



Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 30, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Nov. 2:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 5:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 3:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Nov. 4:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 5:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, Nov. 5:
 - Citizens Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Friday, Nov. 6:
 - No meetings scheduled

Early voting ends Monday – Voters have until 7 p.m., Mon., Nov. 2, to cast an early ballot at Village Hall. Polls also are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday Oct. 31 and Nov. 1), and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Monday, the last day of early voting. Voters must enter Village Hall via the Madison Street courtyard entrance, lining up outside to allow for proper social distancing. The county is offering an [online viewer](#) to give an approximate time voters may have to wait in line at any of the 52 early voting sites. A mail ballot drop box located in the courtyard is available only during voting hours to ensure ballot security as required by the county. Village Hall will not be a [polling place on Election Day](#) Nov. 3, and will be closed per state law. Details on early voting are posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/election2020.

Village Hall closures – The Village Hall lobby will be closed on Monday (Nov. 2), in anticipation of large crowds for the last day of early voting. Staff will be available by telephone Monday, as well as by appointment for specific services that had been [scheduled in advance](#) such as purchasing real estate transfer stamps. Village Hall also will be closed on Election Day, Tues., Nov. 2, by order of the governor and no appointments or staff will be available. All public safety services will be operating as usual. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 call occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to call the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

Alternatives to trick-or-treating urged – With COVID-19 surging in the community, trick-or-treating is considered a high-risk activity. Village messaging is focusing on encouraging residents to celebrate Halloween with lower-risk activities, such as

pumpkin carving with members of their own household or outdoors at a safe distance with friends. Halloween guidelines have been issued by both state and federal health agencies, as well as by the Oak Park Health Department. These guidelines share the common theme of urging everyone to avoid close contact with those outside of one's household, which officials say is essential to reducing the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. More local information about Halloween safety is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/halloween.

Standard time returns Sunday – Standard time officially returns at 2 a.m., Sun., Nov. 1, and clocks should be set back one hour. The [Oak Park Fire Department](http://www.oak-park.us/fire) urges residents to use the time change as a reminder to replace batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Working detectors can double the chances of survival by providing critical extra time for safe escape, they say. More information on fire safety is posted at www.oak-park.us/fire.

Final Farmers' Market is tomorrow – The 45th season of the Oak Park Farmers' Market comes to a close tomorrow (Oct. 31). Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Patrons are urged to park in the Oak Park River Forest High School garage and enter the market at Scoville Avenue. The tradition of [serving stone soup](#) made from market vegetables has been canceled this year due to the pandemic. For more information on the Market, including a map, visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Leaf collection begins Monday – The annual fall leaf collection program is scheduled to begin on Mon., Nov. 2. Six pickups are planned through Dec. 10 for [each quadrant of the Village](#). Leaves should be raked into the street at least 18 inches from the curb the day before the scheduled pickup dates. Residents who miss a scheduled pickup date are urged to keep their leaves on the parkway until the night before the next scheduled pickup to reduce potential traffic and parking issues. Composting and using the leaves as garden mulch are recommended alternatives to raking. For more information and a map with the collection schedule, [click here...](#)

Plan Commission meeting update - The Plan Commission ruled on three items this week, including the six-story residential development at 835 Lake St. The vote was 5 – 2 in favor of the development, which will include ground floor parking and an bank ATM area, with 84 apartments above. At the request of the Village Board, the Commission also reviewed proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance related to planned development timelines and retail exceptions in the downtown districts. Commission recommendations include allowing a building permit to be submitted within 12 months of Village Board approval, rather than the current nine-month requirement. The commission also recommended eliminating the requirement for a start time of 18 months from approval, but left the current 36-month project completion date intact. The Plan Commission supported the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation's recommended additions to the retail exception list to include art and fitness studios, health clubs, recreation uses and business service centers. These Commission recommendations will come to the Village Board for final review and action.

Lake Street update – The reopening of Oak Park Avenue to traffic will be during the first week of November after multiple days of rain and inclement weather slowed the concrete pours. Installation of the brick for the intersection is expected to be completed by tomorrow (Oct. 31), traffic signals installed on Monday (Nov. 2) and the first layer of pavement laid on Tuesday (Nov. 3) between Forest and Oak Park avenues. Once the Oak Park Avenue intersection is open, reconstruction of the Euclid Avenue intersection will begin, with a pre-Thanksgiving completion target. The traffic signals at Forest Avenue are expected to be operational by Wednesday (Nov. 4), while installation of the bluestone pavers will continue between Oak Park and Euclid avenues. Project updates are posted regularly at www.betterlakestreet.com and questions are accepted via email to info@betterlakestreet.com

Miscellaneous construction updates – Removal of the existing surface is set to begin next week as resurfacing projects get underway in earnest on Greenfield Street from Linden Avenue to Columbian Avenue; Superior Street from Harvey Avenue to Lombard Avenue; and Austin Boulevard from Lake Street to Chicago Avenue. The work also includes upgrades to corners at various intersections to bring them into compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act. AT&T still is relocating infrastructure on Euclid between Jackson and Madison Street, and ComEd is installing underground conduit on Euclid avenue from Randolph to South Boulevard and on Randolph Street to west of Oak Park Avenue. Construction activities that remain on track to be completed by the end of the month include the annual sidewalk replacement program and pavement microsurfacing treatment. Additional sidewalk repair is planned, but not yet scheduled, using a non-invasive, angle-cutting technique to address trip-hazards without removing and replacing the entire square. Alley pavement patching also will occur before winter at various locations to address some specific, immediate concerns.

Employee news – Public Health Director Mike Charley has resigned his position with the Village of Oak Park to become the [new Director of Health and Human Services](#) for the Village of Skokie. His last day here will be November 11. We are extremely grateful to Mike for his leadership throughout the [pandemic response](#) as well as for his 16-plus years of dedicated service to the Village in various positions in [our Health Department](#). An interim director will be named by Village Manager Pavlicek within the next week as the search for new permanent health director begins.

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