



## Village Manager's Report The Week Ending May 6, 2016

### Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Saturday, May 7
  - Ethnic Fest Parade, 10 a.m., (Cuyler and Washington)
- Monday, May 9:
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, May 10:
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., Room 130
  - CDCAC, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, May 11:
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m. room 101
- Thursday, May 12:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Friday, May 13:
  - No scheduled meetings

### Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Sunday, June 5
  - Day in our Village, Scoville Park, 11 am. – 6 p.m.

**Vehicle sticker sales to begin** – Vehicle sticker renewal notices are scheduled to go out Monday (May 9) via U.S. Mail and email. Public information messages will continue to highlight the online renewal option as the most convenient choice, but also offer mail and walk-in information. Parking Services will be open from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Sat., July 9 for last-minute walk ins. More information, including answers to the most frequently asked questions about vehicle stickers, is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Downtown parking updates** – Contractors are scheduled to install signs with the new rates Monday at the public parking garages downtown. After the signs are installed in the Holley Court Garage and the Lake & Forest garage, a news release highlighting the 90 minutes of free parking will be distributed and posted on the main page of the Village website. The new rates also will be promoted via the Village social media outlets to encourage information sharing. Business operators have been encouraged to help spread the word to their customers, which is likely to be the most effective messaging tool for spreading the word

about [the latest downtown parking options](#). Parking Services will work with Communications to create other messages to make sure word is out on the additional free parking and new rates.

**Oak Park Station update** – The last phase of the ComEd utility relocations associated with the [Oak Park Station development](#) downtown is scheduled to begin next week. The intermodal transportation station and its mini-market, as well as some residential properties at 112 through 120 S. Maple Ave. will experience an outage as power is transferred to a generator Monday (May 9) and then again when it is switched to the new circuit on Thursday (May 12). The outages, which could be as long as four hours each, are scheduled to begin at 11 p.m. ComEd will notify customers of the scheduled outages. The generator will be placed next to the transformer and switching equipment behind fencing at the northwest corner of South Boulevard and Marion Street. Overnight construction activity will be minimal, so noise should be limited primarily to the generator.

**South Boulevard streetscape update** –The first sewer manhole has been completed and water main installation has started, as improvements continue on South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street. Staff has continued to communicate frequently with affected business operators to ensure their needs are coordinated during the work. However, work will again be postponed Friday (May 6) and Monday (May 9) to accommodate weekend construction related to the CTA's Green Line improvements project, which is moving into its final phases.

**Farmers' Market volunteer recruitment** – In preparation for the May 21 opening of the 41<sup>st</sup> season, the [Oak Park Farmers' Market Commission](#) will host its annual volunteer recruitment night at 7:30 p.m., Thurs., May 12 at the main [Oak Park Public Library](#). These *Friends of the Farmers' Market* volunteers become part of this quintessential Village summer experience by helping out at the commissioners' booth on Saturday mornings, volunteering at special events and contributing to the smooth running of the market. This informal orientation session is intended for anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#).

**Construction symposium** – The Development Customers Services Department hosted the first of two residential construction symposiums in the Village Hall Council Chamber Wednesday as part of Building Safety Month activities. A second symposium is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., May 11, at the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. Participants learn about permits, the permit process and requirements for remodeling kitchens, baths and basements. A Department open house is scheduled for Mon., May 16 and a lunch-and-learn presentation on insulation is scheduled for Tues., May 24. [Building Safety Month](#), sponsored by the International Code Council, is intended to raise awareness and understanding of what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

**CTA Green Line update** – Only two more weekends of the CTA's seven-week schedule remain, as workers continue with [improvements to the Green Line tracks](#) through Oak Park. As in past weekends, all stations are closed from about 7 p.m. each Friday until about 6 a.m. each Monday during construction activity. However, parking restrictions needed to allow for equipment and materials staging go into effect at 7 a.m. Friday as needed. Engineering staff have remained vigilant about ensuring all affected streets are open each Monday morning and to document any damages.

**Harrison Street lighting update** – Contractors will be boring for new electric conduit next week, as street lighting improvements continue on Harrison Street from Ridgeland Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

**Alley/sidewalk improvements update** – Sewers now have been installed in 11 alleys, and concrete pavement completed in five alleys. Sidewalk improvements have begun south of Lake Street, and should be completed in about two weeks.

**Street resurfacing projects begin** – The first resurfacing project of the season began this week. Curbs were removed on south Harvey Avenue and pavement saw cut on Mapleton Avenue. Concrete for curbs and gutters are scheduled to begin on both streets next week. In other street-related construction, bids were opened this week for the annual pavement patching program.

**Parkway restoration underway** – Nicor crews continued parkway and property restorations at various locations in north Oak Park where new gas mains and services were installed. Engineering staff is working closely with Nicor to coordinate the remaining restoration work through the permitting process. Restoration related to the new fiber optic cable Rush Oak Park Hospital contractors installed last fall also is underway.

**Public Works activities** – Streets Division crews installed temporary speed bumps in select alleys and began permanently restoring curbs, sidewalks and streets that had been temporarily patched during the winter following repairs to water main breaks. Crews also continued filling potholes, cleaning parking lots and picking up litter in the business districts, including around the bike parking stations along South Boulevard. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a catch basin at Cuyler Avenue and Erie Street, a sewer lateral at 723 Forest Ave. and a sewer frame at 506 Madison Street. Crews also were out cleaning inlets and sewers at various locations throughout the Village. The Forestry Division continued preparations for the upcoming planting season that will include nearly 350 new trees. Crews also continued landscaping and completing routine tasks, including moving planters for street construction and delivering wood chips to residents.

**Park District offering program scholarships** – Scholarships are available to help low income individuals and families participate in Park District of Oak Park programs. Funds can be used for all programs, including camps, classes, pool passes and trips, but may not be used for equipment purchases or rental fees. Scholarships also are available for childcare, including summer camps, preschool/playschool, team gymnastics, travel house hockey and the afterschool program. More information on the scholarship programs, including how to make a donation, is available at [www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org).

**Employee news** – Erik Jacobsen has joined the Communications Department as Communications & Social Media Coordinator. Erik previously served as communications manager at the [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#), a non-profit organization based in suburban Geneva. Prior to working at the Food Bank, he spent nine years as a reporter for the Elgin Courier-News and several other suburban dailies in the Sun-Times Media Group. Erik, who earned his journalism degree at the University of Missouri, is an Oak Park resident.

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