



Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 25, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, September 28:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Tuesday, September 29:
 - Oak Park Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, September 30:
 - Community Design Commission, 6:30 p.m., room 101
 - IGA Governing Board Early Childhood Educational Services Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS
- Thursday, October 1:
 - Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

Upcoming Meetings:

- *Monday, October 12 – Finance Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., room 101*
- *Thursday, October 22 – Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101*
- *Monday, October 26 – Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101*
- *Thursday, November 5 - Village Board Budget Study Session, 7 p.m., room 101*
- *Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS*

Online forum created for I-290 discussion – Staff has created a web page dedicated to the topic of Monday night's Village Board meeting. Residents can comment on proposed plans to address air quality and noise issues associated with the Austin Boulevard interchange prior to the meeting at www.oak-park.us/ikecomments. In addition to the commenting function, videos, related documents and a presentation explaining these aspects of the state's plans for I-290 are posted on the web page. Public comments will be taken online until noon Monday and then compiled for Board review as part of the night's discussion. In addition, the Village Hall display of the 3-D scale model created by IDOT now includes the Austin interchange. Past commenting pages, documents and presentations from previous public discussions of the project are available via links at www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike.

Recycle electronics Saturday – Residents are invited to recycle old and unwanted electronics by dropping them off from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Sept. 26, at the Public Works Center. Just about any kind of electronic item will be accepted, including

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. Crews will be on hand to help with the unloading.

Fall festival set for Sunday – The [Park District of Oak Park Fall Fest](#) is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun., Sept. 27 at the Oak Park Conservatory and Rehm Park. All activities are free, including horse-drawn hayrides, inflatable entertainment, pumpkin patch where each family gets a free pumpkin and a range of crafts. The Rehm trains also will be chugging along the track. Local vendors will be selling refreshments. More details are posted at www.pdop.org.

Westgate demolition about to begin – Demolition of 1118 Westgate Street is set to begin late next week, as the [Oak Park Station](#) development activities get underway. The first 15 feet of the building façade will remain intact, but the building's width will be decreased to allow for truck access into the alley. In preparation for the demolition, the gravel area by the north parking lot was paved to provide access to the dumpsters in the alley. In addition, the eastern portion of the parking lot will be blocked off to create a loading zone for local businesses. As soon as the building is demolished, ComEd will begin relocating equipment from the parking lot to the alley at the eastern rear portion of the Westgate demolition site.

Garage control systems update – A recommendation for a vendor to supply the parking control systems for the public garages will be coming to the Board for consideration next month. The equipment includes new gates and pay stations for Holley Court, The Avenue and Lake & Forest garages. A competitive selection process that began in August led to three responses. Representatives of two of the respondents were interviewed as part of the review process. The local business community was represented in the review process. In addition, the Village will give members of the business community an opportunity to see and learn more about the new equipment at an open house scheduled for 9 a.m., Thurs., Oct. 1 at Village Hall. The goal is to have the new equipment in place by the end of the year.

Addition documentary screening at Village Hall – The [Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park](#), with support from not-for-profit [Rosecrance](#) and [Oak Park Township](#), will screen *The Anonymous People*, a documentary film about the 23 million Americans living in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. The film will be shown at 7 p.m., Tues., Sept. 29, in the council chamber of Village Hall. [Click here to see the event flyer](#).

Paint Exchange update – Some 108 households turned in 1,046 gallons of latex paint for recycling at the *Great Paint Exchange* last Saturday (Sept. 19) at the Public Works Center. Of the paint brought in for recycling, 392 gallons were given away for reuse.

Construction updates – Parkway sod restoration is underway on Ridgeland Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Division Street as the local sewer and paving projects have been completed. Sod restoration will occur in the next few weeks adjacent to the water valve replacement projects completed earlier this month.

Street resurfacing updates – The final surface pavement was scheduled to be installed this week on Hayes Avenue, Greenfield Street and Berkshire Street as part of the season’s first phase of local street paving. Sod restoration around curb-work has begun on those streets included in the second phase of resurfacing projects for this season. Pavement milling began this week on Woodbine Avenue, South Boulevard and Adams Street. Paving will follow concrete patching on these streets.

Public Works activities – Routine tasks continued, including restoring pavement, curbs and sidewalks where water line repairs had been made at various locations in the Village. Marking curbs by fire hydrants with high-visibility yellow paint also continued as did restoration of planters on Roosevelt Road where damaged wrought iron fencing was recently removed. Speed bumps were installed at various alley locations and litter clean up and weeding continued in the business districts and parking lots. A sink hole was repaired at 836 N. Harvey Ave. and the sewer disconnected at 1118 and 1133 Westgate Street in preparation for demolition related to the planned redevelopment project. Forestry crews continued to focus on routine summer tasks, including responding to resident requests, removing hazardous trees and removing stumps. Crews also cleaned up minor damage caused by storms last Friday (Sept. 18), including removing a small tree that was damaged at 915 Belleforte Ave.

Park District honored – The Park District of Oak Park has earned a 2015 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation. The Park District received the award this month from the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The award honors U.S. communities that demonstrate excellence through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. More information on the awards is posted at www.nrpa.org/awards.

Employee news – Mike Scully of the Fleet Services Division has attained the level of [ASE Automotive Master Technician](#). In addition to requiring at least two years of relevant hand-on work experience, applicants must successfully complete a range of technical exams. The Fleet Division’s experienced technicians hold more than 60 ASE certifications, including Master Technician and Emergency Vehicle Technician.

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