



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending October 11, 2013**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- October 12:
  - Village Board I-Gov Meeting, 9 a.m., D97 Offices
- October 14:
  - Village Board Personnel Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
- October 15:
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- October 16:
  - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Housing Programs Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
- October 17:
  - Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 130

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

- October 22: Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
- October 24: Village Board Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., D97 offices

**Eye on the Ike online public forum created** – Working with the Manager's Office, the Communications Department created a page on the website where citizens can post their thoughts and views on proposed plans to reconfigure I-290. Care was taken to make sure citizens who posted on the page knew their comments would not be considered official by the IDOT, which has a very specific protocol for gathering public input. As of Friday, about three dozen comments had been posted. So far, posters have been very good about following the rules spelled out on the page, as only one comment had been deemed inappropriate and not posted publicly. Commenting on the page is scheduled to close on Oct. 20, which should give the Board sufficient time to review the comments prior to a meeting with state transportation officials that is in the planning stages. [Click here to review the comment page on our website.](#)

**Time extended to comment directly to IDOT** –The Illinois Department of Transportation has extended the public comment period to Nov. 7 to accommodate

anyone who missed the state's recent round of meetings on its I-290 reconstruction plans. The public is being asked to [review the public meeting materials](#) and provide [comments directly to IDOT](#). Written comments also may be submitted by mail to John Baczek, P.E., c/o Mark Peterson, Illinois Department of Transportation Region One/District 1, 201 W. Center Court, Schaumburg, IL 60196 – or fax to 847.705.4159. More information also is posted on the project website, [www.eisenhowerexpressway.com](http://www.eisenhowerexpressway.com).

**Holley Court Garage repairs on track** – Repairs to the Holley Court Parking Garage are on track to meet the Oct. 31 completion target date. Spaces affected on decks four, five and six have been reopened to the public. Parking decks two and three are nearing completion, and work has begun on the main floor. Construction closed 50 spaces in the west side expansion area on each floor as work progressed. Parking Services reports that construction so far has been smooth and disruptions have been minimal.

**Oak Leaves taps Village web resource** – The Oak Leaves has begun featuring our weekly crime maps on its website with a link directing readers back to [our online archive](#). It seems like a win all around, as we get some very nice exposure for the maps that we already are publishing, and the Oak Leaves gets a very reliable source of crime information to pass on to its readers. [Click here to see](#) how the Oak Leaves is presenting the information. We actually had been posting this information for a couple of years on the old website, but it is much easier to find on the new site.

**Police art gallery now on facebook** – Oak Park's most exclusive art gallery is now open to the public by way of the Village's facebook page. Oak Park artist Lindsay Olson had transformed a hallway in the Police Station into a calm, creative space within the hectic workplace. The art in the gallery rotates about every six to eight weeks and has featured a wide range of different artists and styles through the year. The Communications Department had been posting images from the gallery on the website since the program began in 2009, but features now available through facebook have made the art even more accessible to the public. [Click here to visit the Oak Park Police Department's art gallery](#).

**OPDC green program gets video boost** – [VOP-TV](#) has given the Oak Park Development Corporation a powerful tool for promoting its [Green Business Program](#). Station Manager Joe Kreml just completed [seven short videos promoting local businesses](#) that have taken specific steps to reduce their impact on the environment and promote sustainability. The [Communications Department](#) organized the videos as a playlist on [our YouTube channel](#), which allowed OPDC to easily embed the videos as a group within its website. These latest uploads to our YouTube channel bring the total videos posted to 191, with more than 67,800 views.

**Police Department to participate in open house competition** – Our Police Department is the first in Illinois selected to participate in [Police Station Visitors Week](#), an annual competition Nov. 3 - 9 that invites residents, community groups and local leaders into police stations around the country. The international event, organized by the New York-based [Vera Institute of Justice](#), is now in its sixth year. Police departments in Africa, Asia and Latin America participated in the 2012 event, as well as six U.S.

police departments across three states. Community groups and local organizations interested in touring the Oak Park Police Department as part of Police Station Visitors Week are encouraged to contact Caitlin Gokey of the Vera Institute to schedule a visit. Gokey can be reached at 212.376.3149 or [cgokey@vera.org](mailto:cgokey@vera.org). Visitors will be greeted by [Community Policing Sergeant Dave Jacobson](#), the event's police liaison, to discuss how the station carries out its day-to-day operations, with a focus on transparency and accountability. Each tour will wrap up with a simple questionnaire that asks visitors about their perception of the station after their visit. The event also is a friendly competition. The police station in each region that scores the highest on its questionnaires will be invited to attend an all-expenses-paid global conference on policing strategies.

**Capital improvements update** – With the water and sewer main improvement project substantially complete on Highland Avenue between Harrison and Van Buren streets, excavation is underway for concrete pavement. All concrete for alleys has been poured and all alleys should be open by the end of next week. Electrical for lighting and work on the decorative metal is underway on the Marion Street viaduct, with concrete work and bike shelters being installed by the Ridgeland Avenue viaduct. Marion Street from Ontario Street to Chicago Avenue is expected to reopen early next week, while as pavement patching on Harrison Street near Home Avenue was expected to be completed this week. Resurfacing continues on seven of the 10 planned locations in the Village, with concrete curbs and gutters being removed and asphalt being laid. Microsurfacing is well underway, with locations in the north half of the Village expected to wrap up this week, and move to the south half next week. However, the contractor has notified the Village that a strike could impact the microsurfacing project.

**Public Works activities** – Thermoplastic markings on pavement at various locations throughout the Village have been completed. Fall tree planting has begun, with a second round scheduled for late November. Some 200 trees are scheduled to be planted. Public Works Divisions continued routine maintenance work throughout the Village including filling potholes, cleaning storm sewer basins, inspecting and trimming parkway trees, removing graffiti, maintaining signs and repairing streets. After eight years with the Village, Kevin Norris of the Street Lighting Division resigned to pursue an opportunity with the Chicago Park District.

**New faces in Fire Department** – For the first time in about a year, the Fire Department will add new firefighters to its roster. Dan Bolger, Tim Cilek and Steve Schwar were sworn in Friday. Dan and Tim already are certified firefighters so they will have two weeks of daily orientation and training before being placed on a 24-hour shift. Steve will be attending the [Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy](#) for nine weeks starting Oct. 14 to earn certification. All three were paramedics in the Loyola Medical System, so their transition to being active medics for Oak Park should be seamless.

###