



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 28, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- July 1:
 - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 201 Council Chambers
- July 2:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, cancelled
- July 3:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7:00 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7:00 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 p.m., room 201
- July 4:
 - No scheduled meetings

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

- July 8: Village Board Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m. room 101
- July 4: Parade, 10 a.m. (Ridgeland/Jackson)
- July 15: Citizen Involvement Commission Volunteer of the Year Awards, Village Hall *Preceding Village Board Meeting* (time & location TBA)
- July 15: Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- July 22: Village Board Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m. room 101

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Storm clean up underway – Crews from Public Works and private contractors were called into action Thursday evening after a fast moving thunderstorm did considerable damage to numerous trees primarily in north Oak Park. The storm, which occurred at about 6 p.m. and lasted only minutes, brought down a few trees, several large limbs and lots of small branches, temporarily closing some streets. Crews were able to open most streets by midnight, and were back out Friday morning beginning the clean-up process. Forestry personnel still are assessing the extent of the damage, but most appears to have occurred north of Chicago Avenue. Staff also is checking for any signal outages, after power was lost to a portion of northeast Oak Park. According to a resident, ComEd was reporting about 400 customers were without power for about four hours in the vicinity, which likely included some of

Galewood. One reporter inquiring about storm damage said the ComEd outage map showed about 2,600 residents lost power. Clean-up activities will continue throughout the day and into the next couple of week. More details will be provided as Public Works concludes its full assessment. This latest clean-up effort comes in the wake of another, less significant one following a storm Monday evening. Crews had just completed removing all of the debris from the parkways Wednesday afternoon. We are continuing to advise residents to use the yard waste sticker program to dispose of debris from trees on private property.

July 4th Parade – The ninth annual July 4th parade is scheduled to step off at 10 a.m., Thursday from [Longfellow Park](#) at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street. Participants are asked to arrive at about 9:30 a.m. to line up. The parade will march north on Ridgeland to Augusta Street, then turn east to disperse near [Whittier Elementary School](#) at Harvey Avenue. The parade once again will include the award-winning [Freedom Marching Band](#). The Exodus Drum and Bugle Corp, a west side youth program, also will be in the parade. About 50 groups had officially signed up to participate through Friday, but Community Relations reports that a few other groups always come in during the last few days prior to the parade. The annual fireworks display is scheduled to begin at dusk in the football stadium of [Oak Park and River Forest High School](#).

Parking restrictions eased – The Police Department once again will relax the overnight parking restrictions on most Oak Park residential streets over the July 4 holiday. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., July 3, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., July 8. However, restrictions will remain in effect in overnight permit areas. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including all daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

Village Hall closed Thursday – [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Thurs., July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents can call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

Holiday delays collections – Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection services will be delayed by the July 4th holiday. Thursday's regular pick-up and all subsequent collections of the week will be delayed one day. Friday's collection will be on Saturday.

Building & Property Standards update – Permitting and construction activity continued to be very brisk in May. Permit applications were up 18 percent In May compared to April, and requests for construction inspections were up almost 20 percent. Notable projects that were issued building permits in May included [OMG! Brunch and Boutique](#), 100 S. Oak Park, [Batteries Plus](#), 7111 North Ave., Pilates Studio, 1114 Chicago Ave. and a major renovation of the [Holley Court Terrace assisted living facility](#), 1111 Ontario St. Plan review performance improved for the second month in a row with the help of a part-time, third-party plan reviewer. By the end of May, 31 applications were in the plan review queue with only seven cases

overdue an average of five days each ([click here to read the full May report](#)). As part of National Building Safety Month, staff conducted free code workshops for property owners, contractors and design professionals.

U.S. Conference of Mayors honors community – Oak Park earned an Outstanding Achievement Award from the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) as part of the organization's 34th annual [City Livability Award](#) program. Livability Awards recognize mayoral leadership in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America's cities, focusing on the leadership, creativity and innovation demonstrated by the mayors. Oak Park was one of five cities with populations of fewer than 100,000 to be recognized for outstanding achievement, and the only Illinois community honored. More than 200 communities were considered for awards, which were announced last weekend during the organizations' annual meeting. [Click here to read the news release announcing the winners.](#)

Gas give-away creates traffic slow down – If you happened to be traveling on Madison Street anywhere near Ridgeland Avenue Thursday morning you might have noticed quite a traffic slowdown. Radio station KISS-FM and the Illinois Lottery were giving away gas at the Shell station. No estimate on the number of motorists who came out, but the promotion was limited to the first 300 customers. Cars were lined up in the east bound lane of Madison Street from Euclid Avenue to Ridgeland. Cars also were about halfway down the block of Euclid. The promoters had set everything up with Police well in advance, so we had a traffic control plan in place. In fact, the promoter paid to have two extra off-duty police officers on hand to assist. According to police, there were no issues beyond a little traffic congestion along Madison Street.

Capital improvements update – Concrete pavement work is complete on Taylor Avenue between Randolph Street and South Boulevard. Taylor should reopen next week, as work moves to North Harvey Avenue the week of July 8.

North Boulevard/Kenilworth Avenue update -- Work related to sewer and water main improvements on Kenilworth Avenue from South Boulevard to Lake Street will continue for the next few weeks. A water and sewer improvement project in the same area of North Boulevard from Forest Avenue to Kenilworth and South Boulevard from Marion Street to Home Avenue is planned to start in September.

Public Works activities – In addition to cleaning up debris from storm damage, Public Works continued its routine summer maintenance projects throughout the Village. Tasks include filling potholes, cleaning storm sewer basins, inspecting and trimming parkway trees, removing graffiti, sign maintenance repairing streetlights.

Holley Court Garage repair update – Preparation for repairs to the Holley Court Parking Garage began on June 17, with actual construction scheduled to begin today (Fri., June 28). Parking Services has notified nearby residents and businesses of possible construction noise during the days. Work can occur only from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., and likely will only be on weekdays. The noise level is expected to diminish as

the project progresses. About 50 parking spaces per level will be blocked off as repairs proceed. Work will begin on the top three levels and move downward until repairs on all six levels are completed. The garage will remain open for parking throughout the project and the lower levels will continue to be reserved for short-term parking. Work is expected to be completed before the end of November.

Village assists during Blackhawks celebration – The Fire Department sent an ambulance to Chicago to lend assistance if needed during the Blackhawks's Stanley Cup celebration Friday in Grant Park. Our participation was one of a three-ambulance MABAS task force requested by Chicago due to the size of the crowds that had gathered for the celebration. Oak Park lent similar assistance during the 2010 Stanley Cup win celebration.

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