



Village Manager's Report Weeks ending July 14, 2017

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, July 17:
 - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30p.m., room 201
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- Tuesday, July 18:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, July 19:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m. room 215
- Thursday, July 20:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30p.m., room 215
- Friday, July 21:
 - No meetings scheduled

Lower-cost vehicle sticker sales end Friday – The cost of a vehicle sticker will rise by \$20 at midnight tonight (Fri., July 14). In-person sales at Village Hall were set to end at 5 p.m., but the online renewal system continues to assess the lower fee until the deadline, then automatically switches to the higher rate. Village Hall typically sees a rush of in-person sales during the last few days, so the Information Technology Department installed several desktop computer stations along the hallway by room 101 to offer an option to standing in line for counter service. A sales report will be produced after the renewal period closes.

Participants sought for youth skills workshop – The [Community Relations Department](#) has scheduled its annual free youth skills workshop for July 31 – Aug. 4 at the main Oak Park Public Library. The workshop offers residents ages 16 to 18 an opportunity to learn skills and techniques that can help them find and keep a job. Topics include resume writing, interviewing, career path development and interpersonal relations. The number of participants is limited. Participants can [register online](#) by July 28 or by calling 708.358.5407.

Call for 911 registry participants – If you know of any residents with special needs that should be considered in an emergency please urge them to register with the Village to ensure first responders are aware when dispatched via a 911 call. Knowing that they are being dispatched to a home where someone may have a hearing or visual impairment, mobility limitation, cognitive impairment or uses an electrically

powered medical device could prove vital to emergency medical personnel. Residents or their caregivers can register confidentially online at www.oak-park.us/911registry. A form also is available via email to prepare@oak-park.us or by calling 708.358.5488.

Sewer backup protection grants available – The week’s heavy rainfall likely made the Neighborhood Services Division’s latest call for applications for the Sewer Backup Protection Program timely indeed. The Village-funded program provides financial assistance to property owners who install an overhead sewer system or a backflow prevention system to protect their homes from sewer backup during a heavy rain event. Anyone who meets the program guidelines can apply, regardless of income. Eligible homeowners may qualify for a grant of 50 percent of the total cost of sewer backup prevention improvements, up to a maximum of \$3,500. Details on the program, including the application materials, are posted at www.oak-park.us/sewergrant. More information on the program also is available by calling 708.358.5410 or emailing housing@oak-park.us.

Chicago Avenue streetscape/resurfacing – Paving, striping and street furniture installation are all that remain of the final phase of the Chicago Avenue project underway between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. The brief state budget impasse did cause a minor delay, but work now is back on schedule. Preparations for paving were expected to be completed this week, with paving scheduled for next week, followed by striping. Parkway restoration and furniture installations will be last work. Completion of these final tasks will wrap up the state-funded project that began last year and included repaving Chicago Avenue across the entire Village from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

Downtown construction update – Work related to the concrete curbs and gutters began this week along Lake Street, the new section of Maple Avenue and on Westgate Street as part of the Emerson redevelopment project downtown. The sidewalk area and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street remain closed from the new section of Maple Avenue to the east side of the development site, but two-way traffic flow is being maintained on Lake. The reconstruction of Westgate Street and the installation of light poles continued this week requiring closing one lane on Westgate. However, pedestrian access is being maintained along Westgate from Marion Street, and flaggers are making sure vehicles have access to the doctors' offices along Westgate during work hours. Preliminary work is expected to begin soon on the new redevelopment site on South Boulevard east of Harlem Avenue. The first activity will entail fencing along the boundaries of the site. The eastbound lane of South Boulevard will be closed between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street once construction gets underway. Staff will maintain close contact with affected businesses, keeping them informed of construction activities and helping address any issues they may encounter as work begins.

Street resurfacing – Street resurfacing continued this week with concrete curb and gutter work completed and the first layer of asphalt installed on several blocks in the north part of Village. Concrete work should have been completed this week at all locations in the southern part of the Village with asphalt removal set to begin next week. Depending on the weather, the first layer of asphalt may be placed on these south locations next week. These resurfacing projects are on track to be completed in late July or early August.

Alley improvements – Underground drainage improvements were completed this week for all remaining alleys under construction. Pavement was removed in both east-west alleys north of Washington Boulevard between Pennsylvania Way and Chestnut Lane.

Sidewalk improvements – Construction will begin next week on sidewalks to address trip hazards and accessibility compliance issues. The program also invites residents to pay 50 percent of the costs if they would like to have adjacent segments replaced that do not meet Village replacement requirements. Work will be staged to occur on one side of the street at a time to ensure a safe pedestrian travel route on the block.

Miscellaneous construction – Repairs to broken crosswalk materials have resumed on Marion Street in the downtown business district. Work is being staged to maintain traffic flow via one lane. Work this week was on the westbound crosswalks at South Boulevard. Activity will switch next week to the eastbound crosswalks at the same intersection. Each section of crosswalks can take up to five days to repair, with the overall project expected to take six weeks. Crews are replacing the deteriorating and damaged surface material with colored concrete. The Engineering Division is coordinating communications with affected businesses. Pavement striping was to be installed this week at the intersection of Harrison Street and East Avenue, the last task related to the 2016 bike parking project.

Lake Michigan pipeline project – Installation of the new main to carry Lake Michigan water to the villages of Brookfield and North Riverside continued eastward this week along Fillmore Street with the water main now through to Oak Park Avenue. Excavation is underway on the west side of the Ridgeland Avenue where the pipe casing is being bored under Ridgeland. The 36-inch water main is set to be installed from Highland west to Ridgeland to allow for street reconstruction near schools before the beginning of the school year. Street reconstruction activities start next week between Maple and Oak Park avenues, beginning with replacement of curbs, sidewalks, driveways and alley entrances. A project website managed by the engineering company offers the latest schedule information – [click here to view](#).

Public Works Activities – Wednesday's heavy rainfall kept crews from the Water and Streets divisions busy clearing sewer inlets on numerous flooded streets. Streets Division crews continued to prepare the panels along the railway walls where 12 new murals are scheduled to be painted. Crews also swept permit parking areas and business districts, cleared weeds, cleaned viaducts and picked up litter. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired broken fire hydrants identified by the Fire Department at 138 Clinton Ave., 169 N. Grove Ave. and near the intersections Erie Street and Forest Avenue and Washington Boulevard and Humphrey Avenue. Crews also replaced a broken fire hydrant at Division Street and Grove Avenue. Forestry Division crews continued routine activities, including tree maintenance, inspections, trimming and watering. Contractors removed damaged, diseased and dying trees and stumps throughout the Village. Fleet Services Division staff reapplied the graphics to the window at the State's Attorney's Office on Chicago Avenue shared with the Police substation. The glass panel had been damaged in a vehicle accident.

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