacing earned a spot in the category of \$10 million to \$25 million projects. Given the restriction on large, in-person gatherings, the ASCE has hired a professional videographer to pre-record a thank you speech by a project representative that will be published virtually at the end of October for industry peers, colleagues and friends to see. [Click here to see the award letter...](#)

Write Inn to house homeless – Housing Forward has signed a lease to make the 65-room Write Inn on Oak Park Avenue a place to house clients. Beginning next week, people will begin moving into the hotel, which will replace the rotating nightly shelter system in place for 27 years in Oak Park. Officials say the new accommodations offer a safe, temporary place for people while they seek a permanent housing destination. In addition to individual rooms with beds, bathrooms and storage for personal items, food, structured programming and connection to housing resources will be available on site. More information is [posted on the Housing Forward website](#). The Village of Oak Park annually supports Housing Forward with funding including a \$400,000 CDBG-CV award in June 2020 for rental, mortgage and/or utility assistance. In the fall of 2019, the Village awarded Housing Forward a \$156,188 CDBG Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) grant.

Latest vehicle license data – Staff is reporting that 14,979 vehicle licenses had been sold through Mon., Sept. 21 with nearly three-quarters (74.2 percent) of sales through this period [via the online system](#). The deadline this year was extended to Sept. 14 from the standard July 14 deadline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A late fee will not be assessed on purchases through the end of the month.

Lake Street update - The intersection of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue remains closed to traffic as new reinforced subgrade materials are placed between Oak Park and Euclid avenues to make way for new electric, irrigation and other utilities. Structural soil for the new sidewalks and decorative concrete curb will follow. Crews are pouring new concrete curb between Forest to Kenilworth avenues, while electricians make utility adjustments. The final streetscape elements are being added between Harlem and Forest avenues. Updated project information is posted at www.betterlakestreet.com and questions about specific aspects of the Lake Street improvement project may be emailed to info@betterlakestreet.com.

Fargo to air next week – After filming for the [television drama series Fargo](#) wrapped up here last month, the final season is scheduled to begin airing on Sept. 27 on the [FX network](#). Veteran film watchers say recognizing the role our community played in a fictional film set in 1950 will be difficult, but diehard Oak Parkers are sure to be looking for visual clues that identify the iconic Oak Park home on the northeast corner of Euclid Avenue and Randolph Street where both interior and exterior filming occurred. Sightings of one of the series biggest stars, comedian Chris Rock, proved rare, but Deputy Fire Chief Scott Bartelt did capture at least one [picture of the clearly recognizable Rock](#). Community Relations Director Cedric Melton, who manages film projects for the Village, reported that the production company said Oak Park was selected to be a backdrop for the series because of its beautiful historic homes and uncomplicated film permit process.

Fiber optic ring update – Installation of conduit for the Village's new fiber optic ring is now underway on Lake Street between the main water pumping station and the Central Fire Station. Areas disturbed by the work are now being restored between Village Hall and the D97 warehouse. Crews are preparing to cross under various state-managed roads to connect previously installed conduits, before moving downtown in early October.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Crews replacing the water main on Austin Boulevard continued to work toward an end of October completion goal. The annual sidewalk replacement program continued this week to eliminate trip hazards along main streets throughout the Village. Crews are treating various streets throughout the community with a special material to extend life, improve vehicle ride quality and preserve deeper layers of the pavement structure, work that should wrap up next week. The annual replacement of leaking and malfunctioning water main valves is set to begin next week. Preparation activities are wrapping up for the water and sewer relocation work necessary for the 711 Madison Senior Living LLC project to begin. Routine inspections of Nicor infrastructure on Harrison Street between Scoville and Humphrey avenues continue to require periodic lane shifts into the adjacent parking lanes. The Fire Department reports that about two-thirds of the Village's 1,240 fire hydrants have been tested so far, an annual routine procedure that helps ensure proper operations of these vital emergency response devices.

Employee news – Fleet Services Division Superintendent Ken Crowley is now certified in Sustainable Fleet Management by [NAFA](#), the world's largest not-for-profit membership association for individuals who manage vehicle fleets. In addition to acknowledging Ken's demonstrated leadership, the certification also recognizes his expertise in building a sustainable fleet, establishing sustainable driver training and using data to help achieve strategic mobility concepts and practices. In other employee news, Graham M. Failor, Daniel J. Anderson, Cameron M. Mackey and Javier Jimenez, Jr. have joined the Police Department as probationary officers. In addition, Steve Ausmann has been appointed Deputy Fire Chief for Emergency Medical Services and Infectious Disease, Amber McMorris was promoted to Customer Service Representative II in the Parking Services Division, Diana Saucedo was promoted to full-time Cashier in the Finance Department and Shawnya Williams has transferred to the Public Works Department where she is a Customer Service Representative II.

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