



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 24, 2014**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Saturday, October 25:
 - I-Gov meeting, 9 a.m., Brooks Middle School, Elected Officials BBQ immediately following I-Gov Meeting

- Monday, October 27:
 - Village Board Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Tuesday, October 28:
 - CERT Training, 6 p.m., room 215
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, October 29:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee, 6:45 p.m., room 201
 - Chairperson's Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 124
 - Community Design Commission, 7:15 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Thursday, November 6, Village Board Personnel Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 130
- Thursday, November 6, Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 130
- Monday, November 10, Village Board Special meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, November 12, Fair Housing Task Force, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, November 19, Early Childhood Tri-Board, 7 p.m., OPRFHS
- Thursday, November 20, Village Board Special Meeting (tentative), 7 p.m., room 101

Friday evening village email system work - As part of the cabling and telecommunications project, IT will move systems within the data center. The work will require shutting down the system for about three hours shortly after 5 p.m., today, Fri., Oct. 24. Village elected officials should anticipate that Village email services will be unavailable during that period. The telephone system will not be affected.

Fright night at the Conservatory – The [Oak Park Conservatory](#) will hosts its annual Fright Night, tonight (Oct. 24). Youngsters 12 and younger are invited to come from 6 to 8 p.m., while everyone else should come from 8 to 9 p.m. Those brave enough to enter can sip cider, listen to scary stories and be rewarded with crafts and spooky entertainment. Admission is \$5.

Final electronic recycling event – Saturday will be the last opportunity this year for residents to safely dispose of unwanted electronic items now banned from landfills. Items will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center. Just about any kind of electronic item will be accepted, and staff will be on hand to help with the unloading.

Early voting underway – Village Hall is again [hosting early voting](#). County personnel and volunteers have set up shop in the former welcome center by the south entrance. This year, voting machines are in Room 101, a change that has eliminated much of the congestion. Voting has been steady, but the number of voters is expected to increase as Election Day nears. Village Hall also is a grace period site for new registration of suburban Cook County residents through Election Day, Nov. 4, including weekends. Only voters registered in suburban Cook County can cast an early ballot at [Village Hall](#). Chicago residents must vote at locations in the city.

Surveys gathering public opinion – Both the Farmers' Market Commission and the Neighborhood Services Division have launched online surveys to gather public input. The brief Farmers' Market Survey is intended to help plan for next year, while the more in-depth survey created by staff is part of the effort to create the five-year consolidated plan that will govern how Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Shelter Grant funds will be allocated. While neither of the surveys is scientific, they should give some indication of public opinion. [Click here](#) to take the Farmers' Market survey or [click here](#) to take the consolidated plan survey.

Harlem/Madison intersection crossing upgrade – The Illinois Department of Transportation will install pedestrian countdown signals at the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Madison Street. Public Works staff also is working with the Village of Forest Park, the [Transportation Alliance](#) and IDOT to investigate other improvements to address safety concerns at the busy intersection.

Capital improvements status – The final layer of asphalt is scheduled to be applied to Ridgeland Avenue beginning Saturday (Oct. 25). Striping and signage will be installed immediately following the paving as this phase of the federally funded project comes to a close. The season's local street and parking lot resurfacing projects are nearing completion, with paving markings and signage for the bike lanes on Jackson Boulevard to be installed next week. Four of the 10 alleys being rebuilt as part of the Green Alley program are substantially completed and open to residents, with work on the remaining six to continue for another two weeks. Three of the 10 alleys being rebuilt under the traditional program have been completed, with a fourth to be reopened by the middle of next week. Storm sewer work has been completed and paving will get underway for three additional alleys over the coming weeks, as the concrete shortage has affected production rates for the projects.

Public Works activities – A leaking water service was disconnected at 300 N. Ridgeland Ave. and a water service upgraded at 636 N. Ridgeland as part of the lead abatement program. Nearly 600 water meters have been upgraded as the program continues. Ongoing routine activities continued, including restoring street openings where water main breaks had been repaired, as well Village-wide sign repair, graffiti removal and pothole patching. The annual fall leave program is in full swing, with the first full week now completed. Forestry crews focused on pruning requests to ensure roof clearances, while contractors removed dead and diseased streets and stumps. The parkway tree inventory is progressing at the projected pace.

Trailside Museum reopens – The [Trailside Museum of Natural History](#), 738 Thatcher Ave. in River Forest, will reopen this week after an extensive renovation with a special evening event at 5 to 9 p.m., tonight (Oct 24). Area residents are invited to sample a variety of educational programs and crafts, chat with local naturalists and get a close-up view of the museum's mammal furs and skulls collection. A rare behind-the-scenes look at how museum staff prepares food for the live display animals also is planned. The renovation project included refinishing the floors and painting the 138-year-old building, adding new exhibits and upgrading the parking lot on Chicago Avenue with a new accessible walkway to the center. [More information on museum programs and hours is posted online.](#)

Employee news – Two long-time Fire Department personnel will be retiring next month. Deputy Fire Chief Kenneth Klemm, who has been with the Village since 1985, will officially retire on Nov. 29. Lieutenant Bruce Watt, who joined the Fire Department in 1980, will officially retire on Nov. 4. Both have served admirably and will be missed.

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