



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending August 30, 2013**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- September 2:
  - Labor Day - Village Hall is Closed
  
- September 3:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m. room 102
  
- September 4:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101 (tentative)
  - Village Board Personnel Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201 (tentative)
  
- September 5:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

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

- September 14: Village Board Outreach Event, Barrie Fest, 1 - 5 p.m.
- September 19: Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 101
- October 2: Elected Officials BBQ, 5:30 p.m., Oak Park Conservatory
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., location TBD
- November 21: Annual Commission Awards: time TBA, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Club

**Recycle electronics Saturday** – The Public Works Center will host its monthly electronics recycling event this Saturday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders/players, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. The Public Works Department has been hosting the events on the last Saturday of the month since May. The next event will be Sept. 28, and the final one of the year is scheduled for Oct. 26.

**Parking restrictions eased over holiday weekend** – In keeping with a long tradition to make parking easier for visitors during holidays, the overnight parking ban will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets over the Labor Day weekend. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Aug. 31, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Sept. 4. However, restrictions will remain in effect in overnight permit

areas, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street overnight parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including all daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

**Village Hall closed Monday** -- [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Monday in observance of Labor 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 are urged to call the Police Department non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

**Holiday to delay refuse/recycling collections** – Monday's Labor Day holiday will mean that [refuse, recycling and yard waste collection services](#) will be delayed by one day. Monday's regular pick-up and all subsequent collections of the week will be delayed one day. Friday's regularly scheduled collection will be on Saturday.

**Public Works activities** – Routine summer maintenance work continues throughout the Village. Activities include filling potholes, cleaning storm sewer basins, inspecting and trimming parkway trees, removing graffiti, maintaining signs and repairing street lighting as needed.

**Marion/Ridgeland viaduct update** – The viaduct enhancement projects at Marion Street and Ridgeland Avenue are underway. The contractor currently is cleaning and painting at Marion. Work is scheduled to begin next week at Ridgeland and will require temporary lane closures. Signage will be used to manage traffic flow.

**Capital improvements update** – Sewer work on Taylor Avenue from Ontario Street to Erie Street is complete and pavement restoration is scheduled to begin next week. Water main improvements are scheduled to begin next week on Highland Avenue from Harrison Street to Van Buren Street. Concrete paving of Harvey Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Iowa Street was delayed by the high temperatures, but pouring should begin next week. Also beginning next week is the sidewalk replacement program. About 340 various locations throughout the Village are part of the sidewalk replacement program this year, which is anticipated to take approximately one week to complete. In addition, street resurfacing will begin next week at several locations throughout the Village. Alley improvements are scheduled to begin the second week of September. Meanwhile, street patching is complete, crack filling is underway and microsurfacing is planned for mid-September.

**Developer sought for key downtown parcel** – The request for proposals to redevelop the site at South Boulevard and Harlem Avenue was issued earlier this week. For the first time, the Village used email notification to send a link announcing the opportunity to more than 120 prospective developers. Proposals are due by 4 p.m., Wed., Oct. 16. Review by staff of the responses and a subsequent presentation to the Village Board will occur thereafter.

**Community survey poised to begin** – Postcards are scheduled to go in the mail early next week notifying those Oak Parkers chosen at random to participate in our latest citizen survey. The first wave of actual surveys will be distributed on Sept. 10, with a second wave to follow on Sept. 17. If all goes to plan, preliminary results should be available in mid-November from the [National Research Center, Inc.](#) (NRC), which is administering the project. About 1,200 responses are needed for a 95 percent confidence level. We will be using our various communications tools to urge those

who receive a survey to complete and return it in a timely fashion, and reminding them that all survey respondents remain anonymous. As you may recall, surveys in 2000 and 2004 were conducted by telephone. But with telephone response rates plummeting and costs rising, mail has proven to be a more cost-effective approach. In addition, NRC officials say mail responses tend to be more candid than those gathered by a telephone interviewer.

**Required Integrys mailing** – Oak Park’s electricity provider Integrys is sending postcards to all participants in our aggregation program as required by state law. The card shows the per-kilowatt rate for electricity and the period for which it applies. Last year’s mailing generated a few calls from residents asking for clarification. We are prepared to handle any calls that might come in to Village Hall. The postcard also urges customers to call its toll-free customer service number if more information on the notice is desired. [Click here to see the letter alerting the Village of the mailing and a sample postcard.](#)

**VOP-TV signal issues resolved** – Comcast technicians installed new fiber optic cable from their underground vault on Lombard Avenue through the building up to the VOP-TV control room. The final connection was made Wednesday morning. The VOP-TV signal to Comcast is now all digital as it has been to AT&T for some time now. Comcast subscribers who tune in to channel 6 should see a dramatically improved signal. The new cabling also should make the station less prone to weather-related problems.

**Police exam postponed** – The Aug. 31 written exam for entry level police officers has been postponed while we consider extending the application period. Applicants previously selected to take the exam remain eligible and will be notified via email once a new exam date is set. The new exam date also will be [posted on the Village website](#) and notices published in the Wednesday Journal and the [Blue Line](#), an online service for current and aspiring police officers. If the application deadline is extended, some applicants who had been deemed ineligible because of circumstances such as pending completion of college credits or citizenship determination will be eligible to reapply. Should additional applicants be sought, notice of the application process and deadlines will be publicized.

**New Village Attorney to join staff** – Our new Village Attorney, Paul Stephanides, is scheduled to assume his duties on Wednesday. Paul was selected from a field of more than 50 candidates and we are excited to have his expertise and experience on staff at Village Hall. I hope you will join me in offering appreciation to Simone Boutet for her significant commitment to the organization and the community as Acting Village Attorney for the past two years. She will be transitioning back to her position of Assistant Village Attorney on Wednesday. Please welcome Paul to his new position.

**Federal grant cycle begins** – The 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) application process begins Monday and runs through Sept. 30. Applicants will be able to [apply online via the Village’s website](#) beginning Monday. A workshop to help applicants work through the new online application process is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon, Tues., Sept. 10 in Room 101. As you know, CDBG funds are available to non-profit organizations and other agencies that serve primarily low- and moderate-income Oak Park residents. ESG

funds are available to organizations that serve homeless persons in Oak Park. A portion of CDBG funds also are set aside for Village-sponsored activities. The funding amount for the program year that runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 has not yet been released. Anyone with questions is urged to call 708.358.5416.

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