



## Village Manager's Report Week ending August 14, 2020

### Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Aug. 17:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Aug. 18:
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Wednesday, Aug. 19:
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, Aug. 20:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, Aug. 21:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Storm damage report** – The fast-moving storm that blew through Oak Park at about 4 p.m. Monday (Aug. 10), left a swath of tree damage that likely will take weeks to completely clean up. More than 40 incidents were reported of trees and large limbs blocking streets, more than 30 south of the CTA Green Line. Four trees fell on houses and 12 fell on cars, primarily south of Madison Street. At least eight traffic signals were without power for a time. Crews focused first on clearing and opening streets and other public ways. While Oak Park was not among the affected locations, the National Weather Service has since confirmed more than a dozen tornadoes in the region. The maximum wind speed recorded in Oak Park was 68 miles per hour, with sustained winds of about 26 miles per hour. Rainfall was relatively light – less than two-thirds of an inch – so flooding was not an issue. However, about 40 locations lost power, some for an extended duration. As of 2 p.m. today (Fri., Aug. 14) restoration work was ongoing at approximately 76 customer accounts at nine locations.

**Lake Street progress** – A driver who ignored the large streets-closed signs and barricades may have set back completion of the Forest Avenue and Lake Street intersection by a couple of days by attempting to drive across newly poured cement by a crosswalk and [getting stuck](#). Even with this unfortunate incident, Village engineers remain optimistic the intersection will be completed within another week, barring any additional unforeseen events. In the meantime, new traffic signals have been installed at Marion and Lake and blue stone sidewalk installation is progressing toward Forest Avenue. Allowances have been made for picking up food and merchandise from nearby local businesses, parking access has been maintained and [well-marked traffic detours](#) are in place. The final pavement surface and markings were scheduled to be completed this week from Euclid Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Anyone with questions about the project is asked to send them via email to

[info@betterlakestreet.com](mailto:info@betterlakestreet.com), since the construction office remains closed due to the pandemic. Detailed information also is updated regularly at [www.betterlakestreet.com](http://www.betterlakestreet.com).

**Slow streets pilot update** – As the first phase of the *Slow Streets Pilot Program* moves into its second week, [an online survey](#) has collected nearly 500 responses, primarily from those who live on or near one of the designated streets. Nearly 60 percent of the responses have been favorable. Those respondents not in favor of the program – about 30 percent – cited its impact on traffic flow and safety concerns. A full survey report will be provided at a later date. In this initial phase, Van Buren Street is a slow street between Kenilworth and Harvey avenues and Kenilworth and Harvey are slow streets for a three-block stretch between Madison and Van Buren streets. The planned second phase would expand the network north to Thomas Street, which would become a slow street between Kenilworth and Harvey. More information about the program is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Farmers' Market roundup** – The preorder option continues to represent an important part of how the Farmers' Market is serving the community even within the constraints of a worldwide pandemic. Since the first 60 customers inaugurated [the preorder system](#) on June 6, staff and volunteers have been able to grow fulfillment capability to 120 preorders this past Saturday (Aug. 8). The latest round of preorders neared \$6,500 in goods for an average order of about \$54. The number of available order slots is limited to fulfillment capacity and typically fills up by the Tuesday before the next market – [click here to watch a VOP-TV video about the process](#). The in-person Market, which continues to average about 2,500-plus patrons each week, also proved to be an effective tool for Downtown Oak Park's [Better Lake Street Reward Program](#). DTOP representatives reported distributing informational pamphlets to more than 150 interested patrons at the last Market. Information on the Oak Park Farmers' Market is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket).

**Nicor work impacts** – As routine inspections of Nicor infrastructure shift next week to Harrison Street between Scoville and Humphrey avenues, lane shifts into the adjacent parking lanes will be necessary. Each block will require about two days to complete, which means the work will create disruptions at least into mid-September. Staff is working with the contractor to reduce parking impacts to residents and businesses. Nicor was scheduled to distribute letters with more details to affected properties this week.

**Madison/Euclid pre-development construction** – Demolition of the adjacent 725 Madison St. building put reparation activities on hold this week for the water and sewer relocation project required for the 711 Madison Senior Living, LLC development on Madison Street at Euclid Avenue. Work is expected to resume on Monday (Aug. 17) with connections on Madison Street. Temporary shifts in traffic may be necessary, but the roadway will remain open to traffic. The project entails relocating water and sewer mains onto the 725 Madison St site where the building is being demolished. The Villages retains an access easement for future maintenance and repairs.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Installation of conduit for the Village's new fiber optic ring has progressed to between Longfellow and Irving schools. Repairs to

the East Avenue bridge are wrapping up, with only pavement markings and punch list items remaining. The westbound lane of Chicago Avenue will be closed next week at Austin Boulevard for the Village water main replacement project. Traffic will be detoured on Augusta Street via Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard.

**Property assessment appeals period** – Cook County is accepting appeals of the assessed values of Oak Park properties through Aug. 28. This is the final opportunity for those who missed the first appeal period when Oak Park properties were reassessed earlier this year. More information, including deadlines is [posted on the Cook County Assessor's Office website](#).

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