



Village Manager's Report Week ending July 31, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Aug. 3:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., remote via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Aug. 4:
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting
- Wednesday, Aug. 5:
 - Police community listening session, 10 a.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, Aug. 6:
 - Police community listening session, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Aug. 7:
 - No meetings scheduled

Testimonials on policing – The community conversation about policing in Oak Park begins next week with two virtual community listening sessions. Individuals who wish to share their personal experiences with Oak Park police - both good and bad – have been invited to [sign up to participate](#) in one of two online sessions. The first is set for 10 a.m., Wed., Aug. 5 and the second for 7 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 6. The sessions are for listening and are not intended to be interactive discussions. The focus will be on personal experiences with the Oak Park Police Department. Information about the meetings and registration process has been widely disseminated via [standard Village communications channels](#), as well as through various contacts others have across the community. [Click here to read the news release...](#)

Business assistance update – More than 40 applications have been submitted for the Village's Business Assistance Program, which is intended to help local small companies that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff is reviewing all applications to ensure eligibility. The loans are from the Village \$300,000 share of [federal CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funds](#). More information on the program including eligibility criteria is posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19businessloan.

Slow streets pilot launch – The first phase of the *Slow Streets Pilot Program* is set to launch next week. In this initial phase, Van Buren Street will be a slow street between Kenilworth and Harvey avenues and Kenilworth and Harvey will be slow streets for a three-block stretch between Madison and Van Buren streets. The next phase will expand the network north to Thomas Street, which would become a slow street between Kenilworth and Harvey. Gaps in the network will be necessary near main

thoroughfares such as Lake Street and Chicago Avenue. The pilot program is being implemented in phases so that any potential impacts can be reviewed prior to expanding the program to additional sections of the network. The [pilot program is being promoted](#) via the Village's communications channels and local bicycling advocates. The pilot program also includes a brief survey to help gauge residents' reception to the concept. [Click here for more information...](#)

Madison/Euclid pre-development construction – The water and sewer relocation project required for the 711 Madison Senior Living, LLC development is set to begin next week on Euclid Avenue near Madison Street. The redevelopment agreement requires vacating a portion of Euclid Avenue. The water and sewer main on Euclid Avenue between Madison Street and the alley south of Madison will be relocated onto property at 725 Madison St. property, which is privately-owned. The owner of the private property has granted the Village an easement so that these public utilities can be maintained in the future. The first week of work will be primarily on Madison Street. Temporary shifts in traffic may be necessary, but the roadway will remain open to traffic.

Lake Street progress – Marion Street is expected to reopen to vehicle traffic through the Lake Street intersection on Monday (Aug. 3). The Forest Avenue and Lake Street intersection will then be closed for similar work, which likely will take until at least Aug. 17. Allowances for local business pickups, access to parking and [well-marked traffic detours](#) are in place. Installation of the bluestone sidewalk on the south side of Lake Street is progressing from Marion to Forest. To the east, joint sealant and traffic detector loops are being installed along Lake Street from Euclid Avenue to Austin Boulevard. The final surface and markings now are expected to be finished on this section by August 14 with landscaping to follow in the fall as weather permits. The project field office remains closed due to the pandemic, but questions may be sent via email to info@betterlakestreet.com. More detailed information is updated regularly at www.betterlakestreet.com.

New security firm – A new contract begins tomorrow with the firm selected to provide security and support services at Village Hall and the public parking garages. [Advanced Security Solutions, Inc.](#) staff also will assist with customer parking inquiries, address equipment malfunctions and create an overall safe environment in the garages with foot patrols and camera monitoring. In addition, the contractor's staff will play key roles in greeting visitors at Village Hall and providing customer service after normal business hours and during high-traffic times such as early voting.

New organic vendor at market – A new certified organic farmer will join the Farmers' Market lineup tomorrow (Aug. 1). [Wholesome Harvest Farm](#), located near Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, grows a wide variety of vegetables, including heritage, heirloom and rustic produce. The new vendor comes as our local market celebrates [National Farmers' Market Week](#), Aug. 2 – 8. While the pandemic has meant none of the typical fun events and activities associated with the week can be held, it remains a time to acknowledge those farmers who have been scrambling to continue operations and serve the communities like Oak Park that depend on them

West Nile Virus threat growing – With the [Desplaines Mosquito Abatement District](#) now reporting that three batches of mosquitos collected in Oak Park traps have

tested positive for the West Nile Virus, residents are being reminded that the risk is real – especially for vulnerable populations. Risk factors for developing a more severe form of the virus include conditions that weaken the immune system, such as HIV, organ transplants and recent chemotherapy. The elderly, very young and pregnant women also are at a higher risk. The best defense, officials say, is reducing the chances of being bitten and eliminating mosquito breeding opportunities. [Click here to learn more...](#)

Miscellaneous construction - Installation of conduit for the Village's new fiber optic ring continued this week between Whittier and Beye schools, picking up Village connections along the way at the North Fire Station. Concrete patches were poured this week in the southbound lanes of the East Avenue bridge, and at the south and north deck joints, with activities expected to soon shift to the northbound lanes. Preparation continues for the Village's water main replacement project on Austin Boulevard, with the start of work contingent on Chicago wrapping up a project that closed the roadway from Lake Street to Chicago Avenue. Insertion of a water valve for the West Suburban Medical Center will be among the first tasks associated with the Village project. Steps have been taken to maintain access to the emergency room and area residents have been told about the free water pitchers and filters. Installation of an additional crossing beacon in the median at Madison Street and Scoville Avenue is scheduled to begin next week. The beacon should help improve pedestrian safety by alerting drivers when pedestrians are about to enter the crosswalk area.

Main library reopens to public – The main Oak Park Public Library has reopened to patrons with limited capacity and rules to help protect the public. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and building capacity is limited to 120 patrons. The parking garage is open, but gathering spaces, including the children's services area, are not available. Children under 14 must visit the library with an adult. Face coverings are required. The Maze and Dole branches remain closed under the Library's COVID-19 response plan. [More information is posted online...](#)

Employee news – Diana Gholston has stepped up to take on the role of Interim Records Division Supervisor in the Police Department. Diana is a Senior Records Clerk and has served in Police Records for some 23 years.

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