



Village Manager's Report Week ending June 6, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, June 9:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, June 10:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, June 11:
 - Fair Housing Task Force, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, June 12:
 - Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, June 23:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Monday, June 30:
 - Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130

Firefighter/paramedics honored – Five Oak Park firefighter/paramedics were honored at Loyola Medical Center's recent annual awards ceremony for exemplary service. Our team was recognized for its skill and efforts that allowed a citizen to recover well from an acute respiratory attack. While responding to a medical alert signal, the crew had to forcibly enter an apartment where they found an elderly patient unresponsive still holding an inhaler in her hand. An advanced airway procedure was administered and the patient was delivered to the emergency room in stable condition.

Electronics recycling in demand – The season's first event to [recycle old electronics](#) held Saturday at the Public Works Center attracted 358 households, underscoring the need to provide residents with a way to safely dispose of items no longer accepted for landfills. Public Works will continue to offer the service the last Saturday of the month through October as part of our active recycling program.

Community mural selections begin – The year’s final phase of the effort to dress up the Green Line retaining walls ended at close of business Friday. The final eight concepts will be selected from the latest entries to continue the program launched in 2010 to transform the railroad retaining walls from dull, blank concrete into canvases. Artists 18 and older were required to submit an application and a rendering of their proposed designs. Concepts will be selected by a panel of judges from the Village’s [Public Arts Advisory Commission](#), [Oak Park Area Arts Council](#) and the local arts community. Criteria include artistic merit, appropriateness for a public way and originality. More information on the program and this year’s call for entries is [posted on the Village website](#).

Capital improvements update – Preparation for water main improvements on Highland Avenue from Van Buren Street to Jackson Boulevard is scheduled to begin Monday, with actual underground work to begin on Wednesday after the current school year ends. Sewer cleaning and inspections are now underway, with care taken to coordinate activities in the business districts to minimize impact on owners and customers. Preparation also has begun for state-funded resurfacing projects on various streets including Grove Avenue, Lombard Avenue, Taylor Avenue and Berkshire Street. Drainage work and pavement removal has begun on Berkshire from Hayes Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Work on Taylor from Augusta to Berkshire will begin next week. Replacement of the Marion Street speed table is scheduled to start in early July allowing time to fabricate the granite. [Downtown Oak Park](#) is aware of the schedule and how it may impact a planned sidewalk sale.

Public Works activities – Street openings to access water mains were made and repaired at various locations in the Village. No-parking signs, barricades and cones were posted, delivered and picked up for several special events throughout town, including Downtown Oak Park’s [Thursday Night Out](#) and the graduation ceremony at Oak Park and River Forest High School. Pothole patching throughout the community and repair of the blue stone downtown continued. A downspout was repaired at the Metra Station. A sewer lateral at 708 Columbian Ave. and a catch basin at 425 N. Maple Ave. were repaired. A water service was upgraded at 923 Clinton Ave. as part of the lead abatement program and various fire hydrants were inspected to determine if any need to be rebuilt or replaced. Twelve trees in poor health were removed on Austin Boulevard between North Boulevard and North Avenue. Parkway tree planting has been completed in the northern sections of the Village and the focus has moved to the section between Chicago Avenue and Madison Street. Stump grinding and removal of trees infested with emerald ash borer continues.

Fire Department report – The [Oak Park Fire Department](#) responded to 543 calls for service in May, bringing the year’s total to 2,703. Emergency service requests represented 57 percent of all calls, followed by alarms initiated at 20 percent and general service calls at 18 percent. The Department made contact with 348 patients in May, including 251 transports to a medical facility, with 147 patients requiring life support services. While fire/hazardous calls represented only about 5 percent of the total May calls, one call was for what was our community’s worst residential fire in

decades. The fire completely destroyed the single-family home at 814 S. Clinton Ave. and severely damaged two adjacent homes. On a brighter note, the department took its safety trailer out into the community to teach every second grader a wide range of fire and life-saving options. Now in its 26th year, the program's use of a home-like setting is well received by both teachers and students. Hydrant testing also began in May, with each of the Village's 1,233 hydrants to be checked for flow and valves exercised to ensure they are in good working order.

Park needs survey underway – The [Park District of Oak Park](#) is conducting a park-needs survey. Some 3,000 households have been selected at random to participate in the survey, which is intended to help the Park District plan for the future. Researchers began contacting residents in late May via mail, telephone and email as part of the Park District's comprehensive master planning process. Estimated to take only about 15 minutes to complete, the survey results will provide a statistically valid measure of residents' views on current programs and facilities, as well as direction for future planning and capital needs. More information on the survey is available by contacting diane.stanke@pdop.org.

Temporary backup generator for Village Hall – While repairs are being made to the backup power generator at Village Hall, the mobile generator housed at the Public Works Center has been relocated to the west side of [Village Hall](#) on Lombard Avenue adjacent to underground entrance to mechanical room. The generator operates critical systems in the Police Station and Information Technology areas of Village Hall in the event of a power outage to the building.

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