



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending August 20, 2021**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, August 23:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, August 24:
  - Energy & Environment Commission, 6 p.m., via Zoom
  - Board of Health, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, August 25:
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, August 26:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom
  - Historic Preservation Architectural Review Committee, 7 p.m. via Zoom
- Friday, August 27:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Small business assistance** – The state has begun accepting applications for a new small business grant program. Called *Back to Business (B2B)*, the grant program offers \$5,000 to \$150,000 grants to cover operations, staff and overhead costs for business that lost revenue in 2020 due to COVID-19. Business operators can apply on line at [www.illinoisgov/dceo](http://www.illinoisgov/dceo). Application assistance is available regionally and in multiple languages. [Click here to view the state flyer](#) announcing the program.

**Community data visualization** – Dynamic views of a wide range of geographic information about Oak Park are now available via an updated GIS database. The online portal includes zoning districts, historic landmarks and parking permit information, as well as a tool to measure distances within Oak Park. Additional layers of data will be added, such as the safe walking routes to schools. A link to the new web portal is at [www.oak-park.us/maps](http://www.oak-park.us/maps). The ability to provide residents with specific information about their properties is tied to Oak Park's participation in the GIS Consortium, a collective of local governments working together to develop and implement new technologies they can share. More information on the consortium is posted at [public.gisconsortium.org](http://public.gisconsortium.org).

**Sidewalk Replacement** – Work continued this week in northeast section of Oak Park as about 800 squares are replaced across some 120 blocks as part of the annual sidewalk repair and replacement program. Crews are focusing on larger trip hazards that could create challenges for pedestrians. The goal is to complete all sidewalk repair and replacement planned for this season by the first week of September.

**Oak Park Avenue improvements** – Oak Park Avenue will be a busy route next week as paving operations have begun in earnest between Roosevelt Road and North Avenue. Milling of the old surface pavement is in full swing as crews work from south to north starting at Roosevelt Road toward North Avenue. A leveling pavement layer is being installed in areas where milling exposed the concrete base and created excessive dust. Surface milling should be completed next week in preparation for final paving. In the meantime, crews will continue pouring concrete curbs and sidewalks along the route and making adjustments to related structures in areas as they are paved. Verizon contractors also are installing conduit for future projects, with plans to finish up without impacting resurfacing activities. The latest updates on the Oak Park Avenue project are posted at [www.opaveanew.com](http://www.opaveanew.com).

**Bees coming to Farmers' Market** – [World Honeybee Day](#) will bring an observation hive to tomorrow's Oak Park Farmers' Market (Aug. 21). Market patrons will be able to safely observe the bees and learn about why they are an [integral and important part of agriculture](#). Market vendors and patrons are expected to follow the latest public health guidance, which was recently updated by an [order from the Health Director](#). Patrons are urged to wear face coverings when standing in line and when proper social distancing cannot be maintained, and to not touch the produce. Information on the Farmers' Market is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket).

**Employee news** – The Public Works Department recently promoted Otto Hartl to Crew Chief in the Fleet Services Division. Previously a Senior Technician, Otto has worked for the Village since 2006. He has been the Senior Mechanic the last seven years. He is certified by the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) association as Master Truck and Automotive Technician. He also is a certified Master Fire Apparatus Technician. In addition, Otto produces all of the vehicle graphics as well as special signs. His skills as a sign maker proved essential to producing many of the special signs needed during the pandemic. In Development Customer Services Department employee news, Jewel Dillard has been promoted to Neighborhood Services Division Property Maintenance/Community Development Inspector from her former role of Customer Services Representative II the Parking Division to DCS. Jewel has been with the Village since May 2019.

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