



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 28, 2019**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, July 1:
 - Reinventing Government Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
- Tuesday, July 2:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, July 3:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Thursday, July 4:
 - No meetings scheduled – Village Hall close for Independence Day
- Friday, July 5:
 - No meetings scheduled

Village Hall closed on July 4 – Village Hall will be closed on Wed., July 4, in observance of Independence Day. 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.

Parking restrictions eased – As in past years, [overnight on-street parking restrictions](#) will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during the July 4th holiday. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., June 29, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., July 8. However, restrictions will remain in effect in areas reserved for permit holders. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including posted daytime restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

Annual July 4th Parade set – The annual July 4th parade is set to step off at 10 a.m., Thursday (July 4) from [Longfellow Park](#) at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street. The Village Board is third in the lineup, just behind the Police and Fire departments that traditionally lead the procession. Parade participants are asked to be at the staging area by 9:30 a.m. near Longfellow Park on Adams Street, just east of Ridgeland Avenue. As in past years, the parade will march north on Ridgeland to Augusta Street and disperse by Whittier School. The annual fireworks display is set to begin at dusk in the football stadium of Oak Park and River Forest High School. Fireworks rain date is July 5.

Traffic enforcement effort – Oak Park Police have joined law enforcement agencies across Illinois in an effort to discourage impaired and unbuckled motorists during the July 4th holiday. Police are out in force through July 8, showing zero tolerance for impaired drivers. Officers also are checking to make sure drivers and their passengers are buckled up as required by state law. [Click here to read more.](#)

Storm damage report – Two large trees were lost to the high winds and heavy rain that moved quickly through the Village Tuesday (June 25). A tree near Scoville Avenue and Jackson Boulevard was so severely damaged that it had to be removed, while a tree near Ridgeland Avenue and Ontario Street was uprooted. Crews from the Forestry Division and a private contractor responded to the incidents. Both locations were cleaned up and the streets opened by the end of the day.

Water loss detection effort – Village contractor [M.E. Simpson Co., Inc.](#) has begun surveying the Village to detect leaks in the public water supply system. Activities will include opening fire hydrants and water vaults to access pipes and using special equipment to find leaks. The goal is to find and fix leaks before the water becomes visible at the surface or a sinkhole is created. When leaks are detected, the Water & Sewer Division will dispatch crews to make repairs. The detection project is expected to take about three weeks.

FLW center review *correction* – The Historic Preservation Commission, not the Plan Commission, is scheduled to review plans for a new visitors' center at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio at its July 11 regular meeting. Last week's report had the wrong hearing body for the proposal to move or demolish one structure and modify another to make way for a new visitor's center. While both affected structures are owned by the Wright Trust, they are contributing buildings within the [Frank Lloyd Wright-Prairie School of Architecture Historic District](#) and will require Certificates of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission before any activity can occur.

Downtown construction update – Overnight work continued this week by the Albion development site on Lake Street and Forest Avenue. The project encompasses installing ComEd electrical infrastructure and AT& T putting in fiber optic cable, as well as upgrades to the intersection's lighting and traffic signal system. A new fire hydrant and storm sewer catch basin also are being installed at the intersection as part of the after-hours activity. Complaints about noise have been few and crews are optimistic the overnight work will be completed by late July.

DTOP survey – [Downtown Oak Park \(DTOP\)](#) is seeking public participation in an online survey designed to gather information about shopping and dining preferences. The 30-plus-question survey asks respondents to rate the current environment and to offer suggestions for improvements. DTOP staff asked the Village to help generate interest and participation in the survey. [Click here to take the survey...](#)

Village Hall parking lot status – Work on the new plaza over the underground Village Hall parking garage could resume by late next week if the external roof concrete patches have properly cured. Remaining work is expected to take about three more weeks, which would bring the project to a close by the end of July. The underground

parking garage has been reopened, the surface lot remains restricted to Police vehicles, municipal vehicles and visitors, and staff parking is limited to nearby streets.

Madison Street update – Sewer lines have been installed between Euclid and Oak Park avenues and the concrete work between East and Ridgeland avenues should be completed prior to the July 4 holiday. Concrete patching of the sewer trenches will require closing Euclid Avenue at the south side of Madison Street for two days next week. Concrete replacement is underway between East Avenue and Austin Boulevard, with the work staged to ensure safe pedestrian access. Sewer lining is scheduled to begin in mid-July and continue for about a month. Much of the sewer-related activity will occur overnight to reduce traffic disruptions. Construction updates continue to be distributed via email and posted on the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

Water and sewer improvements – Clarence Avenue remained closed this week between Roosevelt Road and Harvard Street as sewer work continues. Activities include installing a sewer main and the public services beginning at Harvard Street and moving south along Clarence Avenue. Work this week at Roosevelt Road required closing a lane for a day at the Clarence Avenue intersection. Work will continue along Clarence Avenue next week, moving north toward Fillmore Street. Harvard and Fillmore streets should remain open to traffic through the work site. The project is anticipated to be completed by early September.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Rush Oak Park Hospital contractors continued to install new curb at Madison Street and Maple Avenue. ComEd restored permanent electrical service to the traffic signals at South Boulevard and Harlem Avenue west of the Eleven33 development site. Crews also will be removing the temporary overhead cables and wooden poles, which will allow the remaining sidewalk to be installed. The project is expected to wrap up by mid-July.

Employee News – Jason Sochacki, a certified arborist with 20 years of experience in arboriculture and horticulture, has joined Forestry Division of the Public Works Department. Jason comes to the Village from the Forest Preserves of Cook County. In other employee news, Development Customer Services Director Tammie Grossman received a special award from [Visit Oak Park](#) for her many years serving as the Village's representative to the area tourism organization. She was presented with a locally created plaque bearing an etching of Unity Temple. Neighborhood Services Division Inspector Dennis Johnson is now a Certified Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector through the [International Code Council](#), which develops model codes and standards to ensure safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Dennis is the fifth Village property instructor to earn this important professional certification.

###