



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending August 2, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- August 5:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting CANCELED
- August 6:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
- August 7:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- August 8:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

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

- August 19: Village Board Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m., executive session (room 130), 8:00 p.m. room 201
- August 26: Tentative Village Board Study Session Fund Balances, 7:00 p.m.
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., location TBD

* * *

Health Department annual report – The Health Department has completed its 2012 annual report as required of all state-certified local health departments in Illinois. Annual reports are submitted to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Beyond fulfilling the statutory requirement, the annual report also provides residents with an overview of the variety of programs and services provided each year by our Health Department staff. In addition to providing a wide range of service, our Health Department also administers the Village's animal control program and the Farmers' Market. [Click here to read](#) the Health Department's 2012 Annual Report.

Mayors coming to Oak Park – The [Mayors Innovation Project](#), a learning network among the nation's mayors, will hold its summer meeting Aug. 15 – 17 in Oak Park. Attendees will be staying at the Carleton Hotel and are expected to participate in the sixth annual [Micro Brew Review](#) in downtown Oak Park. In addition to discussing

topics such as walkable urbanism, fostering diverse neighborhoods smart grids, attendees also will tour the community. [Click here to view more details](#) on the group's Oak Park itinerary.

Fire Department activities – Firefighters battled three structure fires in July, but all were contained to the rooms of origin and were quickly suppressed. These three incidents in July were part of what was a typically busy month for the Fire Department, which fielded 505 calls. Emergency medical services calls continued to be the top activity category in July, with the 288 calls representing 57 percent of the total. Other calls included 99 for alarms initiated (20 percent), 90 for general service (17 percent) and 28 for fire/hazardous conditions (6 percent). Through July, the Fire Department had responded to 3,600 calls, arriving in an average of 229 seconds, well below the 360-second industry standard. In other department news, 14-year veteran Steve Lingenfelter was promoted to lieutenant, the first promotion to lieutenant at the Fire Department in more than three years.

Social media insights – While preparing for the FY2014 budget, Communications staff compiled some interesting facts about its social media activities. So far this year, nearly 300 [posts to facebook](#) have been made and some 300 new fans added for a total base of more than 3,800. [Staff tweeted](#) nearly 500 times over the past six months, and added 400 followers for a total of just over 2,000 individuals. High-engagement Facebook topics included Farmers' Market announcements, photo galleries (people like seeing their friends and neighbors), links to VOP-TV's [YouTube](#) videos (29 new so far this year with nearly 20,000 views) and calendar events – especially since staff began using Facebook's integrated calendar feature to publicize a variety of local events each month. Our best-performing twitter posts typically included a *hyperlocal* call to action such as free mulch available behind the Fire Station, which reached an audience about eight times larger than typical, according to twitter, due to people re-tweeting the information through their own accounts. Other examples of high-engagement topics on twitter included severe weather alerts, links to surveys, crime alerts, parking updates, Farmers' Market announcements and recycling events. Staff also used social media sites to encourage discussion of IDOT's most recent plans to expand I-290, posts that elicited a thoughtful, civil online discussion. In a new undertaking, staff pinned more than 100 photographs to the Village's new [Pinterest](#), which likely will prove to be a valuable tool for highlighting some of the best and most interesting visual features of the community.

Construction update – Taylor Avenue between South Boulevard and Randolph Street is now open to traffic following water and sewer main improvements, with all work completed except parkway sod installation, which is scheduled for September. Final paving is scheduled for this month on Harvey Avenue north of Chicago Avenue now that the sewer work is complete. All street patching has been completed throughout the Village for the season, with crack filling and microsurfacing planned for later this month.

North Boulevard status – Landscape restoration is all that remains following the major water and sewer main improvements on North Boulevard and Kenilworth Avenue. Both streets are open to parking and traffic, and landscaping is scheduled for September. Staff will be working with property owners who will be most affected by a similar water and sewer main improvement project planned for September in the

North Boulevard area from Forest Avenue to Kenilworth and South Boulevard from Marion Street to Home Avenue.

Engineering planning activities – Contracts have been awarded for the next round of water and sewer main improvements and local street resurfacing. A third project, relining a water main under I-290 at Lombard Avenue, should be awarded this month. Analysis of the data collected for the pavement management program should be completed this month, and design work is underway for lighting and streetscape improvements along Garfield Street from Harlem Avenue to Clinton Avenue. Hardware for the updated traffic signal management system has been ordered and new software is being loaded into the system with plans for an early September test.

###