



**Village Manager's Report  
The Week Ending July 15, 2016**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, July 18:
  - Contract Review Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Executive Session, 7 p.m. room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, July 19:
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, July 20:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Special Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, July 21:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
- Friday, July 22:
  - No scheduled meetings

**Farmers' Market welcomes special guests, sweet corn arrival** – In a sure sign summer is in full swing, sweet corn makes its highly anticipated debut at the Farmers' Market this Saturday. Special guests from [Chicago Public Radio WBEZ 91.5-FM](#) also will be on site, and the [Oak Park Book Bike](#) is scheduled to make an appearance from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Free weekend Divvy day passes** – Oak Parkers interested in trying out the Divvy bike share system can get a free day pass good for Sat., July 16 and Sun., July 17 [by signing up to receive a free ride code](#). Divvy covers the largest service area of any bike share in North America, and Oak Park joined the network last month when [12 Divvy stations opened across the Village](#). More information on Divvy is posted at [www.divvybikes.com](http://www.divvybikes.com).

**Public Works hosts budding muralists** – The Public Works Center once again hosted the [Building a Summer Education \(BASE\) Camp](#). About 20 middle-school students used the Center as a staging and planning area as they created a mural on the east side of the nearby Lombard Avenue viaduct. This year's theme is *Communication and Technology, Megaphone to Smart Phone*. Sponsored by the [Oak Park Education Foundation](#), the one-week session covered the history of telecommunication and predictions for the future, and then culminated in designing and painting a mural on the topic. This is the fourth year the Public Works Center has been involved.

**Ribbon-cutting events planned** – Members of the Development Customer Services team are representing the Village by participating in a number of ribbon-cutting ceremonies sponsored by the [Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce](#). Events include July 15 at [Escape Factor Chicago!](#), 711 South Blvd.; July 22 at [WellcomeMD](#), 1100 Lake St.; July 29 at [Dailey Method](#), 208 S Marion St.; and Aug. 12 at [Novo](#), 734 Lake St.

**South Boulevard streetscape progress** – South Boulevard was reopened to two-way traffic last Friday between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue as scheduled. Paid parking between Maple Avenue and Marion Street is now available in the new diagonal parking area on the north side of the street, as well as the one-hour-only and 15-minute loading/unloading spaces along the south side. Work could resume along the north side next week, depending on deliveries of needed materials. This work will require closing parking on the north for staging in order to maintain two-way traffic. The electrical control box has been installed in the alley and the contractor is waiting for permission from ComEd to connect power, which should be completed within the next two weeks.

**Chicago Avenue construction update** – The underground work for the second stage of the Chicago Avenue sewer improvement project began this week between Forest and Grove avenues. Chicago Avenue traffic is being detoured to Division Street via Harlem and Oak Park avenues. Detour messaging has been coordinated with the Village of River Forest to alert eastbound motorists of the detour ahead in Oak Park. Engineering Division staff also is working with Police to address residents' concerns about motorists using residential streets rather than following the detour. Construction is expected to wrap up in early August. The state is scheduled to repave Chicago through Oak Park. The contract for the paving project, which is 80-percent funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation, was awarded this week. Staff is working with IDOT to expedite the contract process in hopes of work starting in mid-August or even sooner.

**Elevate Oak Park construction update** – Water and sewer services are being installed for the new buildings on Westgate Street between Maple Avenue and Marion Street. Work next week will include installing the water main on Westgate along the same section. The work requires closing the section between Marion and Maple, but access to the medical offices on Westgate will remain open from Marion. Engineering Division staff continues to work closely with affected businesses to accommodate their needs during construction.

**Lighting improvements delayed** – With the ornamental lighting fixtures not delivered as scheduled, the improvement project underway on Harrison Street in the Arts District was suspended this week. Staff is investigating the delivery delay. Once the fixtures are delivered, they will be installed on the south side of the street from Ridgeland Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Substantial completion of the project remains on track for early August. Streetscape restoration work will be coordinated in advance of the new school year.

**Alley/sidewalk work status** – The season's first round of alley projects is expected to be substantially complete by the end of July. All sewer work is done and 18 of the 21 alley segments have been paved. Work is progressing northward, with alleys currently under construction between Iowa Street and North Avenue. Full access should be restored by Monday morning to the alleys between Iowa and Augusta streets, and East and Fair Oaks avenues. Alleys between Greenfield and Berkshire streets, and Oak Park and Euclid avenues should be expected to open next week as well. The alley work also included replacing the private garage aprons for 31 properties whose owners opted to pay for the work, but at the

Village's contract price, which likely is much lower than what a private contractor would charge for a single project. Meanwhile, planning is well underway for the season's second round of alley projects, which is for the two alleys adjacent to the Elevate Oak Park development downtown. Bids were opened last month and the pre-construction meeting held this week. As for sidewalk projects, the season's first round of projects was expected to wrap up this week. Staff already is planning for the second round of sidewalk improvement projects, which should start in late July or early August.

**Street resurfacing/pavement patching** – The season's first round of street resurfacing projects is substantially complete, with only pavement markings and parkway restoration remaining. Pavement patching continued this week on several streets throughout the Village, which should prolong the service life of the roadways.

**Private construction report** – Nicor crews are continuing with the landscape restoration remaining from the gas main and service installations that occurred during the past winter. AT&T is upgrading fiber optic services in alleys between Lombard and Harvey avenues, adjacent to Division Street.

**Public Works Activities** – The Street Division crews painted curbs to alert motorists to no-parking areas by fire hydrants, washed trash container liners and installed frames for new concrete curbs and sidewalks. Division crews also removed weeds in brickwork and concrete sidewalks in business areas, removed litter, cleaned up lots, filled pot holes and arranged the Village's rented storage area at the Cook County Forest Preserve maintenance yard in Maywood. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sink hole at Randolph Street and Maple Avenue and a water service leak at 509 N. Harlem Ave., and upgraded a water service at 420 Washington Blvd. Crews also cleared sewer inlets on streets in south Oak Park and repaired leaking fire hydrants at various locations. Forestry Division crews continued routine summer tasks including tree removal, landscape restorations and responding to resident requests.

**Employee news** – Police Chief Rick Tanksley this week publicly announced his plans to retire on Sept. 1 ending a career in Oak Park that has spanned more than 33 years. Details on his decision are in a [news story posted on the Village website](#). Rick, who is believed to be Oak Park's 11<sup>th</sup> Police Chief to date, was appointed by former Village Manager Carl Swenson in April of 2001. A decision regarding selecting his successor could come as early as next week. New [Assistant Village Manager and Human Resources Director Julia Scott-Valdez](#) assumed her new duties at Village Hall this week. Julia brings extensive experience to the job, including hands-on managing of hiring, benefits and employee relations. She will be meeting with each department director and their staffs in the coming weeks to learn more about their needs and how best to address them.

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