



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 6, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- September 9:
 - Village Board Special Meeting (Executive Session, 7 p.m., room 130, followed by a Special Meeting, 8 p.m., room 101)

- September 10:
 - Condo Network Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Medical Reserve Corps, 7 p.m. room 102

- September 11:
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201

- September 12:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

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

- September 14: Village Board Outreach Event, Barriefest, 1-5 p.m.
- September 19: Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 101
- September 26: Village Board Personnel Committee, 6 p.m., room 130
- 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

AEDs added – The Fire Department added three new automated external defibrillators (AED). Two are in administrative vehicles that are on the street every day, while the third will be carried by fire inspectors when performing inspections. Two other AED units no longer used by the Fire Department have been placed in service with the Police Department for use in patrol cars.

Conservatory events – The Oak Park Conservatory will hold its annual free plant exchanges on Sat., Sept. 7. Oak Parkers who would like to share perennials and get something new for the garden can drop off labeled potted plants from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the alley gate, and then return from noon to 12:30 p.m. to choose from among the donated plants. On the same day from noon to 2 p.m., individuals can bring houseplants to exchange for a variety of potted plants started from cuttings in

the Conservatory tropical and desert plant collections. For more information call 708.725.2400 or visit www.oakparkconservatory.org.

Emergency preparedness for condos – Condominium owners and board members are invited to a free presentation on emergency preparedness scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., Sept. 10 at Village Hall. Registration is not required. Topics to be covered include protecting people and property and post-disaster relief efforts. For more information, call 708.358.5410 or email housing@oak-park.us.

War on graffiti – The Community Relations Department's war on graffiti recently began using a new online citizen reporting tool. The [feature on our new website](#) allows anyone to easily report nuisance tagging and even upload a photo. This feature should mean faster reporting and faster removal, which is critical to prevent repeat tagging. The graffiti hotline remains in service and residents are encouraged to continue using it as well. Some 46 taggings were reported throughout the Village in August. The department continues to enjoy a positive relationship with the [Cook County Sheriff Department's graffiti removal unit](#) to remove graffiti from private and commercial property at no charge. [Resident Beat Officers](#) also are armed with removal solution to respond to tagging as appropriate.

Capital Improvements – 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 on Highland Avenue from Harrison Street to Van Buren Street have begun. The first half of the concrete pavement was poured on Harvey Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Iowa Street, with reopening likely late this month. The sidewalk replacement program has started and should continue through much of next week with about 340 various locations throughout the Village involved. Street resurfacing will start Monday at locations throughout the Village. Alley improvements are scheduled to begin next week as well. A two-to-three-week cycle of microsurfacing is set to begin the week of Sept. 16. Meanwhile, enhancement of the viaducts at Marion Street and Ridgeland Avenue are on schedule. Cleaning and painting is underway at Marion, with work scheduled to begin next week at Ridgeland, which will require temporary lane closures. Bids are being sought for the lighting and streetscape project planned for Garfield Street, between Harlem and Clinton avenues. The traffic signal management system software upgrade is complete and the new system is up and running.

Public Works activities – About 75 percent of thermoplastic pavement striping has been completed over the last few weeks, with the remainder planned for later in the fall. Forestry and contractor crews have cleaned up the majority of debris from last week's storm. While the storm was not as severe as the one in June, significant damage occurred. Residents who brought debris from trees on their property to the curb will be reminded by postcard of their responsibility to arrange for disposal.

Fire Department August report – Emergency medical services represented nearly 60 percent of the 482 calls for service fielded by the Fire Department in August. Contact occurred with 300 patients, including 219 transports to a medical facility, with 166 of the patients requiring advanced life support services. Firefighters also responded to two structure fires in August, with combined damage estimates exceeding \$135,000. The most serious was a kitchen fire resulting from an unattended toaster oven. The fire was quickly suppressed, but significant fire and smoke damage

occurred. Unattended cooking continues to be the leading cause of residential fires in the United States. Through August of this year, the Fire Department has received nearly 4,100 calls. The average response time for August was six minutes, including turnout and travel.

Filmmakers high on Oak Park – Television and motion picture companies clearly love the vintage look and feel of Oak Park as well as the [Village's easy process](#) as two national television commercials were shot here on the same day this week. The two productions were across seven different areas of the Village, but caused little or no disruption to residents from parking, noise or the other typical trappings of a film crew thanks to careful planning and management of by the Village. During the last five years, Community Relations has worked with Parking Services and Police to coordinate more than 300 motion picture and film projects involving more than 30 production companies. Johnny Depp, Dennis Quaid, Cameron Diaz and Peter Weller are just a few of the famous actors who have filmed in Oak Park over the last few years. While the Village currently does not impose a specific film permit fee, production companies are required to obtain permits for street obstructions and pay for customized parking arrangements during productions. Police also charge production companies for time and equipment when officers are required to be on the scene for traffic control or other support. The Village encourages filming here since production companies often purchase both goods and services local merchants, which also contributes to our sales tax base.

Employee News - Two Public Works employees have announced they will be leaving the Village to pursue other professional opportunities. Civil engineer Lori Brown is returning to the Illinois Department of Transportation where she previously worked, while Water & Sewer Superintendent Brian Jack will become the public works utilities superintendent with the Village of Lombard. Both employees served the Village in a professional and dutiful manner and will be missed.

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