



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending March 6, 2020**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 9:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, March 10:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Wednesday, March 11:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, March 12:
 - Civic Information Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, March 13:
 - No meetings scheduled

Coronavirus resources posted online – The Health and Communications departments have worked together to create a webpage to consolidate important information about the Covid-19 coronavirus. The page includes links to a wide range of general information from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#), organizations managing the state and national response. In addition to links for general information, links also are organized by category for a wide range of organizations, including schools, faith-based groups and long-term care facilities. Just visit www.oak-park.us/covid-19.

Daylight Savings Time begins – Oak Park will spring ahead at 2 a.m., Sunday, when Daylight Saving Time begins. Clocks should be set ahead one hour. The [Oak Park Fire Department](#) recommends using the time change as a convenient reminder to replace the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but an estimated one-third has dead or missing batteries.

Early voting continues – Village Hall is hosting early voting in room 101 through March 16 for the 2020 Primary Election, including weekends. Early voting is offered to any eligible suburban Cook County resident. Chicago residents must vote early at city-sponsored locations. Village Hall also is offering grace-period registration during early voting hours, which allows individuals with the proper identification to register and immediately cast a ballot. More information, including early voting hours by date and grace-period-registration requirements, is [posted on the Village website](#).

Hospital garage recommended – In a seven-to-one revote this week the Plan commission moved to recommend Board approval of the Rush Oak Park Hospital’s special use application for a parking garage. The conditions determined in the previous meeting remained, including a partial vacation of Monroe Street. Both findings of fact reports also were approved. In other action, the commission voted to recommend that the Board deny the planned developed application for a residential project proposed for 435 Madison St. One commissioner abstained. The massing and setback along the south property line and the architecture not considering the abutting Gunderson Historic District were cited as reasons for the denial recommendation. Issues with the height and density were cited as well.

Zoning Board of Appeals update – The ZBA continued until April 1 the special use application for a Taco Bell drive-through restaurant at 6000 – 6020 Roosevelt Road. The applicant also is seeking two variances related to setbacks and other building lot placement requirements related to frontage, window transparency and entryway location.

New composting option – In response to inquiries from residents not served by the Village’s waste hauling contract, the Environmental Services Division of the Public Works Department has set up a food scrap drop-off location at the water pumping station on Lombard Avenue, just north of the Public Works Center. Information on the new service will be included in the [2020 Refuse & Recycling Guide](#) that is an insert in the [March/April issue of the OP/FYI](#). The drop-off site is a pilot program to help gauge demand for composting and participants’ adherence to the guidelines necessary for proper composting. Scraps may be stored in ASTM 6400 standard compostable bags or wrapped in newspaper. But plastic bags or non-organic materials cannot be placed in the cart. Yard waste also is prohibited. Signs on the cart provide specific guidelines.

Census 2020 update – The Village’s [Census 2020](#) public information effort moved into high gear this week with a sticker ad on the cover of the Wednesday Journal urging readers to be counted. A dozen banners also are going up in high-visibility locations throughout the community. Information is even being displayed on the Village’s parking pay stations. Efforts also are underway to have a census message on the Lake Theatre’s new electronic marquee. While visibility of the message will grow as the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) begins sending questionnaires in mid-March, the Communications Department has been working for weeks with the volunteers on the local [Complete Count Committee](#) to design, produce and distribute a wide range of informational materials targeted to specific hard-to-count constituencies, such as renters, families with young children and the homeless. The Village also has been actively using social media to promote the importance of being counted.

Lake Street update – A second meeting to brief business owners and operators most affected by the Lake Street improvement project attracted about two dozen attendees to the Lake Theater yesterday morning (Thurs., March 5). The concerns raised were similar to those discussed at the briefing held on Feb. 20, including parking, traffic flow, pedestrian safety and delivery access. Attendees were urged to sign up for email updates via the project website www.betterlakestreet.com and to use posted information to notify customers and clients of the most current details on traffic and parking. Meanwhile, work began this on the water and sewer main replacement phase between Euclid and Oak Park avenues. A westbound traffic lane

is being maintained through the construction site, while eastbound Lake Street traffic is being detoured via Oak Park Avenue to North Boulevard and then to Euclid Avenue. Southbound Euclid Avenue traffic is being detoured west on Lake Street until the Euclid intersection is completed. Parking is not allowed in the construction zone on Lake Street, but Avenue Parking Garage remains open and accessible. Pedestrian access to the businesses also has been retained.

Oak Park Avenue planning –Stakeholders have been invited to take part in planning for proposed improvements to Oak Park Avenue. A presentation about 2022 streetscape improvements from Pleasant Street to Ontario Street is set for 6 to 8 p.m., Tues., March 10 at the Oak Park Township Senior Center. Staff and members of the project team will present an overview of the project and participate in small-group facilitated discussions. Presenters also will discuss plans for water and sewer improvements as well as paving from North Avenue to Roosevelt Road that likely will occur in 2021. Registering for email updates and following progress via the dedicated project website www.RenewTheAvenue.com will be stressed. A public meeting to discuss the paving project with the broader community also is planned for 7 to 9 p.m., Thurs., March 26 at Village Hall.

Miscellaneous activities – With warmer weather this week, Public Works crews are gearing up for seasonal, day-to-day activities. Regular street sweeping has resumed, and crews have begun preparations for permanent repairs to street openings temporarily patched after water service leaks and main breaks were repaired during the winter. Pothole repairs and litter and trash collection continued as well. The salt supplies were temporarily replenished this week to be ready for any late season snow. In non-Village related activities, Nicor continued with routine infrastructure inspections within the area from Flournoy Street to Jackson Boulevard and Scoville Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

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