



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 10, 2014**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, October 13:
 - No scheduled Meetings
- Tuesday, October 14:
 - CERT Training, 6 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, October 15:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake Street
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - OPAAC Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, October 16:
 - Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - CERT Training, 6 p.m., room 101
 - Crime Free Housing Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
- Saturday, October 18:
 - I-Gov meeting, 9 a.m., Oak Park Township

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Wednesday, October 22, Fair Housing Task Force, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, October 23, Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
- Saturday, October 25, I-Gov Meeting, 9 a.m., Brooks Middle School, Elected Officials BBQ immediately following I-Gov Meeting
- Monday, October 27, Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101

Groundbreaking a success – President Anan Abu-Taleb welcomed a crowd of about 75 who turned out Thursday morning to watch Village officials, staff and senior executives from the development and construction teams [ceremoniously break ground](#) for the Lake & Forest redevelopment project. Representing the developers was Golub Executive Vice President Lee Golub, Wood Partners Director of Development Tim McEntee and Golub Senior Vice President Michael Glazier. Several representatives of Tishman Construction were on hand for the ceremony. Videos of the event will be posted on the [Village YouTube channel](#) and aired on VOP-TV. Demolition of the garage could begin as early as next week.

Capital improvements update – The first layer of asphalt is scheduled to be installed next week on Ridgeland Avenue, as the initial stage of the federally funded resurfacing project moves toward a late October completion date. Landscaping of parkways along local streets repaved this season is scheduled to start next week as well. Pavement markings and signage for the bicycle lanes on Jackson Boulevard should be completed later this month, along with landscaping on the traffic diverters on the 1200 blocks of North Elmwood and Rossell avenues. Three of the alleys being rebuilt as part of the green alley program are substantially complete, with the other seven alley segments expected to be finished within the next two weeks. Three of the 10 alleys being rebuilt as part of the standard program are scheduled to be reopened to traffic early next week. The sidewalk replacement program should be completed in about two weeks, weather permitting.

Fire Department activity update – Oak Park firefighter/paramedics responded to 541 calls for service in September, bringing the annual total to 4,807. Emergency medical services continued to represent the majority of calls, with 347 in September, or 64 percent. Other calls included alarm initiated (17 percent), general service (15 percent) and fire/hazardous conditions (4 percent). Personnel were on the scene in an average of five minutes and 23 seconds, well below the six minute national average. The fire in the vacant home undergoing renovation in the 500 block of N. Harvey Ave. was the only significant structure fire in September. However, crews did respond to seven other fires, but the damage was limited to the room of origin and all losses were relatively minor. Training in September included working with Oak Park and River Forest High School and Athletico Physical Therapy staff to practice enhanced treatment of injured student athletes. The training also served to build a working relationship with the staff that most likely will be with the patient upon the arrival of emergency medical service personnel.

Police Department activity update – Police calls for service were down in September as compared to August, including high-priority calls. Officers responded to 2,918 calls in September compared to 3,290 calls in August. September's 888 high-priority calls were down from August's 992. Medium-priority calls, such as accidents without injuries – historically the largest category of police calls – also were down in September, with 1,177 compared to 1,373 in August. Police response times remained low in September, with officers on the scene of high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 50 seconds. The average response time for high-priority calls so far this year is three minutes and 34 seconds. Oak Park continued to represent the bulk of 9-1-1 calls handled through the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center, the numbers reflecting the Village's population as compared to the other participating communities. [Click here to see the Police activity data for 2014 through September.](#)

Public Works activities update – Water service upgrades were made at 545 Gunderson Ave., 915 S. Grove Ave. and 1032 S. East Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. To date, 468 appointments to change water meters have been completed as the program moves toward its goal of 1,500 for the year. Ongoing routine activities included restoring street openings where water main breaks had been repaired, as well Village-wide sign repair, graffiti removal and pothole patching. Street sweeping continued and thermoplastic pavement markings were made at various locations. Forestry crews focused on pruning requests and roof clearances, as well as removing parkway tree stumps at various locations throughout the Village.

Contractors continued grinding stumps and removing trees damaged by emerald ash borer.

Village services in the news – Both the Public Works Department and Police Department recently earned some very positive attention for their special programs. Trib columnist and Oak Park resident Barbara Brotman wrote a very complimentary article on the [Village's composting program](#), the only such program in the state. [Click here to read the story](#). The Chicago Sun-Times regional affiliate Oak Leaves showcased our Resident Beat Officers' broad efforts to connect digitally with the residents they serve. You can [read that story online here](#).

Volunteer information clearinghouse -- The [Community Leadership Program](#), a joint program organized by the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation and Dominican University, has created www.facebook.com/volunteerprf to serve as a clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities. Organizations are encouraged to email volunteer opportunities to volunteerprf@gmail.com and they will be added to the page. The group hopes this online forum will help fill the void left since the Oak Park Volunteer Center closed, leaving no organized public way for local residents to connect with opportunities to serve their community.

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