



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending July 5, 2013**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- July 8:
  - Village Board Study Session, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- July 9:
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
  - Medical Reserve Corps, 7 p.m., room 102
  
- July 10:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7:00 p.m., room 101
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7:00 p.m., room 102
  
- July 11:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 101

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

- July 15: Village Board - MEETING CANCELLED
- July 22: Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m. executive session (room 130), 7:30 p.m. public meeting (room 201)
- July 29: Village Board Study Session, preceded by CIC Volunteer of the Year Awards & Reception at 7:00 p.m. followed by a 7:30 p.m. public meeting (room location in Village Hall to be announced)
- August 5: Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., executive session (room 130), 7:30 p.m. room 201

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**Comprehensive Plan update scheduled** – An update on the comprehensive plan work to date will be presented to the Plan Commission at 7 p.m., Thurs., July 11 in Council Chamber. Consultant [Houseal Lavigne Associates](#) will review the vision statements, statements of importance and goals and objectives developed through a series of well-attended public workshops. The Plan Commission has invited members of all other Village advisory boards, commissions and committees to hear and react to the work completed thus far. The same material will be presented to the Village Board in the near future for review and comment prior to further development of the eleven chapters to be included in the final plan. To see the list of documents to be

presented to the Plan Commission on July 11, just visit the project web site [envisionoakpark.com](http://envisionoakpark.com) and click on the *documents* tab.

**Storm clean up continues** – The Public Works Department is continuing clean-up efforts following the fast moving thunderstorm that left significant tree damage primarily in north Oak Park on June 27. Crews worked late Friday and Saturday (June 28 and 29) cleaning up downed trees and limbs, hanging branches and related debris. A significant amount of work remains. While damage was Village wide, most is north of Chicago Avenue. Three contractors have been working in this area removing large hanging limbs and chipping parkway brush. Four Village crews also have been working to remove hanging limbs and picking up parkway tree brush. At this point it appears that as many as 70 trees will need to be removed. Clean-up activities are being affected by the large amount of brush from private property that is being brought to the curb, much of it by private contractors. Cleanup of debris from parkway trees should be completed next week. After that, what remains will be from private property trees. The department will give written notice to these residents that they are required to dispose of the debris via the Village's yard waste program or a private contractor. Storm debris is being staged in the lot at Lake Street and Forest Avenue, while we determine the most cost-effective way to dispose of it once the cleanup operation is complete.

**Fire Department adds new medical tool** – A new tool to attend to patients having difficulty breathing in emergency situations was used successfully twice in June. The new advanced airway option – [King Airway](#) – gives paramedics an option to the traditional endotracheal (ET) tube when attempting to open the airway of a patient in a difficult situation. The King Airway was used to ease an asthma attack that had put the patient in respiratory arrest and unresponsive. The new tool also was used to open the airway of a patient in cardiac arrest. These two incidents in June were part of what was a typically busy month for the Fire Department, which fielded 542 calls. Emergency medical services calls continued to be the top activity category in June, with the 298 calls representing 55 percent of the total. Other calls included 120 for general service (22 percent), 96 for alarms imitated (18 percent) and 28 for fire/hazardous conditions (5 percent). Through June, the Fire Department had responded to 3,095 calls.

**Quick action earns commendation** – Ten-year-old Oak Parker Victoria Theys was given a certificate of commendation for spotting and reporting a fire in the 1100 block of South Lombard. Her quick action on June 13 resulted in a fast response by firefighters and diffused what could have been a much more serious situation. The Theys family was invited to the Fire Department for cake, ice cream and a tour of the station. This fire was one of four incidents in May that resulted in an estimated \$15,774 in damages. Fortunately, all of the fires were contained to the rooms of origin and did not result in making the buildings uninhabitable.



**West Nile Virus found here** – The first positive for West Nile Virus was found in an Oak Park mosquito pool collected from June 26 through June 27. The trap was on the Village's north side. This is the fourth positive pool collected within the [Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#). The first positive pool in Illinois was confirmed from a pool in Hillside on May 21. So far, no human cases have been reported in

Illinois. While the wet weather has been more conducive to the bothersome flood plain mosquitos, officials expect the numbers of WNV-carrying [Culex mosquitoes](#) to increase as the summer progresses. The threat of West Nile Virus can continue as late as October. The Health Department is continuing to focus its efforts on education, stressing the need to eliminate potential breeding spots and reducing the chances of being bitten. As in past years, a Health Department intern is walking the Village looking for and eliminating mosquito breeding spots and passing out information to residents.

**Vehicle sticker sales update** – Through the first seven weeks of the season, 16,898 vehicle stickers had been sold. Online sales represented about 67 percent of the total, followed by in-person at Village Hall (23 percent) and mail-in renewals (9 percent). For the first seven-week period last year, 19,374 vehicle stickers had been sold – 67 percent online, 25 percent at Village Hall and 8 percent via mail. At this point in sales last year, about 85 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 74 percent of the total. Two factors may be affecting the year-to-year comparison. 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. Residents also may have come to fully understand the July 15 deadline. A rush of sales occurred at the end of June last year, with many residents saying they still thought the deadline was June 30. If the later deadline is now understood, Parking Services can expect a major increase in sales volume over the next two weeks.

**Kenilworth Avenue construction update** – The majority of the work related to sewer and water main improvements on Kenilworth Avenue from South Boulevard to Lake Street is expected to continue for about two more weeks. Curbs and pavement are being restored, and the street should be reopened to traffic the week of July 15. A water and sewer improvement project in the same area on North Boulevard from Forest Avenue to Kenilworth and South Boulevard from Marion Street to Home Avenue is planned to start in September. Since this project will impact downtown Oak Park and the adjacent South Boulevard area, affected business operators will be kept informed as more detailed information is confirmed.

**Community Relations quarterly activities** – The second quarter of 2013 proved to be extremely busy for the Community Relations Department which had 811 contacts covering a wide range of diversity and quality of life concerns. Special events coordination was the largest single category with 268 contacts, followed by landlord/tenant disputes (116), graffiti hits removed (77), general information requests (70), referrals to community resources (51), new resident information services (41), community complaints (40), diversity counseling sessions (39), human relations concerns (36), fair housing/diversity issues (22), neighbor conflict (15), film permits (15), sign complaints (10), VOP-TV promos (7) mediations (4). Community Relations celebrated another successful Day in our Village despite the uncooperative weather. Marking its 40<sup>th</sup> year, the festival boasted its largest vendor attendance since its inception with nearly 160 local organizations. Special thanks go to the Park District for making sure the newly refurbished Scoville Park was ready for the festival. While Community Relations already is looking to the 41<sup>st</sup> A Day in Our Village, the department also just wrapped up the 9<sup>th</sup> annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

**Police calls for services increase** – Calls to police inched upward in June, as Police responded to 3,239 calls as compared to 3046 calls in May. Medium-priority calls such as accidents with no injuries, continued to be the largest category of calls in June, representing about 43 percent of total calls. Police fielded 1,029 high-priority calls in June compared to 973 in May. The number of high-priority calls represented about 32 percent of all calls in June. Response times remained low in June, with officers responding to high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 42 seconds. So far this year, Oak Park Police have responded to more than 16,408 calls for service.

**New police officers sought** – The Village has begun the process to hire several new police officers. The first step is an intensive written exam, which is scheduled for Aug. 31. Applicants who pass the test will continue in the process, which includes extensive background checks and one-on-one interviews with the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. The goal is to select four candidates to attend the 10-week program beginning in October at the [Cook County Sheriff's Police Department Training Academy](#). Police last tested candidates in 2010, when more than 500 hopefuls turned out. [Click here for more details](#) on this latest recruitment effort. Feel free to share the link with anyone you may know who might be interested in applying to serve our community.

**New hire in IT** -- Rusmir "Ray" Derdemez has joined our Information Technology Department team as a network specialist. He brings three years of experience as an information system technician in a community bank and five years of experience as a computer technician in a public library. His hiring filled a vacant position.