



Village Manager's Report
Week ending August 28, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, August 31:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Tuesday, September 1:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, September 2:
 - 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, September 3:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

Upcoming Meetings:

- Thursday, October 1 – Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, October 8 – Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, October 15 – Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, October 22 – Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

Recycle electronics Saturday – The Public Works Department will be collecting unwanted electronics for recycling from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat. The seventh and final recycling event of the year is scheduled for Oct. 31. These events have proven increasingly popular now that electronic items are banned from state landfills.

Ridgeland reopening delayed one day – The opening of Ridgeland Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Division Street has been pushed to Sept. 1. The paving was expected to be completed and the street reopened by Mon., Aug. 31, the first day of school for District 97. All walking school routes that cross Ridgeland, as well as all side street vehicle crossings are expected to be open by Monday, even though traffic on Ridgeland will continue to be detoured to Oak Park Avenue for at least an additional day. Paving will continue after the roadway opens to traffic, which is not unusual for such projects.

Citizen survey set to begin – The [National Research Center](#) is set to launch the next citizen survey on Sept. 4. Surveys will be mailed to addresses chosen randomly, with the goal of collecting about 1,200 responses to attain a 95 percent confidence level in the results. The goal is to have draft results compiled by Nov. 4 and the final

results available by Nov. 20. [Results of these past surveys are posted on the Village website.](#)

Post Office to celebrate 80 years Saturday – Tours of Lake Street Post Office will highlight customer appreciation day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat. as part of the facility's 80th anniversary. In addition to tours, the event also will include refreshments and giveaways, and offer a special pictorial anniversary postmark.

Stepped up traffic enforcement underway – Oak Park Police have joined law enforcement agencies across the state in a special traffic enforcement effort targeting impaired motorists during the Labor Day holiday period. The increased enforcement effort is part of the [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) campaign that targets drivers under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Additional officers will be on patrol through Sept. 7. They also will be checking for drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts as required by state law. More information on the campaign is included in a news story [posted on the Village website.](#)

New historic district efforts advance – Per its 2015 work plan, the Historic Preservation Commission is gathering public input on the possibility of creating a new *Hulbert Houses Historic District*. An informational brochure explaining the benefits of local and national designations was mailed in April to all property owners within the proposed district boundaries. In addition, 65 neighborhood residents attended public forums in April and May. Residents of the area, which encompasses the 500 through 800 blocks of Clinton and South Kenilworth avenues, will be surveyed by mail within the next week to gauge their views on the effort. The HPC expects to present the survey results and seek direction from the Village Board in October.

Outdoor sculpture walk winding down – Next week will be the final one for this year's outdoor sculpture walk, which is scheduled to end on Sept. 7. Twelve pieces of touchable art are displayed along a walkable five-block stretch of Chicago Avenue between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard. A brochure for a self-guided walking tour is available at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk as well as the libraries, area businesses along the route and the Oak Park Visitors' Center.

Arrests solve string of recent burglaries – Oak Park Police have arrested two Chicago men for their alleged roles in 17 daytime burglaries here in June and July. The burglaries occurred in Oak Park's older, multi-unit buildings with open and accessible rear stairwells or unsecured vestibule doors. Police tracked down the two men, both of whom were on parole for burglary, after physical evidence connected them to the crimes. More information is included in a news story [posted on the Village website.](#)

Capital improvements – Crews are working hard to ensure projects near schools are completed by Monday when classes are scheduled to begin for District 97 students. The sewer project has been completed and repaving is nearing completion on Harvey Avenue by Whittier Elementary School. Contractors also are pushing to finish repaving Kenilworth Avenue near Holmes Elementary School before Monday, but at least the binder course should be in place. Pavement patching also continued this week and microsurfacing began on various streets in the community. All alleys improved this year should be open to traffic by Wednesday of next week. Work is well underway on the four local streets being resurfaced during the season's first project

phase. Work began this week on the season's second round of local street resurfacing projects.

Public Works activities – General street maintenance work continued, including repairing surfaces where water utility repairs were made, painting yellow curbs by fire hydrants and repainting crosswalks at various locations. Sidewalk weeding and litter removal also continued in the business districts. A water service leak was repaired at 930 N. Lombard Ave. and a water main valve replaced at Oak Park Avenue and Greenfield St. A 1.5-inch water service tap was installed at 317 S. Euclid Ave. and a sinkhole repaired at Linden and Chicago avenues. Lights were repaired on both the Lombard and Ridgeland I-290 overpasses and faulty street light cables repaired in front of 1158 Highland Ave. Crews installed a new traffic signal cabinet at Chicago and Kenilworth avenues, and new pedestrian countdown signals at Kenilworth Avenue and Lake Street, Madison and Home avenues, and Lake and Marion streets. Forestry crews and contractors had to use a crane to remove a large limb brought down by high winds onto a house at 1032 N. Taylor Ave. The entire tree also had to be removed.

Employee news – The Fire Department welcomed a new lieutenant as firefighter/paramedic Jerry Cote was promoted at a ceremony Monday in Village Hall. Jerry brings considerable experience to the position, having been with the department since 1993. The ceremony also included the swearing in of Anthony R. Lein as a new firefighter/paramedic.

###