



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending October 11, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Oct. 14:
  - Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, Oct. 15:
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Wednesday, Oct. 16:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, Oct. 17:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., room 215
- Friday, Sept. 18:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Pedestrian bridge to reopen** – With the completion of much needed repairs, the Home Avenue pedestrian bridge over the Eisenhower Expressway is scheduled to reopen on Mon., Oct. 14. School District 97 officials have been notified that normal school walking routes will be back in effect Tuesday morning. Temporary crossing guards will remain at both ends of the Oak Park Avenue Bridge for both school arrival and dismissal times through Monday. The temporary parking restriction changes that were implemented on Harrison and Garfield streets also will end after Monday and the orange barricades on the Oak Park Avenue Bridge will be removed. The project included replacing sections of the structure and patching portions of the bridge deck, which had remained essentially unchanged since it was first built as part of the original I-290 construction in 1957.

**Saturday open permit sales end** – Success of the new digital waiting list system for parking permits will mean the end of Saturday open sales and the often long lines of residents who came to Village Hall each quarter in hopes of snagging an extra space in a high-demand area. In the last two Saturday open sales events, no more than half a dozen residents came in person, as compared to the dozens that was more common prior to implementation of the new electronic notification waiting list. While quarterly Saturday permit sales will no longer occur, Village Hall will continue to be open till 7 p.m. on Mondays for those few residents who still prefer to make in-person purchases.

**Open house a success** – More than 500 Oak Parkers of all ages turned out for the Fire Department's annual open house held last Saturday at the Central Fire Station.

In addition to tours of the facility, equipment and gear demonstrations were ongoing for the entire three-hour event. Representatives from various community partners were on hand as well to answer questions and talk about opportunities to get involved. Entities represented included ComEd, West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center and the Health Department's Citizen Emergency Response Team. The open house was held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, which promotes fire safety education as part of the annual commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire.

**Use of online permit systems grows** – The Permits Processing Division of the Development Customer Services Department is reporting continued success in efforts to move contractors from the in-person counter at Village Hall to the [VillageView](#) online system. Of the 441 building permit applications filed in September, some 98 percent were processed online. The increasing use of the online system is attributed in a large part to the efforts of frontline employees who are using the counter kiosk computer to teach applicants one-on-one how to use the system.

**Austin Boulevard resurfacing** – The City of Chicago will begin resurfacing Austin Boulevard from Iowa Street to North Avenue next week. The project, which is part of an intergovernmental agreement between the Village and Chicago to pave Austin from North Avenue to Lake Street, was originally scheduled for the spring, but was moved up by the city when its contractor had an unexpected availability. This portion of the project will include milling the current pavement, installing new pavement and upgrading corner sidewalk ramps on both sides of the street. Work is expected to take about six weeks. The remaining portion of Austin Boulevard between Lake and Iowa street will be resurfaced next spring following the Village's planned water main replacement project on Austin Boulevard between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street.

**Utility projects updates** – The project to replace the water main on Austin Boulevard between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street is now on hold due to a contractor scheduling conflict. With the end of the construction season on the horizon, the project may be delayed until spring. Meanwhile, the project to replace the water and sewer mains on Scoville Avenue between Roosevelt Road and the alley adjacent to the new Turano headquarters construction site was completed this week. The Berkshire Street and Clarence Avenue projects are nearing their projected mid-October completion goal, with the final pavement layer scheduled to be applied next week.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Crews are installing pavement markings and contractors are adjusting traffic signals and signage to accommodate the new lane configurations on Madison Street. City of Chicago contractors have begun installing a pedestrian refuse island on North Avenue at Hayes Avenue, a project expected to take about a week. The pavement on Forest Avenue and Lake Street along the Albion project's south and east frontages has been restored and work on the brick alley north of Lake Street adjacent to Austin Gardens was expected to wrap up this week.

**Employee news** – Village Forester Robert Sproule will be among the featured speakers at the *OAKtober Tree Forum* scheduled for 2 p.m., Sun., Oct. 13 at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake St. Sproule, a certified arborist, will discuss how the Village maintains the more than 18,000 [trees on public property](#) that helped earn

Oak Park the designation as [Illinois' first municipal arboretum](#). Other speakers will discuss a wide range of forestry topics, including how to protect and replenish the region's oak savannas, woodlands and forests. [Click here for more details on the event...](#)

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