



Village Manager's Report
Week ending February 7, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 10:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, Feb. 11:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, Feb. 12:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, Feb. 13:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Feb. 14:
 - No meetings scheduled

CDBG application process available online –Applications for the next round of funding through the Community Development Block Grant program are now being accepted via the Village website at www.oak-park.us/PY2020Grants. The grants are for Program Year 2020, which runs from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. The online application process will be open until Feb. 28. An estimated \$225,000 will be available in Village public service funds and \$80,000 for public facilities improvement. These locally administered funds will be available to non-profit organizations that primarily serve low and moderate income persons residing in Oak Park. Potential recipients have been notified that the process is underway, but any requiring information are urged to call the Village's Grant Supervisor at 708.358.5416. Recommendations for funding will come to the Village Board for review.

Lake Street public meetings – As described in last week's report, two open-house-style public meetings are scheduled for next week to present and discuss the upcoming Lake Street restoration project. Meetings are set for 6 to 8 p.m., on Tues., Feb. 11 at the [Oak Park River Forest Museum](#), 129 Lake St., and Thurs., Feb. 13 at the [Nineteenth Century Club](#), 178 Forest Ave. Representatives from the Village and the engineering contractor will be on hand to provide an overview of the project, discuss details and answer questions. Residents will be encouraged to sign up for updates via the project website www.betterlakestreet.com.

Census concerns – Some involved in the local 2020 Census promotion effort have expressed concerns that surveys now being distributed for the [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) may create confusion among residents who also are seeing messages

about the actual Census. The ACS is conducted every year to update information about the changing social and economic needs of communities across America, while the Census is conducted once every decade to provide an official count of the U.S. population. Both are administered by the U.S. Census Bureau, which has raised questions about why the Bureau would distribute questionnaires for the two programs so close together. The two surveys are dramatically different, however, especially in terms of questions. The ACS is very detailed and asks many questions, while the Census questionnaire has only nine questions for each household member. Distribution of Census questionnaires is scheduled to begin in mid-March. More information on the Village Census count efforts are posted at www.oak-park.us/census2020.

Snow response – Public Works crews had another busy week dealing with intermittent snow that created slippery conditions on roadways, bridges and crossings. The light snow that began falling late Wednesday (Feb. 5) afternoon was enhanced by lake-effect precipitation into Thursday (Feb. 6), but temperatures remained favorable, allowing crews to maintain good conditions on the public ways. Forecasters say intermittent lake-effect snow showers could continue into Saturday morning (Feb. 7) with another round of snow Sunday. Snow Command will continue to monitor forecasts and conditions to be ready to respond should the need arise.

Public Works activities – The intermittent issue with the traffic signal on Madison Street at Home Avenue was repaired and has since eliminated any unusual traffic backups for north/south that had created unnecessary inconveniences for motorists. Street Lighting Division technicians had to string a temporary aerial electrical feed to power the street lights on the Lombard Avenue overpass after they had become inoperable. Permanent repairs are scheduled for next week. The traffic control cabinet at Oak Park Avenue and Division Street also was repaired after it was damaged by an electrical surge.

Employee News – Jake Kasmierski has joined the Water & Sewer Division of the Public Works Department. Jake comes to the Village from the Oak Lawn Water Department. He has a commercial drivers' license (CDL) and a host of professional certifications that should prove useful in his position, including flagging, trenching, shoring and confined space. Engineer Techs Kent Boedeker and Chris Kim recently passed the Illinois Center for Transportation's three-day *Documentation of Contract Quantities* class. The Illinois Department of Transportation requires engineers to pass the class if they will be inspecting construction activity compliance, including staking, material testing, inspection, materials documentation, record keeping and specification enforcement.

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