



Village Manager's Report Weeks ending June 16, 2017

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, June 19:
 - Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, June 20:
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m. room 102
- Wednesday, June 21:
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, June 22:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, June 23:
 - No meetings scheduled

Oak Park back in the news – The Oak Park connection to Frank Lloyd Wright continues to bring positive attention to the community. A first-person story in United-Kingdom-based news organization *The Telegraph*, takes readers through Wright's accomplishments beginning with the Home & Studio and ending with Taliesin – [click here to read the full text](#). The worldwide celebration of Wright's 150th birthday has brought even more attention to his accomplishments. The article was written by the same reporter whose [recent piece](#) on Chicago's new American Writers Museum included Ernest Hemingway's connection to Oak Park. Special thanks go to Visit Oak Park, whose staff hosted the writer as he gathered information for both stories. The news is also timely as the Unity Temple Restoration Foundation re-opens Unity Temple tomorrow (Sat. June 17) with a free neighborhood open house. Residents can walk through the newly restored Unity Temple from 2 to - 5 p.m., with the last group admitted at 4:45 p.m.

Caregiver support presentations – Senior adults and their caregivers are invited to learn about local, state and federal support programs at presentations hosted by Oak Park Township and West Suburban Medical Center. Presentations are set for 10 a.m. to noon, Thursdays, June 22, in the Building A community room 1104 of the River Forest campus of West Suburban Medical Center, 7411 Lake St., and June 29 in first-floor Room 1062 of West Suburban Medical Center, 3 Erie Court, in Oak Park. Anyone interested in more information or to register for one of the sessions should call 866.938.7256.

Fire Department report – Oak Park firefighter/paramedics responded to 587 calls in May, up from 543 calls in April, bringing the yearly total to 2,753. Calls for emergency medical services continued to be the largest category of calls, with the 368 EMS calls in May representing 63 percent of the total. Types of calls in order of share of the total included 99 general service calls (17 percent), 59 categorized as good intent (10 percent), 31 for fires/hazardous conditions (5 percent) and 30 alarm initiated (5 percent). The average response time for calls in May was four minutes, 31 seconds, but crews were on site to provide emergency medical services in an average of three minutes and 59 seconds. Crews responded to 14 fire calls in May, including five dumpsters and two vehicles. The most significant fire was in an apartment kitchen on North Austin Boulevard that was extinguished by crews using portable fire extinguishers. Oak Park crews also lent firefighting assistance to departments in River Forest and Berwyn, the latter event resulting in a civilian fatality. Fire Prevention Bureau staff continued field inspections for the build-out of Coopers Hawk restaurant at 150 Forest Avenue, as well as testing sprinklers for the Emerson redevelopment high-rise downtown. Staff also completed 17 plan reviews of fire protection systems in May and met with Rush Oak Park Hospital representatives to discuss and develop safety plans for demolition of the old college of nursing building, the first phase of adding a new emergency department. Public education personnel brought the fire safety education program to every second grade class in Oak Park before the school year ended using the new safety trailer purchased by MABAS Division 11.

Downtown construction update – Excavation along the Lake Street portion of the Emerson redevelopment project has begun in preparation for new sidewalk, but two-way traffic flow has been maintained along the busy east-west corridor. The sidewalk and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street remain closed from the new section of Maple Avenue on the east side of the development site. Reconstruction work on Westgate Street is scheduled to begin next week. Only one lane of Westgate will be open to traffic during the work. Engineering staff is working closely with the developer to ensure that the adjacent businesses are notified in advance of the work and that pedestrian and vehicle traffic is accommodated as best as possible given the tight work area.

Chicago Avenue streetscape/resurfacing project – Work continued this week on the brick crosswalks, decorative sidewalks and lighting on Chicago Avenue between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. Installation of the crosswalks is requiring lane closures and traffic detours on portions of Marion Street and Maple Avenue. However, normal traffic patterns are expected to resume on June 30. Chicago Avenue remains open only to westbound traffic between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. The installation of brick crosswalks also continued this week on Chicago at Ridgeland Avenue. The work is blocking the turning lanes on Chicago Avenue, but two-way traffic is being maintained. Normal traffic flow through the busy intersection is expected to be restored by June 24, barring any weather delays.

Alley improvements update – Underground drainage improvements continued this week on alley segments under construction, while pavement was removed in the alley north of Flournoy Street between Humphrey Avenue and Austin Boulevard. The number of residents within the boundaries of the alley projects who have now elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed has grown to 47. By having the work done as part of the alley reconstruction, these

property owners are able to take advantage of the Village's contract unit price, which is lower than the cost a single property owner likely would pay to hire a contractor.

Lake Michigan pipeline project – Work on the water line that will carry Lake Michigan water to the villages of Brookfield and North Riverside began this week at Maple Avenue and Fillmore Street. The intersection of Maple and Fillmore is closed, but will be opened to traffic within a few days as work progresses eastbound along Fillmore across the Village to Austin Boulevard. Road closures should be limited to intersections and alley entrances only when excavation is occurring in these areas. All affected road and alley crossings will be reopened at the end of each workday. Material and equipment deliveries continued this week, and fencing to protect parkway tree trunks has been installed between Maple and Oak Park, the first segment of the project. A project website managed by the engineering company has been set up to provide the latest schedule information – [click here to view](#).

Street resurfacing – The season's first round of street resurfacing projects will start next week in the northern part of the Village. The contractor was onsite this week performing preparation work, including saw-cutting pavement. This project entails removing and replacing the top layer of asphalt, as well as fixing problematic curb sections, and upgrading crossing corners to current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards.

Miscellaneous construction projects – Final pavement was completed this week on Taylor between Harrison and Flornoy streets and on Highland Avenue between Madison Street and Jackson Boulevard following the underground water and sewer work that was completed a few weeks ago. Striping and parkway restoration will follow, with sod not likely installed until fall when lower temperatures offer improved planting conditions. Minor repairs were made this week to the pedestrian hybrid crossing beacon installed last year at Chicago and Harvey avenues, closing out the project.

Public Works activities – Street Division crews began painting curbs yellow in front of fire hydrants to designate no-parking areas, cleaned up debris on the Home Avenue pedestrian bridge and power washed benches, trash cans and sidewalks on Oak Park Avenue south of Harrison Street. Crews also focused on weed control, cleaned viaducts and picked up litter in the business districts. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired fire hydrants at 450 N. Austin Blvd., on the northeast corner of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue, and on the northwest corner of Superior Street and Humphrey Avenue. Crews also reset a water shut-off valve at 1043 S. Harvey Ave. as well as cleaned and traced sewer inlets and basins for upcoming street resurfacing projects. In-house Forestry Division crews continued routine maintenance, inspections and trimming, while contractors focused on watering new trees that had been suffering from the lack of rain. Work to make room for School District 97's maintenance operations in the Public Works Center continued, with the focus on reorganizing vehicle parking and material storage.

Employee News – After serving in an interim capacity, Tom Fulton has been named Street Division Supervisor in the [Public Works Department](#). The job includes overseeing the day-to-day maintenance of Village-owned streets and their curbs,

gutters and sidewalks, as well all traffic and parking signs. Tom joined the Village in 2003 as a Building Maintenance Technician, transferring to the Street Division in 2011 as an Equipment Operator. He is a certified as a Traffic Signal Technician and a Work Zone Traffic Control Technician through the International Municipal Signal Association. He also is pursuing supervisor certification from the Illinois Public Service Institute through the American Public Works Association.

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