



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending May 24, 2013**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- May 27:
  - Most Village Office will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday
- May 28:
  - Personnel Committee of the Village Board, 7 p.m., room 130 (the meeting will adjourn to an executive session to discuss personnel)
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- May 29:
  - No scheduled meetings
- May 30:
  - No scheduled Meetings

**Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):**

- June 1: breakfast reception with elected officials, 8:30 a.m., Oak Park Library (please RSVP by 5/28 to Sue Kornatowski)
- June 1: Grand Re-Opening of Scoville Park, 10 a.m.
- June 1: *Tentative* I-Gov 10:30 a. m. to noon at the Oak Park Library
- June 2: Board Outreach Event - Day in our Village, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Scoville Park
- June 8: Board Retreat, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., Carleton
- June 10: Finance Committee of the Village Board (audit), 7 p.m., room 101
- July 4: Parade, 10 a.m. (Ridgeland/Jackson)

**Monthly electronic recycling returns** – Electronic recycling will be offered on the last Saturday of each month beginning this weekend and continuing through Oct. 26. Items can be recycled from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. Such items are banned from Illinois landfills. The program is sponsored by the Illinois EPA, the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency and Vintage Tech Recyclers.

**Farmers' Market in full swing** – Following last week's opening of its 38th season, the Oak Park Farmers' Market is open for business from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. every Saturday through October. This Saturday is a Go Green day with sustainability focused activities.

**On-street parking restrictions eased**– The overnight parking ban will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets over the Memorial Day weekend. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., May 25, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., May 29. However, restrictions will remain in effect in overnight permit areas, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street overnight parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including all daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. The holiday does not affect parking meters.

**Village Hall closed Monday** – [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Mon., May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are asked to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

**Memorial Day commemoration planned** – A Memorial Day commemoration ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m., Mon., May 27, at the Peace Triumphant monument in Scoville Park. In addition to remarks from public officials and local veterans, patriotic singing, a bugler playing taps and a rifle salute from the Oak Park Police honor guard are planned. Special tributes will be made to fallen soldiers and River Forest diplomat Anne Smedinghoff who was killed in Afghanistan last month. The event also will tie into the [150th anniversary](#) of the Civil War. For more information, call 708.697.6915 or 708.386.4040.

**FEMA home inspections begin** – Residents who applied for federal disaster aid following the flooding in April can expect a visit soon from a [FEMA](#) inspector. Homeowners, renters and business owners affected by the storms may register for assistance online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by telephone at 800.621.3362. July 9 is the last day to register for assistance. Only about 30 residents reported flooding to Public Works.

**Vehicle sticker renewals update** – Nearly 7,100 vehicles stickers have been purchased since sales began on May 10. It may be a little early in the season to gauge activity levels, however. Renewal notices were mailed a week earlier this year than last, which may preclude accurate week-to-week comparisons between 2013 and 2012 renewals. In addition, the deadline was extended by two weeks last year after the deadline was moved to July 15 from June 30. Online renewals last year also reflected an extra day as the deadline fell on a holiday. Parking Services will continue to monitor the sales statistics and provide more information as the renewal deadline approaches.

**I-290 discussion takes to social media** – The Communications Department curated an online discussion across its social media platforms about IDOT's plans to expand the Eisenhower Expressway through Oak Park. Beginning with a call for input via *e-news*, then a series of thoughtful questions on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), communications staff engaged with residents to create a lively, informative discussion from May 15 to May 20. More than 50 comments were posted on our

Facebook page, including a few points from Assistant Village Manager Rob Cole. The conversation spread through Facebook and eventually reached nearly 2,400 users, according to stats provided by the social media site. In total, the Ike discussion was among the most successful social media discussions that the Communications Department has undertaken to date.

**Fire Department update** – Fifteen members of the Oak Park Fire Department were honored for their skills in three incidents in 2012 by the Loyola Emergency Services System at their annual EMS Recognition Breakfast held last Friday. Two of the incidents were cardiac emergencies and the other was delivery of a baby. The EMS Recognition Breakfast, held at the Brookfield Zoo Discovery Center, was hosted by Dr. Mark Cichon who passed out awards to 82 paramedics from 14 departments in the Loyola EMS system.

**Capital Improvements update** – Water and sewer improvement work on LeMoyné Parkway from Hayes Avenue to Austin Boulevard is nearing completion. Weather delayed the final paving until Tues., May 28. Underground work on Taylor Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard is complete. The contractor was expected to begin excavating for new curbs and concrete pavement beginning Thurs., May 23, with the final concrete pour in early June.

**North Boulevard improvements update** - The contractor was scheduled to finish installing both the water and sewer mains on North Boulevard from Kenilworth Avenue to Oak Park Avenue on Thurs., May 23. They will start working on connecting these new water and sewer mains to the existing systems at Kenilworth Avenue next week. Kenilworth is tentatively scheduled to be closed from South Boulevard to Lake Street from Tues., May 28 through Wed. June 5. Eastbound traffic on North Boulevard west of Kenilworth will be allowed to go south on Kenilworth under the viaduct during the closure.

**Public Works activities** – The Forestry Division continued parkway tree pruning between Chicago Avenue and Division Street, working from Ridgeland Avenue toward East Avenue. The Street Services Division continued to focus on pavement restorations and potholes. The Water & Sewer Division repaired a water main break at 630 Gunderson Avenue, replaced a broken fire hydrant at 1150 Gunderson Ave. and repaired a fire hydrant at 100 S. Marion St.

**Extra effort at Public Works** -- Thanks to the efforts of workers in the Water & Sewer Division, a resident still has her diamond engagement ring – even though she dropped it in a storm sewer basin. After the resident called to report that she had dropped the ring into the basin in front of her home, workers from the Water & Sewer Division jumped into action. They pumped out the water and debris, and then sifted through it bucket by bucket until the ring was found. Tears of joy were shed when the ring was returned, and a great feeling of gratitude was conveyed to employees Tim Walsh, Hank Rozhon, Maurice Thompson, Brad Jelinek, Tim Buford, Quinn Hargrove, and Brian Jack for their efforts.

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