



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 19, 2015**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, June 22:
 - Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Tuesday, June 23:
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 101
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124

- Wednesday, June 24:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 101
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, June 25:
 - No scheduled meetings

- Friday, June 26:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, June 29 – Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
- Tuesday, June 30 – Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
- Saturday, July 4 – 4th of July Parade, 10 a.m., [Longfellow Park](#) at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street
- Tuesday, July 7 – Reinventing Government Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

Flood damage report – Monday's torrential rainfall left many [property owners with damaged goods](#) in their basements. Northeast Oak Park – the lowest point in the community – was hardest hit. Public Works had fielded calls and emails from 178 homes by Thursday, most coming after the Village used social media and [enews](#) to spread the word about arrangements being made with Waste Management to pick up flood-damaged items today and Saturday for residents who asked to be put on a special collection list. The Village Manager's Office also received several calls and emails Tuesday from residents concerned about the situation. The three inches of rain – most falling in less than an hour -- overwhelmed the [sewer system's capacity](#).

Staff was on the job until 10 p.m., Monday, responding to calls about standing water, manhole covers dislodged by the intensity of flowing water and basement backups. The sewer system was functioning properly, however, as the water quickly receded once the rain slowed. A [study conducted in 2011 after extensive flooding](#) examined the sewer system in detail and determined that even if the capacity of the Village system was increased at substantial cost, the problems likely would continue under extreme weather conditions because of the capacity of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District receptor system to carry flow away from the community. That study led to a public education campaign to convince property owners to disconnect their downspouts from the sewer system and install rain barrels and other water management landscaping features, as well as the [Sewer Backup Protection Grant Program](#).

Parade contingency planning – With the state repaving Ridgeland from South Boulevard to Chicago Avenue, an alternate route for the July 4 parade as a backup plan may be considered. The contractor assured us before the work began, that this portion of the roadway would be finished in time for the parade. Given the uncertainty of the weather, however, staff is prepared just in case. The current route has been shortened to end at Chicago Avenue because of the sewer work underway on Ridgeland Avenue between Chicago and Division Street. We will continue to monitor the repaving project into next week before making any decisions on altering the route.

Lake & Forest status report – The new development at Lake Street and Forest Avenue has now reached six levels, with a seventh in the making. Crews soon will be “jumping the crane” to make it taller as the structure moves on toward its full height. The work is expected to take about 14 hours.

BASE Camp at the Public Works Center – The [Oak Park Education Foundation](#) returned this week to hold a portion of its annual summer camp at the Public Works Center. The Foundation’s [BASE Camp](#) – or *Build A Summer Experience*, includes painting a new mural on the west side of the Harvey Avenue viaduct. Activities in the Public Works Center included students from both Brooks and Julian middle schools.

Ridgeland Avenue sewer project status – Work on the second stage of the sewer improvement project on Ridgeland Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Division Street remains on track for an early August completion. The contractor expects to complete the sewer north to Augusta Street by June 19 and then do service connections. Carts will be placed at the corner of each block for residents who might need help getting items such as groceries home when street access is not available. State contractors plan to repave this portion of Ridgeland once the sewer work is finished.

Alley improvement projects – The first phase of the season’s alley improvement program is nearing completion, with 15 of the 16 alleys segments now open to traffic. The second and final phase of the season’s alley projects is underway. Pavement has been removed and storm sewers have been completed, but the rain delayed pouring concrete.

Reservoir project update – Repairs continue to the interior roof of the Central Reservoir under Stevenson Park. Plans to apply the sealant coating to the outside

have been delayed by the wet weather. Hopefully, the work can be done next week if the weather cooperates. The sealant must be applied at night to prevent damage from the heat of the sun, which can cause blistering and premature failure. Work will take two consecutive nights. Although the field lights will be on, the work is not expected to disturb the neighborhood. Plans are to reinstall the soil over the reservoir in early July.

Capital improvements update – Water and sewer improvements are tentatively scheduled to begin June 22 on Harvey Ave between Augusta and Thomas streets. Sewer work on Kenilworth Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Augusta Street is scheduled to begin in mid-July. The first resurfacing projects of the 2015 season are underway on Harvard Street between Maple and Wenonah avenues, the 900 and 1000 blocks of Wesley Avenue and the 900 block of south Kenilworth Avenue. Work remaining from the 2014 sidewalk replacement program continued.

Public Works activities – Crews patrolled for flooding issues during and after the recent heavy rainstorms. Several traffic intersections were affected when runoff exceeded sewer capacity. The rain also meant Forestry crews were responding to calls about storm-damaged trees and broken branches. Several trees needed to be removed because of significant damage. Forestry crews also responded to multiple calls for low hanging branches and roof clearance issues as the trees were weighed down by the rain. A fire hydrant at 522 Lyman Avenue and the sewer lateral at 1040 N. Hayes Street were repaired. Crews also rodded and traced the sewer at 800 N. Ridgeland Ave. and located where to repair the damaged sewer in the alley behind 20 Madison St. The Street Lighting Division is troubleshooting a damaged cable on Elizabeth Court that is causing a partial outage on the block. Crews assembled a bin behind the Racquet Club on Lake Street where wood chips will be left for residents. Once the bin is filled, residents will be alerted to the opportunity.

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