



**Village Manager's Report  
The Week Ending June 17, 2016**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, June 20:
  - Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, June 21:
  - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 101
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, June 22:
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
  - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, June 23:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, June 24:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

- Monday, July 4
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, 10 a.m., Longfellow Park (Ridgeland and Adams)

**Proposed zoning changes ready for public review** – Open houses are scheduled for 3 to 9 p.m., Tues., June 28, and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thurs., June 30 at Village Hall to present the first draft of recommended changes to the Village of Oak Park Zoning Ordinance. Residents and property owners are invited to review the recommended changes, ask questions and provide feedback to Village staff and representatives of [Camiros Ltd.](#), the consulting firm helping to guide the review and revision process. Brief overview presentations are scheduled for 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., June 28, and 8 a.m. and noon on June 30, but officials will be on hand throughout the open houses to accommodate the schedules of anyone interested in learning more about the important project. Anyone interested in learning more before the open houses or unable to attend is urged to visit [www.oakparkzoning.com](http://www.oakparkzoning.com), where the proposed draft is posted along with a wide range of information about the process to date. Public comments also may be posted on the website.

**Sculpture walk returns** – The outdoor sculpture walk is back for a fifth season, with 12 sculptures on display in an outdoor exhibit through Sept. 5 in Mills Park. The park's four-plus

acres provide a scenic backdrop for the sculptures, which are displayed along the winding walking paths. This year's sculptures come from near and far. Pieces created by artists from Illinois, Texas, Missouri and Iowa are part of this year's exhibit, including one by Oak Park resident Tia Jones-Etu. Brochures with details about the art and the artists will be available by the exhibit, at all Oak Park public libraries, area businesses near the park and online at [www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk](http://www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk).

**Oak Park Station development update** – Water and sewer work that required nighttime lane closures on Harlem Avenue have been completed and the street surface permanently patched. However, metal plates were expected to remain in place this week to allow the concrete to properly cure to the strength. Partial lane closures will continue on Westgate Street at least through next week as water mains are installed from Harlem to Maple Avenue. A flagger will be on duty during work hours to ensure safe, two-way traffic flow.

**South Boulevard streetscape** – Work on South Boulevard continued between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue, with the tentative goal of opening the street to two-way traffic set for July 8. The south side of the street is open to westbound traffic as work continues along the north side. The sidewalk and pavement base east of the CTA entrance is completed and the sidewalk is open to pedestrians. The sidewalk now is closed between the CTA entrance and Harlem Avenue for curb and sidewalk reconstruction. The temporary signals are working and the street lights have been removed along the north side of the street. Work on new street lighting and the irrigation system will proceed in conjunction with curb, sidewalk and pavement replacement activities underway.

**Chicago Avenue construction update** – With Chicago Avenue still closed for sewer main replacement between Ridgeland and Scoville/Fair Oaks avenues, Engineering staff is working with Police to address concerns with traffic using residential streets to avoid the closure rather than following the detours to Division Street. This phase of the project is expected to take another three weeks and then work will move to between Forest and Grove avenues. The local sewer project will be followed by resurfacing from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. The state has selected a repaving contractor and work is expected to begin in August.

**Transportation enhancement grants** – Applications were submitted this week for three [Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grants](#). Funds are being sought for improvements to the Lake Street streetscape, enhancements to the Marion Street viaduct and to reset or replace the Village's historic sandstone sidewalk segments as needed. Approximately \$29 million is available for selected projects that expand travel choices and improve the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of transportation infrastructure. Award recipients will be announced in the fall.

**Citizen volunteers abound** – The Village Clerk is reporting that a surge in interest in serving on a volunteer advisory commission, committee or board means that sufficient candidates are in the pipeline to fill every vacancy projected for the remainder of the year. A plumber still is needed for the Building Codes Advisory Commission, however. Additional openings may arise in the coming months as sitting commissioners encounter changes in family and work commitments, according to the Clerk.

**Harrison Street lighting** – Improvements to the lighting on Harrison Street from Austin Boulevard to Ridgeland Avenue continues. Electricity control cabinets and power services are being installed, as the project awaits the manufacture of the new light poles.

**Alley/sidewalk improvements** – The alleys between Superior Street and Chicago Avenue, and Taylor and Humphrey avenues were opened to vehicles Wednesday. All sewer work has been completed for the alleys being improved as part of the season’s first phase of all projects. Concrete pavement has been completed on 15 alley segments, with six remaining. Pavement was scheduled to be poured this week for the alleys between Marion Street and Home Avenue and between Pleasant and Lake streets.

**Street resurfacing** – The sub-base and binder course were completed this week on the 1000 block of Mapleton Avenue. The surface course is scheduled to be laid next week on Mapleton from Thomas Street to Greenfield Street and Harvey Avenue from Randolph Street to Madison Street. Calls for bids for the season’s second round of resurfacing and water/sewer projects were made this week, with the goal of having recommendations to the Village Board for consideration on July 18.

**Village Hall construction activity** – Contractors were invited to walk through the underground garage at Village Hall as part of the bid process for repairs, including the ramps. Bids also are being sought to remodel and paint the cashier’s office. Staff met this week with a contractor to discuss remodeling the elevator. Work continues on the new boiler, which is scheduled to be completed by July 31.

**Public Works Activities** – Streets Divisions crews delivered and picked up barricades and signage for block parties and special events, including the annual Hephzibah rodeo party and the weekly [Thursday Night Out](#) event. Crews also helped install art for the annual Sculpture Walk in Mills Park, swept streets, scraped and painted the viaduct hand rail Austin Boulevard, paved streets openings where water main repairs had been made, trimmed weeds in brick and concrete sidewalks in business areas, placed flower pots along North Boulevard where trees had been removed, picked up litter, cleaned parking lots and filled potholes. A broken fire hydrant was repaired at 720 S. Grove Ave. and water services upgraded at 937 Clinton Ave. and 820 S East Ave. Forestry crews are still finding damage from the fierce May 31 storm, as broken, hanging limbs have become more visible as their foliage wilts. Routine summer Forestry tasks also continued, including removing trees, grinding stumps, restoring landscapes and responding to resident requests.

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