



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 30, 2021**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, May 3:
 - Village Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. (swearing in of newly elected Village President, Trustees and Clerk)
- Tuesday, May 4:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, May 5:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, May 6:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, April 30:
 - No meetings scheduled

Block parties to return – The online portal for block party scheduling is set to reopen Mon., May 3 at www.oak-park.us/blockparties. The dates for hosting a block party this season will be May 29 – Oct. 31. The number of block parties will be limited to 20 per weekend in 2021, with each block allowed to host one event. Mondays will be available on May 31, July 5 and September 6, which are Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day weekends. COVID-19 restrictions will be in place based on our latest [local public health guidelines](#), including wearing masks and proper social distancing. Restrictions could change with conditions and as more residents become fully vaccinated. More information is included in a [new release](#) as well as on the [block party webpage](#).

Special event permits – The Village has begun accepting applications for special event permits, with June 10 the first date when an event can be held. Applicants are required to submit a written COVID-19 mitigation plan that must be approved before a permit will be issued. The number and size of events will be limited and events may be canceled should public health data indicate a public risk. More information on holding a special event on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/specialevents. Event organizers also may email specialevents@oak-park.us.

Village Hall expands service hours– Most in-person services will be available weekdays beginning Monday (May 3). Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays except holidays or other announced short-term closures should special public health circumstances arise. Employees will continue to report at 8:30 a.m., but the

additional half hour will be used to make sure all surfaces are properly cleaned. Late hours on non-holiday Mondays for parking matters will not be available at this time. Customers will be required to wear masks and practice proper social distancing. The number of customers inside Village Hall at one time also will be limited. Communications messages will continue to remind residents that many routine services are available without a trip to Village Hall by visiting www.oak-park.us/onlineservices.

New business opening – Brewpoint Craft, a coffee café, opened this week at 163 S. Oak Park Ave., the former site of LIVE Café. The company also operates a retail storefront in Elmhurst. In addition to brewed coffee, the store will offer teas and food, as well as roasted coffee beans. More information about business is posted at www.brewpointcoffee.com.

Oak Park Avenue improvements – Oak Park Avenue is scheduled to reopen to traffic between Harrison and Van Buren streets by Fri., May 7 now that crews have installed the concrete pavement base course and plan to lay asphalt early next week. Water main installation is scheduled to begin next week between Randolph and Madison streets. Crews are finishing the roadway concrete patching and restoration on the 500 and 600 north blocks, as traffic between Chicago Avenue and Augusta Street continues to be detoured during work hours. All underground work remains on schedule to be completed in June, with resurfacing from Roosevelt Road to North Avenue to follow. The entire project is scheduled to be completed in November. Construction details and schedules are available at a dedicated website www.opaveanew.com.

Pavement assessment to begin – A pavement condition evaluation project is scheduled to begin on Fri., May 7. [Applied Research Associates, Inc.](http://www.appliedresearchassociates.com), a contractor hired by the [Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning](http://www.chicagometropolitanagencyforplanning.com), will use a specially equipped vehicle to navigate the streets at posted speeds while capturing high-quality digital images and laser data of pavement surfaces. The Village will have access to the data, which our engineers will use to create a pavement management program for street maintenance.

State projects – In anticipation of the Illinois Department of Transportation's resurfacing project on North Avenue, parking restrictions on several 1200 north blocks are being changed to two-hour parking from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday from the current 8 to 10 a.m. parking prohibition. The goal is to provide parking options for patrons of North Avenue business during the project, which is likely to continue well into September. Meanwhile, IDOT has not yet provided the construction schedule to make corner sidewalk crossing ramps ADA compliant on Harlem Avenue from Roosevelt Road to North Avenue.

Miscellaneous construction updates – ComEd is scheduling late-night, temporary power outages in the downtown business district as crews make critical infrastructure repairs in two vaults. Affected businesses and residents are being contact directly by ComEd about the outages, which are expected to last about two hours. Meanwhile, crews are addressing punch list items on Lake Street, which may

temporarily close various parking areas. All punch list tasks should be completed in May.

Employee news – Two new firefighter/paramedics joined the Fire Department this week. Melissa Schick and Anthony Joaquin have now begun the standard one-year probationary period required to become full-fledged members of the Oak Park Fire Department. In other employee news, Anna Muench joined the Public Works Department this week as a Customer Service Representative II. Anna, an Oak Park resident, will be part of the team that responds to the more than 40,000 inquiries from residents that come through the Public Works department in a typical year via telephone calls and emails. Oak Park's [new Public Health Director](#), Theresa D. Chapple-McGruder, Ph.D., is scheduled to assume her new role on Mon., May 3. A governmental and applied epidemiologist, Dr. Chapple-McGruder has spent the majority of her career at local, state and federal health agencies, and with organizations that directly support governmental public health. Interim Public Health Director Joseph Terry, who stepped up to help guide the Village through much of the COVID-19 pandemic, will resume his chosen career path in the Fire Department.

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