



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending September 11, 2020**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Sept. 14:
  - Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Executive Session followed by Special Meeting anticipated at 7:30 via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 15
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Sept. 16:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, Sept. 17:
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Friday, Sept. 18:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Vehicle license deadline** – The deadline for renewing or purchasing a Village vehicle licenses is Monday (Sept. 14). The deadline was extended from July 14 due to the COVID-19 coronavirus emergency. Renewal notices were sent in July by mail and email. A 2020-21 vehicle license may be renewed or purchased at [www.oak-park.us/vehiclelicense](http://www.oak-park.us/vehiclelicense). You may need to create an online account. A current vehicle license is needed to purchase a parking permit. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a license for each vehicle. More information about vehicle licenses is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Bond rating services reports** – The Village has maintained a Moody's Investor Service A1 rating and S&P Global AA rating in updated credit analysis reports received this week. The updates were issued in anticipation of issuing \$10.4 million in general obligation (GO) corporate purpose bonds for the Lake Street improvements and fiber wide area network as provided for in the adopted FY20 budget. Staff also recommended refunding a \$4 million GO corporate purpose bond to achieve interest savings given the current market. The [Moody's report](#) noted that the Village's financial position has steadily improved over the last several years and is expected to remain adequate despite expectations for a coronavirus driven reserve draw in fiscal 2020. The [S&P report](#) stated that their rating reflects the agency's view of the Village's very strong economy and strong management with good financial policies and practices. Both reports are posted online at [www.oak-park.us/financialreports](http://www.oak-park.us/financialreports).

**RainReady grants** – Applications are being accepted through September for a limited number of grants through [RainReady Oak Park](#), a program to help property owners pay for landscaping approaches that will better manage rain. Participating

homeowners receive a free yard assessment, customized landscape design and grant of up to 50 percent of the cost of green landscaping solutions such as rain gardens and permeable pavement. The maximum grant is \$1,300. Applicants must own and live in a single-family home with a yard and downspouts disconnected from the municipal sewer system. Residents are encouraged to [apply online](#) but can pick up a paper application from the Neighborhood Services Division at Village Hall. While only a limited number of grants are available, applicants who aren't selected this year will be put on a waiting list for next year.

**Fire Department testing fire hydrants** – The Fire Department has begun testing the Village's more than 1,200 fire hydrants to ensure proper operations of these vital emergency response devices. The test entails attaching a short hose with a diverter to the hydrant to make sure the rush of water goes into the street and does not damage any nearby landscaping. A gauge attached to the hydrant captures water flow data that is compared to data from the same hydrant compiled over the previous five years to help identify any changes in pressure that could indicate a problem with the water supply system that needs to be investigated. If you notice cloudy water, just let the tap run for a couple minutes and it should clear up. The annual test typically occurs in the spring, but was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Testing is expected to continue into October. [Read more on the Village website.](#)

**Farmers' Market update** – As the Oak Park Farmers' Market moved into its final two months, nearly 40,000 patrons have shopped there since the first market of the 45<sup>th</sup> season on May 30. Online pre-ordering continues to be popular, having accumulated more than 1,700 orders over the 15 markets to date. Last week, some 118 orders were processed, averaging about \$51 per order. Improvements continue to be made to encourage safe behavior, including signs reminding patrons to wear masks and not bring pet or bicycles in among the vendors.

**West Nile Virus update** – The first human case in the state was reported this week by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The case was in DuPage County. Oak Park has been among the municipalities within the Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District 77-mile jurisdiction where pools of mosquitoes in traps continue to test positive for the virus. While the threat of mosquito-borne West Nile Virus tends to diminish as the weather cools, the risk still exists, officials warn. However, the Abatement District has no plans to spray again in Oak Park. The best defense, they say, is to reduce mosquito breeding sites and take steps to avoid being bitten. More information on precautions is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/fightthebite](http://www.oak-park.us/fightthebite).

**Lake Street** – Lake Street was closed to traffic yesterday (Sept. 10) as the final phase of the streetscape work moved to between Oak Park and Euclid avenues. Removal of the roadway surface is set to begin early next week after temporary traffic signals are installed and operational. Both Oak Park and Euclid avenues will remain open to two-way vehicle traffic until work requires temporary road closures and traffic detours. Trees are being removed to make room for more, better suited species and landscaping. In the meantime, Lake Street is open to traffic between Harlem and Forest avenues although activities such as installing landscaping and street furniture continue. Crews also are installing new concrete curb, sidewalks and light poles between Forest and Oak Park avenues. Project information is updated regularly

at [www.betterlakestreet.com](http://www.betterlakestreet.com). Questions about specific aspects of the Lake Street improvement project may be emailed to [info@betterlakestreet.com](mailto:info@betterlakestreet.com).

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Replacement of the water main on Austin Boulevard continues at Erie Street, but is expected to be completed by the end of October. Installation of conduit for the Village’s new fiber optic ring is underway between Mann and Hatch schools into next week. The annual sidewalk replacement program is about to begin with the focus on eliminating trip hazards along main streets throughout the Village. Routine inspections of Nicor infrastructure on Harrison Street between Scoville and Humphrey avenues continue to require periodic lane shifts into the adjacent parking lanes. Preparation activities continued this week to relocate the water and sewer lines to allow the 711 Madison Senior Living LLC project to begin. Crews have begun patching and treating various streets throughout the community with a special material to extend life, improve vehicle ride quality and preserve deeper layers of the pavement structure. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.

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