



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending October 4, 2013**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- October 7:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- October 8:
  - Village Board Reinventing Government Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
  - Medical Reserve Corps, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Condo Network, 7 p.m., room 201
  
- October 9:
  - Annual Multi-Family Management Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- October 10:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

**Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):**

- October 12: Village Board I-Gov Meeting, 9 a.m., D97 offices
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., D97 offices

**Eisenhower outreach** – In response to direction from the Village Board following Monday's meeting on the I-290 project, Communications staff is creating a web forum where comments can be posted. The current plan is to make the page live in the next few days, and limit its time open to approximately two weeks. By limiting the time to respond, members of the Village Board will have time to consider the comments prior to the meeting that is being scheduled with the director of the Illinois Department of Transportation. Staff will moderate all comments to ensure they are on topic and not offensive. This is the first time we have attempted such an open forum. This approach should add yet another way for members of the community to express their opinions on an important topic. We expect our facebook page and twitter feed to remain our most important interactive forums. Once the comment page is launched, a link from the current [Eye on the Ike page](#) will be promoted to the community. It will be important to make it clear to residents that commenting on the page will not be an official comment to IDOT. However, we also will provide a link to the [IDOT comment web page](#).

**Fire Department takes lead role in Blue Line crash response** – The crash of two Blue Line trains in Forest Park Monday tested the Fire Department's mass-injury management skills when our ambulance was assigned as medical control by the incident commander. Fire Department paramedics were in charge of assessing patients, tracking injuries and assigning which hospitals to transport the injured. More than 30 patients were assessed and transported to seven area hospitals. In addition to medical control, our firefighters were in charge of staging, which meant managing the flow of ambulances, fire apparatus, CTA responders and the news media at what was a chaotic scene.

**Capital improvements update** – Taylor Avenue has been reopened to traffic from Ontario Street to Erie Street now that water and sewer main improvements are substantially complete. Excavation for new concrete pavement has begun on Highland Avenue from Harrison Street to Van Buren Street. Harvey Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Iowa Street now is open to traffic as parkway sod is installed. Work on Taylor Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard is complete except for concrete pavement sealing. Final parkway restoration is underway on Kenilworth Avenue between North Boulevard and Lake Street. Punch list items related to sidewalk replacement is all that remains on Harrison Street and should be completed by the middle of next week. All nine alleys scheduled for reconstruction this year have been poured, as work continues on garage aprons. Three of the alleys were expected to reopen by the end of the week.

**Street paving status** – Work is underway to patch the pavement on Marion Street between Ontario Street and Chicago Avenue and on Harrison Street near Home Avenue. Although the streets are essentially closed, one lane is open to traffic. Work is expected to be completed by next week. In the meantime, asphalt grinding has begun at several locations throughout the Village. The first layer of asphalt has been installed on Adams Street from Clarence Avenue to Gunderson Avenue and on Cuyler Avenue from Adams Street to Madison Street.

**September home sales report** – Home sales in Oak Park did not do as well in September as had been the trend. In fact, the number of condominiums and single family homes sold are almost at 2012 levels, with 26 condominiums and 38 single family homes sold in September. These numbers are down 36 percent and 48 percent respectively from August. However, it is important to note that September sales have declined in each of the past three years, and, historically, sales volume remains low from September through March. The median sale price of condominiums sold in September was up 11.2 percent over August, while the median price of single family homes dropped 5.9 percent. Median sale prices are still well above the 2012 levels. The total sales volume for September was 50 percent of the August sales, but 20 percent higher than September of 2012. Foreclosures represented only three of the condominium sales and two of the single family sales. All three condominiums were sold to the lenders, while both single family homes were sold to individuals. [Click here to see the data.](#)

**Community Relations quarterly activities** – The third quarter of 2013 continued to be a very active one for the Community Relations Department. The Department fielded about 600 contacts for the quarter covering a wide range of diversity and quality of life concerns. Landlord/tenant disputes continued to be the largest single category with 170 contacts, followed by graffiti removed (81), general information requests

(58), referrals to community resources (47), community complaints (45), new resident orientation (42), human relations concerns (31), fair housing/diversity issues (28), diversity counseling sessions (22), film permits (20), neighbor conflicts (16), special events (15), sign complaints (14), VOP-TV promos (7) and mediations conducted (4). In the meantime, Community Relations continued to be involved in efforts to strengthen and formalize working relationships with Austin and West side organizations that are working to combat teen violence and nurture youth life skills development. In addition to participating as a panelist in a teen violence summit held at Fenwick High School in July, the department was present at a recent community meeting sponsored by the Community of Congregations. Some 11 community service providers came to Oak Park to talk to residents about the positive programming underway in the Austin neighborhood to combat social and economic issues that may impact the Village. Community Relations has since reached out to event organizers and participants to work towards developing a continuing dialogue for future collaboration with these and other Austin service providers.

**Sewer backup protection grant update** – So far this year, 51 sewer backup protection grants have been approved, with another three pending receipt of additional information. Funds remain for eight more applications to be approved at full funding. One of the approved grants missed the deadline to begin work and will be cancelled. Thirteen projects are in progress and we anticipate completing them by the end of the year. Of the 51 grants approved so far this year, 23 were carried over from the 2012 waiting list, which means 28 new applications have been approved so far in 2013. This matches the \$100,000 budget request for 2014. A waiting list is not anticipated this year.

**Fire Department update** – Oak Park firefighters responded to two structure fires in September, the most serious ruled arson in a three flat in the 100 block of South Austin Boulevard. Due to the extent of the fire, rescue operations and exposure protection, the incident commander called for a Division XI box alarm, which brought additional resources from Forest Park, River Forest, Berwyn, Cicero and North Riverside to the fire scene. Stickney also responded and manned our main fire station to cover potential calls for other incidents in the Village. Police have a suspect – a relative of the owner/resident of the building – and the investigation is continuing. The building had a history of multiple maintenance issues, so Building & Property Standards is following up. In other activities, Fire Department personnel had contact with 300 patients in September. Some 233 patients were transported to a medical facility, with 162 requiring advanced life support services. The Department fielded 498 calls for service in September, about 60 percent (299) of which were for emergency medical service. Other calls included alarm initiated (94), general service calls (82) and fire/hazardous conditions (23). Responses averaged about four minutes in September, well below the industry standard of six minutes.

**Public Works activities** – Saturday's electronic recycling event at the Public Works Center attracted 406 households. The final event of the season is scheduled for Oct. 26. Public Works crews also continued routine maintenance work throughout the Village including filling potholes, cleaning storm sewer basins, parkway tree inspections and trimming, graffiti removal, sign maintenance, and street lighting repairs. After seven years with the Village, Jesus Rodriguez, Forestry maintenance crew chief, will be leaving on Oct. 14 to become the Village of Lincolnwood's forestry foreman.

**Police activity update** – Calls for service to the Police Department were down slightly in September as compared to August. Police responded to 2,885 calls in September, compared to 3,011 in August. The majority of the calls – about 42 percent – were medium-priority calls, such as accidents with no injuries. Police responded to 888 high-priority calls in September, down about 100 calls from the August total of 992. Police were on the scene of high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 44 seconds in September, unchanged from August. So far this year, Police have responded to 25,418 calls for service.

**Building & Property Standards Division update** – The volume of permit and plan review applications dropped in September as compared to August. However, construction activities remained strong with a slight increase in the number of inspections requested. Notable projects for which permits were issued in September included Lou Malnati's Pizzeria, 1038 Lake St.; Papaspiro's Agora, 733 Lake St.; The Dailey Method studio, 208 S. Marion St.; I-Go solar canopy on North Boulevard; and a new LEED designed single-family home at 642 N. Marion St. At the end September, 51 applications were in the plan review queue with eight cases overdue an average of 5 days each – [click here to see the full report](#). In other September activities, ComEd began repair work on the south wall of the substation on North Boulevard, Interfaith Housing Development Corporation was issued a partial certificate of occupancy for the residential portions of the project on Madison Street and WhiteCo contractors completed all work on the fifth and sixth floors of the Holley Court Parking Garage, allowing the affected spaces on these levels to be reopened.

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