



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending August 21, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, August 24:
  - Village Board Study Session (I-290), 7 p.m., room 201
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Tuesday, August 25:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 201
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30, room 124
- Wednesday, August 26:
  - Joint Review Board Meeting, 5 p.m., room 201
  - Forestry Sub-Committee, 6:45 p.m., room 101
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, August 27:
  - Oak Park Arts Council, 6 p.m., room 102

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

**Online forum created for I-290 discussion** – As with the previous sessions where state plans to reconstruct the Eisenhower Expressway were discussed, staff has created a web page dedicated to the topic of Monday night's Village Board meeting. Residents can comment on proposed plans to address air quality and noise issues prior to the meeting at [www.oak-park.us/ikecomments](http://www.oak-park.us/ikecomments) where videos, related documents and a presentation explaining these aspects of the state's plans for I-290 are posted. Public comments will be taken online until noon Monday and then compiled for Board review as part of the night's discussion. In addition, the 3-D scale model of the proposed project created by IDOT is displayed prominently in Village Hall. Commenting pages, documents and presentations from previous public discussions of the project are available via links at [www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike](http://www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike).

**Latest crime statistics show continued decline** – Crime is down more than 20 percent through July as compared to the same period last year, according to the latest data from the Police Department. Police are giving residents the credit for the decline, commending their willingness to take an active role in crime prevention at the neighborhood level. Through July of this year, 831 crimes were reported, as compared to 1,048 for the same period in 2014. Thefts, which typically represent

about 70 percent of crimes in Oak Park, were down significantly – 583 in 2015 compared to 688 in 2014, as were burglaries, with 161 reported this year as compared to 262 in 2014. A few more details are included in a [news story posted on the Village website](#).

**Repaving set for Ridgeland Avenue** – The state’s repaving contractor is expected to begin work tomorrow (Aug. 22) on Ridgeland Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Division Street, now that the sewer project is finished. The roadway should be open and the detours removed by the start of the school year on Aug. 31.

**Capital improvements update** – New sewer and water mains have been installed on Harvey Avenue between Augusta and Thomas streets, and on Kenilworth Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Iowa Street. Pavement restoration is underway, with sections adjacent to schools expected to be resurfaced prior to the start of classes. Street patching began this week at various locations throughout the Village.

**Street resurfacing status**– Five roads have been completed and three are under construction as work continues on the season’s first round of street resurfacing projects. Work on streets included in the second round of resurfacing projects is expected to start soon, beginning in the north part of the Village.

**Alley improvements update** – All alleys included in the season’s second round of improvements have been opened to traffic, with only sod restoration remaining. Construction has begun on the alley recently added to the initial contract.

**Nicor work underway** – Nicor crews are replacing gas mains in four areas of the Village. Notices were mailed to residents whose properties are impacted by the project prior to work beginning. Village engineering staff is communicating regularly with Nicor to help maintain coordination with other projects.

**Storm response report** – Multiple thunderstorms over the last week kept Forestry crews busy dealing with damaged trees and picking up brush. Crews were called in after hours to clear storm debris in the 600 block of Wisconsin Avenue and 200 block of Randolph, and remove a large limb that fell on a car at 431 S. Euclid Ave.

**Public Works activities** – Fire hydrants were repaired at 727 S. Maple Ave. and 725 N. Ridgeland Ave. Crews repaired a broken water main valve at Oak Park Avenue and Greenfield Street, sinkholes at 801 N. East Ave. Ave. and 724 N. Oak Park Ave. and a sewer lateral at 1133/1135 Chicago Ave. Curbs by fire hydrants and crosswalks were painted at various locations in the community. Thermoplastic pavement marking continued, with restoration work done at various locations throughout the Village. Crews also continued removing the damaged wrought iron fencing along Roosevelt Road.

**New Employee** – Asad Zaidi has joined the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department. Asad comes to the Village from a consulting firm where he gained four years of on-the-job experience. He is a graduate of Western Illinois University, specializing in construction inspection, which undoubtedly will make him a valuable asset to the department.

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