



Village Manager's Report
Week ending July 17, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Saturday, July 18:
 - I-Gov Meeting, 9 a.m., Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park
- Sunday, July 19:
 - Village Board Goal Setting Retreat – Public Works Center, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Monday, July 20:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, July 21:
 - Oak Park Arts Council, 6:30 p.m., room 215
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, July 22:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee, 6:45 p.m., room 101
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, July 23:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Friday, July 24:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings:

- Saturday, August 1 – Village Board Outreach – Farmer's Market, 7am-1pm
- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

Joint emergency response training exercise planned – The Village will conduct a joint training exercise Monday to test new response tactics should an incident ever occur in an Oak Park school. In addition to Village Police and Fire personnel, the two-hour exercise at Oak Park and River Forest High School will include representatives from the Cook County Sheriff's Hostage Barricade Team and American Red Cross. Volunteers from the Village's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) will participate as well. Lessons learned during this

exercise will be used to train staff at other schools in the community. The training exercise also will allow Village and OPRF personnel to test communications methods, radio channels and on-scene medical treatment, while reinforcing shared incident management principles.

Lake+Forest update – Traffic flow on Lake Street at Forest Avenue likely will be affected as AT&T begins work at the northeast corner of the development site to provide service to the new building. Work is scheduled to begin on Aug. 1 and take about three days. Crews are expected to work from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Two-way traffic will be maintained on Lake, but the dedicated eastbound turn lane onto northbound Forest Avenue may be closed. Pavement restoration will occur once the AT&T work is completed. The overall [development project](#) remains on schedule to top out in September. A temporary hoist has been installed on the side of the building to convey materials for roughing in utility services and finish work as new floors are added to the building.

Forestry program honored – The Village's forestry program has been recognized for its innovation by the [Chicago Region Trees Initiative](#), a collaboration of area communities working to build a healthier and more diverse regional urban forest. The award for the *Most Innovative Urban Forestry Program* was presented at an event this week at the [Morton Arboretum](#). The award comes in the wake of the Village becoming Illinois' first – and the nation's fourth – [municipal arboretum](#), a testament to the decades of taxpayer commitment to nurturing, diversifying and protecting our community's urban forest.

Fire Department June report – The [Fire Department](#) responded to 577 calls in June, down slightly from the 585 calls in May. So far this year, the Department has responded to 3,200 calls for service. Emergency medical services remained the largest category, representing 58 percent of all calls in June. EMS calls were followed by general service calls (20 percent), alarm initiated (17 percent) and fire/hazardous conditions (5 percent). Response times averaged about five minutes and 33 seconds, including turnout and travel. The Fire Department responded to one major fire incident in June, an electrical fire in a cooler at Jewel Foods on Roosevelt Road. The fire was extinguished and the store ventilated without injury. The Department made contact with 374 patients in June, down from the 395 contacts in May. Some 286 patients were transported to a medical facility in June, with 149 requiring advanced life support services.

Reservoir project updates – The project to repair the central water reservoir under Stevenson Park is nearing completion. The reservoir is being refilled and soon will be put back in service. In the meantime, soil removed to allow application of a new outer roof sealant is being brought back from off-site storage and restored.

Ridgeland Avenue sewer project – The main sewer line being installed on Ridgeland Avenue now is complete up to Thomas Street. The roadway's concrete base is being restored from Lake Street to Thomas, with the project still on schedule for completion in early August. State contractors are scheduled to repave Ridgeland from Chicago Avenue to Division Street once the local sewer work is finished.

Capital improvements – The first water and sewer project of the season has begun on Harvey Avenue between Augusta and Thomas streets. The contractor will work

Saturdays to complete the project before [Whittier Elementary School](#) reopens for the year. The final proposed construction schedule for the Kenilworth Avenue sewer work adjacent to [Holmes Elementary School](#) is set to be reviewed to determine if the project can be completed this year prior to the start of the school year or should be postponed until next year. The season's first round of local resurfacing projects continued, while a preconstruction meeting is being scheduled for the second round of projects. Sidewalk replacements projects postponed from last year are underway with pavement removals and concrete pours. The season's second round of alley projects is underway on three sections, with four alley segments remaining.

Public Works activities – Crews continued with curb, concrete and pavement replacement for water utility openings. Repairs were made to the bluestone on Marion Street downtown and the sidewalk under the viaduct was cleaned. A water main break and sinkhole at 1226 N. Oak Park Ave. were repaired, as were a sinkhole at 231 Forest Ave. and a water service at 641 S. Elmwood Ave. Rain has slowed tree stump removal, so crews have continued to focus on resident requests for assistance, while awaiting drier weather to catch up. Street light poles damaged in traffic accidents were replaced at 520 Lake St. and 100 S. Euclid Ave. Crews also replaced a failing pole at 106 N. Scoville Ave. and investigated a street light cabinet struck by a contractor at 100 Home Ave.

Oak Park named in housing article – The Village was cited as an example for other communities in a recent *New York Times* article on the new rule recently adopted by the Department of Housing & Urban Development to help reduce racial segregation in residential neighborhoods. The article noted that Oak Park already had created the kinds of fair housing plans HUD now will require communities to have to demonstrate how federal housing funds will be used to reduce racial disparities. The article has generated calls from other communities for more information on our programs. [Click here to read the article.](#)

Employee news – Andrew Williams-Clark started Monday as the Village's new Neighborhood Services Manager. Before joining the Development Customer Services team, he spent nearly eight years with the [Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning](#), where his duties focused on housing and community development. Drew, his wife and two small children live in northeast Oak Park. Other recent hires include Julius L. Fenderson, who joined the Public Works Department this week as a summer seasonal intern.

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