



**Village Manager's Report  
Weeks ending June 30, 2017**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Friday, June 30:
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 5 p.m., room 201
- Monday, July 3:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, July 4:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, July 5:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Zoning Board of Appeals Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, July 6:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, July 7:
  - No meetings scheduled

**July 4th Parade is Tuesday** – The annual July 4th parade steps off at 10 a.m., Tuesday from [Longfellow Park](#). Participants are asked to be ready to line up at 9:30 a.m. The Village Board will have the third spot in the lineup, behind the Fire and Police departments. The parade will march north on Ridgeland to Augusta Street and disperse by [Whittier School](#). The annual fireworks display typically begins at dusk in the football stadium of [Oak Park and River Forest High School](#), near East Avenue and Lake Street. The rain date is July 5.

**Parking restrictions eased** – As is typical for major holidays, the [overnight on-street parking restrictions](#) will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during the July 4 holiday. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., July 1, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Thurs., July 6. However, restrictions will remain in effect in areas such as on-street enclaves and zones that are reserved for permit holders. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

**Village Hall closed Tuesday** – [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Tue., July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Regular business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Parking Services is open until 7:30 p.m. Mondays other than holidays. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency occur

when Village Hall is closed, residents can call the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

**Public invited to evening with Police Chief** – Oak Park residents are invited to join Police Chief Anthony Ambrose and key [neighborhood resource officers](#) in a wide ranging discussion from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Thurs., July 6 in the Veterans Room of the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. Chief Ambrose will assess current community safety, address areas of concern and offer summer safety tips. The chief and his officers also will answer questions. The event is sponsored by the Community Relations Commission.

**Chicago Avenue streetscape/resurfacing project halted** – The state budget stalemate has brought the last phase of the Chicago Avenue streetscape and repaving project to a halt. With only striping, furniture and the final layer of pavement remaining to be installed between Harlem and Belleforte avenues, crews had no choice but to shut down the state-funded project. The site has been cleaned up, but no work will be performed until state transportation funding is authorized. The Village faced the same situation last year, but a stopgap budget measure was passed on June 30 to fund the Illinois Department of Transportation capital and operations budget. All streets are open to traffic. This is the only project in Oak Park affected by the state budget stalemate. According to news reports, the lack of IDOT funding will halt 700 projects valued at \$2.3 billion and idle 25,000 construction workers.

**Alley improvements** – Underground drainage improvements continued this week on alley segments under construction, while pavement was removed in the alley north of Harrison Street between Kenilworth and Carpenter avenues. Fifty residents within the boundaries of the alley projects have chosen to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed, taking advantage of the Village's contract unit price, which is lower than the cost a single property owner likely would pay to hire a contractor.

**Downtown construction update** – Roadway reconstruction and light pole installation along Westgate Street has begun as work on the Emerson redevelopment project continues. Only one lane of Westgate will be open to traffic during the evenings. Pedestrian access along Westgate from Marion Street will be maintained at all times. Vehicle access to the doctors' offices along Westgate will be directed by flaggers at Marion during work hours. Excavation along the Lake Street portion of the project also continued, with work related to preparing to install new sidewalk. The sidewalk area and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street remains closed from the new Maple Avenue to the east side of the development site, but two-way traffic flow is being maintained on Lake.

**Lake Michigan Pipeline Project** – A stop-work order was issued Monday on the project to install a water line to carry Lake Michigan water to the Villages of Brookfield and North Riverside along Fillmore Street across Oak Park. The order was issued in response to safety concerns about open trenches, damage to Village trees, lack of adequate traffic control and overall site cleanliness. The Engineering Division worked with the contractor to solve the issues and allow work to resume. Work then continued eastward up to Clinton Avenue. Pipe installation is expected to be completed to Oak Park Avenue by the end of next week. Street reconstruction will follow. Pipe then will be installed between Elmwood and Highland avenues so that

construction near schools can be completed prior to the resumption of classes. Road closures should be limited to intersections and alley entrances only when excavation is occurring in these areas. All affected road and alley crossings are reopened at the end of each workday. A project website managed by the engineering company has been set up to provide the latest schedule information – [click here to view](#). Installation of a Village water main also is underway between Maple and Wenonah avenues in conjunction with the Lake Michigan pipeline project.

**Street resurfacing** – Street resurfacing continued this week with curb removal and replacement in the northern part of the Village, then progressing south. Crews expect to remove existing layers of asphalt next week in preparation for a new top layer.

**Public Works Activities** – Street Division crews repaired worn brick along Lake Street in the downtown business district, repaired and installed more pigeon deterrent spikes at the Marion Street viaduct, and prepped and painted wall panels along North and South boulevards for [new murals](#). Crews also continued with weed control, viaduct cleaning and litter pick up in the business districts. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at Fillmore and Wisconsin avenues, replaced a fire hydrant at 715 Clinton Avenue and repaired fire hydrants at 26 S. Austin Boulevard and at Maple Avenue and Madison Streets. Forestry crews focused on regular maintenance, inspections and trimming, while landscaping and tree contractors continued work throughout town. Public Works crews also continued preparing the lower level for the School District 97 maintenance operations that are scheduled to move into the Public Works Center.

**Employee news** – Karen Rozmus, who has managed the [Village's refuse and recycling programs](#) retired this week after 22 years. Karen was involved in just about every program related to environmental sustainability not only within municipal government, but the entire community. An overview of her many accomplishments is featured in the July/August *OP/FYI* newsletter that will arrive in mailboxes next week, but already is posted online – [click here to read more](#). Also leaving the Village will be Jill Velan, Parking & Mobility Services Director. Jill resigned to take a similar post in Evanston where she lives. Discussions are underway to determine how best to ensure a seamless management transition in this important municipal operation. Jason Ziegler has joined the Neighborhood Services Division of the Customer Services Department as a Property Maintenance Inspector. Jason, who worked previously for the Chicago Housing Authority as a Housing Choice Inspector, attended Southern Illinois University and DePaul University.

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