



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 21, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- June 24:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- June 25:
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m., room 102
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- June 26:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - HPC/Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- June 27:
 - No scheduled meetings

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

- July 1: Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
- July 1: Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- July 8: Village Board Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m. room 101
- July 4: Parade, 10 a.m. (Ridgeland/Jackson)
- July 15: Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m. room 130
- July 15: Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- July 22: Village Board Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m. room 101

CTA to study modernizing Blue Line west branch -- The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) announced Thursday that it will formally assess future needs for the Blue Line between the Clinton and Forest Park stations. The CTA's news release said its feasibility study would launch a long-range planning strategy for modernizing the rail line that could help stimulate new economic development along the Eisenhower Expressway. With both Sen. Dick Durbin and Mayor Rahm Emmanuel both lending their names to the statement, perhaps IDOT will be listening. The news release may make it sound as though Oak Park tax dollars will be allocated to the study. Actually, federal funds appropriated for capping the Eisenhower and "related studies" will

represent Oak Park's commitment. The funds have never been released, so it essentially is a federal accounting step. [Click here to read the CTA news release.](#)

Vehicle sticker sales update – Through the first six weeks of the season, 12,956 vehicle stickers had been sold. Online sales represented about 71 percent of the total, followed by in-person at Village Hall (18.5 percent) and mail-in renewals (10.5 percent). For the first six-week period last year, 14,422 vehicle stickers had been sold – 71 percent online, 19 percent at Village Hall and 10 percent via mail. At this point in sales last year, about 63 percent of the year's total 22,859 stickers had been sold. Assuming a similar number of stickers will be sold this year, sales are at 57 percent of the total. It is important to note that vehicle sticker sales started a week earlier this year than last year as the vendor dropped the renewal mail earlier than expected and a few days before the online system was operational, so exact date-to-date comparisons cannot be made. Parking Services will continue to provide periodic updates.

Housing Collaborative honored – The [West Cook County Housing Collaborative](#) (WCCHC) has won [Chicago Urban Land Institute's](#) 2013 Vision Award for outstanding performance in real estate development. Governor Quinn also has recognized the program – a joint effort between Bellwood, Berwyn, Forest Park, Maywood, Oak Park and community development financial institution [IFE](#) – multiple times as “one of the best, economically smart ways that we can help working families and address the foreclosure problem in some of our hardest hit areas.” Formed four years ago to address the extremely high foreclosure rates, the WCCHC has successfully acquired, rehabilitated and made affordable 21 formerly foreclosed, vacant homes, all within one mile of transit stops.

Police to increase traffic enforcement during holiday period – Thanks to federal traffic safety funds through [Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety](#), Oak Park Police will be out in force from June 28 through July 7 looking for drunk and unbuckled drivers as part of a statewide [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) and [Click It or Ticket](#) enforcement effort. Officers will focus on late-night hours when statistics show a disproportionate number of traffic deaths involve drunk drivers and unbuckled motorists.

Capital improvements update – The contractor has poured the remaining half of the concrete pavement for the water main project on Taylor Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard. The street is expected to reopen in late June.

North Boulevard/Kenilworth Avenue sewer and water main improvements – Work is substantially complete along North Boulevard between Kenilworth and Oak Park avenues. The street was re-opened on June 14. Work will continue for another two or three weeks on Kenilworth from South Boulevard to Lake Street. A water and sewer improvement project is being designed for North Boulevard from Forest Avenue to Kenilworth and South Boulevard from Marion Street to Home Avenue. This project is expected to begin in September.

Public Works activities – Various divisions are completing routine summer maintenance projects throughout the Village. Activities include filling potholes, cleaning storm sewer basins, inspecting and trimming parkway trees, removing graffiti, sign maintenance and street lighting repairs.

New mural near Public Works Center – About 20 fifth, sixth and seventh grade public school students and teachers recently painted a mural on the west wall of the Lombard Avenue viaduct at South Boulevard. The *Water Works Mural Project* depicts how water gets from Lake Michigan to the kitchen faucet. Students learned the importance of water to the community and ways to conserve this valuable resource. While working out of the Public Works Center from June 10 to 14, the students brought a lot of energy to the building. The project was part of District 97 Base Camp, or *Build A Summer Education*.



Oak Leaves coverage – Village activities were prominent in this week's *Oak Leaves*, coverage that has become increasingly rarer as the Sun Times Media Group has shifted its local news reporting in favor of an approach that relies heavily on freelance writers. A screen shot of [our facebook page](#) anchored the lead story about government use of social media – [click here to see how it looked in print](#). In the same issue, local columnist Paul Sassone used his humor to actually speak highly of our public information efforts to raise awareness of the Eisenhower Expressway expansion process – [click here to read his take](#).

Cooling centers reminder – While severe heat is not predicted, rising temperatures has the Health Department reminding residents who don't have access to air conditioning that Oak Park does have two free cooling centers. [Rush Oak Park Hospital](#), 520 S. Maple Ave., and [West Suburban Medical Center](#), 3 Erie Court, have long served as cooling centers in the community. Oak Park Police also will provide free transportation to a center for anyone who calls the non-emergency telephone number, 708.386.3800. Residents also can find relief from the heat during business hours at [Village Hall](#) and all three branches of the [Oak Park Public Library](#). The Health Department has a flyer with more details that it posts around Village Hall and other places where the information might be of value – [click here to view](#).

Employee accomplishments and hires -- Traffic Engineer Jill Juliano has passed the state engineer intern exam, which means she has successfully completed a bachelor's degree in engineering and is a candidate for a professional engineer license. Her next step will be to take the professional engineer exam, which she plans on doing soon. In new hires, Christopher Bowmen is now the Village's new water meter reader and Erica Love has joined Parking Services as a senior administrative clerk.

###