



Village Manager's Report
Week ending September 13, 2013

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- September 14:
 - Village Board Outreach Event – Barrie Fest 1 - 5 p.m.

- September 16:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting (Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130, followed by a Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- September 17:
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
 - Medical Reserve Corps, 7 p.m. room 101

- September 18:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- September 19:
 - No Meetings Scheduled

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

- September 26: Village Board Personnel Committee, 6 p.m., room 130
- October 2: Elected Officials BBQ, 5:30 p.m., Oak Park Conservatory
- October 12: Tentative 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

Paint exchange is Saturday - Residents are invited to safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint – or pick up free paint – at *The Great Paint Exchange*, scheduled for Saturday at the Public Works Center. Half-to-full cans of paint can be dropped off from 9 to 11 a.m., and anyone in need of paint can choose from the paint collected from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Only latex paint will be accepted.

New Housing Collaborative website – We now can keep up to date on the activities of the West Cook County Housing Collaborative (WCCHC), view homes for sale and learn about transit- oriented development opportunities at the organization's new website, www.westcookhousing.org. From its beginning in 2009, the WCCHC, which is a joint effort of Bellwood, Berwyn, Forest Park, Maywood and Oak Park, has worked to expand housing opportunities and strengthen neighborhoods in west suburban Cook

County. The collaboration was formed in response to the housing foreclosure crisis. Recognizing the value of collaboration, the WCCHC communities have continued working together to transform distressed properties into quality, affordable homeownership opportunities and rental housing options.

Crime rate update – The Police Department is reporting an 8-percent decrease in crime from January through August of this year as compared to the same period last year. Through August, 1195 crimes were reported compared to 1299 for the same period in 2012. Thefts were down to 795 in 2013 compared to 898 in 2012. Burglaries continued on a downward trend as well, with 269 burglaries reported so far this year, compared to 287 in 2012. More than 50 percent of the reported burglaries were to garages, with more than half involving unsecured doors. Three categories have seen small increases – five arson incidents have been reported this year compared to three for the same period in 2012, and eight more motor vehicle thefts have occurred – 39 incidents compared to 31 last year. Police also noted a slight increase in robberies, with 59 incidents through August of this year compared to 56 in 2012. Twenty-five aggravated assault/battery cases have been reported so far this year, compared to 18 in 2012. In the majority of the cases, the offender and victim knew each other. Aggravated assault arrests were up 54 percent this year as compared to last. [Click here to see the year-to-date data](#). Police had responded to more than 22,500 calls through August, about 40 percent of which were medium priority. The average response time for high-priority calls through August of this year is three minutes, 38 seconds.

Building & Property Standards Division update – The volume of permit and plan review applications increased about 10 percent in July over the previous month. Some 94 percent of all plan reviews performed in July were completed within the target timeframes for the category of review. Notable projects received for plan review included [Lou Malnati's Pizzeria](#), 1038 Lake St. Requests for construction inspections were roughly the same as the previous month. At the end of July, 26 applications were in the plan review queue with seven cases overdue an average of seven days. An additional case came out of a two-month hold for historic review and was added to the building review list. [Click here to see the July monthly report](#).

Capital Improvements – Sewer main improvements have been completed on North Harvey Avenue and street restoration will be continue through mid-September. Street restoration is underway on the 200 block of North Taylor Avenue and work has moved to the 800 block of South Highland Avenue. Sidewalk replacement is complete and alley reconstruction is scheduled to begin on Sept. 16. Local street resurfacing began on the 500 block of South Cuyler Avenue, where concrete work is underway and should be completed by Sept. 20. Viaduct improvements continue on Marion Street with painting underway on the west half of the underpass. Work also has begun on the west side of the Ridgeland Avenue viaduct. Microsurfacing has been rescheduled to begin the week of Oct. 14.

Public Works activities update – Two traffic signal poles knocked down in traffic accidents at Lake and Marion streets and Washington and East avenues were repaired. Efforts continued throughout the Village to pick up the remaining debris from recent storms. Residents who brought debris from their property to the curb were reminded by postcard that disposal is their responsibility. Thermoplastic pavement marking continued as part of a Village-wide project. Crews also are

painting crosswalks at various locations throughout the Village. The new street sweeping contractor, Waste Management, began the street sweeping cycle this week.

Health Insurance Marketplace education to begin – The [Health Department](#) is working with the [Infant Welfare Society Children’s Clinic](#), [Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [League of Women Voters](#) to host a presentation on how to navigate the requirements of the [Affordable Care Act](#) that become effective Jan. 1. The target date for the presentation is Oct. 23 and the event likely will be held in Village Hall. The presentation would be given by the [Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition](#) and the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#). Anyone interested in learning more about finding affordable health insurance will be invited to attend. Those seeking affordable health insurance will need to sign up via the [Health Insurance Marketplace](#) by Dec. 15 to have coverage by the first of the year. The website was created to help individuals, families, small business owners and their employees shop for health care coverage by comparing available plan options.

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