



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending July 22, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, July 25:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, July 26:
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 201
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, July 27:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, July 28:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Friday, July 29:
 - No scheduled meetings

Heat relief information provided – As temperatures this week sent heat indexes to dangerous levels, staff rolled out its [public information](#) on cooling centers and related services. Other messages also urged residents to check on relatives, friends and neighbors who may be vulnerable to heat-related illnesses or not have access to air conditioning. This message is especially important for anyone who may know an elderly person, someone with mental illness or the physically ill, particularly those with heart disease or high blood pressure. Public Works crews also were keeping alert for potential buckling pavement and severe weather that often can accompany such high temperatures and humidity.

West Nile Virus found here – The [Desplaines Mosquito Abatement District](#) notified the Health Department that the season's first positive mosquito pool from Oak Park was found last week in the north trap. The finding was not unexpected, since positive samples have been found in both Oak Park traps every season since the threat arose here. Positive pools become more prevalent as the temperatures rise in July and August, and virus-carrying mosquitoes can continue to pose a threat as late as October. While the risk of contracting the virus is small, the Village always ramps up its communications tools to urge residents to take precautions to avoid being bitten and eliminate breeding sites. Information is maintained at www.oak-park.us/fightthebite and promoted via all public information channels, including the [OP/FYI newsletter](#), the website and via social media.

Vehicle sticker sales report – About 681 fewer vehicle stickers were sold through July 15 this year as compared to the same period last year. Online sales this season were down more than 2,500 stickers compared to last, while in-person sales at Village Hall were up by nearly 2,000 stickers sold in 2016 as compared to the same period last year. Online sales continued to represent the largest single category of sales in 2016 – 56 percent – but were below the 66 percent share in 2015. In-person sales at Village Hall comprised the second largest category, and grew to 37 percent of total sales this year, compared to about 27 percent in 2015. Mail renewals were up slightly, representing 6 percent of 2016 sales compared to 5 percent of sales last year. [Click here to see the sales report.](#)

Wayfinding sign project update – Representatives of the planning and design firm [Sasaki Associates, Inc.](#) were in town this week asking residents and visitors about their views on a sign program to make it easier to find one's way to the many attractions and services the community has to offer. Sasaki staff was at last night's (July 21) [Thursday Night Out](#) dining event downtown and are scheduled to be at Saturday's (July 23) [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#). Willing individuals are being asked to [take a brief online survey](#) on electronic tablets to help the Sasaki team gain insights into the attitudes, views and demographics of those participating in these two very different, but popular Village activities. The survey also will be rolled out community wide in the coming days. More information on the project is posted at www.oak-park.us/wayfinding.

Youth skills workshops registration deadline near – The deadline to register for the Community Relations Department's annual youth skills workshop is Mon., July 25. The program teaches residents ages 16 to 18 the skills and techniques that can help them find and keep a job. [This year's workshop](#) is scheduled for 1 to 6 p.m., Aug. 1 - 5 at the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. Participants learn skills such as resume writing, interviewing, career path development and interpersonal relations. The number of participants is limited, so if you know of anyone who might benefit from the program, urge them to [register online by July 25](#).

Surplus property on eBay – The Information Technology Department has returned to eBay for the first time this year to dispose of more than 100, 17-inch flat-screen monitors that are deemed obsolete for Village operations. IT has been using eBay successfully since 2004 to dispose of surplus property after first offering the items to other taxing bodies. The monitors are being sold in lots of five, with the starting bid at \$25 each or \$50 each to buy now. PayPal is the only method of payment accepted. All items are sold as is and must be picked up at Village Hall. The eBay seller name is *oakpark-it*, and communications with potential buyers is handled only through eBay.

South Boulevard streetscape – Work on the South Boulevard streetscape project has been suspended until at least next week while the electrical subcontractor awaits the delivery materials needed to finish the project. In the meantime, the electrical control box has been installed in the alley and is waiting ComEd's permission to connect the power source. New street light poles will be installed as soon as the control box is connected to the grid. Once materials are delivered and the electricity connected, work will resume on the north side of street.

Chicago Avenue projects – Underground work continued on the second stage of the Chicago Avenue sewer project now underway between Forest and Grove avenues. Work began at

Grove and is progressing to the west. Chicago Avenue traffic continues to be detoured to Division Street via Harlem and Oak Park avenues. Planning is underway for the state-funded paving of Chicago Avenue from Harlem to Austin Boulevard, which will begin after the completion of the sewer work, which is expected to end next month. Chicago Avenue will remain open during the paving, but traffic and parking disruptions are likely as curb and related concrete is replaced prior to the actual paving.

Elevate Oak Park development – Workers will be re-laying the brick pavers on the one-way portion of Westgate just west of Marion beginning Saturday (July 23) now that the underground work is completed. The goal is to have this section of the street open early next week prior to the start of the reconstruction of the adjacent south alley. Since the alley will be closed for the work, Westgate is needed to offer access to the businesses. The contractor will be required to have flaggers on site during the work to ensure that access to area business is maintained.

Harrison Street lighting project – Delivery of the ornamental fixtures this week means that work will resume next week on the new lights to be installed along Harrison Street from Ridgeland Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Installation of the new fixtures is expected to begin Monday on the south side of the street. Restoration work will be coordinated before the start of the school year. Substantial completion of the project remains on track for the second week in August.

Alley projects – Concrete pavement has been installed on 19 alleys with only two alleys remaining in the season's first round of projects. Work is progressing northward, with construction still underway between Berkshire and North avenue. The alleys between Iowa Street and Augusta Avenue and East and Fair Oaks avenues are now open, and the alleys between Greenfield and Berkshire streets and Oak Park and Euclid avenues were scheduled to be opened by the end of this week. Work on the two alleys adjacent to the Elevate Oak Park project downtown will begin next week on the south side of the site and is expected to take about three weeks. Staff has met with individual business operators affected by the work to introduce project team members and to explain and coordinate the upcoming alley work. Alternate truck loading zones, ADA access and arrangements for trash and recycling have been planned.

Street resurfacing/paving activities – Planning is well underway for the second round of resurfacing projects, which will include upgrading ADA corners on 28 blocks. Crews also are patching streets that are scheduled to be microsurfaced later this construction season.

Public Works Activities – Street Division crews repaired a number of street openings where utility repairs were made, as well as painted curbs by fire hydrants, cleaned trash container liners, repaired concrete curbs and sidewalks, installed thermoplastic markings at crosswalks, trimmed weeds, picked up litter, filled potholes and cleaned up after vehicle accidents. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sink hole at Adams Street and Euclid Avenue, water service leaks at 423 Forest Ave. and at Adams and Euclid avenues, and leaking fire hydrants at various locations. Forestry Division crews continued with routine summer tasks including tree removal, landscape restorations and responding to resident requests.

Employee news – Deputy Chief Anthony Ambrose was officially named to succeed Rick Tanksley as Chief of Police, who is retiring effective Sept. 1. Details on Tony's selection are

included in a [news story posted on the Village website](#). A formal swearing-in ceremony will be scheduled for Tony in September and a retirement event is in the works for Chief Tanksley.

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