



## Village Manager's Report Weeks ending August 4, 2017

### Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, Aug 7:
  - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, Aug 8:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Aug 9:
  - Farmer's Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, Aug 10:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 101
- Friday, Aug 11:
  - No meetings scheduled

**I-290 expansion plans advance** – The Illinois Department of Transportation [reported this week](#) that it had received federal approval for the first phase of the [I-290 Eisenhower Expressway reconstruction project](#). The first phase included initial planning and design. Future phases will include final engineering and construction. Funds have not yet been committed for the next phases. IDOT estimates the project will cost about \$2.7 billion. IDOT is proposing to create a toll lane on the I-290 between Mannheim Road and Racine Avenue. The lane would be added from Mannheim to Austin Boulevard, which would make the expressway four lanes in each direction between Interstate 88 and Interstate 90/94. The project also includes additional transit options, expanded linkages between Pace and the Chicago Transit Authority, as well as enhancements for pedestrian and bicyclist. Materials related to plans for Oak Park are posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike](http://www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike).

**Library book fair underway** – The Oak Park Public Library annual book fair is 6 to 10 p.m. today (Fri., Aug 4) and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., tomorrow (Sat. Aug. 5). Friday's admission is \$5, plus an additional \$5 per electronic device. Admission is free on Saturday. According to the Library, the fair typically offers more than 100,000 books in every conceivable category. Proceeds from the sale support literacy and learning.

**Aiding the Monarch** – As part of the Village's [pledge to help save the Monarch butterfly](#), the landscape contractor working under the guidance of the Forestry Division has planted more than 260 butterfly friendly plants at 10 Village-owned

sites. The native milkweed and nectar plants were planted at the Public Works Center, Village Hall, the Main Fire Station 1 and Metra Platform, as well as on the Jackson Boulevard S-curve and a number of cul-de-sacs around the community. The Village has long used mostly native material in public right-of-way locations, but is now making sure to include monarch-friendly vegetation in the planting palette.

**Police earn peer notice** – Recent staff-generated publicity for the Police Department's green bracelet mental health awareness initiative has been noticed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The organization included information about the program in a recent newsletter for its mid-sized agency members. The newsletter story linked back to the [Village website news story](#). The NBC television affiliate in Chicago also has inquired about the initiative and may soon do a story for the regional market.

**Local artisans sought** – Visit Oak Park is seeking the works of Chicago-area artisans for a curated collection to be displayed for four months at the Visitors Center on Lake Street. Works must be of museum-quality or focus on regional themes and may include functional objects for the home, decorative accessories, jewelry, apparel, notecards, fine art/prints, holiday and artisanal-crafted foods. Artisans may submit proposals through Aug. 10. [More information is posted online](#).

**Online construction news updates** – Working with the MGP consultants available through the Village's participation in the GIS Consortium, Communications staff have begun to add current information to the capital improvements web page available at [www.oak-park.us/construction](http://www.oak-park.us/construction). The page, called a story board by the consultants, was created originally to post plans long-range capital improvement project plans. A new projects update tab was added to the page where staff can take the latest information about specific construction projects included in the weekly Manager's Report and post it along with the five-year CIP.

**Downtown construction update** – Local news outlets are reporting Target's plans to open on Oct. 18 as part of the Emerson redevelopment project downtown. This looming date explains why crews are working weekends to get the garage open, residential units approved for occupancy and ensure access to the retail space. Much remains to be completed. Work continues on the new concrete curbs and gutters along Lake Street, the new section of Maple Avenue along the west side of Target and on Westgate Street. The sidewalk area and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street in front of the new Target remains closed from the new section of Maple Avenue to the east side of the development site, but two-way traffic has not been interrupted on Lake Street. One lane of Westgate is closed for reconstruction, but pedestrian access is being maintained along Westgate Street from Marion Street. Flaggers are making sure vehicles have access to drop off patients by the doctors' offices along Westgate during work hours. Staff is maintaining close contact with affected businesses, keeping them informed of construction activities and helping address any issues they may encounter as work continues.

**South Boulevard redevelopment** – Preliminary activities were underway this week within the security fencing around the Lincoln Property Company redevelopment project site on South Boulevard east of Harlem Avenue. The eastbound lane of South Boulevard has been closed between Harlem and Marion for materials staging and operating construction equipment, which will include a large crane. Plans are

underway for an official groundbreaking ceremony later this month. The event has been scheduled tentatively for 11 a.m., Thurs., Aug. 24. More details will be provided as they are finalized.

**Chicago Avenue streetscape/resurfacing** – Remaining punch-list items were performed this week on Chicago Avenue between Harlem and Belleforte avenues as the project nears completion. Over the next few weeks, signs taken down during the construction will be reinstalled. The work between Harlem and Belleforte was the final phase of the federally funded project that began last year.

**Alley improvements** – New concrete pavement is being poured in the alley north of Harrison Street between Euclid and Wesley avenues, which is the last alley to be reconstructed this year. The alley pavement patching portion of the contract began this week. Crews are installing permanent patches where needed in alleys that are not part of the five-year alley improvement plan. All work for this contract should be completed within the next few weeks.

**Street resurfacing** – Parkway restoration and sod placement is all that remains of the first round of streets repaved this season. Work is expected to begin by Tues., Aug. 8 on streets to be repaved in the second and final round of projects. Streets included in this round require deeper repair than simple resurfacing as well as full curb replacements. Planning is well underway for scheduling, parking coordination, garbage collection and other potential impacts the work will have on property owners in project areas.

**Sidewalk repairs** – Crews began the season's sidewalk repairs by using a patented, specialty saw to remove small trip hazards, an approach that is faster and less expensive than replacing individual squares. Focus will shift next week to sidewalk squares with larger trip hazards that will require complete removal and replacement. Work will be staged to occur on one side of the street at a time to ensure a safe pedestrian travel route on the block.

**Lake Michigan Pipeline Project** – Work between Highland and Ridgeland avenues has been completed, which will allow streets near schools to be reconstructed before the beginning of the school year. Traffic on Ridgeland Avenue will be detoured through Sunday (Aug. 6) to allow the installation of a new relief sewer to East Avenue. Street reconstruction activities continued this week between Maple and Euclid avenues, with replacement of curbs, sidewalks, driveways and alley entrances. Street reconstruction activities between Highland and Ridgeland avenues also began this week. Fillmore Avenue is scheduled to be paved from Maple Avenue to Oak Park and from Ridgeland Avenue to Highland Avenue. A project website managed by the engineering company provides the latest schedule information – [click here to view](#).

**District 97 maintenance move** – School District 97 maintenance workers made the official move to the lower level of the Public Works Center this week. A new chain link fence has been erected to delineate District 97 space and equipment from Village operations. Staff is working with the District 97 electrician on the installation of a new electrical panel and ComEd meter to separate services. These activities are pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement dated January 22, 2015 and amended October 5, 2015.

**Public Works Activities** – Street Division crews painted school walking route markings in several areas throughout the Village and repaired brick where needed along Lake Street in the downtown business district. A crew member also supplemented the work of the street-sweeping contractor in permit parking areas and viaducts, while other crews continued weed control, viaduct cleaning and litter pick up in the business districts and parking lots. Water & Sewer Division crews confirmed underground sewer locations to help the Engineering Division prepare for upcoming construction. Crews also replaced a fire hydrant that had been struck by a vehicle at Ridgeland Avenue and Iowa Street, replaced the concrete around a fire hydrant at Maple Avenue and Madison Street and completed water service upgrades at 936 N. Taylor Ave. and 611 S. Ridgeland Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. In addition to installing butterfly friendly plants, Forestry division crews and contractors focused on routine seasonal tasks.

**Employee news** – Fleet Services Superintendent Ken Crowley was a key participant in a recent seminar hosted by the [Chicago Area Clean Cities coalition](#), a not-for-profit group that promotes clean fuel alternatives. Ken outlined the Village's long history of support for alternative fuels, including a neighborhood electric vehicle, numerous hybrids and compressed-natural gas vehicles, and electric vehicle charging stations in the public parking structures. The event, co-sponsored by the Forest Preserves of County and held in the Thatcher Woods pavilion in River Forest, also featured information from experts in electric and hybrid vehicles and charging stations, including Chevrolet, Nissan and Argonne National Laboratory.

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