



Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 29, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, June 1:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, June 2:
 - CDCAC Meeting, 6 p.m. room 201
 - Early Childhood Curriculum, 6 p.m., room 101
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130

- Wednesday, June 3:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201

- Thursday, June 4:
 - CDCAC Meeting, 6 p.m., room 101
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

- Friday, June 5:
 - No scheduled meetings

- Sunday, June 5:
 - Day in our Village, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Scoville Park

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, June 22 – Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

Tour the Historical Society's future home – Anyone interested in checking out the future home of the [Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest](#) is invited to tour the work in progress from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday. The Society's future new home at Lake Street and Lombard Avenue is in the old Cicero Fire Co. No. 2 station, the oldest public building in Oak Park. The extensive renovation project is creating a flexible, open-floor-plan space for exhibits and programs for a hometown museum. More information is posted online - [just click here](#).

Recycle unwanted electronics Saturday – Residents are invited to [recycle their old electronic devices](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., May 30 at the Public Works Center.

Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders/players, video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves.

Ridgeland Avenue detour to begin Monday – The second phase of a major sewer improvement project is set to begin Monday, closing Ridgeland Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Division Street. The section of Ridgeland is scheduled to be closed until Aug. 15, barring significant weather delays. Ridgeland Avenue traffic will be diverted west to Oak Park Avenue and around the construction zone. Signs alerting motorists to the coming detour have been in place since mid-May. The work is part of the historic capital improvement initiative to invest \$20 million over the next five years in the Village's vital transportation network and water and sewer systems. An interactive map to help residents track major construction projects planned for the 2015 season is posted at www.oak-park.us/construction. For more information on specific capital improvement projects in Oak Park, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Reservoir project updates – The contractor installing the waterproof membrane over the Central Water Reservoir under Stevenson Park has been given approval to work from 7:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. for two nights in the second week of June. The nighttime hours are necessary because the heat of the day can cause the membrane to blister and fail. The work does not require noisy equipment, but the baseball field lights will be on to provide supplemental lighting. Residents along Lake Street adjacent to the site will be notified prior to the work. In the meantime, the top soil has been removed and interior roof repairs are continuing.

Emergency preparedness update – The Health Department has been coordinating training classes for volunteers interested in joining the [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#). The most recent classes were held on May 9, May 16 and May 17 for which the Village now has more than 70 volunteers, an increase from the 10 volunteers when the program started 16 months ago. These volunteers are trained in a wide range of skills, including basic firefighting, search and rescue, and first aid. The goal is to have trained individuals ready to provide assistance to their neighbors, neighborhood, workplace or school, and their Village.

Farmers Market opening day a success – Last Saturday's opening day at the 40th season of the Oak Park Farmers' Market attracted more than 7,300 attendees, according to information gathered by members of the Farmers Market Commission. A preliminary report indicates that visitors to Oak Park represented 63 percent of the attendees, while more than 43 percent lived within the market zip code. The high level of visitors from the 60302 zip code suggests that many market shoppers are within walking distance. The Farmers Market Commission intends to continue its effort to further study Market patrons. The Village is helping the Commission to promote the 40th season of the Farmers Market with a poster featuring a print of a sunflower watercolor by Oak Parker Bobby Raymond, a member of the [Village Hall Wall of Fame](#). The print will be distributed by the Village Board at next weekend's *A Day in Our Village* festival.

Capital improvements status – Pending Village Board consideration Monday, water and sewer improvement projects at two additional locations in the Village could begin

June 8. Bids were opened Thursday for the second round of resurfacing projects this season. The apparent low bid is scheduled to be presented to the Village Board for consideration on June 15. The first round of resurfacing projects is expected to begin next week.

Alley improvement projects update – Ten alleys have been completed to date as part the 2015 alley improvement schedule and have been reopened to traffic. Pavement removal and sewer work continues in the remaining alleys, all of which remain on schedule for completion by June 15. The last round of alley projects this year is scheduled to begin June 8.

Public Works activities –Crews began installing the steel bases for this year’s Sculpture Walk, which will feature 12 pieces of public art along Chicago Avenue from Austin Boulevard to Ridgeland Avenue. Streets Division crews replaced damaged bluestone on Marion Street and continued installing new trash cans, benches and bike racks in the Southtown Business District. A water service leak at 1064 Clarence Ave. was repaired and sewer inlets cleared to alleviate flooding during Tuesday’s heavy rains. Forestry crews continued pruning, removing damaged and diseased trees, grinding stumps, picking up brush, delivering wood chips and responding to requests for tree inspections. Planting of new trees is underway, with 325 new specimens expected to be planted throughout the Village by the end of next week. Street Lighting Division crews repaired two street lights that were damaged in traffic accidents at 602 S. Euclid Ave. and 111 Madison St.

Employee News – Eleven recent hires were introduced to senior management staff at the quarterly employee welcome meeting this week. In addition to Deputy Police Chief Frank Limon, Firefighter/Paramedics Zachary Byington, Brent Mason, Adam Smith, Timothy Steffen, Jacob Haag, Daniel Leiner and Patrick Sanchez were welcomed to the staff, along with Public Works Fleet Automotive Service Technician David Brown, Public Works Equipment Operator Gregory Soltwisch and Parking Account Clerk Todd Coleman. Also this week, the Engineering Division’s Joe Powers was promoted to civil engineer, after serving as a civil engineer technician for the past year.

###