



Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 30, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, November 2:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, November 3:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, November 4:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- Thursday, November 5:
 - Village Board Budget Study Session, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, November 9 – Village Board Budget Study Session, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

I-290 sound wall open house – Plans are set to provide an additional opportunity for residents to learn more about the role of sound walls in the I-290 reconstruction project from Village staff. An open-house-style informational event is scheduled for 4 to 6 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 5, at Village Hall. [Aerial maps of the properties eligible to vote](#) will be on display in Room 101 and Village staff will be available to answer questions about how IDOT implements the Federal policy that determines where noise walls may be installed as part of the future reconstruction of I-290. Efforts to spread the word about the event consist of election-style signs near the properties eligible to vote, as well as paid advertising in the local press and a push by all of our in-house communications tools, including the website and social media.

Trick or treat hours – Trick or treaters will take to Oak Park streets from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday. Police urge parents to accompany young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. Drivers also are being urged to be extra cautious. Oak Park Police will be out in force throughout the evening cracking down on impaired drivers with an aggressive [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) enforcement effort. More [information on Halloween safety is posted on the Village website](#).

Final Farmers' Market of the season – The final [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#) of the season is Saturday. A range of special events is planned. Stone soup, a final market

tradition, will be prepared on site by [Eyrle Restaurant](#) and served from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty. Miss Genevieve from the Oak Park Public Library will offer a special stone soup story time at 11 a.m., with songs and plenty of fun for all ages. The [Library's Book Bike](#) also will be on hand. Volunteers from the children's museum [Wonder Works](#) will offer free face painting from 8 a.m. to noon. Saturday will wrap up the Farmers' Market 40th season. Plans will begin soon for season 41.

Last chance to recycle electronics – Saturday will be the last opportunity this year for residents to [safely dispose of unwanted electronic items](#) now banned from landfills. Items will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Center. Just about any kind of electronic item will be accepted and crews will be on hand to help with the unloading.

Standard time returns this weekend – Standard time officially returns at 2 a.m., Sunday, when we *fall back* one hour. The Fire Department always urges residents to use the time change as a reminder to replace batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Working detectors can double the chances of survival by providing critical extra time for safe escape.

Community survey update – Data collection for the 2015 community survey has concluded. Our project manager at the [National Research Center](#), which is conducting the survey for the Village, says NRC staff now is in the data analysis phase of the project. A draft report of the findings should come within the next two weeks. NRC assisted with surveys conducted in Oak Park in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011 and 2013. The [results of these surveys are posted on the Village website](#).

Police help promote reading – The Police Department recently partnered with District 97's Whittier and Mann schools to participate in a new initiative – *Leaders as Readers* – where officers of all ranks read to students in grades K through three. A [post about the program on the Village's Facebook page](#), which included several photos, received some very positive feedback. Chief Tanksley says they are starting slow, but believe the program will expand to include additional schools. He also has called on the Fire Department to participate as well.

Capital improvements update – Staff is reviewing the bids for sidewalk replacement projects in anticipation of a recommendation to the Village Board Monday (Nov. 2) for construction that would occur in spring 2016. The Board also will be asked to consider a recommendation on bids for the Marion Street crosswalk replacement project, which should be completed in November. Planning for 2016 street resurfacing and local sewer projects is underway, with pavement coring and soil borings to be scheduled in the coming weeks on Chicago Avenue.

Nicor gas main replacement – Nicor continues replacing gas mains in various locations in the community. As a public safety precaution, the Village has asked Nicor to close all open holes prior to the Halloween weekend. Engineering continues to correspond regularly with Nicor to ensure activities are coordinated.

Public Works activities – Streets Division crews continued overnight leaf pushing as the collection program completed its second week. Division crews also continued painting curbs yellow by fire hydrants to designate no-parking zones, as well as striping streets and repairing pavement where water leaks and sinkholes were fixed.

The Water & Sewer Division installed new master turbine meters with cellular technology at the South Austin Boulevard/Harvard Avenue vault to monitor Chicago water purchased, replaced a broken fire hydrant at 1522 N. Austin Blvd. and installed a water main tap at 333 N. Humphrey Ave. Forestry Division crews trimmed all the parkway trees on Marion Street from North Boulevard to Lake Street and on the islands on LeMoynes Parkway from Austin Boulevard to Harvey Avenue. Routine forestry tasks also continued, including responding to resident requests for pruning, removing hazardous trees, picking up brush and removing stumps.

Mental health movie screening – A free screening of the documentary [Walking Man](#) is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon, Sat., Nov. 7 at the Lake Theater. A panel of mental health advocates and experts will be on hand to lead a discussion about bullying, mental health and suicide prevention. [Click here to see the event poster.](#)

Employee news – Four students from Northwestern University’s school of engineering recently toured the Fleet Services Division to learn more about the hydraulic systems that power the Village’s snow removal fleet. Mechanic Otto Hartl and Fleet Superintendent Ken Crowley met with the students, answering technical questions and providing them with details on how the equipment allows the Village to better deliver important public services. Photos from the visit, which was part of a student project, are posted to the [Village Facebook page](#).

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