



Village Manager's Report Week ending Feb 26, 2021

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 1:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, March 2:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 6 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, March 3:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, March 4:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, March 5:
 - No meetings scheduled

Financial report honored – For the 25th consecutive year, the [Government Finance Officers Association](#) has given the Village's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) a *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*. The Village's fiscal year 2019 CAFR, which is for the audit year that ends on Dec. 31, received the best possible result with a *proficient* grade in every grading category. The GFOA calls the certificate the "highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting." GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving more than 20,000 government finance professionals. [Click here to read the letter and news release](#) from the GFOA. Village CAFRs and other financial reports are [posted online](#).

Oak Park Avenue improvements – The upcoming construction season's largest project is scheduled to begin next week on Oak Park Avenue weather permitting. Work on underground water and sewer infrastructure will occur in three locations – between Chicago Avenue and Augusta Street, between Randolph and Madison streets and between Harrison Street and Jackson Boulevard. Installation of traffic control signs is set to begin Monday (March 1), with excavation on the south portion beginning as early as Wednesday (March 3) and on the section between Chicago and Augusta by Mon., March 8. All underground work is expected to be completed in June and then be followed by resurfacing from North Avenue to Roosevelt Road, which was last done in 2004/2005. Construction will skip over the section between Pleasant and Ontario streets this year, to give local business that bore the brunt of last season's Lake Street project a break. The project is expected to be completed in

November. Construction details and schedules are available at a dedicated website www.opaveanew.com.

Construction updates – AT&T and ComEd crews continue infrastructure relocation activities near the intersection of Madison Street and Euclid Avenue to make way for a new senior living facility. Euclid Avenue was permanently closed this week from Madison Street south to the alley. After weather delays, Nicor is set to resume routine infrastructure inspections next week between Harrison Street and Jackson Boulevard, and between Gunderson Avenue and Austin Boulevard.

Positive benefits of rental assistance – A share of the Village's Affordable Housing Fund distributed through Housing Forward allocated some \$202,000 in direct assistance from September 2018 thru Dec. 31, 2020. Eighty percent of these funds went to rental assistance, 12 percent to security deposits and 8 percent for utilities, rent arrears, motel stays and tenant application fees. Village assistance allowed Housing Forward to create the Flexible Rental Assistance Program, which assisted 112 individuals in 76 households, including 36 students in D200 and D97. The Village also provided Housing Forward with \$28,000 to help cover administration costs.

Employee news – Assistant Village Engineer Byron Kutz recently earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Byron, who earned his undergraduate engineering degree from Valparaiso University, joined the Village in December 2013. While the new degree won't change his duties, Public Works Director John Wielebnicki said it should help expand Byron's understanding of the many processes and policies of municipal government and allow him to take on more responsibilities within the organization.

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