



Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 22, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Jun 25:
 - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, June 26:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, June 27:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., Library, 834 Lake St.
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Historic Preservation Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, June 28:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Friday, June 29:
 - No meetings scheduled

Village earns top solar recognition – Oak Park efforts to make it quick, easy and cost-effective to get permits to install solar arrays have earned the Village gold status recognition from the U.S. Department of Energy, the highest designation available through the federally funded [SolSmart program](#). Oak Park's one-day solar permit application approval process through the [VillageView portal](#) was key to earning the designation. Oak Park is one of only 84 communities in the country to earn gold status and the eighth in Illinois. Currently, 19 Illinois communities are among the 201 communities involved in the SolSmart program nationally. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office, SolSmart recognizes cities for cutting red tape and making solar more affordable.

Special commission training – Representatives from the [Illinois chapter of the American Planning Association](#) and DePaul University's [Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development](#) led a special training session this week for members of the Community Design Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. The training focused on conducting public hearings, including roles and responsibilities of those involved in the process. The Illinois Open Meetings Act, ethics, conflicts of interest, ex parte communication and preparing application findings of fact also were discussed.

Police guidance – Oak Park Police officers recently provided Park District summer employees with useful information on safety and crime prevention that could prove valuable to their roles in the various park facilities. Topics discussed included typical issues seen in the parks during the summer, when to call 911 and what to expect when calling 911. Various scenarios were discussed as well to give participants some practical solutions to common issues.

Youth skills workshops – The Community Relations Department has begun registering residents ages 16 to 18 for the annual job skills workshops. This year's workshops are scheduled for 2 to 5:30 p.m., July 30 through Aug. 3 at the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. Participants learn skills such as resume writing, interviewing, career path development and interpersonal relations. Guest speakers and representatives from local businesses help participants learn to take charge of their lives by developing critical job seeking and retention skills that can be carried throughout adulthood. These local employers also offer opportunities for individuals who complete the workshop to interview for available positions. The number of participants is limited. Online registration is available www.oak-park.us/community through June 25.

Albion project update – ComEd is scheduled to close the east/west alley behind the Albion development site by Austin Gardens Thurs., June 28, and Fri., June 29 to install temporary electric service for the construction project. The alley will be reopened at the end of each day. Utility work set to begin in early July on Forest Avenue will require lane closures during working hours for several days. This work will be followed by installation of a tower crane to begin vertical construction. In the meantime, Village staff is continuing to address pedestrian safety along the site perimeter. Additional signs and barriers have been installed to discourage pedestrians from walking in the street along the construction site. The pedestrian canopy on the west side of the site also has been extended to allow pedestrians to walk from Lake Street to the alley behind the development.

Boulevards project update – Excavation is underway along North Boulevard between Forest and Clinton Avenues, and water and sewer main installation was scheduled to begin this week. North Boulevard is closed to through traffic between Forest and Clinton avenues, and accommodating two-way local traffic between Clinton and Kenilworth avenues. Through traffic is being detoured around the construction site via Lake Street. The on-street parking spaces by the railroad tracks (Lot NB 10) have been temporarily closed between Forest and Kenilworth avenues, but permit holders have been moved to the Holley Court Garage. All residents along North Boulevard who park in private lots still have access to their properties. As the work progresses and these private accesses are blocked temporarily, affected residents also will have temporary parking passes in the Holley Court Garage. Residents will be notified in advance of any closures to the private driveways. Periodic notifications and project schedule changes also will be posted online at www.oak-park.us/boulevards.

Street resurfacing – Rain delayed asphalt application on streets in the first round of local resurfacing projects including South Boulevard from Lombard Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Traffic for South Boulevard continues to be detoured via Lake Street. The milled surfaces on East Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard have been patched in preparation for paving.

Alley improvements – Pavement removal began in the alley between Wesley and Clarence avenues and south of Van Buren Street. Twelve alleys have been completed so far this season and 45 residents within the boundaries of the alley projects have elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed. All utility improvements in the alleys should be completed next week.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Landscaping is scheduled to begin next week on the Euclid Avenue side of the District House project on Lake Street. The sidewalk will be closed along the Euclid Avenue building frontage as material by the construction entrance is removed, topsoil placed and the area sodded. Trees, perennials and shrubs also will be planted. The north/south alley north of North Boulevard and west of Marion Street adjacent to the Emerson development has been reopened now that AT&T crews have completed their project. Union Pacific crews are expected to wrap up the viaduct repairs this week at the southwest corner of North Boulevard and Marion. The eastbound lane of South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street along the frontage of the Lincoln development remains closed as construction continues.

Public Works Activities – Streets Division crews have power washed and primed 20 panels along the Union Pacific Railroad in preparation for new murals that artist will begin to paint as early as next week. Crews also continued routine, ongoing tasks including opening street surfaces for water repairs and restoring affected parkways, upgrading water services, sweeping downtown streets and picking up litter. Water & Sewer Division crews exercised valves on Ontario Street and Austin Boulevard for a West Suburban Hospital water project. Crews also shut off water as needed for the North Boulevard construction project and upgraded water services at 704 Fair Oaks and 930 N. Taylor avenues as part of the lead abatement program. Forestry Division crews cleaned up two large limbs that came down at 1100 N. Kenilworth Ave. and on North Euclid Avenue at Ontario Street during a storm very early Thursday (June 15). Crews also continued routine duties, including responding to resident requests, and managing tree-care and landscape contractors.

###