



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending August 26, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 29:
 - Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
- Tuesday, August 30:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, August 31:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Thursday, September 1:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Friday, September 2:
 - No scheduled meetings

Recycle electronics Saturday – The Public Works Center will be collecting unwanted electronic items for recycling from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday (Aug. 27). 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. Projection TVs and console TVs will not be accepted. One more electronics recycling event is likely to be held in October, but final plans have not been set. More [information on recycling electronic items is posted on the Village website](#).

Police to step up presence near schools – With the new elementary school year set to begin Monday (Aug. 29), police will be stepping up their presence with additional enforcement efforts at key crossings and along walking routes. They also are urging motorists to stay alert – especially when driving in school zones – and to avoid distractions like talking on cell phones.

D200 superintendent search – The search for a new Oak Park River Forest High School superintendent for the 2017-2018 school year will begin gathering input next week from residents on the qualities and experience they'd like to see in the candidates. An online survey will be open from Mon., Aug. 29 through Sun., Sept. 11, the link to be posted under the *quick links* heading at www.oprfhs.org. In addition, search consultant [BWP & Associates](#) will facilitate a community input session set for 7 to 8:30 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 1 in the Little Theatre.

Chicago Avenue construction – Chicago Avenue between Forest and Grove Avenues was expected to reopen to traffic by the end of today (Fri., Aug. 26), as spot concrete curb removals by Holmes Elementary School are completed prior to the first day of school on Monday (Aug. 29). Chicago Avenue will remain open during the repaving project, which extends the entire width of the Village from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. This project is expected to continue until at least November. In the meantime, only a few small punch-list items remain from the sewer project that wrapped up on Chicago Avenue last week.

Harrison Street lighting improvements – The lighting improvement project on Harrison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard has progressed to the restoration phase. All light fixtures have been installed and connected, and the remaining old fixtures removed. Concrete work was expected to wrap up this week, to be followed by brick sidewalk restoration within the next couple of weeks.

Elevate Oak Park update – Construction on the Lake Street façade has required closing the sidewalk along the entire east-west length of the construction site on the south side of the 1100 block of Lake Street. The sidewalk will remain closed until the week before the Thanksgiving holiday. A canopy has been installed to protect the passersby. Signs alerting pedestrians to use the north side of the street have been installed. Within the construction site, catch basins are being installed and sewer trenches filled on the 1100 block of North Boulevard. Sewer trenches also are being filled on the 1100 block of Westgate Street. Sewer work is nearing completion and a fire hydrant was removed on the south segment of Maple Avenue.

South Boulevard streetscape update – Work continued this week on the north side of South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street. Lights were installed and connected to the west of the multimodal transportation station entrance. The remaining sidewalk areas were framed and concrete poured along the north side adjacent to the traffic signal controller at Harlem Avenue.

Pedestrian crossing beacon install progressing – Installation of the new high-intensity activated crosswalk beacon (HAWK) street crossing signal on Chicago Avenue at Harvey Avenue is well underway. Work this week included excavating for new electrical equipment hand-holes at the northwest and southeast corners and relocating a fire hydrant on the northwest corner to make room for the signal pole. Engineering Division staff is working to ensure pedestrian paths are clear and accessible for the first day of school on Monday (Aug. 29).

Miscellaneous construction projects – The final layer of asphalt was installed this week on Cuyler Avenue between Jackson Boulevard and Adams Street, and between South and Washington boulevards. Crackfilling began Monday on various streets, a routine maintenance technique to extend the life of streets by keeping water from infiltrating the pavement where freeze and thaw cycles can create damage. Most of the structural deck was removed from the roadway over the underground Police garage at the south entrance to Village Hall, which should mean less construction noise inside the building. Access to Village Hall is being maintained via a golf-course-style bridge over the construction site. Building access also has been maintained at the Lombard Avenue entrance for persons with disabilities. One ramp to the below-grade station entry will be available throughout the project to facilitate prisoner transfers into and from the Police Department.

Public Works Activities – Street Division crews continued making permanent repairs to pavement where excavations had been made to repair water lines. Crews also painted curbs yellow to designate no parking zones by fire hydrants and cleaned out a badly overgrown alley. Water & Sewer Division crews upgraded a water service at 911 N. Elmwood Ave., while Street Lighting Division crews replaced a damaged light pole at 319 Lake St. Forestry Division crews continued to prepare Chicago Avenue for repaving by trimming parkway trees to allow access by construction vehicles. With oversight from the Building Maintenance Division, painting began this week at Village Hall, including in the Manager’s Office areas and locations throughout Village Hall where touch ups were needed. Next week, painting will move to the Parking Service Center areas, which is expected to be completed by Sept. 9. Remodeling of the main fire station locker room began this week with installation of new stair treads. Underground electrical lines will need to be relocated before garage construction can begin, work that requires coordinating schedules with ComEd.

Employee news – The swearing-in ceremony for Anthony Ambrose as the Village of Oak Park's new Chief of Police is set for 7 p.m., Tues., Aug 30, in the Council Chamber. Ambrose, who has served as Deputy Police Chief since 2005, succeeds Rick C. Tanksley who retired after more than 32 years on the force. More information on the selection of Ambrose as Police Chief is [posted on the Village website](#). Tim Walsh of the Water & Sewer Division in the Public Works Department received his Class D [Public Water Supply Operator certificate](#) from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

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