



Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 27, 2013

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- September 30:
 - Village Board Special meeting 6:30 p.m. at Irving School (Eisenhower)

- October 1:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130

- October 2:
 - Elected Officials BBQ, 5:30 p.m., Oak Park Conservatory
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201

- October 3:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 101

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

- October 8: Reinventing Government Committee, 7 p.m., room 101
- October 12: Village Board I-Gov Meeting, 9 a.m., D97 offices
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., location TBD

Recycle electronics Saturday – The Public Works Center will host an electronics recycling event Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This is another in monthly events intended to help residents dispose of unwanted electronic equipment that no longer can be sent to a landfill in Illinois. The final event of the season is scheduled for Oct. 26. Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors, TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, video cassette recorders/players, digital video disk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. Such recycling events continue to be very popular as options to discard unwanted items shrink. The paper shredding and clothing collection event on Sept. 21 attracted 215 households.

Capital improvements update – Pavement grinding began this week on Taylor Avenue between Ontario and Erie Streets with final surfacing planned for next week as the sewer replacement projects near completion. Water main work on Highland Avenue between Harrison and Van Buren streets is complete, with excavation for new concrete pavement set to start next week. Work on Harvey Avenue from Chicago

Avenue to Iowa Street is substantially complete, and the street was expected to reopen by the end of this week. Final parkway restoration began this week on Taylor Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard, on Harvey Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Iowa Street, and on Kenilworth Avenue from North Boulevard to Lake Street. Concrete work has been substantially completed on Cuyler Avenue south of Madison Street and on Euclid Avenue from Ontario Street to Chicago Avenue. Concrete removal has begun on Cuyler Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Augusta Street, with work moving to Belleforte Avenue early next week. Asphalt grinding has begun at several locations, moving from south to north through the Village in the weeks ahead. Concrete work on Erie Street adjacent to Oak Park and River Forest High School has been completed, with asphalt grinding set for next week. Meanwhile, televising of sewers continues at various locations throughout the Village including on Ridgeland Avenue from I-290 to Division Street and Harrison Street from East Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

Sidewalk/alley replacement update – Work continues on punch list items on the Harrison Street sidewalk project. Concrete has been poured on seven of the scheduled alleys, with garage aprons being poured through next week. The alleys are expected to be reopened by the end of next week. The remaining three alleys will be removed and replaced over the next two weeks.

Viaduct restoration update – Painting has been completed of both the Marion Street and Ridgeland Avenue viaducts. Electrical work for lighting and decorative signs has begun at the Marion viaduct. Concrete work to improve pedestrian accessibility and install bike shelters by the Ridgeland viaduct is underway.

Pay by phone parking about to begin – Promotion of the coming pay by phone parking system began this week ahead of the scheduled Oct. 7 official launch. In addition to accepting payment via a smartphone app or toll-free telephone call, the new system will even send motorists text message reminders 15 minutes prior to the expiration of their parking session and allow them to pay for more time remotely. The new system is an option that expands customer choices. Parking meters will continue to accept coins and pre-paid keys, and pay by space machines will continue to accept cash and credit card payments.

Grant to fund permeable alleys – The Village was awarded an [Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant](#) (IGIG) for \$763,327 by the state Environmental Protection Agency on Sept. 21. The Engineering Division had applied for the grant in December 2012 to help fund the installation of nine permeable alleys next year as part of our efforts to manage storm water. The Village share of the project is \$254,442 and is included in the 2014 budget request.

IFF, Collaborative unveil financing program -- On behalf of the [West Cook County Housing Collaborative](#), IFF has announced the availability of competitive predevelopment and acquisition financing through the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Loan Fund for mixed-use and affordable multifamily developments. Eligible projects must be multifamily rental developments within a half-mile radius of a fixed transit stop within a WCCHC member's borders. In general, all projects receiving a WCCHC TOD loan must have a minimum of 20 percent of the residential units set aside for households earning between 50 percent and 80 percent of the area median income. Qualified nonprofit and for-profit developers are welcome to apply.

IFF is now accepting applications for project initiation loans of up to \$50,000 at no interest; predevelopment loans of up to \$500,000 at 1.5-percent interest; and acquisition loans of up to \$1.5 million at 200 basis points over the five-year U.S. Treasury rate. TOD area maps, term sheets and applications are posted at iff.org/wcchc.

Public Works activities – Public Works Divisions continued routine maintenance work throughout the Village including filling potholes, cleaning storm sewer basins, parkway tree inspections and trimming, graffiti removal, sign maintenance, and street lighting repairs.

Video, social media initiatives win national awards – Original video programming from the Village of Oak Park, as well as its ongoing social media efforts, recently won top awards from the [National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors](#). The *Government Programming Awards*, presented Sept. 19, honor excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by government agencies. VOP-TV and the Village’s Communications Department swept the field, winning first place in all three categories they entered, including an award for overall excellence. In the *Programming Excellence* category, VOP-TV highlighted more than a dozen videos produced for television and YouTube focusing on public safety, dining, public health, Village government, sustainability initiatives, outdoor festivals and other Village-related topics. In the *Public Information Series* category, VOP-TV submitted episodes of *You Really Should Eat This*, which features columnist David Hammond introducing viewers to a specialty dish at a local Oak Park restaurant. Two episodes from the series also were recently selected to screen at the Chicago International Food Film Festival in November. The final category, *Use of Social Media*, was a newcomer to this year’s GPA awards, and gave the Village an opportunity to showcase its government communications trailblazing efforts.

Forester honored by arborist association – Village Forester Jim Semelka was honored recently by the Illinois Arborist Association for his efforts to clarify whether prevailing wages are required for tree and landscape contracts let by public bodies. The special recognition award lauded Semelka for his “countless hours” spent helping to achieve consensus among the disparate groups involved and saving taxpayers significant costs. He has been invited to be the association’s guest at their annual conference in October where he will receive the award.

New face in Forestry – Dan Bartl, a certified arborist with 15 years of experience, began working with the Forestry Division this week. Formerly with the Village of Skokie, Dan also has snow and ice control experience, including special equipment like the trackless vehicle.

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