



Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 25, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Oct. 28:
 - Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, Oct. 29
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Oct. 30:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, Oct. 31:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, Nov. 1:
 - No meetings scheduled

Final Farmers' Market – The final [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#) of the season will be this Saturday (Oct. 26). As in past years, traditional [stone soup](#) made from vendor vegetables will be ladled up from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty. Patrons are urged to help make the event earth-friendly by bringing their own mugs. This year is the 44rd season of the Farmers' Market and plans already are underway for next year. Information on the market is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.

Safe drug disposal – The Oak Park Police Department is supporting a local [National Rx Take-Back Day](#) event scheduled for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Oct. 26 at the Oak Park Township. Sponsored by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, the annual event is intended to help prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths by offering a way to safely dispose of expired and unwanted prescription drugs. Prescriptions drugs also can be safely disposed of in a [box accessible any time in the Oak Park Police Department](#) here at Village Hall. Take-back events and standing collection boxes are not equipped to accept liquids and hypodermic needles.

Fall leaf collection – The annual fall leaf collection program for 2019 got underway this week. Eight pickups are planned for each quadrant of the Village. Crews actually were on the street last week getting ahead of the leaves that began to fall in earnest with the sustained high winds that swept through the area. The early work does not affect the pick-up schedule that anticipates collections through Dec. 12. As in past years, residents are asked to keep leaves on the parkway until the day before their scheduled pickup, which can improve day-to-day traffic flow around what can become very large piles of leaves. More information, including a map with collection dates by quadrant is [posted on the Village website](#).

Census strategy update – The many stakeholders involved in helping ensure an accurate count of residents for the upcoming census have made plans to meet formally at least five times over the coming months prior to the April 1 count. The next *Complete Count Committee* meeting is scheduled for 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 13 at Village Hall. The stakeholder committee is comprised of volunteers who are working together to increase awareness about the importance of the census and motivate residents to respond to questionnaires and census takers. Information about local efforts, including tools for stakeholders, is posted and regularly updated on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/census2020.

Grant allocation survey – As part of the process to update the Village's five-year *Consolidated Plan* for setting priorities and strategies for spending federal block grant funds, staff in the Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department is conducting an [online survey](#). Residents who take the survey will be helping ensure federal funds from the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) are directed to the most critical needs of the Village's low- to moderate-income residents. The [online survey](#), which takes about 20 minutes to complete, will be open until Fri., Nov. 1.

Austin Boulevard project updates – Contractors are planning to begin preparation work on Nov. 4 for the project to replace the water main between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street. The preparation work, which entails installing new valves, is only expected to take a few weeks as the actual project likely will be postponed until spring 2020. In the meantime, City of Chicago contractors are replacing curb and sidewalk on the east side of Austin Boulevard as part of a resurfacing project underway between Iowa Street and North Avenue. City contractors will pave Austin south to Lake Street following the completion of next spring's Village water main project.

Madison Street status – Crews have been working diligently to install the extensive range of pavement markings on Madison Street. Installation of the thermoplastic paint lines and symbols is likely to continue at least through October. Traffic signal heads also are being relocated to match the new lane configurations. Village engineers are working with the engineering contractor to create informational materials to help motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians better understand the new traffic and parking configuration of the street. Construction updates, including scheduling details, also are still being distributed weekly via email to subscribers and posted on the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The water and sewer projects on Berkshire Street and Clarence Avenue have now been completed, including the final layer of new asphalt.

Employee news – Andrew Fahey has joined the Streets Division of the Public Works Department as an Equipment Operator. Andrew, who has a degree in business administration and marketing from Marquette University, worked for Fort Pitt Energy, LLC before joining the Village. He also had been a seasonal employee for the Public Works Department in Wheaton.

###