



Village Manager's Report Week ending September 6, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Sept. 9:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 101
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, Sept. 10:
 - Aging Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, Sept. 11:
 - Farmers' Market Commission 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, Sept. 12:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Sept. 13:
 - No meetings scheduled

Pie judging at Farmers' Market – Oak Parkers who put their pie-making skills to the test will have their efforts judged this Saturday (Sept. 7) at the Oak Park Farmers' Market *Pie Bake-Off*. A panel of judges will chose a winner from among 13 entries based on taste, creative use of Farmers' Market ingredients and appearance. The judging is set for about 9:30 to 11 a.m., with slices of entries given away to Market visitors after the contest on a first-come, first-served basis. This year's judges are Molly Svec, co-owner of [Spilt Milk](#), Michelle Mascaro, owner of The Happy Apple Pie Shop, last year's winner Alexandra Rey-Talley and junior judge Victor Lencioni. [More details are posted on the Village website.](#)

Mural photo makes the calendar cut – A photo submitted by the Village will be among images from 14 communities chosen for the [International City Managers Association](#) first annual calendar. A photo of the murals along the railroad viaduct in Oak Park will be featured on the August page of the 2020 calendar. The photo was taken by Media Production Manager Joe Kreml and was one of more than 100 images submitted for consideration from member communities across the United States and abroad. [Click here to view the pages of the calendar.](#)

Pedestrian signal improvements – Thanks to a federally funded Safe Routes to School Grant, crews soon will begin installing LED countdown signals at pedestrian crossings and upgrading traffic controllers at various locations throughout the Village. Pedestrian access will not be impeded by the work. Once completed, the new signals

will provide a clear and consistent message of time remaining before a signal change to all who walk and bicycle along Village streets.

Madison Street update – Contractor delays have pushed final paving of Madison Street between Austin Boulevard and Harlem Avenue to the week of September 17. In the meantime, staff is working with Police to coordinate crossing guards at key school crossings during paving operations, which could take up to five days to complete. Construction updates, including scheduling details, are distributed weekly via email to subscribers and posted on the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

Utility projects – Water service installations on Clarence Avenue between Roosevelt Road and Harvard Street kept the street closed this week. The project is expected to wrap up in early October. Restoration work related to the Berkshire Street water and sewer project will continue into next week, as crews replace concrete curb and pavement. This project should be completed later this month.

Street resurfacing projects – Pavement removal and placement of the surface base are underway on Wisconsin Avenue. Pavement milling has begun on Clarence Avenue, Randolph Street and Iowa Street with paving to follow. Traffic on Marion Street will be detoured to Harlem Avenue via Ontario Street and Chicago Avenue next week as reconstruction of that section of Marion begins. All paving projects should be completed by the end of September.

Home Avenue bridge update – The Home Avenue pedestrian bridge closed this week in preparation for [major improvements](#) that will take the bridge out of service for the month of September. Village staff is working with Elementary School District 97 and administrative personnel at the schools whose students will be most affected to make sure they have the information to keep students and parents up to date on the impacts and progress of the work. Ample directional signage has been installed and strategies implemented to ensure safe pedestrian and bicycle travel along the [designated alternate routes](#).

Honey harvest – The recent honey harvest from the bee hives atop the Public Works Center and Village Hall topped 180 pounds, the largest yield since the Village began keeping bees about three years ago. Some two-thirds of the honey came from the two hives at Village Hall, which has proven to be the most productive site of the sites. A substantial amount of honey was left in the hives to ensure the bees have sufficient food to weather the winter. Plans are in the works to donate much of the honey to [Beyond Hunger](#), formerly known as the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry. A [similar donation last year](#) was well received.

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