



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Feb 19, 2021

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 22:
 - Village Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., via remote participation
- Tuesday, Feb. 23:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, Feb. 24:
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, Feb. 25:
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Feb. 26:
 - No meetings scheduled

Snow response – February's unrelenting winter weather has kept Public Works crews on the road much of the month. Valentine's Day weekend alone brought 18.5 inches of snow to Oak Park, making us among those communities hardest hit by the lake-effect moisture plume. Wednesday (Feb. 16) marked seven days in a row of measurable snow. Oak Park has received more than 56 inches of snow so far this season, well above the typical winter average of about 41 inches. At the height of the Valentine's Day storm, 17 pieces of equipment were in operation. Working in shifts around the clock, crews followed our standard strategy of first focusing on main routes to ensure safe passage of emergency vehicles. Attention then shifts to east/west streets, followed by north-south streets. This strategy ensures that residents should have to go no further than half a block to reach a plowed street. The last priority is alleys, which typically are not plowed unless snowfall exceeds five inches. Plow drivers faced the usual obstacle of cars parked in violation of the [snow emergency parking rules](#). We also faced the challenge of where to put the snow that had to be removed from our surface parking lots. Some was hauled to the Cook County Forest Preserves maintenance yard in Maywood, the rest deposited in the vacant parking lot at Oak Avenue and Madison Street.

203 S. Marion project update – The Plan Commission moved last night (Thurs., Feb. 18) to continue the public hearing for the development project proposed for 203 S. Marion St. until March 4, when they expect to take a vote after final summations and commission deliberations. The proposal includes a seven-story, transit-oriented development with 159 units, 123 covered parking spaces and 1,200 square feet of retail space on the former Drechsler Brown & Williams Funeral Home site.

Shopping reward program a success – A Village-funded [shopping reward marketing program](#) generated some \$240,000 in sales for local businesses most affected by the Lake Street construction program. More than 150 businesses within the Hemingway, Pleasant and Downtown Oak Park business district participated in the collaborative program that offered each customer who spent \$200 in at least five businesses a \$25 reward booklet. By the time the short-term marketing program ended, 1,200 of the booklets worth \$30,000 had been distributed. The program ran from May 1 through October 15, 2020.

Oak Park Avenue improvements – The upcoming construction season’s largest project could begin as early as the first week of March on Oak Park Avenue. The first phase of the plan will focus on replacing and rehabilitating aging water and sewer mains, some of which are more than 100 years old. The Village then will use \$2.56 million in federal funds to resurface the vital major north/south roadway from North Avenue to Roosevelt Road, which was last done in 2004/2005. Construction will skip over the section between Pleasant and Ontario streets this year, to give local business that bore the brunt of last season’s Lake Street project a break. Street resurfacing is scheduled to start in June, with the all work expected to wrap up in November. Construction details and schedules are available at a dedicated website, www.opaveanew.com.

Construction updates – AT&T and ComEd crews continue infrastructure relocation activities during the winter months near the intersection of Madison Street and Euclid Avenue. The work is necessary to allow the new senior living facility to be built there, soon Euclid Ave will be permanently closed from Madison St south to the alley. Nicor is gearing up to resume their routine infrastructure inspections next week with remaining work between Harrison St and Jackson Blvd, and between Gunderson Ave and Austin Boulevard.

Employee news – Ahmad Zayyad has joined the Village this week as Deputy Village Manager. Prior to joining our team, Ahmad worked as the Assistant to the Village Manager in Orland Park, a post he had held since 2014. He began his career in city management with a yearlong internship in the City Manager’s Office in Evanston. Ahmad earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from University of Illinois Chicago and a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Governors State University.

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