



Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 15, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, May 18:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., 201 South Blvd.

- Tuesday, May 19:
 - CDCAC Meeting, 6 p.m. room 101
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, May 20:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m. 834 Lake St.
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Historic Preservation Commission Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, May 21:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - CDCAC Meeting, 6 p.m., room 101
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102

- Friday, May 22:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, May 25 – Village Hall Closed for Memorial Day Holiday
- Tuesday, May 26 – Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101 (tentative)
- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

South Boulevard streetscape public meeting – The Transportation Commission will host a public meeting on [proposed improvements to South Boulevard](#) between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Mon., May 18 at the Public Works Center. The meeting is required under the provisions of the federal grant that will help pay for the project. Notice of the meeting was mailed to all addresses within 500 feet of the project as well as published in the Wednesday Journal. [Click here to see the official notice.](#)

Customer feedback tablets installed – Anyone who comes to [Village Hall](#) now can provide feedback via an electronic survey. Two new touch-screen tablets installed on the reception center desk near the main entrance offer visitors the opportunity to anonymously rate the quality of the service received. The brief survey also allows visitors to submit contact information should they wish to discuss their experience further. While the survey is not a scientifically valid poll of customer satisfaction, it should provide indications of where and how we may be able to improve the customer experience.

Rain barrel update – To date, 188 residents have ordered 378 rain barrels through our partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago. Some estimates put the amount of impervious surface in Cook County at [more than 40 percent](#). That's why rain barrels are a cornerstone of the MWRD's regional storm water mitigation strategy, which includes diverting as much rainwater as possible from the sewer system. Rain barrels allow backyard gardeners and eco-conscious homeowners to capture and store the fresh, abundant rainwater that falls on Oak Park each year. Eligible residents can get up to four free rain barrels through the program, though there are some requirements on who can participate. The program continues to be promoted through the [OP/FYI](#) newsletter, [website](#) and our social media sites. Residents can [apply online via the Village website](#).

Post Office to host passport fair – The U.S. Postal Service asked the Village to help promote its passport fair scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday (May 16), at the 901 Lake St. facility. Post Office staff will be on hand to provide information and accept applications. Application forms and information on the costs and how to apply for passport books and cards are posted online at usps.com/passport and travel.state.gov/passport. Passport information also is available toll free by calling 877.487.2778.

Facebook verified – The official [Village of Oak Park Facebook page](#) has been verified by Facebook as a trusted, authentic source of information on the social network. Verification, which comes with a much-coveted blue check mark next to the page name, lets Facebook users know that our account represents an official government entity. The Communications Department used a newly developed online form designed specifically for government organizations to achieve verification.

Reservoir project update - Work at the Central Reservoir under Stevenson Park continues. Interior painting is underway. Soil removed from the top of the reservoir has been moved to the Miller Meadow Forest Preserve in Maywood for temporary storage.

Capital improvements update – Ridgeland Avenue has been reopened to traffic, now that the first phase of the local sewer project between Lake Street and Chicago Avenue has been completed. The street will remain open its entire length until the second phase begins, which will require traffic to be detoured between Chicago Avenue and Division Street. This second phase is scheduled to begin in June and last until August, barring any significant weather delays. Traffic will be detoured to Oak Park Avenue. In the meantime, state contractors have been replacing curbs and sidewalk crossings in preparation for repaving Ridgeland after the sewer project is completed. By coordinating our work schedules, the paving project should go more quickly.

Alley improvements update – The first six alleys completed under the current contract have been reopened to traffic. Pavement removal and sewer work are underway in the remaining alleys, which are tentatively scheduled for completion by June 15. The second phase of this season’s alley projects are tentatively scheduled to begin June 8.

Public Works activities – The Streets Division continued installing new bike racks and benches in the Southtown Business District. The Water & Sewer Division investigated a water leak on the 400 block of South Austin Boulevard, which appears to be more than a service leak as originally thought. Crews also continued cleaning sewer inlets throughout town to reduce the chances of streets flooding during heavy rain. Forestry Division crews pruned trees, picked up brush, delivered wood chips and installed new planters in the Southtown Business District. Contractors continued landscape maintenance and stump grinding throughout the Village.

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