



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending July 9, 2021**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, July 12:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, July 13:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, July 14:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, July 15:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, July 16:
 - No meetings scheduled

New business license report – Eleven new local businesses were licensed in June, bringing the 2021 total to 43. Businesses licensed in June include Simply Insurance, 6 N. Austin Blvd.; professional skin care Sparkle Aesthetics, 1053 Madison St.; home based candle and bath salts Aroma & Things, 156 N. Oak Park Ave.; home-based systems contractor Warpai, 847 Lyman Ave.; barber shop The Pamper Room, 302 Madison St.; home-based fashion and textile designer Helen Howe, 839 Columbian Ave.; coffee shop Brewpoint Craft; 163 S. Oak Park Ave.; Salon 746, 746 Lexington St.; home-based 7 Wolves Consulting, 229 S. Maple Ave.; La Borra Del Café, 1100 Lake St.; and Lifespan Counseling & Psychological Services, 6645 North Ave.

Mosquito alert – Officials from the [Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) have begun to ramp up their messaging about West Nile Virus as conditions may be setting the stage for a rapid increase in the population. Although levels of mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus remain relatively low to date, hot summer weather is ideal for the virus-carrying Culex mosquito, which requires only a small amount of stagnant water to produce large numbers of offspring. Abatement district crews regularly treat potential breeding areas on public property like sewer catch basins to kill mosquito larvae. But it is up to residents to eliminate potential breeding sites such as clogged roof gutters, empty containers and birdbaths. Local communications efforts always reference online information posted at www.oak-park.us/fighthebite.

Community awards nominations – Nominations are now being sought for the 2021 accessibility, aging in place, historic preservation and sustainability awards that recognize efforts made by organizations, individuals and businesses to improve the

community in each of these categories. Winners will be announced and recognized at a ceremony during the Village Board meeting in December. Nomination criteria and deadlines vary by award. More details are published in the current issue of the OP/FYI newsletter – [click here to view](#).

Parking late fee changes – The new, reduced late fee schedule for most parking citations went into effect on June 27. The initial penalty for non-payment of parking citations after 14 days has been reduced to \$10 from \$30 and the second late fee reduced to \$20 from the previous amount of \$33 or \$43, depending on the violation. The new late fee schedule was adopted by the Village Board in March.

Hotel/motel taxes update – While hotel/motel tax collections appear to be slowly recovering from the impact of COVID-19 with each successive month, collections so far this year still remain well below pre-pandemic levels. The \$54,000 collected from January – May 2021 is about two-thirds of the \$79,000-plus collected for the same time period in 2019. The local 4 percent hotel/motel is allocated to [Visit Oak Park](#) to help fund its promotional programs. Visit Oak Park is the state-certified convention and visitors’ bureau for western Cook County, and represents Bellwood, Berkeley, Broadview, Brookfield, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, Franklin Park, Hillside, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, North Riverside, Oak Park, River Forest, River Grove, Riverside, Schiller Park and Westchester.

Employee news – The Police Department has expanded its ranks to increase community engagement and assist with officer wellness. Pawfficer Howie, a 21-month-old former rescue, is the Department’s new [Community Service Dog](#). In addition to helping enhance officer wellness programs within the Department, he will join sworn officers at community events to help bring awareness to the many Police outreach programs like the [Residential Beat Officer initiative](#) and [Bike the Beat](#). Howie underwent extensive training to prepare for his role. Read more on the Village website – [just click here](#).

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