



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 25, 2021**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, June 28:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, June 29:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 6 p.m., via Zoom
 - Board of Health, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, June 30:
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, July 1:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Village Hall, via Zoom
- Friday, July 2:
 - No meetings scheduled

Liquor-to-go extended – The state statute that allowed certain liquor license holders to sell cocktails to go during the pandemic has been extended to Jan. 3, 2024. Oak Park restaurant liquor license holders can sell single-serving wine, beer and mixed drinks in containers sealed with lids, so long as they meet state labeling requirements. However, local ordinance does not allow customers to openly consume to-go alcoholic beverages on public property such as while shopping. The only exception to this local public consumption prohibition is during sanctioned special events such as [Thursday Night Out](#) downtown. Questions regarding to-go sales may be emailed to business@oak-park.us.

Police holiday traffic enforcement– Oak Park Police are out in full force through July 6, showing zero tolerance for impaired drivers. In addition, officers are checking to make sure drivers and their passengers are buckled up as required by state law. The Oak Park holiday traffic enforcement effort is part of a statewide initiative intended to discourage impaired and unbuckled motorists during the busy July 4 holiday. More details are [posted on the Village website](#).

Eviction moratorium changes – Beginning June 25, the statewide moratorium on evictions will end protection for tenants who are up-to-date on rent and allow enforcement of orders initiated by landlords before March 20, 2020 to resume. Landlords also will be allowed to initiate new eviction orders for tenants that do not pay rent after June 25 and resume any eviction orders that predated the COVID-19

emergency. However, renters who face eviction orders due to financial hardships that occurred between March 20, 2020 and June 25, 2021, will continue to be protected.

Police women donations – Police Sgt. Samantha Deuchler and Officer Christine Simkus recently delivered more than \$300 worth of menstrual products for the Oak Park Community Fridge at Carnival Grocery, 824 S. Oak Park Ave. The products were purchased with donations from the many women in the Oak Park Police Department, both sworn and administrative. Originally set up as a resource for those experiencing food insecurity, the fridge project has expanded to provide a range of other important products. The [Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce Women in Business group](#) also recently held a drive to purchase menstrual products and diapers to be included with food items at the fridge site. Read more information about the Oak Park Community Fridge at www.opfridge.com.

Crossing buttons return – The pedestrian-activated crossing signals at intersections are being turned back on as pandemic restrictions are eased. The signals were placed on a fixed-timing schedule last year to eliminate the need for pedestrians to push the buttons to get the walk signal. Traffic engineers say requiring activation only when needed helps ensure a smoother flow of traffic when no pedestrians are present.

Ridgeland bridge work delayed – The Illinois Department of Transportation has canceled plans to close the Ridgeland Avenue bridge over I-290 this weekend for repairs as reported last week. The work likely will be rescheduled for next month. During the bridge closure, traffic will be detoured to Central Avenue via Madison Street and Roosevelt Road.

Construction crane fame – Neighborhood kids near the [American House Senior Living Community](#) project at Oak Park Avenue and Madison Street created an Instagram page for the giant crane that has long visually dominated the construction site. They named the crane Candice, prompting workers to create and attach a sign bearing the name. The crane's online fame will be short lived, however. The developer just informed the neighborhood that the crane will begin coming down on July 7, as attention turns to enclosing the building so that work can occur inside during the fall and winter months. The new facility is expected to open in the summer of 2022. To check out the Instagram page photos, [click here...](#)

Oak Park Avenue improvements – All underground water and sewer work should be completed by the July 4th weekend, including in the busy Madison Street intersection. Crews are replacing crossing ramps, sidewalk and curbs in preparation for paving all of Oak Park Avenue except for in the Hemingway District, which was part of last year's Lake Street improvement project. These paving preparation activities are proceeding south from North Avenue. The project remains on schedule to be completed in November. Construction details and schedules are posted at www.opaveanew.com.

Miscellaneous construction updates – State contractors are still on North Avenue as part of a repaving project between Harlem and Cicero avenues. IDOT crews also are

replacing crossing ramps on Harlem Avenue from Roosevelt Road to North Avenue, making sure they meet ADA requirements. Village contractors are continuing to address punch list items in our downtown area.

Employee news – Lots of activity among Village staff over the past few weeks. The Development Customer Services Department now has hired three part-time Farmers' Market assistant managers, most recently Oak Park resident and recent OPRF High graduate Jonathan Rosen, who has joined Nick Colgan and Kelly Hiegel for the season. At the Fire Department, Robert Toth has been promoted to Lieutenant. He has been with the Department since 2003. The Public Works Department is saying farewell to Automotive Crew Chief Jim Sarros who is retiring after nearly 35 years with the Village. In other Public Works news, Fleet Superintendent Ken Crowley has been nominated to be in the [Government Fleet magazine's Hall of Fame](#). Ken was recognized recently for 30 years of service to the Village.

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