



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending October 20, 2017**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Saturday, October 21:
  - I-Gov Committee, 9 a.m. Oak Park Township Boardroom
- Monday, October 23:
  - Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 101
  - Transportation Commission, room 201
- Tuesday, October 24:
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, October 25:
  - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m. room 102
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., Oak Park Public Library
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, October 26:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, October 27:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Youth social justice conference set** – The [Oak Park Public Library](#) will host a [Youth Social Justice Conference](#) from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sat., Oct. 21, at the main library on Lake Street. The conference will feature a panel discussion, breakout discussions and an open mic as teens and adults explore a wide range of issues. Complete details and a link to RSVP are posted at [www.oppl.org](http://www.oppl.org).

**Run to close streets** – Several streets will be closed from about 8 to 11 a.m., Sun., Oct. 22, for the Park District of Oak Park's annual Frank Lloyd Wright Races. Closures are planned from Lake Street north to LeMoyné Parkway and Marion Street east to Lombard Avenue. Residents are encouraged to review the course at [www.flwraces.com](http://www.flwraces.com) and allow for extra travel time. Events start at Scoville Avenue and Ontario Street, just east of Oak Park and River Forest High School and finish on Scoville in front of the school.

**Cemetery walk is Sunday** – Local actors will bring the stories of the dead to life Sun., Oct. 22 as the Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest hosts its annual guided walking tour of Forest Home Cemetery, 836 Desplaines Ave., in Forest Park. Tours

begin at 1 p.m., with the last tour at 2 p.m. Ticket information is available at [www.oprfhistory.org](http://www.oprfhistory.org).

**Rain bring challenges** – This past weekend’s heavy rain dumped more than six inches of water in about 24 hours, representing what engineers call a 50-year storm event. With residents already putting leaves in the street in advance of the annual fall collection program, several storm drains were so clogged that they required rodding to ensure proper drainage. Given the sheer volume and intensity of the rain, the street flooding was preferable to the backups that can occur when sewer system capacity is exceeded. Crews focused first on ensuring safe passage of vehicles, particularly emergency responders, with flooding in parking lanes of secondary concern. The water quickly receded once the rain had stopped and the drains cleared.

**Community survey begins** – Information gathering for the Village-wide community survey starts next week, as Oak Park residential addresses selected at random begin receiving questionnaires by mail. The survey is being conducted by the [National Research Center, Inc. \(NRC\)](#), a social science research firm whose core business is community surveys. NRC surveys using consistent questions have been used in Oak Park in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2013 and 2015. Through its collaboration with the *International City Managers Association*, NRC has developed a national database of community surveys and survey questions, which allows the Village to compare many of its results with those from similar communities in Illinois and across the country. Results of past surveys are posted on the Village web site at [www.oak-park.us/communitysurveys](http://www.oak-park.us/communitysurveys). This year’s survey results should be available early next year.

**Yard waste makes news** – How Oak Park handles leaves, yard waste and compost became a small part of a recent WBEZ radio critique of the City of Chicago. The story, the latest installment in the station’s [Curious City series](#), chronicles Chicago’s attempts to handle yard waste, which has been banned from Illinois landfills since 1990. The story says that while Oak Park collected 3,600 tons in 2015, Chicago collected only 346 tons, noting that Oak Park has only about 4 percent as many households as the city. The story is posted online – [click here to view](#).

**Landlords reminded of heat requirement** – As nighttime temperatures began to drop, Neighborhood Services Division staff has been reminding landlords that they are required to provide heat to all rental units from September 15 through May 15. An average minimum temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit must be maintained from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., and 65 degrees Fahrenheit from 11 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Complaints may be made by calling 708.358.5430 or by email to [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us).

**Lake Street sidewalk repairs** – Repairs to the sidewalks along Lake Street between Harlem and Forest avenues began this week. Signs are in place to direct pedestrians around construction. The work, which should be completed by Nov. 1, includes eliminating sidewalk trip hazards, resetting bricks to grade and maintaining tree pits. The project also includes replacing curb at the northeast corner of Lake and Marion streets and on the southwest corner of Lake and Forest Avenue. The crosswalk on the south side of the Lake Street at Marion Street also will be repaired.

**Downtown construction update** – Sidewalks were completed on Westgate Street this week as work continues on and around The Emerson development project downtown. Resurfacing was completed this week on Westgate Street between Maple and Harlem avenues. A decorative crosswalk is being installed across the new section of Maple Avenue at North Boulevard. The alley entrance on North Boulevard at the east limits of the development is being replaced. Electrical operations have begun on North Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue. Traffic on North Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street remains restricted to eastbound only.

**South Boulevard/Harlem Avenue project** – Crews are expected to erect the crane by the redevelopment site early next week, following this week's weather delay. South Boulevard, which has been open only to westbound traffic from Marion Street to Harlem Avenue, will be closed completely for several weeks beginning later this month while ComEd installs new electrical connections from Harlem to the development site. South Boulevard will not be closed completely until two-way traffic has been restored on North Boulevard. Engineering Division staff will continue to monitor the site and signage to ensure potential customers are not confused or impeded.

**Lake Michigan pipeline** – The water main to carry Lake Michigan water to the Villages of Brookfield and North Riverside has been installed to just west of Humphrey Avenue, as crews move closer to the border with the City of Chicago. The project is still on schedule to be out of Oak Park by the end of November. In the meantime, street reconstruction tasks along the pipeline route are underway between Euclid and Ridgeland avenues. The work includes installing new curb, sidewalk, alley entrances and driveway aprons. Street reconstruction activities will begin next week between Ridgeland and Lyman avenues. The first layer of pavement has been laid on Fillmore Street between Oak Park and Ridgeland avenues, and the final layer installed between Maple and Oak Park avenues.

**Street resurfacing** – In addition to Westgate Street between Maple and Harlem avenues, resurfacing was completed this week on Pleasant Street between Ridgeland and Harvey avenues, South Boulevard between Cuyler and Harvey avenues, and Superior Street between Elmwood and East avenues. Landscaping crews continued work on Humphrey Avenue between Division and Greenfield streets. Concrete and asphalt operations will continue next week on North Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue, Wisconsin Avenue between Madison and Randolph streets, and Randolph Street between Harlem and Wisconsin avenues.

**Public Works Activities** – The annual fall leaf collection program began this week with Street Division crews pushing leaves into piles at the end of blocks each night for collection by Waste Management the following day. The collection approach, which is nothing less than a heavy equipment ballet on many streets, will continue for six more weeks. Street crews also painted sections of the viaducts repaired recently by Union Pacific Railroad workers and posted construction signs where sidewalk and curb repairs are beginning on Lake Street between Forest and Harlem avenues. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired water main breaks at Oak Park Avenue and Division Street and at Fillmore Street and Clarence Avenue. Forestry Division staff attended the annual Illinois Arborist Association conference held for two days this week in Tinley Park. In addition to education sessions on a wide range of forestry-

related topics, the conference also included live demonstrations and hands-on instruction using a living tree.

**Employee news** – The Information Technology Department this week welcomed Rocio "Rose" Almonica as a new Systems Analyst. A graduate from DePaul University with a degree in e-commerce technology, Rose worked previously worked at [www.papersource.com](http://www.papersource.com), where during six years with the firm she was a programmer/data analyst and website content manager. In her new duties with the Village, Rose will work initially on the new Laserfiche system, developing electronic forms, workflow and business rules to further streamline our processes. However, she likes a good coding challenge, which, according to the IT Director, is a very valuable skillset in a world increasingly reliant on data.

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