



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 5, 2014**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, September 8:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 101
 - Village Board Executive Session, immediately following, room 130
- Tuesday, September 9:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, September 10:
 - Fair Housing Task Force Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, September 11:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Special Plan Commission Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 101

Upcoming Meetings:

- Saturday, September 13 – Village Board Outreach Event – Barrie Fest, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., Barrie Park

Perennial plant exchange – The Oak Park Conservatory will hold its annual fall perennial plant exchange Saturday. Anyone who would like to share perennials and get something new for their garden can drop off labeled potted plants from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and then return from noon to 12:30 p.m. to choose from among the donated plants. More information on this and other events is [posted on the Conservatory website](#).

Traffic enforcement results – Police arrested three impaired drivers and issued 19 citations for not wearing a safety belt and 13 tickets for using a cell phone without a hands-free device while driving over the Labor Day weekend. The effort was as part of the statewide [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) program supported by federal funds through the [Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Transportation Safety](#). All of the impaired driving arrests were made after midnight, and 16 of the safety belt and cell phone citations were issued after 9 p.m., as extra emphasis was given to the late-night hours when statistics show the most people drink and drive and the fewest buckle up. Police say that while the stepped up holiday enforcement effort may be over, officers continue to aggressively enforce these important traffic safety laws.

Wednesday fire report – Firefighters from eight communities joined our [Fire Department](#) in battling an early morning blaze Wednesday on the 500 block of N. Humphrey. A unit from a ninth community provided backup coverage of our main station in case another incident had occurred. The fire destroyed a vacant single-family house undergoing renovations and severely damaged an adjacent multifamily building. At the peak of the fire, about 60 firefighters were involved in the effort to extinguish the blaze. While the fire was all but out within about two hours after being reported at 4:23 a.m., a crew remained on site through much of the day dealing with troublesome hotspots within the debris of the single-family structure. Luckily, no one was hurt, but an estimated 30 people were displaced from the 15-unit building managed by the [Oak Park Residence Corporation](#). The two-story house where the fire began was completely destroyed and the roof of the multifamily building was severely damaged. Several apartment units also were affected, with smoke and water damage throughout the building. Given the scope of the repairs necessary, the apartment building likely will be vacant for several months.

Ridgeland Avenue resurfacing update – The federally funded resurfacing of Ridgeland Avenue from I-290 to just south of Lake Street is underway. Crews are scheduled to begin replacing sidewalks and curbs at crosswalks and removing sewer manhole covers next week. Asphalt grinding is anticipated to start in mid-to-late September, with the project expected to be completed in late October.

Capital improvements update – Local street and parking lot paving projects are progressing. Jackson Boulevard from Harlem Avenue to Oak Park Avenue should be repaved by the end of next week. Work has begun to rebuild the concrete portions of Clinton Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard, with the first layer of asphalt installed by the end of next week, weather permitting. Five Village parking lots were repaved last week and concrete work completed on the traffic diverters on Elmwood and Rossell avenues, with the asphalt work scheduled to be completed next week. The final layer of asphalt has been installed on Grove Avenue, Lombard Avenue, Taylor Avenue and Berkshire Street, with pavement markings and landscaping scheduled to begin next week, as these state-funding projects near completion. Street surface patching is complete, with only a few larger patches remaining. With the pavement markings added next week, all street crack filling and microsurfacing projects will be completed for this season. The annual sidewalk replacement program is expected to be completed in about three weeks. Work began this week on the east-west alley north of Lake Street west of Forest Avenue, the first of 10 alley segments scheduled for replacement under the *green alley* program. This particular alley segment, which is scheduled to be completed in early October, was chosen first because of the coming redevelopment of the nearby Lake Street/Forest Avenue redevelopment project.

Public Works Activities – Restoration of street openings to repair water main breaks continued throughout the Village, as did cleaning of various Village Parking lots and on North Avenue. Repair of sidewalk brick continued in the downtown business district and crews removed the unsightly pigeon droppings from the bluestone sidewalks by the Marion Street viaduct. A water main break was repaired at Division Street and Lombard Avenue, and a water service upgraded at 1012 Augusta Street as part of the lead abatement program. Water meter head replacements continued throughout the Village with 156 upgrades completed. In addition to ongoing pruning requests, crews removed a large broken limb at 206 N. Austin Boulevard and a split

limb hanging over the street at Lombard Avenue and Greenfield Street. Contractors continued grinding and removing dead, diseased and EAB-infested trees.

Electronics recycling update – The Public Works Department’s seasonal monthly collection of old [electronics for recycling](#) continues to be popular, with Saturday’s event attracting 349 households. The department hosts the recycling events the last Saturday of each month from May through October. Two more events are scheduled for this year – September 27 and October 25. Electronic items are no longer allowed in Illinois landfills and will be not be picked up by refuse collectors.

Police activity update – Police calls for service were up slightly in August as compared to July, but high-priority calls declined. Officers responded to 3,290 calls in August, compared to 3,122 in July. August’s 992 high-priority calls were down from the 1,007 fielded in July. Medium-priority calls, such as accidents without injuries – historically the largest category of police calls – were up in August with 1,373 as compared to the 1,266 calls in July. Police response times remained low in August, with officers on the scene of high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 13 seconds, some 27 seconds quicker than in July. The average response time for high-priority calls so far this year is three minutes and 32 seconds. Oak Park continued to represent the bulk of 9-1-1 calls handled through the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center, the numbers reflecting the Village’s population as compared to River Forest and Elmwood Park. [Click here to see the Police activity data for 2014 through August.](#)

Permit processing activity update – Permit and plan review application volume increased about 6.5 percent in July from June, and permits issued increased by 12 percent. Plans for several notable projects were submitted for review, including plans for renovating the Park District of Oak Park’s Carroll, Fox and Longfellow parks, Pete’s Fresh Market and a build-out for Pizza Hut, 7101 North Ave. [Click here to review the full July report.](#)

Employee news – We officially ended the summer season with an ice cream social for employees last Friday afternoon. Senior staff served up scoops of chocolate and vanilla ice cream from Peterson’s, and a drawing was held for a several prizes, including weeklong priority parking passes among the municipal vehicles and Downtown Oak Park gift certificates. In addition, a Village Hall trivia contest was conducted online and five employees got them all right. This event is part of our ongoing efforts to provide opportunities for employees to enjoy some comradery during their busy workdays for the purpose of developing teamwork amongst Village employees.

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