



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending August 8, 2014**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, August 11:
  - No scheduled meetings
- Tuesday, August 12:
  - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, August 13:
  - Fair Housing Task Force, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, August 14:
  - Comprehensive Plan Meetings, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 101

**Valet parking comes to downtown** – The new valet parking service debuted this week in downtown Oak Park as the Lake & Forest Garage closed to make way for redevelopment of the site. The new service will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is \$5 for up to three hours and \$12 for three or more hours until closing. The new service has gotten considerable publicity, including in the [Chicago Tribune](#).

**Downtown parking lots closing temporarily** – The surface parking lots on Lake Street just east of Pier One Imports and south of Westgate Street will be closed Monday and Tuesday (Aug. 11 and 12) for environmental testing necessary for the redevelopment of the Colt site. While the testing will not require major disruption of the pavement, vehicles parked on the site would interfere with the electromagnetic and ground radar survey technology used to assess the presence of any [recognized environmental conditions \(RECs\)](#) beneath the surface, such as abandoned fuel tanks. While this type of testing is routine in preparation of any major redevelopment project in an urban setting, the results could mean future disruption of parking in these lots if remediation is necessary. Extensive signage has been installed to alert regular lot users to the scheduled closing.

**Substation project to end** – ComEd reports that the work on their North Boulevard substation near the Main Fire Station should be completed by Tuesday. However, the final step is asphalt restoration, which will require the street to be closed Monday. The repair of the substation's south wall had taken several months and the street was only recently reopened to traffic and pedestrians.

**Capital improvements update** – Work related to water main construction continued on Highland Avenue and Van Buren Street is scheduled to be paved next week. The first layer of asphalt has been placed on Grove, Lombard and Taylor avenues, while pavement patching is underway on Berkshire Street as part of state-funded resurfacing projects. Work has begun on the 100 and 200 blocks of Clinton Avenue as part of the local street resurfacing program. With the viaduct enhancements in the final punch list stage, an onsite meeting has been scheduled next week to test equipment and find a solution to the ongoing issue of the strobing LED light at Marion Street. Sewer video reports are being studied to determine if any additional televising is required.

**Public Works activities** – Restoring pavement and related items where excavations were necessary to repair water leaks continued, along with litter and debris pickup along the viaducts and various parking lots. Pavement symbols for parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities were painted at various locations Village wide, and bluestone and granite crosswalks were repaired downtown using materials salvaged from the Marion Street speed table reconstruction. Crews also continued updating, removing and relocating signs at various downtown locations to improve vehicle and pedestrian travel that will be affected by the closing of the Lake & Forest Garage and the coming redevelopment project. Catch basins were cleared from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue and Division Street to North Avenue to help reduce localized street flooding in heavy rain events. Sewer inlets also were cleaned between Austin and Harlem, and Division and Chicago Avenue. Crews repaired a sewer lateral at 154 N. Ridgeland, broken fire hydrants at Madison Street and East Avenue and Kenilworth Avenue and Division, and a water service leak at 1174 S. Grove Ave. Main sewer lines were flushed between Austin and Harlem and South Boulevard and Madison to prevent potential back-ups. Water service upgrades were made at 632 N. Harvey Ave. and 1152 Clarence Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Catch basin frames were repaired at 443 and 455 Greenfield Ave., and the sanitary sewer manhole was replaced on Chicago Avenue just north of Elmwood Avenue. Forestry Division crews responded to a range of service requests and storm damage, including stump removals and pruning to ensure proper roof and sidewalk clearances. A large maple tree at 920 S. Taylor Ave. was removed last Friday after it fell during what is believed to have been a microburst. Contractors continued grinding stumps and removing dead and diseased trees at various locations. Another Village wide street sweeping cycle also began this week.

**Lake & Forest Garage closes on schedule** – The Lake & Forest Garage closed as planned on Mon., Aug. 4. Even though the Village made multiple attempts to contact permit owners to make sure their vehicles were removed from the garage prior to the closing, four vehicles remained Monday morning. The owner of one was contacted and quickly moved the vehicle. The other three vehicles had to be towed after attempts to contact their owners were unsuccessful. Fencing has been installed to prevent entry into the garage. Locked gates can be opened to allow access if needed, such as for the Fire Department, which is planning training exercises in the vacant facility prior to demolition.

**Wellness Center collaboration** – Our public health nurses are collaborating with [PCC Community Wellness Center](#) to inform and educate patients about how to prevent exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, which are increasing nationwide particularly among people ages 15 to 24. The initiative will provide healthcare staff

with printed materials and condoms that can be given to patients who might be at higher risk. These items are being provided free to certified local health departments by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The local initiative encompasses 11 health centers serving residents of Chicago and the near west suburbs, including Oak Park.

**Fire Department update** – The Oak Park Fire Department responded to 494 calls for service in July, bringing the annual total to 3,713. Emergency medical service calls represented nearly 60 percent of all calls, followed by alarm initiated, general service calls and fire/hazardous conditions. Contact was made with 323 patients in July, 221 of which were transported to a medical facility, with 132 requiring advanced life support services. Responders were on the scene of emergency calls in an average of five minutes and nine seconds, well below the six-minute industry standard. Firefighters faced only one structure fire in July, a cooking-related incident that was quickly extinguished, but did require power ventilation of the house. The Fire Department also participated in the annual July 4th fireworks display, with crews prepared to respond to any events in the firing zone and extinguish any embers that might have settled on the roof of the adjacent high school.

**Police Department update** – Oak Park Police responded to 3,122 incidents in July down slightly from the 3,250 incidents in June. So far this year, Police have investigated 19,119 incidents. Medium-priority calls, such as vehicle accidents with no injuries, represented 41 percent of the July calls. The 1,007 high-priority calls in July were about 32 percent of the total, a percentage that holds for the year to date. Police responded to high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 40 seconds during July. [Click here to see the Police call data for July.](#)

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