



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending July 26, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- July 29:
 - Village Board Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., room 130
 - CIC Volunteer of the Year Reception, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- July 30:
 - No scheduled meetings
- July 31:
 - Chairs of Advisory Boards & Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- August 1:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

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

- August 5: Village Board Regular Meeting CANCELLED
- August 12: Tentative Reinventing Government, 7:00 p.m.
- August 19: Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., executive session (room 130), 7:30 p.m. room 201
- August 26: Tentative Village Board Study Session Fund Balances, 7:00 p.m.
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., location TBD

Talking about gun violence – Community Relations Director Cedric Melton this week participated on a panel evaluating violence prevention models developed by 10th graders from schools across the Chicago area, including the hardest-hit neighborhoods such as Englewood, Lawndale and Gresham. Also on the panel were State Rep. Lashawn Ford, the commander of Chicago's 15th Police District, the program director of mentoring and college preparatory organization [Link Unlimited](#) and the deputy consul general of the British Consulate who has been assigned to assess gun violence trends and causes in the United States. The program was sponsored in part by Fenwick High School. While still in the early development stages, the presentations by students of 15 prevention models were sincere and very

encouraging. Cedric has asked Fenwick and the other organizers and panelists to meet with him in the next few weeks to discuss creating a community conversation on violence prevention using students as participants. He will work with the Community Relations Commission to further develop the concept.

Tourism professionals visit Oak Park – Wednesday night Oak Park was host to a familiarization tour for Chicago area hotel concierge and tourism professionals – or *Fam/Tour* – which included some 60 participants. The group toured both the [Hemingway Birthplace](#) and the [Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio](#), followed by a reception at [Pleasant Home](#) where several area restaurants provided appetizers and drinks. According to those who participated, the evening went very well thanks in no small part of the hard work of the [Visit Oak Park](#) staff.

Foreclosure update – The number of new foreclosure filings dipped slightly the first half of this year compared to 2012. Through June 2013, foreclosures were filed for 45 single-family homes and 65 condominiums, as compared to 73 single-family homes and 139 condos through June 30, 2012. Foreclosure sales also dropped. Through June of this year, 51 single-family and 61 condominiums foreclosures were sold, compared to 58 single-family and 61 condos for the same period last year. The decrease in foreclosure filings and sales appears to indicate that the market may be slowly returning to normal. [Click here to review the data.](#)

New county housing ordinance – The [Housing Programs Advisory Committee](#) and the [Community Relations Commission](#) will hold a joint hearing on how the new Cook County ordinance expanding [source of income](#) protections to [Housing Choice voucher](#) holders will impact the Village. The hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m., Mon. Aug. 12, in Village Hall. The public is welcome to comment, but speakers will be limited to 25 and each speaker will be limited to three minutes. Please refer any inquiries about the hearing to 708.358.5410 or housing@oak-park.us.

Website update -- Traffic to [oak-park.us](#) remained consistent through the launch of the new website on July 18, indicating that the transition has been relatively smooth for web users. For the week ending July 20, the site recorded 9,800-plus hits. Through midday, Fri., July 26 we had nearly 8,000 visits for the week, which is very good considering the previous week's web traffic included last-minute online vehicle sticker renewals. More than one-third of the site's traffic came from mobile devices or tablets, which is consistent with expectations about the growing popularity of these devices. The [Communications Department](#) hopes to quickly move toward features that will better serve mobile device users. Staff will continue to monitor and analyze web analytics to better understand what types of content users seek when they visit our municipal government website.

Capital improvements – Taylor Avenue between South Boulevard and Randolph Street has been reopened to traffic following water and sewer main improvements. Sod will be installed on the parkway in September when the weather cools. Sewer work is complete on Harvey Avenue north of Chicago Avenue, with final pavement

restoration expected to be completed in August. Patching of streets throughout the community is now completed. Crack filling and microsurfacing is planned for August.

North Boulevard update – All underground and pavement work have been completed for the water and sewer main improvements on North Boulevard and Kenilworth Avenue. Both streets are open to parking and traffic. All that remains is landscape restoration, which likely will take place in September. A similar water and sewer main improvement project is planned for September in the North Boulevard area from Forest Avenue to Kenilworth and South Boulevard from Marion Street to Home Avenue is being designed. Since this project will impact on downtown Oak Park and the adjacent South Boulevard area, more information will be provided to the property owners affected as the start date nears.

###