



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending October 9, 2020**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Oct. 12:
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 8:30 a.m., via GoToMeeting
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Oct. 13:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Wednesday, Oct. 14:
  - Farmers' Market Commission, 5:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Thursday, Oct. 15:
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 3 p.m., via GoToMeeting
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Friday, Oct. 16:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Halloween communications** – Efforts are well underway to spread the word about the official trick-or-treating hours of 1 to 5:30 p.m. this year in Oak Park, with a focus on limiting risky behavior that could spread COVID-19. In addition to a complete [overview posted on the website](#), messages are being disseminated via enews and social media posts. We also are working with District 97 to disseminate the information to parents and students. To reach beyond our borders, we plan to contact religious and community groups in the Austin neighborhood, place yard signs on parkways at high-traffic intersections and strategically park the Police Department's mobile message trailer. In addition, we have prepared signs for residents to post signifying if they are or are not participating in trick-or-treating. The signs can be downloaded for home printing from the website at [www.oak-park.us/halloween](http://www.oak-park.us/halloween) and will be available through [Police residential beat officers](#). We will continue to stress following public health guidelines, with any necessary enforcement efforts focusing on education about the possible impacts of risky behavior.

**Early voting update** – Preparations are well underway for early voting at Village Hall, which is set for Oct. 19 – Nov. 2. Voting booths will be set up in room 101 as usual, but voter flow will be tightly controlled to allow for added safety during the pandemic. Current plans are to have voters enter via Village Hall's Madison Street courtyard entrance of Village Hall. Line queues will be outside for proper social distancing. A mail ballot drop box will be located in the courtyard as well, but available only during voting hours because of strict security measures required by the county to ensure

ballot security. 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 Nov. 3, and will be closed per state law. A wide range of information on early voting is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/election2020](http://www.oak-park.us/election2020).

**Fire safety in spotlight** – While the Oak Park Fire Department’s annual open house couldn’t take place for Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 4 – 10) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus on safety remained nonetheless. The Fire and Communications departments worked together to share important fire prevention messages throughout the week on the [Fire Department Facebook page](#). Included in the messages is a new [VOP-TV video with kitchen safety tips](#) from Deputy Chief Scott Bartelt. [Fire Prevention Week](#) is always observed during the week of October 9 in commemoration of the [Great Chicago Fire](#), which began on Oct. 8, 1871. That same date also marks the [most devastating forest fire in U.S. history](#) in Peshtigo, Wisconsin.

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month** – Members of the Oak Park Police Department are showing support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing special pink patches throughout October in honor of survivors and those currently facing the disease. During the month of October, women who live in Oak Park, River Forest or Proviso Township can receive a mammogram for no cost at [Rush Oak Park Hospital](#) by registering at 708.660.2355. More information about breast cancer awareness and ways to prevent breast cancer from Oak Park's Public Health Department is available at [www.oak-park.us/breastcancerawareness](http://www.oak-park.us/breastcancerawareness).

**Tent permits** – As the season changes, the Permit Processing Division of the Development Customer Services Department is preparing for inquiries from citizens and business operators about installing tents, outdoor heaters and generators on private property. Using outdoor heaters and generators is about safety education and following manufacturers’ guidelines, but a permit is required for a tent of more than 400 square feet. Tent materials must be flame retardant and have exit routes identified with signs and emergency lighting. Chief Building Official Steven Cutaia is available at [scutaia@oak-park.us](mailto:scutaia@oak-park.us) to answer questions and provide guidance to any resident who may wish to apply for a tent permit.

**Lake Street update** – Work underway on the decorative curbs and crosswalks on Lake Street between Oak Park and Euclid Avenues will continue into next week. The base course for new sidewalks is scheduled to be poured next week as well. The intersection of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue is tentatively set to re-open before Halloween, as work on the traffic signal and electric utilities wraps up. To the west of the intersection, crews are pouring final concrete sidewalk sections between Forest and Kenilworth avenues, with pavement milling and patching set to start next week. The traffic signal is scheduled to be activated at the intersection of Marion and Lake streets early next week, as the final streetscape elements are added between Harlem and Forest avenues. Project updates continue to be posted at

[www.betterlakestreet.com](http://www.betterlakestreet.com) and questions accepted via email to [infor@betterlakestreet.com](mailto:infor@betterlakestreet.com).

**Fiber optic ring update** – Installation of conduit for the Village’s new fiber optic ring will continue next week on North Boulevard between Forest and Maple avenues, with final connections to the system. Conduit installation on Lake Street between the main water pumping station and the Central Fire Station was scheduled to be completed this week. Areas disturbed by the work are restored after fiber optic cable is placed in the conduit. Crews still need to install conduit under various state-managed roads to complete the new network.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – A number of projects are on track to be completed by the end of the month, including the new water main on Austin Boulevard, annual sidewalk replacement and life-extending pavement treatment. The annual task of repairing and replacing leaking and malfunctioning water main valves is expected to be completed by the end of this week. Traffic lanes will be shifted next week on Madison Street to complete remaining irrigation work from last year’s streetscape project. Preparation activities also will begin next week for resurfacing Greenfield Street between Linden and Columbian avenues, and Superior Street between Harvey and Lombard avenues. Upgrades also are set to begin at various intersection crossings to bring them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ComEd is expected to begin an estimated month-long underground project next week near Randolph Street and Euclid Avenue. Notifications have been mailed to the neighborhood and Village staff will work with ComEd to make sure impacts are properly managed. Meanwhile, AT&T continues to relocate infrastructure on Madison Street just south of Euclid Avenue as part of the preparation activities for the planned redevelopment project in the 700 block of Madison. The AT&T work will require shifting eastbound traffic around the work zone for at least another week, but two-way vehicle flow will be maintained.

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