



Village Manager's Report Week ending July 26, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, July 29:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, July 30:
 - 7th Congressional District Town Hall Meeting, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Wednesday, July 31:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, Aug. 1:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Aug. 2:
 - No meetings scheduled

Fire Department on Facebook – The Oak Park Fire Department this week launched its new Facebook page -- www.facebook.com/VOPfire. Valuable safety tips and information related to Fire Department initiatives will be regularly shared on the page. Information related to Fire responses that are likely to garner significant public attention also may be posted on the page at the discretion of the Fire Chief. The new Fire Department Facebook page is the latest of the Village's wider social media outreach efforts. The Police Department launched [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages last year, and the Village has maintained a [Facebook](#) page for more than a decade to go along with [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#) accounts.

Police adopt shared principles – The Oak Park Police Department has joined law enforcement organization across the state in officially embracing principles geared toward eliminating racial tension by building mutual trust between police and the communities they serve. Developed jointly over three years by the [Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police](#) and the [Illinois NAACP State Conference](#), the 10 shared principles include commitments to value life, reject discrimination, support diversity in the police profession and develop relationships at the street and leadership levels. The principles will be posted prominently inside the Police Department as a reminder to officers as they begin and end their shifts each day. More information is [posted on the Village website](#).

West Nile Virus found in mosquitoes here – The [Desplaines Mosquito Abatement District](#) notified the Health Department that the season's first pools from Oak Park with West Nile Virus were found last week in both the north and south traps. The

finding was not unexpected, since positive samples have been found in both Oak Park traps every season since the threat arose here more than a decade ago. Positive pools tend to become more prevalent as 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 communication efforts 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 social media. The Abatement District typically sprays here for adult mosquitoes at least once or twice every year. No word yet as to any plans for spraying in Oak Park. But we typically only get a couple of days' notice since weather conditions determine scheduling.

Congressional town hall meeting set – [U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis \(D-7th District\)](#) will discuss a variety of topics with the public at a town hall meeting set for 7 p.m., Tues., July 30, in Village Hall. The agenda includes the Affordable Care Act, jobs and the economy, education, immigration, international affairs and any other issues residents may raise. State and local government officials are expected to participate as well. More information about the meeting is available by calling 773.553.7520. [Click here to download a meeting flyer...](#)

Property tax appeals forum – Oak Park property owners interested in learning more about the property tax appeals process are invited to a forum set for 6:30 p.m., Tues., July 30 at Percy Julian Middle School. The forum is hosted by Cook County Board of Review [Commissioner Larry R. Rogers, Jr.](#), in partnership with Oak Park Township Assessor Ali EISaffar, State Sen. Don Harman and State Representative LaShawn Ford.

Downtown construction update – ComEd contractors have completed their work on Forest Avenue and the both lanes from Lake Street have been reopened to traffic. Albion development project contractors are repairing portions of the recently installed curb along their Lake Street frontage to ensure compliance with required engineering standards. AT&T is expected to continue to periodically disrupt Lake Street traffic as part of the project to make much needed improvements to the company's downtown communications infrastructure. Restoration and patching of the Lake Street surface will begin once all other work along and in the roadway is completed.

Village Hall parking lot update – Construction crews took advantage of the dry weather to focus on rebuilding the park lot plaza, while the waterproofing membrane over the underground garage properly cured per the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations. The overall look of the new plaza has taken shape, including the central planter that will be a visually welcoming focal point by the south entrance. Engineers estimate that about three more weeks of work remains before the lot can be reopened fully.

Madison Street update – The majority of concrete was expected to be completed by the end of this week on the north side of Madison Street west of Oak Park Avenue, with activity shifting to the south side next week. New sidewalk also will be installed on both sides of the street between Austin Boulevard and Humphrey Avenue. All

concrete work should be completed by mid-August. Pavement milling is expected to start the week of August 5 at Austin Boulevard and move west. Construction updates continue to be distributed via email and posted on the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

Street resurfacing projects – The reconstruction of Wisconsin Avenue between Harrison and Adams streets is underway with storm sewer installation and removals of the existing curb and roadway. The reconstruction of Marion Street between Ontario Street and Chicago Avenue will follow in the coming weeks. Work also has begun to replace various sidewalk, garage aprons and crossing ramps on Randolph and Iowa streets. The final phase will include resurfacing portions of Clarence Avenue, Randolph Street and Iowa Street, all of which should be completed in September.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Clarence Avenue remained closed this week between Roosevelt Road and Harvard Street, as work on the water main began following completion of the sewer. Rush Oak Park Hospital work continued along the new addition's Madison Street frontage. Village engineers have worked to ensure the hospital construction is coordinated with the ongoing Madison Street project.

Employee News – Valerie Watkins has joined the Public Works Department as a Customer Service Representative II after working as a temporary employee. Valerie has proven to be a strong customer service asset and her Microsoft Office skills have given the role an added dimension. Fleet Services Division Superintendent Ken Crowley represented the Public Works Department at a recent [Chicago Area Clean Cities Truck Stop Coffee Talk](#). Ken was part of the discussion entitled *The Truth About Biodiesel* that focused on ways to reduce vehicle impact on the environment by using biodiesel fuel made from plant and animal by-products. Ken also spoke about some of the Village's other green vehicle initiatives including hybrids, compressed natural gas fuel and improving driver behavior through *telematics*, which means using the GPS system to not only keep track of vehicle locations but also gather data such as engine codes, idle times, speed and braking.

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