



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending August 3, 2018**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Aug. 6:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Aug. 7:
  - Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, Aug. 8:
  - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, Aug. 9:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber room 201
- Friday, Aug. 10:
  - No meetings scheduled

**First Village Hall honey harvest** – The bees have been busy at Village Hall since the two hives were installed in April above the south entrance. About 50 pounds of honey was collected last week, the first harvest of the season. Arrangements have been made to donate the honey to the [Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry](#) for distribution to its clients. [The Village Bee Team](#) – Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Agnew, Forestry Superintendent Rob Sproule and professional bee keeper Naaman Gambil of [The Hive](#) – said plenty of honey was purposely left for the bees who are still establishing the colonies. The Village Hall hives are proving to be just as active as the hives set up about two years ago on the Public Works Center's green roof, which produced more than 120 pounds of honey last season. Of course, the hives at the Public Works Center and Village Hall aren't just about honey. With populations of these critical pollinators on the decline, our goal is to create awareness and promote a healthy environment for bees that can benefit local gardeners. The Health Department also has issued six licenses for residential beekeeping, which is regulated under [Chapter 20, Article 11 of the Village Code](#).

**Boulevards project** – The contractor has begun installing the water main between North Boulevard and South Boulevard under the Clinton Avenue viaduct. North Boulevard is closed during work hours at Clinton, but access to private driveways is being maintained. Sewer and water services will be connected to the properties once the entire system has been installed. North Boulevard remains closed to through traffic between Forest and Kenilworth avenues, but is accommodating two-way local

traffic. Through traffic is being detoured around the construction site via Lake Street and arrangements have been made to accommodate affected parking permit holders' vehicles in the Holley Court Garage. Periodic notifications and project schedule changes are posted online at [www.oak-park.us/boulevards](http://www.oak-park.us/boulevards).

**Street resurfacing and repairs** – The first round of street resurfacing projects are nearing completion, several blocks only awaiting the final layer of asphalt. The season's second and final round of resurfacing projects will be underway within the next few weeks. Four blocks of streets and four public parking lots will be resurfaced, while six blocks of streets will be reconstructed. Project signs for the upcoming work were to be installed this week and affected residents will be notified by mail.

**Pavement repair and maintenance** – Crews are in North Oak Park patching damaged areas of streets with new asphalt and filling pavement cracks in preparation for microsurfacing. Microsurfacing can extend pavement life up to seven years.

**Alley and sidewalk improvements** – Pavement removal has begun in the alley between Harvey and Cuyler avenues and north of Ontario Street. All alleys scheduled for improvements this season remain on schedule to be completed by mid-September. Sidewalk replacement continued this week in southwest Oak Park, with work focusing first on larger trip hazards. The goal is to complete all sidewalk work prior to the start of school.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Water and sewer connections to the Albion development project at Forest Avenue and Lake Street are completed and vertical construction is underway. Streetscape work has begun on the Lake Street frontage of the District House development west of Euclid Avenue. The contractor for the street projects related to the new Rush Oak Park Hospital emergency room has only punch-list items remaining for new cul-de-sac on Maple Avenue. The eastbound lane of South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street along the frontage of the Lincoln development remains closed as construction continues.

**Public Works Activities** – Street Lighting Division crews installed two light poles damaged in separate vehicle accidents at 318 and 121 Chicago Ave., repaired two light outages on the East Avenue overpass and began annual traffic signal preemptive maintenance. Streets Division crews concentrated on cleaning business districts, picking up litter, removing graffiti and cleaning under the viaducts. Crews also removed unused newspaper boxes at various locations throughout the Village. Water & Sewer Division crews removed a sewer basin at Berkshire Street and Euclid Avenue, reset a water shutoff box at 130 S. Austin Blvd. and upgraded water services at 905 N. Taylor Ave., 538 N. Kenilworth Ave. and 312 N. Kenilworth Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Forestry Division crews handled routine resident requests and oversaw ongoing general landscape maintenance.

**Employee news** – The Development Customer Services Department this week welcomed William "Will" Gillespie as manager of the Parking & Mobility Services Division. Will brings eight years of experience in transit and transportation planning, strategic planning and analysis, and public policy with the City of Chicago, Chicago Transit Authority and the Regional Transportation Authority. A resident of Oak Park and a former member of the Transportation Commission, Will has experience and formal training in urban planning and design, GIS, computer programming,

marketing and business analytics. In addition to ensuring Parking Division staff continues to provide the highest levels of customer service, Will also will oversee the upcoming pilot program to update parking regulations and the implementation of new technology to further improve service delivery.

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