



**Village Manager's Report  
The Week Ending June 24, 2016**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, June 27:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
- Tuesday, June 28:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 201
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Wednesday, June 29:
  - Commission Chair Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, June 30:
  - No scheduled meetings
- Friday, July 1:
  - No scheduled meetings

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

- Monday, July 4
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, 10 a.m., Longfellow Park (Ridgeland and Adams St.)

**State budget impasse and construction** – The long-running state budget crises could mean the suspension of local construction projects funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation. If a budget or a stop-gap funding measure is not adopted by midnight, June 30, work will stop on the South Boulevard project underway between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street. The boulevard is scheduled to be reopened to two-way traffic in July and contingency plans are in place to proceed with at least this goal should the stoppage appear to be long term. The impasse in the state legislature also could delay awarding the contract for resurfacing Chicago Avenue from Harlem to Austin Boulevard. Engineering Division is closely monitoring the situation in Springfield and will provide updates as they become available.

**Divvy stations going in** – Work began this week to prepare the locations for the new Divvy bike share stations that soon will be operational in Oak Park. [The Village's announcement](#) was coordinated with Evanston for today (Fri., June 24). Six of Oak Park's 13 stations are scheduled to be installed Monday (June 27) from Madison Street southward, weather

permitting. Another six stations are scheduled to be installed Thursday (June 30), including downtown and at the Dole Library. The 13<sup>th</sup> and final station will be installed in July after a licensing agreement is approved by the Park District board. Divvy will be officially launched at the Farmers' Market on July 2, with a tent and logo-tee-shirted Divvy staff talking to patrons, explaining the program and handing out coupons for a discounted membership.

**Zoning open houses** – Open houses are scheduled for next week to give residents a chance to review and comment on the first draft of recommended changes to the zoning ordinance. The sessions are set for 3 to 9 p.m., Tues., June 28, and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thurs., June 30 at Village Hall. Brief overview presentations are scheduled for 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., June 28, and 8 a.m. and noon on June 30, but staff and consultants will be on hand throughout the open houses to accommodate the schedules of anyone interested in learning more about the project. The draft is posted at [www.oakparkzoning.com](http://www.oakparkzoning.com) along with a wide range of information about the process.

**Valet parking update** – Use of the universal Valet Oak Park service has grown over the past three months. The vendor reported 553 vehicles used the service in May, up from 437 in April and 291 in March. Fridays tend to be the most active days, although Thursdays and Saturdays saw growth in May. We remain cautiously optimistic that as customers become better acquainted with the service, its popularity will grow. A recent sticky note ad on the cover of the Wednesday Journal offered a free trial and also may have helped visually link the service with the London-style valet booths. [Click here to view the report.](#)

**Oak Park influence** – Valparaiso, Indiana has taken its cue from Oak Park when it comes to ensuring fair treatment of all. The city adopted its first ever human rights ordinance last month, modeling the new local law on Oak Park's historic ordinance. The resemblance is no coincidence, thanks to the two-day visit there in January by Community Relations Director Cedric Melton and Commission Chair Tom Zapler. Cedric was invited to meet with city staff and participate in a community meeting to discuss Oak Park's unique philosophy of Community Relations outreach, human rights and inclusion. Based on the approval of a new ordinance, Cedric and Tom clearly were effective ambassadors for the Oak Park way of life. The city now intends to establish a dedicated municipal community relations function and director similar to the Oak Park model.

**South Boulevard streetscape** – The south side of South Boulevard remained open to westbound traffic from Marion Street to Harlem, as work continued along the north side of the street between the multimodal transportation station and Harlem. The curb on the north has been framed and poured, and concrete pavement was poured the diagonal parking. Electrical work and foundations for street lighting as well as some of the irrigation system piping is scheduled to begin next week. Temporary asphalt is set to be poured by the first full week of July, which would allow opening the street to two-way traffic.

**Oak Park Station update** – Work continues on this major project downtown, which was recently renamed [Elevate Oak Park](#). The new water mains installed on Westgate Street from Harlem Avenue to Maple Avenue and on Maple from Westgate to Lake Street were flushed and pressure tested. The contractor is scheduled to chlorinate the water in the mains and provide samples to the Village for testing. Sewer and water main work on Westgate between Maple and Marion also continued this week, requiring partial lane closures and a flagger to maintain safe traffic flow during work hours.

**Chicago Avenue construction** – The underground work has been completed for the first stage of the Chicago Avenue sewer project between Ridgeland and Scoville/Fair Oaks avenues. The road closure and detour remains in place, as pavement restoration began. Work then will shift to between Forest and Grove Avenues after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Signage and message boards were scheduled to go in this week to alert motorists to the work area shift. During the second stage, Chicago Avenue through traffic will be detoured to Division Street via Harlem and Oak Park avenues. The detour is being coordinated with neighboring River Forest. Engineering Division staff has been in frequent communication with Holmes Elementary, Frank Lloyd Wright Studio and all businesses to help them prepare for any disruptions.

**Harrison Street lighting** – The lighting project underway on Harrison Street between Harlem Avenue to Ridgeland Avenue is on track to be substantially completed in July. Crews are awaiting delivery of the lighting control cabinets to make the electric service connections and schedule Village and ComEd inspections. Ornamental lighting fixtures are expected to be delivered the week of July 11.

**Alley/sidewalk improvements** – Concrete pavement has been completed in 15 alley segments, with six segments remaining to be poured. Alley aprons have been poured between Marion Street and Home Avenue, and between Pleasant Street and South Boulevard. The parking lots for businesses along South Boulevard are accessible from Marion Street, but the alley return at Home Avenue still needs utility adjustments. The alleys between Chicago Avenue and Iowa Street and between Lombard and Hayes avenues were scheduled to reopen this week pending concrete strength results. Excavation of the alleys between Ontario and Lake streets and between Ridgeland and Cuyler avenues was scheduled to be completed this week as well. Sidewalk improvements resumed this week, including eliminating trip hazards on Austin Boulevard.

**Other construction projects** – Final pavement is scheduled to be installed next week on Mapleton Avenue between Thomas and Greenfield streets, and on Harvey Avenue from Jackson Boulevard to Madison Street. Topsoil was installed this week at all locations disturbed by the work. Engineering staff met this week with the crosswalk contractor to discuss the schedule and traffic-control strategy for completing crosswalk repairs on Marion Street. Work should begin within the next two weeks. Nicor continued property restoration at various locations in north Oak Park. The work follows the gas company's installation of new gas mains and services.

**Public Works activities** – In addition to painting and touching up art bases for the [Sculpture Walk](#), Streets Division crews swept streets and viaducts across the Village, fixed street openings where utility repairs had occurred, trimmed weeds in brickwork and concrete sidewalks in business areas, removed litter, cleaned parking lots and filled potholes. Water & Sewer Division crews replaced a broken fire hydrant at 1049 Fair Oaks Ave., upgraded water services at 938 S Euclid Ave., repaired a sink hole at 1115 N. Harvey Ave., jetted the area north of the CTA Green Line to Chicago Avenue and cleared sewer inlets. Forestry Division crews cleaned up the limited damage from Wednesday's storm, but also continued to find brush remaining from the fierce weather on May 31. Routine Forestry tasks also continued, including removing trees, restoring landscaping and responding to resident requests.

**Employee news** – Veteran employee Tina Brown is taking her skills and experience to the Development Customer Service Department where she will become the Business Licensing Officer. Tina has worked with the Village for nearly 16 years, most recently as Restrictions Coordinator in Parking Services. In her new position, Tina will be responsible for the day to day management of all aspects of licensing including chauffeur, liquor, solicitor and businesses.

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