



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending August 16, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- August 19:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 8:00 p.m. room 201
- August 20:
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- August 21:
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- August 22:
 - No scheduled meetings

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

- August 24: Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9 a.m., District 97
- August 24: Village Board Outreach, Farmer's Market 7am – 1pm
- August 26: Village Board Study Session Fund Balances, 7:00 p.m.
- September 4: Personnel Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., location TBD

Corn roast is Saturday – The annual corn roast is scheduled for Saturday at the Farmers' Market. The fresh-picked corn from market growers will be sold by the ear hot off the roaster from about 9 a.m. - noon.

Mosquito abatement district schedules spraying – For the first time this season, the [Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) has scheduled spraying in the Village Monday evening as part of its routine efforts to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus. Oak Park is the last of the abatement districts 77 communities to be sprayed. While the disease-carrying mosquito has been less active this year than last, the virus has been found in 47 Illinois counties so far this year, including Oak Park. A dead bird collected in Oak Park this month also tested positive for the virus. Spraying will occur between 8:30 p.m. and midnight, weather permitting. Should Monday turn out not to be a calm, rainless evening with temperatures no more than 80 degrees, spraying will be delayed to a subsequent night when conditions allow. Since the Village has no authority over the decision to spray, all questions, including options for those

medically sensitive to the insecticide, are being directed to 708.447.1765. However, we are using all of our communications tools – including the [automated emergency notification system](#) – to let residents know that spraying is planned. We also used the news function of the website to feature the spraying information.

Capital improvements update – Improvements have begun to the sewer main on Taylor Avenue from Ontario Street to Erie Street. The Marion Street viaduct enhancement project is scheduled to begin next week with cleaning and painting. Half of the viaduct will be closed at a time during cleaning and painting operations. Crack filling is underway on local streets throughout the community.

Preparing for changes to health care – The Health Department staff is preparing for inquiries likely to come when *The Health Care Insurance Marketplace* debuts as part of changes to federal law. Beginning Oct. 1, consumers can compare and select a health insurance plan on the basis of price, benefits, quality and other factors at www.healthcare.gov. Over the next few weeks, Health Department nursing staff will receive training to assist residents who may have difficulty navigating the online Marketplace and to answer general questions. Printed information about the Marketplace also will be available in the Health Department since applications will be accepted via telephone and U.S. Mail as well as online. The 2010 federal Affordable Health Care Act requires all Americans to have health insurance beginning Jan. 1.

Community survey nearing launch – The [National Research Center \(NRC\)](#) is readying the sampling plan as we prepare to launch our latest formal citizen survey. In order to secure the best possible return rates, a pre-notification postcard will be distributed first, followed by the actual survey mailing, which could be as early as Aug. 26. A post card then is sent to non-respondents after a time to urge their participation. Plans already are underway to launch an aggressive communication effort to urge those who receive the survey to complete and return it in a timely fashion. We will use OP/FYI, the website, social media and multi-family building and condo program contacts to help heighten awareness of the need to complete the survey. About 1,200 responses are needed for a 95 percent confidence level. NRC assisted with [surveys here in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2011](#). Surveys in 2000 and 2004 were conducted by telephone. But with telephone response rates plummeting across the industry and costs rising, mail has proven to be a more cost-effective approach. In addition, researchers say mail responses tend to be more candid than those gathered by a telephone interviewer.

Public Works activities – Public Works divisions are conducting routine summer maintenance work throughout the Village including filling potholes, cleaning storm sewer basins, inspecting and trimming parkway trees, removing graffiti, maintaining signs and repairing street lighting as needed. The pile of storm debris stored at Lake Street and Forest Avenue has been removed.

Volunteer commissioners sought – The Citizen Involvement Commission has asked for staff support to recruit new commissioners for several commissions that have been affected by retirements and relocations. The focus is on attracting new members to the Farmers Market Commission, the Community Design Commission and the Community Relations Commission. The call for volunteers is routinely included in our public information messages, but at the request of the CIC, more

aggressive messaging has been implemented using our social media tools broadcasting the message simultaneously.

Reminder – stepped up traffic enforcement underway – As we reported last week, Oak Park Police have joined the statewide effort to crack down on impaired and unbuckled drivers through Labor Day. Extra officers will be on our roads especially during late night hours. Federal traffic safety funds through [Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety](#) cover the extra personnel costs of the effort. The program is part of the [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) program sponsored by the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).

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