



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending October 17, 2014**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Saturday, October 18:
  - I-Gov meeting, 9 a.m., Oak Park Township
  
- Monday, October 20:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- Tuesday, October 21:
  - CERT Training, 6 p.m., room 215
  - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
  
- Wednesday, October 22:
  - Forestry Sub-Committee, 6:45 p.m., room 201
  - Fair Housing Task Force Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 124
  - Community Design Commission, 7:15 p.m., room 201
  - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Thursday, October 23:
  - Village Board Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - CERT Training, 6 p.m., Fire Department Training Room
  - Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 102
  
- Saturday, October 25:
  - I-Gov meeting, 9 a.m., Brooks Middle School, Elected Officials BBQ immediately following I-Gov Meeting

**Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:**

- Monday, October 27, Village Board Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130

**Races to close streets temporarily** – The Park District of Oak Park's 38th Annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races will bring street closures along the race route from about 7:30 to 10 a.m., Sunday. Of the major streets, only the eastbound lane of Lake Street and the westbound lane of Chicago Avenue will be open to traffic. Traffic on other streets within the race route may experience delays. Residents have been encouraged to review the course map at [www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org) and allow extra time.

**Fall leaf collection begins** – The annual fall leaf collection program begins Monday and continues through Dec. 4 with seven pickups planned for each section of the Village. Streets Division crews will begin pushing leaves at midnight, with Waste Management crews collecting the large piles that morning. The Village collects about 2,800 tons of leaves for composting each year during the seven-week program. The annual program has been widely promoted, including in the [OP/FYI community newsletter](#). Drivers have been asked to drive carefully and be ready for streets to be closed temporarily as the pushed piles of leaves are loaded onto trucks each morning for removal.

**Public Parking Garage demolition begins** – Crews began taking down the Lake & Forest Garage Wednesday morning as work to clear the site for redevelopment gets underway in earnest. Since the garage is pre-cast concrete, it essentially will be broken apart, rather than knocked down in the traditional sense. While the contractor says the walls should come down fairly quickly, it could take a few weeks to clear the site, as both the concrete and reinforcing bars (rebar) are being recycled.

**More testing on Colt site** – Crews were back in the surface parking lots on Lake Street just east of Pier One imports and south of Westgate Street both Thursday and Friday conducting more environmental testing in preparation for the planned redevelopment project on the site. Rather than closing the entire lots as had been done for past testing, crews were able to focus on spaces, allowing the majority of both lots to be available for parking. This type of testing is routine for a major project in an urban area.

**CDBG allocation planning** – The Neighborhood Services Division is well into the process of creating a new five-year strategy for determining how federal funds through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs should be spent in the community. The funds are used for housing, public services and facilities, economic development and infrastructure primarily to assist low- and moderate-income persons and families. The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires communities to submit a *Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development* every five years. Rather than hire a consultant as was done in prior years, the process will be handled entirely in-house. Broad public input will be sought through a range of tools, including public meetings, surveys and stakeholder interviews. The new consolidated plan is due to HUD on Aug. 15. [Click here to read a more detail report](#) on the process.

**Health Department Ebola training** – Earlier this week, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced the activation of an Ebola hotline to answer Illinois residents' questions about Ebola 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hotline number is 800-889-3931. On the local level, Village staff in the Public Health Department has participated in online training with Illinois Department of Public Health on the Ebola response. While no cases have been reported in Illinois, all public health and hospital preparedness plans are being reviewed and updated in the event of a situation occurring locally. The Village Code related to isolation and quarantine was updated in 2007, providing the tools for an effective response should it become necessary. Emergency Preparedness staff will continue to work with our local hospitals to ensure all lines of communication are open around the clock should a need arise.

**Film projects continue** – The Village continues to be seen as an ideal location as television and commercial filming in the Village has remained brisk. National television commercials for the Bank of Montreal, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pfizer pharmaceuticals were all shot in the Village during the last three weeks. The Community Relations Department also is working with the DIY Network on the pilot episode of a new home design show that will feature a secret guest host of Hollywood fame. Filming is scheduled to begin on Nov. 18. Coordination with Parking Services has been key to efforts to minimize impact on residents during filming projects. So far this year, Community Relations has coordinated 40 television and film projects.

**Construction delays possible** – The regional concrete shortage may cause delays in some areas as the construction seasons winds down, but we are working with our various contractors to ensure completion of all projects currently underway. About 75 percent of the sidewalk replacement program has been completed, including all trip hazards. However, some alley projects that have not yet started could be delayed, depending on the availability of concrete.

**Capital improvements updates** – The first layer of asphalt is scheduled to be applied to Ridgeland Avenue Saturday, followed by manhole height adjustments and final asphalt by the end of next week. Sod is being installed and street markings applied in various locations as local street and parking lot resurfacing projects near completion. Bicycles lanes on Jackson Boulevard should be painted next week and the landscaping of the traffic diverters on the 1200 blocks of North Elmwood and Rossell avenues is expected to be completed within the next two weeks. Three of the 10 alley segments in the Green Alley program are substantially completed, with work expected to continue for another two weeks on the remaining seven segments.

**Public Works activities** – Crews worked with the contractor demolishing the Lake and Forest garage to reroute street light services, repaired a street light cable at 615 S. Grove Ave., restored power to the pay to park kiosk for Lot 10 at North Boulevard and Forest Avenue, repaired 12 streetlights on Madison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard and continued mapping the Village's fiber optic network for accuracy. A water service was upgraded at 702 N. Elmwood Ave. as part of the lead abatement program and a water leak repaired at 824 Hayes Ave. The water meter change-out program continued, with 530 appointments completed to date. Three new bicycle racks were installed at the Holley Court Garage. Ongoing routine activities continued, including restoring street openings where water main breaks had been repaired, as well Village-wide sign repair, graffiti removal and pothole patching. Forestry crews focused on pruning requests and roof clearances, as well as moving planters and removing parkway tree stumps at various locations throughout the Village. Contractors focused on stump grinding, taking down trees damaged by the emerald ash borer and removing other large dead trees throughout the Village.

**VOP-TV productions honored** – VOP-TV manager Joe Kreml brought home top honors from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors for his fresh take on television and online video programming. A greatest hits reel showcasing more than a dozen videos produced for television and YouTube in the last year was judged best in overall programming excellence. The Communications Department also won third place in the social media category for its work fostering

community dialogue around the Eisenhower Expressway expansion proposals last year. More information on the awards is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Employee flu shots** – Nearly 140 Village employees took advantage of free flu shots provided by our Health Department. The number of employees who volunteered for the shots was similar to last year. Shots were given at clinics in Village Hall, the Police Department and at Public Works. Free flu shots have been offered to employees for many years as a way to ensure that staff will be protected in the event of a major flu outbreak that could affect staffing availability.

**Employee news** – Public Works Department Office Manager Grace Kenney and Streets/Street Lighting Division Supervisor Scott Brinkman completed the [Illinois Public Service Institute](#) program that teaches leadership development, service excellence and personal supervisory skills. The program, sponsored by the [American Public Works Association](#), requires completion of three, one-week sessions over three years. The department's water and sewer workers and pump station operators attended training at the 22nd annual [North Suburban Water Works Association](#) products day held this week at the Arlington Heights Public Works Facility.

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