



Village Manager's Report Week ending Nov. 6, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Nov. 9:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 5:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 10:
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 8:30 a.m., via GoToMeeting
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, Nov. 11:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, Nov. 12:
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Nov. 13:
 - No meetings scheduled

Fall leaf collection began – The annual fall leaf collection program got underway Monday (Nov. 2). Six pickups are planned through Dec. 10 for [each quadrant of the Village](#), which is two weeks fewer than in past years. Crews have encountered various pickup access issues, as residents in some of the denser areas of the community have continued to park on streets where regulations had been lifted in response to the pandemic. Beyond the collection issues over-parked streets can cause the program, the Fire Department has expressed some concern about residents parking vehicles with hot exhaust systems on piles of dry leaves. Communications efforts are continuing to seek the cooperation of residents, including urging them to consider alternatives to raking such as composting and using the leaves as garden mulch. More information on the program and a map with the collection schedule are [posted on the Village website](#).

Telephone outage – The landline telephone system that serves Village Hall and other municipal facilities was down for several hours Wednesday night into Thursday morning (Nov. 4 and 5). Callers encountered busy signals and automated messages about busy circuits. The technical glitch did not affect 911 emergency calls. The Village also maintains a separate system to ensure telephonic communications is available among our public safety operations even if public lines are unavailable. The cause of the outage was traced to the service provider, and was believed to be across the provider's network and not limited to Village facilities. The issue was resolved by around noon yesterday (Thurs., Nov. 5). The community was notified via social media, which also appeared on the landing page of the Village website.

Halloween report – This year’s Halloween trick-or-treating from 1 – 5:30 p.m. was considered successful and quiet compared to prior years as many in the community opted to follow COVID-19 safety recommendations. Participating homeowners reportedly demonstrated some creative socially distant candy delivery devices. Signs provided by the Village proved popular and effective for those who chose not to participate.

Farmers’ Market – The venerable Oak Park Farmers’ Market wrapped up its 45th season last Saturday (Oct. 31) after addressing significant logistical challenges to ensuring public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. About 62,500 patrons participated in the 23 markets held this season in a highly choreographed, socially distanced setup along Scoville Avenue, South Boulevard and East Avenue. The preorder pickup pilot program proved especially popular, as more than 2,300 shoppers ordered online and then picked up their goods via a drive-through configuration in the Pilgrim Church parking lot. These remote shoppers spent a combined \$127,900-plus via a program that likely will be evaluated for incorporation in future markets even after the need for extraordinary social distancing procedures have passed. The final day for the pilot program alone attracted 142 customers who spent an average of nearly \$90 each, the highest weekly participation and spending levels of the season. The Village has expressed its sincere thanks to the many volunteers and staff without whose dedication and hard work the market could not have gone on under this year’s unusual and trying circumstances.

Lake Street update – The intersection of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue reopened to traffic this week. However, Lake Street east of Oak Park Avenue including the Euclid Avenue intersection will remain closed until Thanksgiving to complete the remaining roadway and streetscape work. Installation of the bluestone sidewalk is expected to continue in the area into next week. A layer of leveling asphalt has been installed between Forest to Oak Park avenues, with structure adjustments planned for next week in preparation for final surface paving the week of November 16. The traffic signals at Forest Avenue are operational and crews are expected to complete the signal work at Kenilworth Avenue in the coming week. Project updates are posted regularly at www.betterlakestreet.com and questions are accepted via email to info@betterlakestreet.com

Miscellaneous construction updates – After being pushed back a week, removal of the existing asphalt for resurfacing is expected to begin next week on Greenfield Street from Linden Avenue to Columbian Avenue; Superior Street from Harvey Avenue to Lombard Avenue; and Austin Boulevard from Lake Street to Chicago Avenue. The corners at various intersections also will be brought into compliance with the American’s with Disabilities Act. AT&T will continue relocating infrastructure on Euclid between Jackson and Madison Street at least through this week, and ComEd still is installing underground conduit on Euclid avenue from Randolph to South Boulevard and on Randolph Street to west of Oak Park Avenue. The annual sidewalk replacement program should be completed by the end of the month. Additional sidewalk repair is planned, but not yet scheduled, to address trip-hazards without removing and replacing the entire square. Various buildings are now being

connected to the Village's new fiber optic ring, as this major technology infrastructure upgrade continues to progress.

Employee news –Joseph Terry has been hired to serve as Interim Public Health Director starting Nov. 12. Terry, who has a master's degree in threat and response management from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Washington University in St. Louis, served as Interim Deputy Fire Chief for Infectious Disease from March 13 through June 5, during which he focused on senior long-term care facilities and other matters related to the Village's response to COVID-19. While serving as Interim Public Health Director, Terry will take a temporary leave of absence from the Fire Department. You can learn more about "JT" via a short VOP-TV video – [just click here](#). The search for Mike Charley's successor will begin this month as he is transitions to the role of Director of Health and Human Services for the Village of Skokie.

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