



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending Sept. 24, 2021**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Sept 27:
  - Village Board Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Tuesday, Sept. 28:
  - Disability Access Commission, 6 p.m., via Zoom
  - Village Board Reinventing Government Committee, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Wednesday, Sept. 29:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom
  - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, Sept. 30:
  - Village Board Special Meeting on Capital Improvement Plan, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Oct. 4:
  - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Activity Reports are posted at [www.oak-park.us/covid19](http://www.oak-park.us/covid19)  
just click on the *Village Manager Reports* heading**

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**COVID-19 booster shots** – The Health Department is planning to offer COVID-19 vaccines, including booster shots for those who are eligible and first doses to anyone age 12 and older, at mobile vaccination events next week. More details and links to register for an appointment will be posted at [www.oak-park.us/vaccine](http://www.oak-park.us/vaccine) on Monday (Sept. 27). Community messages also are stressing that vaccines are widely available through most national pharmacy chains. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now recommending](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0921-covid-19-booster.html) that people age 65 and older, residents in long-term care settings and people age 50 to 64 with [underlying medical conditions](#) get a booster shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after completing their initial Pfizer vaccination series. Booster shots also have been authorized for people ages 18 to 49 with underlying medical conditions and individuals who work in high-risk settings at least six months after completing their initial Pfizer vaccination series.

**Village manager search** – The public engagement process for the Village Manager search effort has begun. A dedicated web page has been created at [www.oak-park.us/managersearch](http://www.oak-park.us/managersearch), which will be the repository for information and links to engagement information and other items as needed. An [online survey](#) also has been

created and meetings set for businesses and other stakeholders, as well as for residents. An in-person community forum is set for 2 p.m., Oct. 9 at the main Library and a virtual forum is set for 6:30 p.m., Oct. 12. More [details and links](#) are on the website, along with information about the specific stakeholder sessions. Village staff also is being asked to share their views on the characteristics and traits they believe the new Village Manager should possess. Community outreach is planned to garner citizen participation in the process.

**Avenue paving delayed, but underway** – Rain delays made our previous celebrations of the early paving of Oak Park Avenue premature. However, paving did at last get underway late this week on portions of the roadway, keeping us well ahead of the original November timetable. With good weather in next week's forecast, the Village Engineer remains optimistic that paving will be completed next week from Roosevelt Road to North Avenue, except for in the Hemingway Business District where streetscape opportunities are being explored. Once the final paving is completed, work will turn to installing traffic control pavement markings and repairing parkways disrupted by the construction. The latest updates on the Oak Park Avenue project are posted at [www.opaveanew.com](http://www.opaveanew.com).

**Feedback sought on parking pilot** – An [online survey to gather public input](#) on a parking pilot program is set to open Monday (Sept. 27). Residents will be asked about the various policies enacted within the pilot area such as standardized parking limits, exemptions, meter time extensions and graduated pricing at pay stations. Survey results will be used to help determine if aspects of the pilot program should remain in place and/or implemented in other areas of the Village. The Village Board approved the pilot program in 2019 to test ways of simplifying parking restrictions and regulations. The parking pilot area is bound by Harlem Avenue east to Oak Park Avenue and South Boulevard south to Harrison Street, including portions of the adjacent business districts. While the online survey is directed to those who park within the pilot area, the survey is open to the entire community. [Click here to take the survey...](#)

**Health Department begins re-certification process** – The [Oak Park Department of Public Health](#) has begun the process of conducting a community health assessment and preparing a strategic plan. As a state-certified health department, staff must complete a community health assessment and strategic plan (IPLAN) every five years to maintain the certification. The first step in the process is to seek community feedback. Oak Park residents and other community stakeholders are invited to provide comments on the [proposed scope of the plan](#), including whether any topics should be added or removed. Comments may be provided either online at [www.oak-park.us/iplanfeedback](http://www.oak-park.us/iplanfeedback) or by email to [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

**High school parking garage repairs** – A Village contractor this week began building an enclosure to protect the elevator system at the municipal parking garage at Oak Park and River Forest High School. Since the garage was built in 2003, exposure to the elements has plagued the elevator and frequently taken it out of service. The Village Board approved the \$73,450 project in July 6. The project is expected to take about eight weeks to complete.

**New Lake Street restaurant** – A Chicago-based restaurant company has chosen to open its fourth location in Oak Park. [Chicago Waffles](#) expects to open in December at 726 Lake St., the former Saigon Pho & Café. Operators say they will offer modern American breakfast and lunch, as they do now in locations in the South Loop, West Loop and Willowbrook. The business will be applying for an Oak Park liquor license in the weeks ahead.

**Updated Census portal** – The federal government has created a [new website portal](#) intended to make it easier to use data from the 2020 Census. In the meantime, Village staff continues to dig into the data to learn more about our community and how it may have changed over the past decade. In addition, to Oak Park adding more than 2,700 residents since 2010, the early data indicate that Oak Park also reflects the national trend of becoming more diverse, especially among individuals who report themselves as being more than one race.

**Ridgeland Avenue bridge repair update** - Traffic over the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway on Ridgeland Avenue remains restricted to one lane in each direction to allow for repairs to the important overpass. Pedestrian travel also is limited to one side at a time. Work is anticipated to be completed by the end of the month.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Replacement of potable water service lines to four income-eligible properties is expected to be completed next week. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars funded the work, which entails replacing lead pipe with copper pipe. AT&T has completed street restoration on Euclid Avenue by Madison Street where the senior living facility is under construction. The developer's construction crew is expected to return in the spring to pave the east-west alley between Euclid Wesley avenues.

**Employee news** – David Brown has been promoted to Senior Automotive Technician in the Fleet Services Division of the Public Works Department. During his six years with the Village, Dave has earned multiple certifications, including Emergency Vehicle Technician, ASE Master Truck Technician and ASE Master Auto Technician. In his new role, he will help manage the day-to-day operations of the Fleet Division as well continue to assist with vehicle maintenance and repairs.

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