



Village Manager's Report
Week ending July 10, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, July 13:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, July 14:
 - No Scheduled Meetings
- Wednesday, July 15:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake Street
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, July 16:
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council, 7 p.m., room 102
- Friday, July 17:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Saturday, July 18:
 - I-Gov Meeting, 9 a.m., Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park
- Sunday, July 19:
 - Village Board Goal Setting Retreat – Public Works Center, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Saturday, August 1 – Village Board Outreach – Farmer's Market, 7am-1pm
- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

Public comments for I-290 discussion – Staff created a new web page where residents can comment on the topics to be discussed in the Special Meeting Monday night on the Eisenhower Expressway reconstruction project. The page – www.oak-park.us/ikecomments – includes a short video on the discussion topics of traffic and pedestrian movement as well as the PowerPoint presentation that will be the basis for the discussion. After commenting closes at noon on Monday, all comments on the page will be provided to the Village Board for review prior to the special meeting.

Vehicle sticker sales status – Tuesday will be the last day residents can purchase vehicle stickers without penalty. Village Hall will be open from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.,

Saturday, and until 7 p.m., Monday, to accommodate residents who wish to renew their vehicle stickers in person before the deadline. In addition, Information Technology staff has set up six computer terminals near Parking Services to allow walk-ins to take advantage of the discount for online purchases, and hopefully learn how easy it would be to [renew online](#) from home next year. In-person sales and renewals at the regular fee will end at 5 p.m., Tuesday. However, the online system will continue to offer renewals, but will begin to assess the penalty at midnight. As of Sat., July 4, vehicle stickers sales totaled 17,468, up slightly from last year's total for the same period of 17,264. About 73 percent of sales so far this year have been online, compared to 67 percent last year.

Pedestrian signals updated downtown – New pedestrian-activated signal buttons were installed this week at the intersection of Lake and Marion streets. The [Advanced Accessible Pedestrian System](#) (AAPS) represents the latest advances in signal push-button technology. The system is designed to better assist visually and cognitively impaired pedestrians by providing both audio and visual crossing information.

Tobacco-free program implemented – Signs began going up this week alerting staff and visitors that all Village properties are officially tobacco free. All tobacco-related products are prohibited on Village properties, including public parking garages. The prohibition applies to all forms of tobacco, including electronic cigarettes. Employees and visitors alike are subject to the new rule. The initiative was approved by the Village Board in March. Since this is a public health issue, a major part of the effort will include connecting tobacco users with resources to help them quit.

Health video to air at Lake Theater – A [new video produced by VOP-TV](#) for the Health Department will air soon at the Lake Theater as part of the promotional messages between features. Called *The Big Talk*, the video takes a humorous look at the importance of parents discussing sex with their teen children. The video was supported by a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health. The video also is posted on the Village YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/vopnews.

Future health grants – Staff is closely monitoring budget discussions in Springfield and the potential impact on grants that help fund important local public health services. The Village was notified recently by [letter from the Illinois Department of Public Health](#) that the amount and availability of grants may be modified and payments would not begin until the fiscal situation is resolved. Details on how affected grant-funded activities will be managed will be provided to the Board for review and discussion later in July.

Reservoir project update – The contractor has completed sealing the exterior roof of the Central Reservoir under Stevenson Park. Work to reinstall the soil removed to allow access to the reservoir roof will begin next week, weather permitting. The reservoir is being refilled and soon will be placed back into service.

Ridgeland Avenue sewer project update – Work on the main Ridgeland Avenue sewer line has moved north of Augusta Street, as all lateral lines south of Augusta have been completed. The contractor will be working Saturdays for the remainder of the project, which is expected to conclude the first week of August. Street resurfacing between Chicago Avenue and Division Street then will begin.

Capital improvements update – Unexpected permit issues have delayed water and sewer projects planned for this season. Staff met with the contractor Thursday to discuss scheduling options that would avoid disruption to the schools adjacent to where work is planned. At least some of the work may need to be rescheduled for next year. The first round of local resurfacing projects is underway on five streets in the community. Sidewalk replacement continued on the blocks postponed from last year. After rain delayed progress on the second round of alley projects planned for the season, work resumed on two alleys this week.

Public Works activities – Clean-up activities continued in the business districts and Village parking lots. Crews also power washed viaducts between North and South boulevards in preparation for upcoming art projects and repaired bluestone and brickwork in the downtown area. Routine activities included repairing pavement and curbs where water line issues were resolved and filling potholes at various locations in the Village. A catch basin at 1101 N. Elmwood Ave., a sinkhole at the intersection of Berkshire Street and Taylor Avenue and a two-inch water service at Lake Street and Forest Avenue were repaired. Forestry crews focused on routine seasonal resident requests. Damaged electrical cables on Elizabeth Court and at Harvard and Wesley avenues were repaired.

Employee news – A new series of employee enrichment events began this week. Called *Oak Park 101*, the program will offer regular sessions focusing on wellness, finances, family, workplace engagement and local history, topics chosen with the help of a survey of employees. The first session focused on having a healthy work-life balance. Each 45-minute session is offered at multiple times to allow employees to work around their schedules to attend. The sessions offer equal parts entertainment and professional development. Additional sessions will be held periodically throughout the summer and fall.

###