



Village Manager's Report Week ending July 24, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, July 27:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Tuesday, July 28:
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 215
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, July 29:
 - Chair Person Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, July 30:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Friday, July 31:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Saturday, August 1:
 - Village Board Outreach – Farmer's Market, 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

West Nile Virus found here – The [Desplaines Valley Mosquito District \(DVMAD\)](#) has reported two positive West Nile Virus mosquito pools in Oak Park this season. The first sample was collected last week from a trap in south Oak Park, the second reported Thursday after it was collected Tuesday in a trap in north Oak Park. [Public health](#) officials had been expecting a local positive pool since the virus typically is found here by this time of the season as well as in nearby communities and throughout the state. As in past years, the Village has been focusing its [communications efforts](#) on providing residents with information about avoiding mosquito bites and reducing mosquito breeding sites. In addition, an intern is walking the Village looking for potential breeding sites and providing information to property owners. The virus tends to become more prevalent as the temperatures rise in July and August, and can continue to pose a threat as late as October. The Mosquito Abatement District has made no mention of any plans to spray in Oak Park,

but this could change depending on conditions. Plans are in place to notify the community as soon as possible should the abatement district schedule spraying.

Storm damage report – Last Saturday afternoon’s fast moving, but high-intensity thunderstorm caused significant damage as several trees were blown down or lost large limbs. The storm’s impact reached from North Avenue to just south of Madison St. Locations with the most significant tree damage included 602 Belleforte Ave., 240 S. Oak Park Ave., 219 Clinton Ave., 636 Wesley Ave., 233 S. Scoville Ave., 427 S. Grove Ave., 201 N. Elmwood Ave., 125 S. Euclid Ave., 649 N. Forest Ave., 1100 Edmer Ave. and 412 N. Cuyler Ave. Five Forestry Division staff and eight workers from a private contractor worked until dark after the storm, clearing the public ways and making the situation safe for the remainder of the weekend. Crews spent much of this week going block by block to clean up any remaining debris.

Northeast Oak Park flooding follow up – Public Works Director John Wielebnicki and Village Engineer Bill McKenna attended the Zone 1 resident beat officer meeting this week at Hatch Elementary School to discuss last month’s flooding issues. In addition to answering questions from about 50 neighborhood residents in attendance, John and Bill explained how the local sewer system and the [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District](#) (MWRD) sewer network work to carry storm water away from the Village. They also spoke about possible long-term capital improvement plans that could help mitigate sewer backup issues in the area. The Village’s [Sewer Backup Protection Grant program](#) also was discussed, including details on how to apply. John said the crowd expressed appreciation for holding the meeting.

Viaduct mural creates buzz– The mural being installed by 11 young local artists at the Austin Boulevard viaduct in Oak Park has the Chicago side of the street asking if they can get in on the project. The mosaic mural is being created as part of the Oak Park Area Arts Council’s annual [Off the Wall](#) summer arts employment program for teens, now in its 10th year. Because of the buzz the installation has created on Austin, the Arts Council is planning to meet with the area’s alderman to try and organize a similar effort on the Chicago side next summer. Working together on public art can be a tangible illustration of the kind of cross-border collaboration the Village hopes to nurture with its neighbors to address shared concerns and opportunities.

Tobacco-free policy makes Crain’s – The Village’s recent decision to ban all tobacco products on municipal properties gained the attention of *Crain’s Chicago Business*, which reported the new program in this week’s issue and included it in the publication’s email news summary. The story notes that Oak Park is the first municipality in the state to ban tobacco products on all properties, adding that smoking was banned in our public parks in 2002. [Click here to read the story.](#)

Central reservoir back in service – The Central Reservoir under Stevenson Park is back in service. The contractor estimates it will take another two to four weeks to complete replacing the soil on the outside reservoir roof.

Ridgeland Avenue sewer project update – Replacement of the sewer main on Ridgeland Avenue has progressed just north of Thomas Street. Restoration of the concrete base in the street is underway between Chicago Avenue and Thomas, in

preparation for repaving by state contractors. The sewer work is scheduled to be completed by the first week of August, with repaving expected to begin soon after.

Capital improvement projects status –The sewer portion of the project on Harvey Avenue between Augusta and Thomas streets has been completed and water main installation has begun. Based on the latest construction schedule, Village engineers have determined that work on the Kenilworth Avenue sewer adjacent to Holmes Elementary School can be completed prior to school reopening for the year. The work will begin July 23 with a sewer connection on Chicago Avenue and progress north. Sidewalk replacement projects postponed from last season continued this week. The first three alleys improved in the season's second round are expected to open to traffic next week. Pavement will be removed next week from the remaining four alleys scheduled to be improved in this round.

Public Works activities – Repairs to pavement where water issues required excavation continued at various locations in the Village. Damage to the decorative wayfinding sign on Oak Park Avenue at Lake Street was repaired and the sign re-installed. Crews began a test project to improve the wrought iron fencing on Roosevelt Road. Sinkholes were repaired at 707 S. Scoville Ave. and 6103 North Ave. A sewer lateral was repaired at 1231 N. Kenilworth Ave. and a catch basin frame replaced at 1004 N. Austin Blvd.

Employee news – Police Chief Rick Tanksley has been appointed by Gov. Bruce Rauner as a member of the [Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority](#). Created in 1973, the Authority's mission is to improve the administration of criminal justice in Illinois through an informed and involved public.

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