



Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 15, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Jun 18:
 - Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m. room 130
 - Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, June 19:
 - Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force, 8 a.m., room 101
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, June 20:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Program Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, June 21:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215

- Friday, June 22:
 - No meetings scheduled

Tax Task force update – The Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force began accepting comments this week on a sixth and final topic as it develops recommendations to identify cost efficiencies in public service delivery. The Task Force is asking residents to share their ideas on how to improve services or lower costs by posting comments online at www.oak-park.us/taxefficiencycomments. Commenting is scheduled to close Monday morning (June 18). Links to comments on the previous five topics remain online and may be viewed via links from the current question. More information on the commenting topics and commenting periods also is [posted on the Village website](#).

Turano Bakery update – The Plan Commission continued its review of Turano Bakery's planned development application to build an office building at 6500 Roosevelt Road until July 5. The commission asked for additional information on the public art component, security-related issues and different building, site rendering and fencing options. Turano's application calls for a two-story brick and glass corporate office building on the site where the company currently stores delivery trucks. Several allowances are being sought, including vacation of a portion of Scoville Avenue between Roosevelt Road and the alley to the north that abuts the property. Access to the parking lot for the new building would be via Gunderson Avenue to the east.

Albion project update – As construction activity accelerates on the Albion redevelopment project at Lake Street and Forest Avenue staff continues to address

pedestrian safety along the site perimeter. Pedestrians routinely ignore the signs and barriers, choosing to walk in the street rather than cross to the east side of Forest Avenue and south side of Lake Street. New signs with more forceful language are in the works and new directional messages are under consideration. In the meantime, work within the construction fence will focus on foundations for the next several weeks. Street Lighting Division crews from the Public Works Department are working with the developer to install temporary lighting by the construction site.

Boulevards project update – North Boulevard is now closed to through traffic between Forest and Clinton avenues, and accommodating two-way local traffic between Clinton and Kenilworth avenues. Through traffic is being detoured around the construction site via Lake Street. The on-street parking spaces by the railroad tracks (Lot NB 10) have been temporarily closed between Forest and Kenilworth avenues, but permit holders have been moved to the Holley Court Garage. All residents along North Boulevard who park in private lots still have access to their properties. As the work progresses and these private accesses are blocked, affected residents also will have temporary parking passes in the Holley Court Garage. Residents will be notified in advance of any closures to the private driveways. Periodic notifications and project schedule changes also will be posted online at www.oak-park.us/boulevards.

Madison alley vacation request – The Plan Commission voted last week to recommend denying a request to vacate a portion the eight-foot-wide public alley parallel to the applicant's property at 435 – 437 Madison St. The vote came after several neighbors objected to the alley closure, citing potential property access issues. The applicant has since withdrawn the request, so the matter will not come to the Village Board for consideration.

Arts District banners - The Oak Park Arts District will unveil new hand-painted street banners during its monthly gallery walk set for 6 to 10 p.m., tonight (Fri., June 15). The two-sided vinyl banners are six feet tall by two feet wide and will adorn about three dozen new streetlight poles along Harrison Street. More information about the event is on the [Arts District website](#).

Condo seminar scheduled – The Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department will host a free seminar for condominium owners and board members to review recent changes to the [Illinois Condominium Act](#). The seminar, presented in cooperation with [Oak Park Apartments](#), is set for 7 to 8:30 p.m., Thurs., June 28, in Room 101 at Village Hall. The presentation will be led by Attorney Gabriella Comstock from [Keough & Moody](#), which specializes in legal services for condominium and homeowners' associations.

Composting update – The [Village composting program](#) now serves 1,452 households, as enrollment is bolstered by the three-month free service incentive for a 12-month commitment. Staff regularly promotes the program through the traditional block party application process, events and social media. The Village also is offering a [green block party](#) option that features programs to help residents learn how to reduce landfill waste through simple steps they can incorporate into their everyday lives. To date, 30 blocks have opted for the green block party option.

Street resurfacing – Pavement milling began this week on several streets included in the first round of local street resurfacing projects. These include East Avenue between Randolph Street and South Boulevard, Elmwood Avenue between Fillmore and Harvard streets, Home Avenue between Harrison and Adams streets, and South Boulevard from Taylor Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Traffic will be detoured via Lake Street when pavement is removed from a portion of South Boulevard.

Alley improvements – Pavement removal began in the alley between Wesley and Clarence avenues and north of Harrison Street. Ten alleys have been completed so far this season, and 43 residents within the boundaries of the projects elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed. Remaining underground work is expected to be completed next week.

Miscellaneous construction updates – AT&T installed fiber optic communication infrastructure in the north/south alley north of North Boulevard and west of Marion Street adjacent to The Emerson development. The alley was closed Thursday (June 14) for concrete restoration, but should be reopened by Tuesday (June 19). Engineering staff continues to coordinate parking with affected businesses and is worked with garbage companies to relocate dumpsters during the work. Union Pacific crews are repairing the viaduct wall at the southwest corner of North Boulevard and Marion Street.

Public Works Activities –Street Division crews power washed and primed the railroad wall panels along North and South boulevards where murals soon will be painted. Crews also installed banners and signs for the [sculpture walk](#) underway along Oak Park Avenue between Lexington and Van Buren streets. These tasks were in addition to routine Street Division activities, including opening pavement sections for water line repairs, cleaning public parking lots and picking up litter in the business districts along Austin Boulevard and downtown. Street Lighting Division crews repaired electrical outlets along the 100 block of north Marion Street in preparation for the [Uncork Illinois](#) wine festival scheduled for the weekend. Crews also repaired underground cable damaged during alley construction at Cuyler Avenue and Van Buren Street. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water service leak at 710 N. Austin Blvd. and sewer connections at 928 N. Harvey Ave. and 431 Greenfield St. Crews also upgraded water services at 6 Elizabeth Court and 626 N. Harvey Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Forestry Division crews responded to resident requests for parkway tree trimming and other routine tasks such as removals, stump grinding and wood chip deliveries. Private contractors completed the first round of stump grinding and continued removals of larger damaged and diseased trees, while landscapers continued normal maintenance throughout the community.

Employee news – Forestry Superintendent Rob Sproule represented the Village and the [Illinois Arborist Association](#) at a recent summit in Champaign. The event, sponsored by the [Illinois Forestry Development Council](#), focused on statewide forestry issues beyond the day-to-day challenges of maintaining municipal forests. Rob chairs the Urban Forestry Task Group for the state arborist association, a role that gives the Village a voice at the state planning level.

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