



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Dec. 11, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Dec. 14:
 - Citizens Involvement Commission, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, Dec. 15:
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, Dec. 16:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, Dec. 17:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Dec. 18:
 - No meetings scheduled

Holiday fire safety –The lighted wreath hanging in the Central Fire Station window at 100 N. Euclid Ave. isn't just a holiday decoration. The wreath is a visual reminder to practice fire safety during the holiday season. Each time a fire occurs, a green bulb will be replaced with a red one as a reminder of the dangers posed by trees, faulty lights and cords, candles and burning wrapping paper in fireplaces, the most typical cause of holiday season fires. The wreath will remain on around the clock through the holiday season. A video about the local program is [posted on the Village YouTube channel](#).

Vehicle-related crime alert – Oak Park Police are cautioning residents about the typical increase in auto burglaries and vehicle thefts that often occur during the holiday season and when the weather gets colder. They say packages and valuables left visible in an auto – even if it is locked – are an invitation to thieves who may be willing to damage a vehicle to get at them. Many autos also are reported stolen during colder months after being left unattended to warm up, unlocked and running with the keys in the ignition. This can happen on the street, in a garage or while making a quick stop at a gas station or store for carryout. Leaving a running vehicle unattended not only increases its risk of being stolen, it also is a violation of state law. Seasonal crime prevention tips are posted on the Village website – [Click here to review...](#)

North Avenue resurfacing accelerated – The Illinois Department of Transportation has accelerated the planned resurfacing of North Ave between Harlem and Cicero avenues. Work originally was expected to occur no sooner than 2023, but now likely will be on IDOT's March 2021 bid letting, which could mean construction starting in

the summer. The project includes resurfacing, corner sidewalk crossing ramp improvements and minor curb and pavement patching. IDOT is aware of the corridor planning studies sponsored by the Village and Chicago Department of Transportation, but apparently has chosen to move forward due to the condition of the roadway and the risk of losing Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding should future budget shortfalls occur. IDOT will confirm the bidding schedule for the project after a January bid letting. Village engineers will update our CIP maps to show this project in 2021 and coordinate with IDOT when the schedule is confirmed.

Lake Street wrapping up – Crews finished installing the bluestone sidewalk pavers by the ComEd vault near the Lake Theatre this week, opening pedestrian access through this last remaining section of downtown. Electricians will be in the area through next week finalizing installation of the updated lighting and traffic signal equipment at each of the controller cabinets. Crews will return in the spring to freshen up landscaping, activate the irrigation system and address any punch-list items that could not be completed until warmer weather returns.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The fiber optic ring infrastructure project is nearing an anticipated end-of-December completion. Crews now are splicing the new fiber cables at various locations in the Village. In the meantime, the contractor was expected to wrap up final connections this week for the water and sewer relocation project for the new senior living facility to be built at Madison Street at Euclid Avenue.

Employee news – Police Chief LaDon Reynolds has been named chair of the Curriculum and School Standards Committee of the [Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board](#). As a state agency, the ILETSB's mandate is to promote and maintain a high level of professional standards for law enforcement and correctional officers across Illinois. The Board's mission is to set standards and provide training that enhances the ability of law enforcement to readily and quickly adapt to a rapidly changing society. In other Police employee news, applications are being accepted through Jan. 8 for the position of Police Commander. A description of the position and the application requirements are posted at www.oak-park.us/jobs.

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