



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending August 19, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 22:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, August 23:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Wednesday, August 24:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 101
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, August 25:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Friday, August 26:
 - No scheduled meetings

Beer festival is Saturday – The annual *Micro Brew Review* returns Saturday as breweries from across the Midwest bring their best craft beers to downtown Oak Park for the ninth consecutive year. As in past years, Marion street south of Lake Street will be closed to vehicle traffic. Plans also have been made to discourage pedestrians from turning into the construction area on Westgate Street. The event is set for 3 to 7 p.m., but activities for some VIP ticket holders begin at 2 p.m. Several Oak Park restaurants also will be serving food. More information and tickets are [available online](#).

Medical cannabis dispensary to open – [Seven Point](#), one of the state's first licensed medical cannabis dispensaries, is set to open officially next week in downtown Oak Park. A ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled for today (Aug. 19), with tours until 4 p.m. Public tours also are planned for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday (Aug. 20). The dispensary is scheduled to open for business on Thurs., Aug. 25.

Village part of architectural tour – According to Visit Oak Park, properties in the Village will be among those featured in *Open House Chicago*, the Chicago Architecture Foundation's annual free, behind-the-scenes look at many of the city's great places and spaces that are rarely open to the public. Some 200-plus locations are officially signed up for the sixth-annual event on Oct. 15 and 16. Recruitment is underway for volunteers to serve as

greeters who are stationed at the entrance to all sites, welcoming guests, answering questions and tracking visitor attendance. Greeters typically work one four-hour shift, which leaves plenty of time to explore all the sites the remainder of the weekend. Volunteer greeters, who are required to attend one 40-minute training session in September, receive a variety of benefits, including souvenirs and priority access to all sites. More information on the event and volunteering are posted at openhousechicago.org/volunteer.

Native plants available – Local environmental advocate [Green Community Connections](#) is collaborating with [West Cook Wild Ones](#) to make it easier for Oak Parkers to create habitat that will attract birds, butterflies and other beneficial pollinators to their yards by planting native trees and shrubs. Orders for a wide range of native plants can be [placed online](#) until Sept. 17, and then picked up from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Sept. 24 at the United Methodist Church parking lot, 405 S. Euclid Ave. Fall is considered an ideal time to plant shrubs and trees so they can concentrate on building root structure over the winter prior to the spring growth cycle. [More information is posted online](#).

Property tax appeal workshop – Representatives from the [Cook County Board of Review](#) will be at the Oak Park Township Senior Services center at 6:30 p.m., Tues., Aug. 23 to explain the property tax appeal process and help residents who bring their latest bills understand how to file appeals. The Township also is inviting residents to schedule an appointment with Assessor Ali ElSaffar to get one-on-one help filing an appeal. The deadline to appeal Oak Park property taxes is Aug. 30.

Parking revenue report – The Parking & Mobility Services Department has just released the latest report of revenue for January through June of this year. The report is used to compare revenue by each source, such as garages and permits. The report also reflects the overall total collected within the parking fund. [Click here to see the latest report](#).

Chicago Avenue construction – As the focus of [construction on Chicago Avenue shifts to paving](#), the Village sewer project there was expected to wrap up this week. Plans are to keep the road closed to traffic from Forest Avenue to Grove Avenue through the end of next week. Engineering staff say keeping the section closed will facilitate curb and gutter repair by Holmes Elementary School related to the resurfacing project, which should help minimize disruptions after classes begin. Chicago Avenue is expected to be open to traffic during the paving project, which is expected to take about three months. However, motorists should expect disruptions to traffic and loss of on-street parking at times. A project web page has been set up at www.oak-park.us/chicagoaveconstruction where updates will be posted as needed.

Pedestrian beacon installation begins – Work on the new high-intensity activated crosswalk beacon (HAWK) street crossing signal on Chicago Avenue at Harvey Avenue moved into the second week with removal of the brick sidewalk and relocation of a fire hydrant. Other activities included directional boring for electrical wiring conduit and setting areas for hand-holes and signal poles. Once installation is completed in early November, pedestrians and bicyclists will be able to activate a light to signal vehicles on Chicago Avenue to stop. The signal heads facing traffic on Chicago remain dark unless the signal is activated.

South Boulevard streetscape update – Work on South Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue resumed this week with activity underway on the north side of the street. The ornamental lights just west of the multimodal station entrance were installed. Street

lights and other electrical connections also were made at the new control box in the nearby alley. Concrete was poured for the remaining sidewalk areas along the north side. The sidewalk for the bike shelter and the pad for the new bus shelter were expected to be in place by the end of the week. The street will be inspected and swept prior to weekend Micro Brew Review on Marion Street.

Elevate Oak Park development – Crews focused on wrapping up work and cleaning the area in advance of the Micro Brew Review scheduled for this week. Work related to water mains installed on the 1100 block of North Boulevard was scheduled to be completed and the street paved and swept by the end of the day Friday. Sewer main and catch basins were nearing completion on the south segment of Maple Avenue. The contractor also is chlorinating and sampling water in the new main on Maple between from Westgate and North Boulevard.

Harrison Street lighting – Wiring was connected this week to one of the two new electrical control boxes, power was connected and the lights successfully tested along the length of Harrison Street from Ridgeland Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Foundations were poured and drilled for the remaining two poles and the contractor began removing and salvaging the old lighting units. Sidewalk and brick restoration is expected to begin next week.

Miscellaneous construction activity – Parkway restoration is underway following the season's first round of alley improvement projects. All work including punch-list items should be completed by the end of the month. Pavement patching continued this week with work currently focused on various sections of South Boulevard. The final resurfacing projects of the year began last week on the 600 blocks of south Clarence Avenue and 300 and 600 blocks of south Cuyler Avenue, all of which have been milled and the first layer of asphalt applied. Crack filling to prolong the life of streets between repaving efforts is expected to begin next week throughout the Village. Nicor crews continued restoring parkways disrupted by the winter's gas main installations.

Village Hall garage update – Work continued this week on the underground Police garage at Village Hall. So far about 30 feet of the concrete, at-grade roadway adjacent to the south entrance has been removed. The roadway deck is expected to be completely removed by the middle of next week. The small temporary bridge that has provided pedestrian access since the project began has been replaced by a larger, golf-course-style bridge. Building access also has been maintained at the Lombard Avenue entrance for persons with disabilities. One ramp to the below-grade station entry will be available throughout the project to facilitate prisoner moves into and from the Police Department. More details on the project are [posted on the Village website](#).

Public Works activities –Street Division crews continued applying asphalt to locations where utility repairs had been made, painting curbs yellow by fire hydrants to indicate no parking areas and completing a range of signage projects near schools in preparation for the upcoming school year. Water & Sewer Division crews upgraded water services at 815 Fair Oaks Ave. and 205 Superior St., repaired a leaking fire hydrant at 1120 N. Humphrey Ave. and replaced a fire hydrant at Chicago and Harvey avenues. In addition to routine summer tasks, Forestry Division crews were on Chicago Avenue preparing for the repaving project by replacing trees from spring planting that had failed and removing lower-hanging branches to accommodate construction equipment.

Employee news – Diana Farrera has joined the Human Resource Department as an HR Generalist. Diana joined the Village in April 2012 as a part-time cashier, before taking a full-time position in the Finance Department as Records Coordinator. As HR Generalist, her responsibilities will include employee benefits, hiring and leave coordination. She also will play an active role in outreach activities, including training and recruitment efforts to ensure the Village continues to attract the highest caliber of employees. Diana holds a master's degree in training and development and a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from Roosevelt University. She also earned a certificate in essentials in human resources from DePaul University. Diana's education, past experience in human resources and tenure with the Village brings a special skill set to the department.

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