



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending October 9, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, October 12:
  - Finance Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., room 130
- Tuesday, October 13:
  - Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 5:30 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, October 14:
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, October 15:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
  - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Wednesday, October 21 – Reinventing Government Meeting , 7 p.m., room 130
- Thursday, October 22 – Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
- 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

**IDOT schedules I-290 noise wall forums** – The Illinois Department of Transportation has scheduled three public forums in late October to discuss the possible installation of noise walls as part of planned improvements to the Eisenhower Expressway. The forums are scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Oct. 27 in the Chicago Marriott, 625 S. Ashland Ave.; Oct. 28, at The Carleton of Oak Park, 1110 Pleasant St.; and Oct. 29, at the Best Western Hillside, 4400 Frontage Rd. Each forum will include a short presentation on the I-290 planning process, noise analysis methodology and findings. Exhibits also will be on display and attendees will have an opportunity to speak with IDOT and study team representatives. After the forums, a ballot will be sent to all property owners and tenants who would benefit from a noise wall, as determined under federal guidelines. IDOT says it will consider all votes received to determine if noise walls will be installed. IDOT will be distributing a postcard about the meeting to residents whose property is near enough to the highway to be part of the noise wall vote.

**Sewer backup grant program update** – In the three-plus years since its launch, the [Sewer Backup Prevention Grant Program](#) has helped 184 households make improvements to address basement flooding. A recent customer satisfaction survey

found that 92 percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the results of the program. A similar percentage of respondents said they did not experience any backflow-related flooding after installing a prevention system. The customer satisfaction survey yielded 68 responses from program participants, or about a 37-percent response rate, which should be a very good representative sample. The size of the average grant delivered through the program was about \$3,100 – less than the maximum allowed – and the average total project cost topped \$7,900. The program continues to be popular, with 23 applications already assigned to the 2016 waiting list.

**Hydrant testing underway** – The Fire Department will be testing hydrants through much of October across the entire Village. This is done every year to ensure proper operations in an emergency. The test includes flushing and measuring flow rates on all 1,240 fire hydrants in the Village. Residents on the same water line may notice cloudy water the first time a tap is opened after a nearby test. Any cloudiness in the water should clear up if the tap is allowed to run for a few minutes.

**Capital improvements update** – The microsurfacing contractor is scheduled to return to the Village next week to complete remaining locations. Surveying began this week in preparation for two 2016 projects. Survey crews were on Madison Street between Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard, as well as in alleys scheduled for reconstruction next year. Surveying will continue over the next several weeks.

**Street resurfacing status** – Punch list items and parkway restoration is underway for the season's first phase of local street resurfacing projects. Sod restoration also continued by curbs on streets included in the season's second round of local street resurfacing projects. All other streets scheduled for repaving, including Taylor Street, were milled this week and sewer adjustments made where necessary in preparation for paving.

**Public Works activities** – Pavement restoration and curb repairs where water line repairs had been made continued across the Village, including in a large area of the brickwork on Hunter Court. Thermoplastic crosswalk markings were installed on streets at various locations throughout the community. Crews also painted curbs yellow by fire hydrants to designate no-parking zones between Madison and Lake streets, as well as in areas north of Lake. Pothole patching continued, as did litter pickup and weeding in the business districts, viaducts and parking lots. A water shut-off valve at 835 S. Taylor St. and a sewer lateral at 1035 S. Elmwood Ave. were repaired, an old water service line disconnected at 333 Harrison St. and a water service upgraded at 1032 S. East Ave. Forestry crews cleaned up some minor storm damage, moved the compost and chip pit from behind Pete's Fresh Market to a temporary space in the Rehm Pool parking lot and continued routine tasks such as removing troubled trees and responding to resident requests.

**Employee news** – Mike Charley will assume the role of Interim Public Health Director, effective Monday. Since joining the Village in 2003, he has served as the Health Department's Environmental Services manager, overseeing related programs and processes including food inspections, animal control and the Farmers' Market. Prior to coming to Oak Park, he worked with a diverse range of public health organizations, including as a sanitarian with the DuPage County Health Department and supervisor with the City of Evanston's Health Department. He has a bachelor's degree in

environmental health from Illinois State University and a master's degree in environmental management from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Stuart School of Business. Mike also holds several professional certifications including being a Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner and Licensed Lead Assessor. In addition to his new duties as Interim Health Director, Mike will continue to manage the department's environmental services functions.

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