



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 20, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- September 23:
 - Village Board Special meeting 7 p.m. room 130 followed by Executive Session
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- September 24:
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m., room 102
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- September 25:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Architectural Review Committee/HPC, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- September 26:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 102
 - Village Board Personnel Committee, 6 p.m., room 130

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

- September 30: Village Board Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Irving School
- October 2: Elected Officials BBQ, 5:30 p.m., Oak Park Conservatory
- October 12: Village Board I-Gov Meeting, 9 a.m., D97 offices
- November 20: Tri-Board Meeting, Intergovernmental Agreement Annual Meeting regarding Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., location TBD

EPA recognizes Oak Park's green-energy efforts – For the second year in a row, the use of green power through the [Community Choice Aggregation Program](#) has earned Oak Park special recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The USEPA will announce Monday that Oak Park was one of two communities selected from among nearly 50 participating communities nationwide for a Green Power Community (GPC) Challenge award for having the highest green power percentage of total electricity use. More than 90 percent of electricity used here comes from renewable power sources. According to EPA, Oak Park's collective use of more than 170 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power is equal to avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of more than 25,000 passenger vehicles per year, or the equivalent of the electricity needed to power more than 18,000 homes annually. The nearly 50 Green Power Communities across the country collectively buy green power

in amounts that meet or exceed the EPA's purchase requirements as part of the Green Power Partnership. Other participating Illinois communities include Aurora and Rolling Meadows. Last year, the USEPA also named Oak Park a *Green Power Community of the Year* for our electricity aggregation program. More information about the Green Power Community Challenge and program is posted at www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities.

Broker/developer tour update - As part of the [Request for Development Proposal](#) been issued by the Village for the Harlem Avenue and South Boulevard site, a pre-bid breakfast, presentation, tour and Q & A was hosted by Village staff on Fri., Sept. 20. Eighteen individuals representing 10 development firms attended. We anticipate receiving multiple development proposals by the Oct. 16 RFP response deadline.

User-friendly change to online code information – [Sterling Codifiers, Inc.](#) which manages the [Village code online information](#), has enhanced its system to allow users to email a link directly to a specific chapter. In the past, you could only link to the code website, but not to pages within it. Users now will find an envelope icon at the end of each chapter and section name. Clicking on this envelope will launch the user's email program and insert the link to that part of the code. The user will only need to add the address of the individual requesting the information and any other message, then click send.

Decentralization of website administration begins – The Communications Department spent the week introducing commission staff liaisons to the processes necessary to take over management of their related information. Efforts focused on teaching staff how to post calendar events and upload meeting agendas and minutes, an important part of the decentralization of administrative duties on our new website. By the end of the week, staff in Building & Property Standards, Planning and the Village Clerk's office already had begun posting meetings to the calendar and agendas directly to the website. The next step will be teaching staff to manage content on the web pages related to their duties. A major administrative benefit of the new website is that administrators only need access to the Internet and no special software, so changes can be made remotely.

Capital improvements update – Resurfacing of Taylor Avenue between Ontario and Erie Streets is underway, following the completion of the sewer improvement project. Water main improvements continue on Highland Avenue between Harrison and Van Buren streets. Work on Harvey Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Iowa Street is substantially complete, with the street expected to reopen by the end of next week. Final parkway restoration will begin next week on Taylor Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard, Harvey Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Iowa Street, and Kenilworth Avenue from North Boulevard to Lake Street. The sidewalk replacement program is complete, except for Harrison Street and punch list items. The alley replacement project is underway, with four alleys to be poured by the end of this week. These alleys should reopen by the end of next week once the concrete cures and garage aprons are replaced. Painting is complete at the Marion Street viaduct and should be finished at Ridgeland Avenue by the end of next week. Once all painting is completed, electrical work for lighting will begin. Concrete work related to street resurfacing has been completed on Cuyler Avenue south of Madison Street. Street resurfacing activities will move to Belleforte Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Augusta Street by the end of this week. Sewer televising work will start next week at

various locations throughout the Village including Ridgeland Avenue from I-290 to Division Street.

Public Works Activities – The thermoplastic pavement marking continues throughout the Village to improve visibility of street markings. Waste Management, the Village's private contractor, continued the street sweeping, while Public Works crews continued routine maintenance work throughout the Village.

Special community police meeting set – Officers from our Community Policing Unit will join representatives of the Community Justice Center and Oak Park Township Youth Services at a neighborhood meeting scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., Sept. 24, in Hatch Elementary School. The meeting was scheduled to give residents an opportunity to voice their concerns about the Aug. 22 shooting in the alley of the 1200 Block of north Austin Boulevard and unrelated juvenile disturbances in the area.

VOP-TV series heading to film festival – Two episodes of *You Really Should Eat This*, the local series produced by VOP-TV and starring [OakPark.com food blogger David Hammond](#), will screen at the [4th annual Chicago Food Film Festival](#) in November. The series airs on the [Village's YouTube channel](#) and is broadcast regularly on VOP-TV. In each episode, Hammond introduces viewers to a specialty dish produced by an Oak Park restaurant and offers his own commentary on the dish's place in history. VOP-TV Manager Joe Kreml takes viewers behind the scenes – literally – with food prep footage and interviews with chefs and restaurateurs. The whole package is edited down into a tight video, averaging about four minutes in length – perfect for YouTube or television. The two episodes selected to screen at the festival are segments on corned beef hash at George's Family Restaurant and feijoada, a traditional Brazilian dish from Taste of Brasil Cafe.

Interim Water & Sewer Superintendent selected – A retired civil engineer has been selected as interim superintendent of the Water & Sewer Division, while the search for a permanent hire continues. Joseph A. Wywrot, who has held a variety of public works-related posts in his career, will assume the duties of Brian Jack, who leaves this week to become the public works utilities superintendent with the Village of Lombard. Joe recently spent eight months as the interim water superintendent for Tinley Park, so brings recent, hands-on experience to the job.

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