



Village Manager's Report
Week ending March 12, 2021

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 15:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, March 16:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, March 17:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, March 18:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, March 19:
 - No meetings scheduled

Business license renewal process underway – The Village’s annual business license renewal process has begun with notices sent to the more than 1,000 local businesses whose licenses are due for renewal. The focus this year is on urging the business operators to take advantage of the online license renewal option. Staff is providing hands-on assistance to those business operators who need help with the online process, an approach that proved very effective in moving contractors to the online permitting system. Moving the license renewal process online from paper not only offers greater convenience for the businesses, but improves administration and is a time saver for Development Customer Services Department staff.

Early voting preparations – Preparations have begun to host early voting at Village Hall beginning Sat., March 22. Voter flow will be managed for this municipal election similar to how it was done for the fall presidential election. Voting booths will be set up in room 101 as usual, and voter flow will be tightly controlled to allow for added safety as COVID-19 remains a major concern. As with the presidential election, current plans are to have voters enter via the Madison Street courtyard entrance of Village Hall, with line queues outside for proper social distancing. Parking may pose a challenge, since voters who park in the main lot will have to come around the outside of the building to enter from the courtyard. Parking along Taylor and Lombard avenues likely will be in demand, but handicapped parking may be limited beyond the main lot. Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day April 6. Turnout typically is not a large for the municipal election as for a presidential election. A wide range of information on early voting is [posted on the Village website](#).

Oak Park Avenue improvements – Water main installation began this week on Oak Park Avenue between Harrison Street and Jackson Boulevard as the largest construction project of the season now is underway. Crews also have begun cleaning and televising the sewer main on Oak Park Avenue between Garfield Street and Roosevelt Road. Water main installation will continue next week between Van Buren Street and Jackson Boulevard along with spot repairs to sewer mains south of Garfield Street. Pavement cutting and delivery of equipment and materials began this week for the water main work on Oak Park Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Augusta Street, with water main installation set to begin next week at Chicago Avenue and move north. All underground work on Oak Park Avenue is expected to be completed in June and then be followed by resurfacing from Roosevelt Road to North Avenue, except for the section between Pleasant and Ontario streets. The project is projected to be completed in November. Construction details and schedules are available at a dedicated website, www.opaveanew.com.

Madison/Euclid project update – Infrastructure relocation activities near the intersection of Madison Street and Euclid Avenue continues, as AT&T and ComEd crews make way for the new senior living facility to be built there. After a pause, Nicor is set to resume routine infrastructure inspections on March 22 between Harrison Street and Jackson Boulevard, and between Gunderson Avenue and Austin Boulevard.

Senior facility construction – The contractor reports that a safety fence now encloses the construction site for the planned American House Senior Living Community at 703 Madison St. Excavation for the underground parking garage is expected to continue through March, followed by installation of the concrete foundations. The developer has invited residents to sign up for regular communications updates and to voice any questions or concerns via email to oakpark@redico.com. A letter was sent to neighbors of the project today (March 12) – [click here to read a copy](#).

Employee news – Fire Chief Tom Ebsen has announced his retirement, as he celebrated 41 years with the Oak Park Fire Department. Tom became fire chief in 2010 after having held every available rank since joining the Oak Park Fire Department in 1980. He has been certified as paramedic, fire investigator, juvenile fire setter interventionist and fire prevention officer. Prior to becoming chief, he served 10 years as Fire Marshal and five years as Deputy Chief. Upon Chief Ebsen's retirement April 23, current Deputy Fire Chief Ron Kobyleski will serve as Interim Fire Chief while recruitment for a new Chief is conducted.

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