



Village Manager's Report
Week ending June 12, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, June 15:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, June 16:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, June 17:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake Street
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, June 18:
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 101

- Friday, June 19:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, June 22 – Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

Police training – The Oak Park Police Department will be conducting training in procedural justice, a concept that says how individuals view the justice system is determined more by how they perceive the fairness of the process and how they were treated, rather than the outcome. Police Department has partnered with the University of Illinois Chicago's Center for Public Safety and Justice to present the training, which was developed by the King County Sheriff's Office in Seattle, Washington and is becoming a national model. The course is designed to help individual officers understand how their interactions and decision-making processes can increase cooperation and compliance by promoting trust.

Alley conditions map posted online – A map outlining the pavement condition scores for all Village alleys has been posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/construction, just under the interactive capital improvements map. A brief narrative on the page describes how the information is gathered and alleys rated. The map provides information to help residents understand how their alleys compare

to others across the Village. The next step is to provide a map that displays the alleys scheduled to be replaced in the next five years, depending on funding and other factors.

Police article scores on Facebook – An [article posted to the Village Facebook page](#) about the Police Department’s new policy allowing the public to use its lobby for face-to-face transactions such as those arranged through Craigslist proved extremely popular. Since it was posted Wednesday night, the article has reached almost 7,000 Facebook users and garnered more than 200 likes, making it one of the most successful posts so far this year for the Village. The [article](#) was written by the Communications Department and first published on the VOP website earlier this week. Even more attention is expected after an article appears in the upcoming July/August *OPFYI* newsletter.

Diseased tree removals - The effects of the past two harsh winters have had an especially negative impact on the Village’s struggling mature elms trees as well as those trees infested with emerald ash borer. Staff is predicting the possible loss of up to 200 elm trees this season, or about 15 percent of the remaining inventory. This year, 50 of what were considered elms of concern have been removed, compared to about 90 elms removed all of last year. These losses underscore the importance of the Village’s commitment to species diversity in our urban forest.

Central reservoir project status – Repairs to the interior roof of the Central Reservoir under Stevenson Park continued. Application of an exterior roof sealant coating is planned for two nights next week, depending on the weather. The exterior work must be done at night since daytime heat can cause the sealant to blister and fail. The neighborhood has been alerted to the reason the field lights will be on during the work. Soil removed from the top of the reservoir and stored off site should be transported back and reinstalled by the end of June.

Ridgeland Avenue sewer project - The second stage of the sewer improvement project on Ridgeland Avenue is well underway between Chicago Avenue and Division Street. Motorists have been detoured west to Oak Park Avenue and signs have been erected to discourage vehicles from cutting through nearby residential streets. Village contractors have coordinated the sewer work with the Illinois Department of Transportation, which intends to repave Ridgeland from South Boulevard to Division Street, completing the project from last year that began at Roosevelt Road. IDOT was given approval to repave Ridgeland between South Boulevard and Chicago beginning next week, after assurances that the project will be completed prior to the July 4 parade. IDOT has scheduled repaving from Chicago to Division after the sewer project is completed.

Capital improvements – Water and sewer work is tentatively scheduled to begin June 22 on Harvey Avenue between Augusta and Thomas streets. Sewer work on Kenilworth Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Augusta is scheduled to begin in mid-July. Resurfacing projects have begun on Harvard Avenue between Maple and Wenonah avenues, the 900 and 100 blocks of Wesley Avenue and the 900 block of South Kenilworth Avenue. Sidewalk replacement projects remaining from 2014 are scheduled to begin next week.

Alley improvements – Alley improvement projects underway as part of the season’s first phase are on schedule for completion by June 15. The last round of alley improvements projects began June 8 with pavement removal and sewer work.

Public Works Activities – Public works crews provided extensive support for [A Day in Our Village](#) this past weekend, including booth set ups and take-down, and cleanup of the site after the event ended. Streets Division crews also installed banners promoting this year’s public [sculpture walk](#) along Chicago Avenue. A water service leak at 1101 Hayes Avenue and fire hydrants at 100 N. Euclid Ave., 522 Lyman Avenue and East Avenue at Randolph Street were repaired. Crews also reset a water control box at 731 Belleforte Avenue, as well as cleaned and camera-inspected the Fire Station sewer at 900 S East Ave. Forestry crews continued pruning, tree removal, picking up brush, delivering wood chips and responding to requests for tree inspections. Spring tree planting is completed, but the contractor is mulching and making any necessary adjustments and corrections. Fleet Services placed four new Ford Fusion hybrid cars into service and repurposed a retired police car for use by a Community Service Officer after adding newly designed badging to differentiate it from a squad car.

Employee news – Chief building Official Steve Witt has resigned after nearly 12 years with the Village. His last day will be Fri., June 19. Ken Welch, an employee of [HR Green](#), the professional engineering and technical consulting firm under contract with the Village, will serve as acting chief building official. Ken, a 30-year veteran of the construction industry, is a master-carpenter and licensed electrician, is certified in multiple fields and holds the highest certification in the code enforcement industry. HR Green’s Peter Vernon, who is a master code professional and building official, will provide assistance should Ken be unavailable. Each summer, the Public Works Department offers job opportunities to interns seeking experience with pay. The six on the job this summer are Ismael Aramburo, Raymond Bizot, Eric Bryant, Marcus Daniels, Bradley Mister and Chad Ramiro

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