



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending July 29, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 1:
 - Village Board Contract Committee, 6:30 p.m. room 130
 - Village Board Executive Session, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, August 2:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, August 3:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, August 4:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Friday, August 5:
 - No scheduled meetings

Recycle electronics Saturday – The Public Works Department will sponsor an [electronics recycling](#) event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., July 30. Residents can drop off unwanted items at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Most items are accepted, including computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders/players, DVD players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. However, projection and console TVs are no longer accepted for recycling. What could be the final event of the season is scheduled for Sat., Aug. 27.

Book Fair is this weekend – The Friends of the Oak Park Public Library will sponsor the annual book fair beginning tonight. More than 100,000 books in every conceivable category will be available in the south cafeteria at Oak Park and River Forest High School. Hours are 6 to 10 p.m., Fri., July 29, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., July 30. Admission Friday is \$5, plus an additional \$5 for anyone using any kind of an electronic scanning device or app to determine book values. Saturday admission is free. More details are posted at oppl.org/fair.

Wayfinding survey underway – The public was invited this week to [take the online survey](#) intended for individuals to share insights, attitudes and views that will become part of the first wayfinding sign update here since 2003. The survey was initially rolled out last week at Thursday Night Out and the Farmers' Market, with representatives of [Sasaki Associates, Inc.](#),

the planning and design firm leading the effort, soliciting participation to help identify modifications that might make sense before appealing to the community at large. The survey will remain open through Aug. 15. A project webpage has been set up at www.oak-park.us/wayfinding where updates and information will be posted. In related activities, the wayfinding sign inventory is nearly complete, with Sasaki having identified and analyzed more than 600 signs. A number of stakeholder focus group sessions have been held as well, and Sasaki representatives are scheduled to attend the Aug. 24 Community Design Commission meeting to present a draft report and preliminary design concepts. Should any Board member wish to have a conversation with Sasaki representatives, staff will be happy to arrange it.

South Boulevard streetscape – Work could resume as early as Monday if the electric subcontractor receives needed materials that have been on order. Installation of poles for the new street lights is awaiting a ComEd inspection that will allow connecting the new electricity control box in the alley to the power source.

Chicago Avenue construction update – The sewer improvement project underway on Chicago Avenue remains on schedule for an early August completion, as work continues on the second phase between Forest and Grove avenues. Chicago Avenue traffic continues to be detoured to Division Street via Harlem and Oak Park avenues. Engineering Division staff is working closely with Police to address resident complaints of drivers cutting through the neighborhood rather than following the detour route. Planning also is underway for the state-funded paving of Chicago Avenue from Harlem to Austin Boulevard, which will begin after the completion of the sewer work. Chicago Avenue will remain open during the paving, but traffic and parking disruptions are likely as curb and related concrete is replaced prior to the actual paving.

Elevate Oak Park project – Engineering staff continues closely monitoring the work in the area affected by this major redevelopment project to ensure access is maintained to the businesses on Westgate Street. The contractor is required to have a flagger on site during construction to facilitate traffic flow. Catch basins and sewer inlets are being installed this week at the Westgate cul-de-sac near Marion Street. The water main installed on North Boulevard westward from Maple Avenue was scheduled to be connected this week to the existing main on Harlem. Meanwhile, work began this week on the first of the two alleys adjacent to the project. Old pavement has been removed and subgrade material placed, with the goal of pouring the concrete surface by the end of this week.

Harrison Street lighting improvements – The contractor installing the new lighting fixtures on Harrison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard anticipates needing three weeks to complete the installation and electrical connections, now that the new poles have been delivered. The new lighting control boxes have been installed and ComEd has inspected and approved them for connection to the power. As the lights are installed, concrete, brick and parkways disrupted by the work will be restored.

Alley, pavement and resurfacing updates – Concrete pavement has been installed on all 21 alleys, including for the 34 residents within the project limits who chose to have their garage aprons replaced by the Village contractor to take advantage of the Village rate. Parkway restoration is underway for the projects on the south side of town, as well as some asphalt replacement. Pavement patching is well underway, with the focus this week on portions of Austin Boulevard. The final round of street paving for the season is set to begin next week.

Curb work will begin next at locations adjacent to schools so this work can be completed prior to opening day.

Nicor restorations continue – Nicor crews continued parkway repairs remaining from the installation of new gas mains this past winter. Engineering Division staff is visiting the streets as Nicor says they are complete to document any outstanding issues.

Public Works Activities – The past weekend storms had Forestry Division crews on the streets Monday and Tuesday collecting debris, while also continuing routine summer tasks such as tree removals, landscape restorations and responding to resident requests. Water & Sewer Division crews upgraded water services at 804 and 709 Clinton Ave. and 604 Carpenter Ave. Crews also repaired a catch basin causing a sinkhole at Austin Boulevard and Randolph Street. Street Division crews repaired openings where water repairs had been made, painted curbs to designate no-parking zones by fire hydrants, washed refuse can liners, benches and sidewalks, trimmed weeds and picked up litter in the business areas, and filled potholes.

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