



Village Manager's Report

Week ending July 12, 2013

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- July 15:
 - o No scheduled meetings
- July 16:
 - o Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 6 p.m., room 201
- July 17:
 - o Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - o Oak Park Area Arts Council Board, 7 p.m., room 102
 - o Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- July 18:
 - o No scheduled meetings

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

- 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
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., location TBD

Preparing for final day of vehicle sticker sales – Temporary self-service computer stations were installed at Village Hall Thursday in anticipation of what could be a big day Monday for vehicle sticker sales and renewals. Interim Parking & Vehicle Mobility Services Manager Jill Velan says that while they hope the real action will be online as residents opt for ease and a 10-percent discount, her staff will be prepared for a busy Monday. The Parking Service Center will be open until 7 p.m., Mon., for in-person renewals but the online system will continue to be available through the midnight deadline. However, the \$20 late fee will be added automatically at midnight. Large crowds at Village Hall on the last few days of sticker sales are not unusual, but last year the big rush was the last week of June, perhaps because many

people may have thought the deadline still was June 30. But with sales so far this year running below last year, a last-minute rush appears likely. Vehicle owners who use a computer station at Village Hall to renew also will receive the discount. However, with only a six computer terminals available, long waits are just as likely for a terminal as renewing with a Parking Services employee. Jill is urging anyone who waits until the last minute to renew in-person at Village Hall to bring lots of patience and the renewal form.

North Boulevard sewer and water main improvements – Only minor work remains, but parking and traffic have resumed.

Web site status update – The Village's new web site is ready to launch. Staff has been testing the site in-house for the past two weeks. While additional content will be added, the most accessed information has been incorporated into the new, streamlined structure. We are delaying a soft rollout until after the July 15 vehicle sticker deadline passes. The site design presented to the Village Board has been tweaked based on the comments received as part of the discussion, review by the Civic Information Systems Commission and citizen focus groups. The Commission reviewed the original art design, the navigation structure and had a member participate in a focus group. The launch will occur mid-week, using social media to reach out first to those individuals most likely to have something to say about it. As for the old site, it will remain accessible to staff who are investigating how best to archive a wealth of information that is rarely sought, but may have organizational value.

Grants approved for Health Department programs – State grant renewal agreements totaling nearly \$280,000 have been approved for a variety of local public health programs, including Family Case Management, food protection, West Nile virus prevention, emergency preparedness, Tobacco-Free Communities and inspections of body art and tanning facilities. The grants are for the state's fiscal year 2014, which began July 1. [Click here to watch a VOP-TV video](#) on the Health Department's Family Case Management Program, funded under a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services to serve pregnant women and infants up to one year old.

West Nile Virus update – The second positive for West Nile Virus has been found in an Oak Park mosquito pool collected in a trap on the Village's north side. This pool was collected on July 4 and 5. The first positive pool was collected on June 26 and 27. So far, no human cases have been reported in Illinois. The threat of West Nile Virus can continue as late as October and the numbers of WNV-carrying [Culex mosquitoes](#) are likely to increase as the summer progresses. The Health Department will continue 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.

Input sought on state bike plan – The Illinois Department of Transportation is seeking public input on Illinois' first statewide bicycle Transportation Plan. IDOT is sponsoring a series of public meetings. Two meetings were held in Chicago on Tues., July 9, but the information came too late to promote locally. However, you still can provide input online – [just click here to take a survey](#). IDOT also will offer an interactive webinar

from 6:30 – 8 p.m., Tues., July 30. If you would like to participate, IDOT is asking that you RSVP to www.surveymonkey.com/s/ILBikePlanRSVP.

Public Works activities – Public Works crews continue to clean up debris from parkway trees and removing hanging limbs from the June 27 storm. A survey of private property brush placed in the public right of way resulted in about 130 notices being mailed to residents advising them that it is their responsibility to dispose of the material. [Click here to view the notice](#). We also are working on a post card for the future that can easily be addressed in the field as needed, then posted and mailed.

Federal storm assistance update – Village staff contacted the [Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#) (CCDHSEM) to inquire about federal funding for damage sustained for the June 27 storm. According to CCDHSEM, the damage was not widespread enough to reach the threshold that would prompt consideration for funding. In general, disaster declarations would have to be made by the Village, Cook County, the state and the President of the U.S. for any funds to be available. In addition, the threshold for consideration for funding is a minimum of about \$17.5 million in damage in Cook County. Since this threshold has not been reached there is no opportunity for funding.

Capital improvements update – Water and sewer main Improvements on Taylor Avenue between South Boulevard and Randolph are complete and the street will be reopened after it is sealed the week of July 15. Sewer work has started on Harvey Avenue north of Chicago Avenue. The contractor estimates that the underground work on Harvey will take about two weeks, with final pavement restoration in August.

Crime data update – The Police Department reports an 8 percent decrease in crime for the first half of this year as compared to the same period last year. Some 811 crimes were reported through June 2013 compared to 880 for the same period in 2012. Thefts, which represent about 65 percent of the 2013 crimes, were down significantly – 541 in 2013 compared to 605 in 2012. Burglary incidents continue to trend downward, with 174 burglaries reported so far this year, compared to 196 in 2012. More than 50 percent of the reported burglaries were to garages, with more than half involving unsecured doors. Two more robberies and nine more motor vehicle thefts were reported this year than in the same period in 2012. Police have investigated 21 aggravated assault and battery reports this year, compared to 14 in 2012. Arrests are up so far this year, including a 30 percent increase in arrests for robberies and a 36 percent increase in aggravated assault arrests. Among the recent arrests of note, was a 61-year-old Oak Park man for videoing underneath the garments of female citizens at the *Thursday Night Out* event and a mother-and-son team from Georgia charged with stealing iPhones valued at more than \$16,000 from the Radio Shack on Madison Street. [Click here to see the data](#).

Housing trends documented – The Housing and CDBG Programs Division prepared a report on trends in Oak Park housing during 2012. The report offers an overview of foreclosures, sales, vacant building data and rental housing diversity. The Village continues to experience a decline in the number of foreclosures and shows marked improvement in the real estate market. [Click here to read the report](#).

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