



Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 18, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Sept. 21:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Executive Session followed by a Regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 22
 - Disability Access Commission, 6:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Wednesday, Sept. 23:
 - REAL Training Session, 6:30 p.m. Village Board members and citizen board/commission Chairs – Part 1 *(note, based on the planned content and delivery, this training session is not subject to the Open Meetings Act and participants will not be engaged by NLC in a discussion of public business during the training session.)*
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, Sept. 24:
 - REAL Training Session, 6:30 p.m. Village Board members and citizen board/commission Chairs – Part 2 *(note, based on the planned content and delivery, this training session is not subject to the Open Meetings Act and participants will not be engaged by NLC in a discussion of public business during the training session.)*
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Friday, Sept. 25:
 - No meetings scheduled

Vehicle license sales status – Vehicle license sales to date are well below last year. While staff still is catching up on a backlog of last minute mail-in renewals and new license applications that should boost the total, about 14, 700 vehicle licenses had been processed through Thursday (Sept. 17). In the week following the deadline in 2019, about 20,300 licenses had been renewed and purchased. This year's deadline had been extended to Sept.14 from the standard July 14 date due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the change in date, a late fee will not be assessed on purchases through the end of the month. This is the second year vehicle licenses have been virtual and a physical window decal not required.

VOPT-TV off air temporarily – A critical piece of equipment failed earlier this week and has taken VOP-TV off the air. The ability to live stream and archive open public meetings online is not affected. However, recorded programming is not available on

Comcast or AT&T Uverse for approximately the next 10 days, which is when replacement equipment is expected to be installed. The Leightronix Ultra Nexus Video Server/System Controller that failed essentially is the brain of the cablecast system used to schedule and launch the pre-recorded programming that comprises the bulk of the VOP-TV 24-hour operation. The equipment was well past its life-expectancy and cannot be repaired. A new unit is being sourced.

Racial equity training - Starting this month, all elected officials, citizen board/commission chair persons and Village staff are receiving racial equity training with the [National League of Cities \(NLC\) Race Equity and Leadership division](#). This training is an organization-wide, operational step toward a racially equitable approach to governing. Participants will have an opportunity to develop a shared understanding of equity, comprehend the historical context, learn the foundations for racial equity within governing, and begin exploring racial equity tools designed to drive more just results.

Farmers' Market report – Last Saturday's Farmers' Market recorded fairly low attendance with about 2,000 patrons, second only to opening day on May 30. The low attendance most likely was due to the rain. While sun is in the forecast for tomorrow (Sept. 19), unseasonably cool temperatures are predicted. Pre-orders also were down last week, but the average purchase per order remained a strong \$52. Volunteers continue to play essential roles in helping with the smooth operation of the Farmers' Market.

Early voting preparations – In response to multiple public inquiries due to the heightened focus on November Presidential Election, Communications staff has begun [messaging about early voting](#) hours and the mail ballot drop box that will be coming to Village Hall in October. Given the highly-contagious nature of the COVID-19 coronavirus, early voting will present challenges to keeping Village staff and in-person customers separate from voters and county personnel managing the election. Staff is working on a range of strategies that can be scaled up or down as the potential impact of early voting on day-to-day operations becomes clearer or changes from day to day. The most effective overall strategy likely will be based on reducing opportunities for any contact or interaction between those participating in voting and onsite staff delivering services.

Lake Street update – The intersection of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue will be closed to traffic Monday (Sept. 21), a few weeks ahead of schedule. Closing the intersection earlier than originally planned will eliminate the need for installing and removing temporary traffic signals, which should help reduce the duration of work. In the meantime, old pavement is being removed between Oak Park and Euclid avenues to make way for new subgrade and sidewalk structural soil. Storm sewer and utility adjustments will follow. Elsewhere along Lake Street, new light poles are being installed between Forest and Oak Park avenues and remaining tasks associated with the underground utilities along the north side are wrapping up. Crews are preparing to pour new concrete curb along this section next week. To the west, the final touches are being added to the streetscape between Harlem and Forest avenues. Project information is updated regularly at www.betterlakestreet.com. Questions about specific aspects of the Lake Street improvement project may be emailed to info@betterlakestreet.com.

Other project updates – Installation of conduit for the Village’s new fiber optic ring is underway between Village Hall and the D97 warehouse, with work next week to be on Lake Street between the main water pumping station and the Central Fire Station. Replacement of the water main on Austin Boulevard continues and is expected to be completed by the end of October. The annual sidewalk replacement program began this week to eliminate trip hazards along main streets throughout the Village. Routine inspections of Nicor infrastructure on Harrison Street between Scoville and Humphrey avenues continue to require periodic lane shifts into the adjacent parking lanes. Preparation activities are wrapping up for the water and sewer relocation work necessary for the 711 Madison Senior Living LLC project to begin. Crews will be patching and treating various streets throughout the community through this month, using a special material to extend life, improve vehicle ride quality and preserve deeper layers of the pavement structure.

###