



## Village Manager's Report Week ending July 10, 2020

### Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, July 13:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., remote via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, July 14:
  - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., remote via GoToMeeting
- Wednesday, July 15:
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., remote via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, July 16:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, July 17:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Overnight parking restrictions update** – All overnight and daytime parking restrictions are scheduled to resume at 2:30 a.m., this coming Monday. The restrictions had been eased as part of the emergency order to accommodate the growing number of residents working from home during the COVID-19 crisis. With the Village following the state guidelines that have allowed most businesses to reopen and no local emergency order in place, the need for the special parking accommodations likely has decreased. While Police continue to support limiting on-street parking as a safety measure and the Public Works Department is stressing a need for street sweeping, staff is working on a plan to issue warnings for violations before full enforcement would begin in earnest.

**Vehicle license renewal glitch** – A feature of the online vehicle license renewal system intended to be a technological time saver proved problematic when residents who signed up for automatic renewals were charged even though the deadline had been moved due to the pandemic. The credit cards of some 700 residents who had registered for auto renewal were auto-billed this week even though the deadline now is Sept. 14 rather than July 14 as in typical years. The system vendor was able to issue credits and apology messages were sent to all who were affected. The system has been adjusted to charge the account holders who wish to continue the auto renewal feature the week prior to the current deadline as was intended when the feature was offered.

**Cooling center challenges** – Rush Oak Park Hospital is preparing the lobby of its former emergency room to serve as a cooling center, as other typical sites in the Village have been closed or unavailable due to occupancy limits during the

pandemic. Capacity at the Rush cooling center will be limited to about 15 individuals to allow for proper social distancing. Discussions also have included setting up tents with fans by shaded parking areas if necessary and exploring the option of asking the CTA and Pace if they could provide cooling buses. In the meantime, the Village's Public Health messaging is focusing on urging residents to check on friends, family and neighbors who might be at greater risk from the heat. The Village also is working with Housing Forward to provide water and Gatorade to homeless individuals who often congregate in specific areas of the community.

**Mosquito alert** – Officials from the [Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) have begun to ramp up their messaging about West Nile Virus as conditions may be setting the stage for a rapid increase in the population. Although levels of mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus remain relatively low to date, hot summer weather is ideal for the virus-carrying Culex mosquito, which requires only a small amount of stagnant water to produce large numbers of offspring. Abatement district crews regularly treat potential breeding areas on public property like sewer catch basins to kill mosquito larvae. But it is up to residents to eliminate potential breeding sites such as clogged roof gutters, empty containers and birdbaths. Local communications efforts always reference online information posted at [www.oak-park.us/fightthebite](http://www.oak-park.us/fightthebite).

**Mask giveaways near 1,000** – The Police Department reports that it has distributed nearly 1,000 homemade face coverings to residents since the pandemic took hold in the community. Police worked with Park District staff who recruited volunteers to make the face coverings, then used the Department as a 24/7 distribution center. In addition to the homemade face coverings, Police also distributed disposable masks to those in the community who lacked easy access to laundry facilities since the homemade masks require frequent washing to remain effective. Interim Deputy Fire Chief J.T. Terry also work with the Communications Department to produce a video on the types of masks and their proper use – [click here to view](#).

**Farmers' Market update** – With the sixth market of the season completed this past Saturday, more than 15,000 customers have now participated to date. Saturday's attendance dropped a bit from the previous week perhaps because of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, but nearly 2,500 customers were served. The on-line ordering pilot program has continued to be popular, with 96 customers – the maximum number of pick-up slots the system can support at this time – purchasing nearly \$5,000 in goods each of the past two Saturdays. The Development Customers Services, Public Works and Police departments have continued to provide staff support, with cross training allowing individual responsibilities to shift as needed. This weekend's market will feature a new south-to-north passage, using the Park District property just east of Scoville Avenue as a secondary entry point.

**Building codes review status** – While the pandemic has slowed progress, plans are still underway to ask the Village Board to consider adopting updated versions of various industrywide building and electric codes. The Development Customer Services Department worked closely with the [Building Codes Advisory Commission](#) to review current building and electric codes, and determine how best to incorporate the latest industry best practices into the Village's processes. Input was sought from local contractors, and then staff partnered with engineering consultant HR Green to produce a [video-based webinar](#) to help explain the proposed changes. New codes under consideration include the 2018 editions of the International Building Code,

International Residential Code, International Fire Code, International Existing Building Code, International Fuel Gas Code, International Mechanical Code and the 2017 edition of the National Electric Code. More information will be provided as a final recommendation is compiled.

**Lake Street update** – Plans are underway to begin reconstructing the intersection of Marion and Lake streets the week of July 20. Once work begins, no vehicle traffic will be able to pass through the intersection for at least 14 days. Plans have been made to allow for local business pickups, access to parking and well-marked detours for through traffic. Workers will begin stalling the bluestone sidewalk pavers next week from Maple Avenue to Marion Street, and continue toward Forest Avenue as the concrete base is completed. The foundations for new light poles are being installed on the north side of Lake between Forest and Oak Park avenues and work on the granite planters is underway between Marion and Forest. To the east of downtown, pavement patching should be completed early next week, with structure adjustments and the leveling layer of asphalt base to follow before the final surface and markings are completed later this month. While the project field office remains closed, questions may be sent via email to [info@betterlakestreet.com](mailto:info@betterlakestreet.com). Detailed information also is updated regularly at [www.betterlakestreet.com](http://www.betterlakestreet.com).

**Fiber optic ring project** – Work to install a new fiber optic ring is expected to begin next week. The first section of the Village and District 97 joint venture will be installed between Holmes and Mann schools. The project will start with directional boring on the parkway to install the conduit that will contain the fiber. Residents along the proposed fiber path are being notified in advance at each stage of the project.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Mobilization is scheduled to begin the week of July 20 for the water main improvement project on Austin Boulevard from Lake Street to Chicago Avenue. The project had been deferred to minimize any impacts to West Suburban Medical Center during the COVID-19 pandemic. Construction notices and passes are being mailed to residents. Chicago crews resurfacing Austin Boulevard from Lake Street to Iowa Street are expected to wrap up their project in early August. Work is continuing on the East Avenue bridge over the Eisenhower expressway. Vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic is being maintained as crews patch pavement and repair section joints and sidewalks.

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