



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending October 18, 2013**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- October 21:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- October 22:
  - Board of Health, 6 p.m., room 102
  - Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- October 23:
  - Community Program on Health Insurance, 6 p.m., room 201
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Architectural Review Committee/HPC, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- October 24:
  - Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
  
- October 25:
  - Village Board Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., room 130

**Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):**

- November 7: Village Board Special Meeting, FY14 Budget, 7 p.m. room 101
- November 11: Village Board Special Meeting, FY14 Budget, 7 p.m. room 101
- November 14: Village Board Special Meeting, FY14 Budget, 7 p.m. room 101
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., D97 offices
- December 10: Village Board Reinventing Government, 7 p.m., room 130

**Fall leaf collection begins Monday** – The annual fall leaf collection program will begin Monday, with collections continuing through Dec. 5. Seven pickups are planned for each section of the Village. Details on the program, including a map with the scheduled pickup dates for each section of the Village, was included in the [October issue of the OP/FYI community newsletter](#) and promoted on the website as a *don't*

miss item. Copies of the collection schedule also were sent directly to landscaping companies.

**Change to Green Line station hours** – The CTA Green Line station at Harlem Avenue and Lake Street will be closed from 1 to 6 a.m., seven days a week, effective Sunday. However, the Marion Street station will remain open 24 hours a day. A CTA employee will close and reopen the entrance each day. The CTA will install signs directing customers to the Marion Street entrance when the Harlem/Lake entrance is closed.

**Races to bring runners, street closures** – Sunday's [annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races](#) are expected to bring more than 2,700 runners to Oak Park and a host of temporary street closures from about 7:30 – 10:15 a.m. Traffic controllers will work to allow cars to pass safely during gaps in groups of runners, but waits between gaps may be up to 15 minutes, Park District officials say. Drivers traveling east or west are urged to stay south of Lake Street or to use North Avenue. For north or south travel, Austin Boulevard and Harlem Avenue will be the best routes to avoid runners and delays. [Click here for more information on the races.](#)

**Health Insurance Marketplace presentation** – The Health Department, Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society, Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce and Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters will host a presentation on the Affordable Care Act at 7 p.m., Wed., Oct. 23 in council chamber. Speakers will include representatives of the [Shriver Center](#) and the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#). The program is intended to address questions raised by both individuals and small businesses about options available to them in the [new health care marketplace](#).

**State transportation Secretary to visit** -- Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann Schneider will be at Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School on Oct. 29 to talk about plans to rebuild I-290. The public meeting, hosted by State Senator Don Harmon, is scheduled for 7:30 to 9 p.m. Secretary Schneider is expected to give a presentation, followed by a question and answer period with the audience. CTA Vice President of Planning Michael Connelly also will be at the meeting. We have distributed information about the meeting via our public information communication channels and will issue a second round of alerts as the meeting date nears. [Click here to see the flyer distributed by Sen. Harmon's office.](#)

**I-290 online comments update** – As for Friday, the Village's [Eye on the Ike comment page](#) had published about 50 comments, including a few clarifications and answers to questions posted by Assistant Village Manager Rob Cole. The intent is to keep the comment page open through Sunday, which should give the Village Board and staff time to consider community sentiments prior to the visit from Secretary Schneider on Oct. 29. In the meantime, VOP-TV also produced a video that summarizes the project status to date from the Oak Park perspective. The video is posted on [our YouTube channel](#) as well as [embed on the Village website](#).

**Monthly first-time homebuyer seminar is next week** – The monthly seminar for individuals interested in learning more about buying a first home is scheduled for Tuesday here at Village Hall. The sessions are held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Among the topics to be covered will be identifying financial assistance,

choosing a real estate agent, shopping for the best mortgage, avoiding discrimination and predatory lenders, hiring an independent attorney and inspector, and shopping for homeowners insurance. Anyone seeking more information on the seminars is urged to call the West Cook Homeownership Center at 708.771.5801.

**Farmers' Market nearing end of the season** – Shoppers have only two more opportunities to shop at the [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#) as the season comes to a close at the end of October. The final market will be Sat., Oct. 26, with traditional stone soup made from market vegetables to be served beginning at about 9 a.m.

**Construction update** – Water and sewer main improvements continue on Highland Avenue between Harrison and Van Buren streets, with the first half of the roadway scheduled to be poured by the end of this week. All alleys replaced this season are open to traffic, and restoration of adjacent areas should be completed by the end of the week. Work continues on lighting and decorative metal for the viaducts at Marion Street and Ridgeland Avenue. Bike shelters in these areas should be completed by the end of the week. Pavement patching on both Marion and Harrison streets is complete and the streets reopened to traffic. Five of the 10 streets scheduled to be repaved this season are substantially complete. Asphalt and concrete work continued on projects underway on Lombard and Cuyler avenues. Crews are scheduled to begin removing sidewalks, driveways and curbs next week on the 500 and 600 blocks of Belleforte Avenue. Microsurfacing should be completed this week, with the exception of some work likely Saturday adjacent to Fenwick High School.

**Public Works Activities** – The Village's private street sweeping contractor completed the seventh community wide cycle of the year. The contractor will return after fall leaf collection ends in early December for a final cycle of the season. Forestry completed early fall parkway tree planting, with plans set for a late fall planting project in November. Forestry crews also are marking ash trees infested with emerald ash borer for removal during the winter months. The Chicago Tribune appears to be preparing a regional story on the EAB issue. A reporter has asked for data on the history of ash tree removals and our future plans.

**Building & Property Standards update** – The volume of permit and plan review applications dropped in September for the second month in a row. However, construction activity remained strong, including at the Interfaith Housing project at 442 S. Grove St. As the residential portion of the project nears completion, two tenants have moved into the new building and at least another 15 tenants have signed up for occupancy. At the end of September, 20 permit applications were in the plan review queue with four cases overdue an average of four days each. September activity included a permit issued to allow Commonwealth Edison to proceed with demolition of the south wall of the substation on North Boulevard, which was deemed structurally unsound. [Click here to see the full September report.](#)

**Community Relations update** – Two national television projects are the latest projects coming to our community as filmmakers continue to be attracted by Oak Park's architecture and unique visual landscape. Community Relations is working with 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, which will begin filming Monday for a new television series entitled [Crisis](#). Then, [Dick's Sporting Goods](#) will be in town filming a national commercial on

Tuesday. In other activities, the department is scheduled to meet next week with the [Community of Congregations](#) and representatives from Austin neighborhood service providers to plan future steps to foster stronger communication and collaboration with our neighbors. This meeting is a follow up to the recent community meeting that brought out nearly 200 residents to a public meeting at Ascension Church.

**Public Works Department highlighted in industry publication** – Our Public Works Department was named department of the month by a prominent industry publication. The honor included a feature story in the current issue of *Public Works* magazine. The Department’s innovative green initiatives were featured, with a focus on how Village operations have benefitted from the bicycle fleet program managed by Public Works. A slideshow of photographs featuring employees is included with the online version of the story. [Click here to see the article and photos.](#)

**New police commander** – Erica Ramsay joined the Police Department this week as its Administrative Commander. Erica comes to the Village from the Naperville Police Department where she served for the last 13 years in various capacities, most recently assistant to the police chief. She has extensive experience in fiscal management and budgeting, safety, training and risk management, as well as project management and strategic planning. Erica has a bachelor’s degree from Illinois State University and has attended several law enforcement executive development training classes. Initially, she will oversee the department’s performance measurement initiative, training, evidence and property room, as well as work on special research assignments.

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