



Village Manager's Report
Week ending July 21, 2017

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, July 24:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7p.m., Public Works Center
 - Transportation Commission Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, July 25:
 - Board of Health Commission, 7p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, July 26:
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m. room 215
 - Community Design Commission, 7p.m., room 101
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., Oak Park Public Library
834 Lake Street
- Thursday, July 27:
 - Planned Commission Meeting, 7p.m., room 201
- Friday, July 28:
 - No meetings scheduled

Vehicle sticker sales update – As the vehicle sticker renewal deadline came to a close Fri., July 14, some 21,105 stickers had been sold, 298 fewer than the same period last year. Online renewals remained the preferred transaction tool representing 57 percent of sales, followed by mail renewals (36 percent) and in-person at Village Hall (7 percent). Some 260 stickers were sold the last day via the computer terminals set up in Village Hall to supplement counter staff, 209 on the final day. Owners can continue to renew online and in person, but must pay an additional \$20. Failure to purchase and display a current vehicle sticker by the deadline may also result in a \$75 citation.

Positive response to Police bracelets – A [recent news release](#) about the Police Department using simple silicon bracelets to show support for mental health awareness struck a chord with the community. The bracelets are inscribed with *Oak Park Cares* and also can include a small, metal plate with a unique identification number and directions to contact the Oak Park Police Department should a communications issue arise in an emergency. A post about the program on the [Village Facebook page](#) reached more than 31,000 people – including nearly 2,000 who commented or shared the post with others. The program grew from collaboration with the Oak Park Township Mental Health Board, which provided a grant to help get the program started.

Unity Temple restoration – Crain’s Chicago Business ran an interesting and informative article this week on the restoration of Unity Temple. In the words of the writer, “Thanks to a recently completed \$25 million renovation, it now looks as good as the day it was dedicated in 1909.” The article touches on many of the innovative and dramatic aspects of the building and offers some interesting detail on the scope of the renovation, such as more than a mile of wood trim and plaster surface were restored. You can [read the article in Crain’s](#). We’ve also downloaded the story and its photos for those who may not have ready access to the business magazine – [just click here to view](#).

Heat relief information provided – As temperatures and humidity created high heat indexes this week, staff reminded residents of local cooling centers and related services. Other messages also urged residents to check on relatives, friends and neighbors who may be vulnerable to heat-related illnesses or not have access to air conditioning. This message is especially important for anyone who may know an elderly person, someone with mental illness or the physically ill, particularly those with heart disease or high blood pressure. Residents also were reminded not to forget about their pets, which can be just as susceptible to the negative impacts of high heat and humidity. Public Works crews were on alert for severe weather that often can accompany high temperatures and humidity, creating damaging winds and flooding.

Downtown construction update – Work related to the concrete curbs and gutters continued this week along Lake Street, the new section of Maple Avenue and on Westgate Street as part of the Emerson development project downtown. The sidewalk area and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street remain closed from the new section of Maple to the east side of the development site, but two-way traffic is being maintained on Lake. The reconstruction of Westgate and the installation of light poles continued this week, requiring one lane of Westgate to remain closed. However, pedestrian access is being maintained along Westgate from Marion, and flaggers are making sure vehicles have access to the doctors' offices along Westgate during work hours.

South Boulevard redevelopment – Preliminary work began this week for the Lincoln Property Company redevelopment project on South Boulevard east of Harlem Avenue. Security fencing has been installed around the perimeter of the site, with mesh screening to be added Monday (July 24). The eastbound lane of South Boulevard has been closed between Harlem and Marion Street for materials staging and operating construction equipment, which will include a large crane. Staff will maintain close contact with affected businesses, keeping them informed of construction activities and helping address any issues they may encounter as work begins in earnest.

Chicago Avenue streetscape/resurfacing – Paving was completed this week on Chicago Avenue between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. Pavement striping and street furniture installation are all that remain of this final phase of the federally funded project that began last year and included repaving Chicago Avenue across the entire Village from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

Alley improvements – Pavement removal continued on the alley north of Randolph Street between Oak Park and Euclid avenues, while concrete was poured in both

east/west alleys north of Washington Boulevard between Pennsylvania Way and Chestnut Lane. Fifty eight residents whose properties are adjacent to the work have opted to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed, allowing them to take advantage of the Village's contract unit price.

Lake Michigan pipeline project – Installation of the new main to carry Lake Michigan water to the Villages of Brookfield and North Riverside continued this week from Highland Avenue west toward Ridgeland Avenue. Work in this section should be done in time to allow street reconstruction near schools before the beginning of the academic year. Boring for the pipe casing under Ridgeland has been completed with installation of the water main to follow. Once the water main has been installed through Ridgeland, a new relief sewer will be installed from Ridgeland to East Avenue. Street reconstruction activities started this week between Maple and Oak Park avenues, beginning with replacing curbs, sidewalks, driveways and alley entrances. A project website managed by the engineering company provides the latest schedule information – [click here to view](#).

Street resurfacing – The final layer of asphalt was installed on streets being repaved in the north part of the Village, and the first layer of asphalt was installed on several blocks in the south part of Village. Depending on the weather, all roads should have the final layers of asphalt installed by end of next week. Pavement markings and landscaping will be the only remaining tasks.

Sidewalk repairs – Construction on sidewalks to address trip hazards and accessibility compliance issues will begin next week, after this week's weather delay. The program also invites residents to pay 50 percent of the costs if they would like to have adjacent segments replaced that do not meet Village replacement requirements. Work will be staged to occur on one side of the street at a time to ensure a safe pedestrian travel route on the block.

Miscellaneous construction projects – Repairs to broken crosswalk materials continued on Marion Street in the downtown business districts. Work is being staged to maintain traffic flow via one lane. Work this week was on the eastbound and southbound crosswalks at South Boulevard. Activity will move next week to the remaining crosswalks in need of repair north of the viaduct. Each section of crosswalks can take up to five days to repair, with the overall project expected to take three to four more weeks. Crews are replacing the deteriorating and damaged surface material with colored concrete. Engineering Division staff continues to coordinate communications with affected businesses. Pavement patching also continued this week on various streets throughout the Village.

Public Works activities – In addition to helping with excavations for water and sewer repairs, Streets Division crews power washed blue stone in the Pleasant District and continued weed control, viaduct cleaning and litter pick up in all of the business districts. Water & Sewer Division crews completed a lateral sewer repair at 529 N. Oak Park Ave., changed all water meters at Oak Park and River Forest High School as part of the meter upgrade program and upgraded water services at 837 N. Taylor Ave. and 604 S. Oak Park Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Forestry Division crews focused on regular ongoing tasks, including maintenance, inspections, trimming and watering, while private contractors removed trees and stumps throughout town. Street Lighting Division crews repaired cables that were hit twice by

contractors at Fillmore and Wenonah avenues, while also addressing lighting concerns near construction underway at Chicago Avenue and Marion Street. Building Division staff oversaw the interior remodeling of the Village Hall elevator this week. The project included new side paneling and lighting, with new carpet tiles to follow.

Employee news – Parking & Mobility Services is quickly adjusting to the administrative configuration as new division within the Development Customer Services Department, following approval by the Village Board earlier this week. The new Parking Division joins the Business Services, Neighborhood Services and Planning divisions within a central management process designed to offer a one-stop shopping experience for our customers. John Youkhana, who joined Parking in 2016 and has been its interim chief since the resignation of former director Jill Velan in early July, will serve as manager of the new Parking & Mobility Services Division. John’s knowledge of operations and experience should help ensure continued smooth operations within the new organizational structure.

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