



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending Aug. 23, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Aug. 26:
  - Village Board Special meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
  
- Tuesday, Aug. 27:
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7 p.m., room 124
  
- Wednesday, Aug. 28:
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Disability Access Commission, Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St.
  - Housing Program Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Historic Preservation Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Thursday, Aug. 29:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Friday, Aug. 30:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Planning for mosquito spraying** – Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District officials say they may schedule spraying in Oak Park next week if testing trends continue to show high concentrations of West Nile Virus in pools collected in our two traps. Results from the most recent samples gathered here the week of Aug. 18 showed significant increases in disease-carrying mosquitoes, which has become typical for this time of the year. Any decision on spraying here will be based on the results of samples gathered here this week. Since weather determines when and if spraying can occur, the Health and Communications departments have prepared messages to distribute since they expect little lead time. The new [emergency notification system](#) will be a critical part of the communications strategy.

**Home Avenue pedestrian bridge repairs** – After complex coordination with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the CTA and CSX Railroad, Village contractors are preparing to begin much-needed repairs to the pedestrian bridge over the Eisenhower Expressway at Home Avenue. Unfortunately, the work will require closing the popular walkway for the entire month of September. Staff has created a [safe walking route](#) as an alternate to the bridge, requested additional crossing guards at the Garfield and Harrison Street intersections on Oak Park Avenue and is working to

disseminate the information through the schools whose students are likely to be affected by the closing. Pavement markings also are being refreshed, additional signage erected at various points along the walking route and protective barriers placed along the sidewalk on the Oak Park Avenue overpass. The project will include replacing sections of the structure and patching portions of the bridge deck, which has remained essentially unchanged since it was first built as part of the original I-290 construction in the late 1950s. [More details are posted on the Village website.](#)

**Electricity aggregation** – The enrollment process is underway for the new 24-month electricity aggregation contract extension approved by the Village Board with [MC Squared Energy Services, LLC \(mc2\)](#). Letters began arriving in mailboxes this week advising customers of their options. Property owners already enrolled in the program need take no action to continue. However, customers enrolled in the Village program who now want to choose their own energy supplier – and electricity customers who use another electricity supplier but now want to join the Village program – can make the switch by calling *mc*<sup>2</sup> at 1.855.259.1179 or via email to [oakpark@mc2energyservices.com](mailto:oakpark@mc2energyservices.com). No enrollment or switching fee will be assessed. The deadline to opt out of or into the Village aggregation program is Sept. 6. [More information on the program is posted on the Village website.](#)

**Holiday traffic enforcement** –The Oak Park Police Department has joined law enforcement agencies throughout the state in cracking down on impaired, unbuckled and distracted drivers during the busy Labor Day period. Additional officers will be on the streets through the early morning hours of Tues., Sept. 3 actively stopping motorists violating these life-saving laws. The [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) campaign is paid for by federal traffic safety funds administered by the [Illinois Department of Transportation](#). The enforcement efforts are running concurrently with a media campaign reminding motorists that impaired driving has [life or death](#) consequences. [More details are posted on the Village website.](#)

**SSA investigation** – Engineering staff met this week with residents of the 500 and 600 blocks of North Euclid Avenue who had inquired about the possibility of establishing a special service area to fund the construction of brick streets on their blocks to help slow traffic. The 600 block has already gone through a traffic-calming process with the Transportation Commission, which recommended installing a mid-block pinch point and discussed a brick surface should residents choose to fund it. The 500 block's request for traffic calming is scheduled to be presented to the Transportation Commission on August 26, with similar recommendations likely. Commission recommendations for traffic calming measures on both blocks are tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Village Board for consideration in September.

**Pie-baking contest deadline** – Sat. Aug. 24 is the deadline to enter the Oak Park Farmers' Market's annual pie-baking contest. Entry forms may be submitted by emailing [farmersmarket@oak-park.us](mailto:farmersmarket@oak-park.us). The contest is open to professional and amateur bakers age 16 and older. Judging is set for Sept. 7 Market. Contest rules and registration forms are posted at [www.oak-park.us/2019piebakeoff](http://www.oak-park.us/2019piebakeoff).

**Field inspection initiative** – The Permit Processing Division of the Development Customers Services Department has begun providing contractors with high-visibility,

weatherproof biodegradable construction document bags to streamline inspections in the field. The new bags give contractors an easily identifiable, safe and secure location to store documents on site as required by Village ordinance, including a copy of the approved construction plans. The bright yellow bags should help increase productivity by reducing the time spent locating information required to complete an inspection.

**Madison Street update** – Milling on Madison Street was expected to be completed by the end of this week, with the first layer of asphalt scheduled to be installed next week. Staff is working with the contractor on an expedited schedule to limit the impact of the work on students returning to school. Village staff and the project team have been coordinating messaging with nearby schools to ensure information is available for parents and students who must cross the busy roadway. The project remains on track to be completed in early October. Construction updates continue to be distributed weekly via email to subscribers and posted on the dedicated project website [www.madisonstreetconstruction.com](http://www.madisonstreetconstruction.com).

**Downtown construction update** – Restoration of the pavement by Lake Street and Forest Avenue could begin after Labor Day now that all infrastructure and utility work in the street have been completed. A final date has not yet been set for restoration of the alley adjacent to the Forsyth Building at 1001 Lake St. just west of Forest Avenue, which also was affected by the infrastructure work. The sidewalk adjacent to the Albion redevelopment project at the northwest corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue, as well as the walkway from Lake to the alley by Austin Gardens is open to pedestrians.

**Utility improvements** – Clarence Avenue remained closed this week between Roosevelt Road and Harvard Street, as water service line installations continue next week. All work on Clarence Avenue is anticipated to be completed by the end of September. Water main work on Berkshire Street between Columbian and Grove avenues was expected to be completed by the end of this week, with the final restoration tasks finished by mid-September.

**Street resurfacing projects** – Concrete curb, sidewalk and driveway aprons were completed this week on Wisconsin Avenue between Harrison and Adams streets, with pavement removal and replacement to follow. Replacement of various sidewalk segments, garage aprons and crossing ramps were expected to be completed this week on Randolph, Marion and Iowa streets. Pavement milling on Clarence Avenue, Randolph Street and Iowa Street is set to begin next week. The reconstruction of Marion Street between Ontario Street and Chicago Avenue will follow after Labor Day. All paving projects should be completed by the end of September.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Crews made an emergency sewer service repair this week on South Boulevard just west of Home Avenue to resolve a backup issue caused by a nearby a construction project. Pavement preservation activities began this week with the application of special surface treatments intended to extend life, improve ride quality and preserve deeper layers of the pavement structure.

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