



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending September 9, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Saturday, September 10:
 - Village Board Outreach Event – Barrie Fest 12 p.m., Barrie Park
- Monday, September 12:
 - Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 130
- Tuesday, September 13:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, September 14:
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, September 15:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m. room 215
- Friday, September 16:
 - No scheduled meetings

Mosquito spraying scheduled – [Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) crews were back on Oak Park streets last night (Thurs., Sept. 8) spraying for adult mosquitos that could carry the West Nile Virus. This was the second time this season the district has sprayed in the community. However, they have been spraying throughout the district's 77-square mile area of the Des Plaines River and Salt Creek valley for some time as virus-carrying mosquitos are being found routinely in most traps, including the two in Oak Park. Residents who had signed up to be notified by the [Village's automated alert system](#) were contacted Wednesday prior to the spraying.

Recycling opportunities Saturday – The Village will host two special recycling opportunities tomorrow (Sat., Sept. 10) at the Public Works Center. Crews will be on hand to shred documents containing personal information and repurpose old clothes that may not be suited for donating to a resale shop. Both events will run simultaneously from 9 a.m. to noon. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes of documents containing personal information such as bank accounts numbers, credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information. Paper materials that can be placed in the recycling cart or bin, such as newspaper, magazines, chipboard or junk mail, will not be accepted. The Public Works Department has partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation to collect clothing and apparel of all types and in any condition such as shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels. The materials are sent to developing nations to have the raw materials repurposed for other uses.

Safe school walking routes online – As a part of its participation in the [Illinois Safe Routes to School Program](#), the Village now offers an interactive [Safe School Route layer in MapOffice™](#). The layer highlights the safest routes for children to take when walking to each of the community's 10 public elementary schools. Administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Safe Routes to School Program is designed to improve public safety and promote healthy alternatives for children to get to school. The Village has participated in the program for many years, but has relied on static maps to illustrate the safest walking route to each of the schools. The new online feature is a layer accessible from multiple locations, including via an address search at www.oak-park.us/maps and under the *Quick Links* tab from any page on the Village website. The new feature will be promoted to the community in the days ahead, but you can [click here for a direct link to the Safe School layer](#).

Parking survey underway – The Parking & Mobility Services Department is conducting an online survey to gather public input on current regulations and possible changes in Y2, Y3 and Y4 parking zones. These zones are in the area generally bounded by Harlem Avenue, South Boulevard, Oak Park Avenue and Madison Street. The Transportation Commission will review the survey results as part of its plan to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Village Board later this fall. The scope of the survey is very limited and promotion efforts have been targeted to those who park and live in the study area. Efforts to solicit participation include strategically placed temporary parkway signs and postcards distributed to permit holders. You can review the brief survey at www.oak-park.us/whatdoyouthink.

Storm response – The brief, but fierce thunderstorm that swept through the Village at about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday (Sept. 7) damaged trees, homes and vehicles in southeast Oak Park. Most of the damage occurred south of I-290 in an area from about Austin Boulevard to Elmwood Avenue. Crews from the Streets and Forestry divisions worked with private contractors until about 6 p.m., Thursday, cleaning up branches that had blocked streets and damaged vehicles and homes. Fillmore Avenue was blocked in five separate locations with downed trees and limbs. In addition, a parkway tree fell on homes at 1120 and 1122 S. Harvey Ave, causing damage that is still being assessed. Forestry crews continued working in the area the remainder of the week, removing broken hanging limbs and inspecting trees for other damage.

New bicycle parking facilities – Bicyclists soon will have dedicated areas that include all the tools necessary to perform basic repairs and maintenance such as changing a flat tire and adjusting brakes and derailleur gears. The new *fixit stations* are part of a project that also will bring new bicycle parking shelters and racks to areas adjacent to parking lots on Harrison Street (North Lot and Lot 87), North Boulevard and Forest Avenue (Lot 10), and Oak Park Avenue south of Garfield Street (Lot 15). Construction notification letters were sent this week to parking permit holders who will be affected. The projects will include resurfacing existing pavement and replacing some curbs and gutters as well as sidewalk and landscaping improvements. Eighty percent of the project costs are funded by the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

Village Hall garage repairs – Work on the Police garage at Village Hall this week focused on sandblasting to remove rust from the steel rebar of the roof structure exposed when the roadway by the south entrance was removed. Concrete for the roadway deck could be poured as early as next week depending on the progress of the sandblasting. While the sandblasting has not been as loud as was the jack hammering to remove the pavement,

staff and visitors have had to contend with more dirt and dust during this phase of the project. Tarps are in place to shield pedestrians from any debris and sand dust as they enter via the golf-course style bridge providing access to the south door from the parking lot. Building access also has been maintained at the Lombard Avenue entrance for persons with disabilities.

Chicago Avenue construction – Work continued this week on tasks related to the state-managed repaving of Chicago Avenue from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Crews worked on the south side of the street removing sections of curbs and sidewalk crossings east of Linden Avenue, and poured new concrete for curbs and gutters between Forest and Elmwood avenues. The new crossings will ensure compliance with the Americans with Disability Act. An environmental subcontractor was on site this week by the Harlem Avenue business district performing borings to test the soil for disposal. ComEd also is completing work on Chicago Avenue at Marion Street. The sidewalk on the north side of the street has remained open to serve as the [Safe Route to School](#) route, with key north/south crossings at major intersections available to pedestrians.

Downtown construction – Traffic barriers along Lake Street at Forest Avenue were removed this week as Vantage Oak Park moves closer to completion. However, traffic disruptions likely will return temporarily next week for paving and striping. To the west, right-of-way work related to the Elevate Oak Park project resumed with installation of a permanent concrete patch on the 1100 block of North Boulevard and a catch basin inlet at the alley. The contractor also cut and capped the water main at Harlem Avenue and Westgate Street, and removed a valve vault, work that was performed at night in accordance with the state construction permit. On South Boulevard, the developer of the property at 1111 is completing frontage and façade improvements while the streetscape contractor awaits delivery of bicycle parking rings and shelter materials. Improvements to the building are expected to continue through at least next week, after which the streetscape contractor plans to begin some preliminary work required for excavation. The contractor continues to be responsible for all maintenance within the project limits.

Fire Department activity report – August saw an increase in fires/hazardous conditions and alarm-initiated calls, but calls for emergency medical services returned to normal seasonal levels. Of the 599 calls received in August, EMS calls represented about 60 percent of the total, followed by 100 general service calls (17 percent), 59 alarm-initiated (10 percent), 41 fires/hazardous conditions (7 percent) and 37 good intent (6 percent). So far this year, the department has responded to 4,429 calls for services with an average response time of about four minutes and 30 seconds. Crews responded to four structure fires in August, but only one resulted in significant damage – a rooftop fire on the West Cook YMCA on Marion Street likely caused by workers that did not reach any inside areas. However, two firefighters succumbed to heat exhaustion and were transported to a local hospital where they were treated and released. Fire Prevention Bureau personnel continued inspections at the new high rise at 150 Forest Avenue, inspecting fire protection systems as occupancy expands to additional floors. Personnel also met with representatives of the new Elevate Oak Park development under construction a little further west on Lake Street to discuss and plan fire protection issues, and begin inspections of the construction site for life-safety and initial fire protection requirements.

Miscellaneous project updates – Work this week on the pedestrian crossing beacon at Chicago and Harvey avenues included excavating, forming and pouring new concrete hand

holes, signal pole foundations and controllers on each corners. Excavation for the pedestrian/bicycle path also began in preparation for the new signal poles that will be expected to arrive soon from the manufacturer. Now that the new ornamental street lights are in and functioning on Harrison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard, crews are focusing on restoration. All concrete replacement work has been completed and parkway topsoil placed, with only a few remaining sections awaiting new sod. Brick replacement should begin sometime next week.

Street repair – Resurfacing work continued this week with the leveling binder layer installed on the 100 and 200 blocks of South Harvey Avenue, Pleasant Street from East Avenue to Scoville Avenue and on the 600 block of Lyman Avenue. Curbs and sidewalks were removed on the 100 and 200 blocks of South Cuyler Avenue and sewer adjustments made on Harvey, Pleasant, Lyman, and Cuyler avenues in preparation for repaving. Crack filling to prolong pavement life neared completion this week, with only a few locations remaining on South Boulevard.

Water/sewer main replacement – The season's second round of water and sewer improvement projects continued this week with material and equipment delivered to the Highland Avenue site. Underground work was scheduled to begin this week on the 600 block, which is closed to all but emergency vehicles.

Public Works activities – In addition to combining resources to clean up from Wednesday's thunderstorm, Public Works crews focused primarily on routine tasks. Street Division crews began pavement opening repairs where utility repairs had been made at 826 Woodbine Ave. and 427 Wisconsin Ave., with asphalt to be applied next week. Division crews also repaired brick pavement in the alley behind 300 S. Grove Ave. and in front of 1112 Lake St. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sink hole at 606 Forest Ave. and a sewer lateral at 721 N. Grove Ave., as well as upgraded a water service at 919 N. Elmwood Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Street Lighting Division crews replaced a traffic signal knocked down in an accident on the southeast corner of Madison and Home avenues and repaired a pedestrian crossing signal at Jackson Boulevard and Cuyler Avenue. Forestry Division crews completed pruning parkway trees along Chicago Avenue in preparation for the repaving project and pruned trees along the Kenilworth Avenue median as part of general improvements. Building Maintenance Division staff continued directing the contractor involved in the Village Hall refurbishing project, which includes replacing carpeting and furniture, and painting. Work currently is focused on the Parking Services Center areas, as staff has been moved temporarily into room 101.

Employee news – John Kramer has been selected as the Office Manager in the Finance Department. John, who joined the Village in May as a temporary contractor to assist with day to day accounting and budget analysis, quickly demonstrated great aptitude and enthusiasm for municipal finance. When applicants were sought for the newly created office manager position, he proved to be an ideal candidate. John is a seasoned professional with an accounting degree from Elmhurst College and is a registered CPA in Illinois. Prior to joining the Village, John served as finance director for a well-known retirement community and as controller for a real estate development and management company. As the new Finance Office Manager, John will be in charge of payroll functions and assist in other areas such as purchasing, budgeting, day to day accounting and general oversight of department operations. In other employee news, two new probationary firefighter/paramedics were

sworn in. Both Scott Lyng and Robert Hercmanas are certified firefighter/paramedics who will be assigned to shifts after completing a two-week training schedule.

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