



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending August 25, 2017**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, Aug 28:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, Aug 29:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Wednesday, Aug 30:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, Aug 31:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, Sept 1:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Comprehensive Plan honored** – [Envision Oak Park](#), the community's comprehensive plan, has won a *Community Outreach Award* from the [Illinois chapter of the American Planning Association](#). The award will be presented at the APA's state conference on Sept. 13 in Naperville. Staff has been invited to participate in an interactive event that allows presenters to give a brief presentation on their award-winning plan followed by a short question and answer session. Envision Oak Park, adopted by the Village Board in 2014, represents the culmination of two years of work through an active public process that included nearly 75 workshops, interviews and meetings with residents, neighbors, business operators, students and community leaders. [Click here to read the letter](#) from the APA announcing the award.

**New development officially begins** – The redevelopment of the former surface parking lots at South Boulevard and Harlem Avenue began officially Thursday with a groundbreaking ceremony with developer [Lincoln Property Company](#), architect [CallisonRTKL Inc.](#) and contractor [AECOM Tishman](#). The project entails a 12-story, \$60 million mixed-use structure that will feature 263 residential units, 10,000 square feet of retail space and parking for 398 vehicles. More information and a video of the ceremony are [posted on the Village website](#).

**South Boulevard redevelopment status** – Excavation for foundations is underway on the west half of the site of the new Lincoln redevelopment project on South Boulevard east of Harlem Avenue. Work will proceed to the east. The eastbound lane of South Boulevard remains closed between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street for staging of materials and construction equipment.

**Nuisance businesses closed** -- The business licenses were revoked for two of the three massage spas closed earlier this month. The third spa withdrew a pending application for a business license. All three businesses now are closed permanently. The decision to revoke the licenses followed administrative hearings at Village Hall where information gathered in a police investigation into alleged illegal activity was presented and the business owners and their legal counsels were heard. The determination was that the businesses represented a public nuisance. Oak Park Police and the Cook County Sheriff's Department had conducted a joint investigation after receiving citizen complaints about possible illegal activity at the businesses on North Avenue, Chicago Avenue and Roosevelt Road. Suspicious activity observed at the locations led undercover officers to pose as potential clients, which allowed them to gather the evidence that led to four arrests and the ultimate decisions to close the businesses.

**Washington/Wisconsin traffic signal** – Preliminary work is set to begin on Monday at the site of a new traffic signal planned for the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue. Extensive work both above ground and underground must be completed before the light is installed and activated, which most likely will be in November. The project also includes dedicated turn lanes on Washington Boulevard, an unmarked state highway. The turn lanes will mean several on-street parking spaces along the street must be eliminated. Traffic will be permitted to pass through the work zone throughout most of the project. A meeting was held this week with the contractor who will be resurfacing adjacent Wisconsin Avenue to coordinate this project with the signal installation. Letters have been sent to residents who will be affected by the work.

**Downtown construction update** – Sidewalk pavers are being installed along Lake Street and the northern most portion of the new section of Maple Avenue as part of the Emerson redevelopment project downtown. Resurfacing of the eastbound lane of Lake Street in front of the development could begin as early as this weekend. Flaggers will be present to maintain traffic flow on Lake Street. The sidewalk and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street remains closed from the new section of Maple Avenue to the east side of the development site. The concrete base for Westgate Street is scheduled to be poured by early next week. Crews have begun installing street light poles on Maple Avenue and on Westgate Street. Sidewalk work on Westgate Street is being coordinated with local businesses. Pedestrian access is being maintained along Westgate from Marion Street, and flaggers are making sure vehicles have access to the doctors' offices along Westgate from Marion Street during work hours.

**Resurfacing activities** – Removal of old pavement was completed in the public parking lot at Superior Street and Austin Boulevard (Lot 25S) and on Adams Street between Home and Clinton avenues. Removal of the old pavement continued this week on Humphrey Avenue between Division and Greenfield streets, and on Taylor Avenue between Berkshire and Greenfield streets. Concrete operations were scheduled to begin in these sections by the end of this week and continue throughout next week. Streets included in this project require deeper repair than simple resurfacing as well as full curb replacements.

**Sidewalk repair and microsurfacing** – Crews continue to focus on sidewalk segments with larger trip hazards that require complete removal and replacement. Sidewalks

poured with new concrete will be opened back for pedestrians after one to two days of curing. Crews are scheduled to resume microsurfacing streets the second week of September. This work, which is a one-day process per section, involves applying a thin layer of material on the street surface, which can extend the life of the pavement up to five years.

**Miscellaneous construction projects** – Alley improvement projects are substantially complete. All alleys are now open to traffic, and any remaining restoration and cleanup activities were expected to be completed by the end of this week. Union Pacific Railroad crews continued working in the Village this week removing loose material from retaining walls where needed. Permanent repairs at these locations are expected to occur in the following weeks. Remaining punch-list items were performed last week on Chicago Avenue between Harlem and Belleforte avenues as the project nears completion. Over the next few weeks, signs taken down during construction will be reinstalled.

**Lake Michigan pipeline project update** – The water main that will bring Lake Michigan water to the villages of Brookfield and North Riverside has been installed to just west of East Avenue, as construction proceeds eastward. The contractor will be mobilizing next week for work that will complete the installation to just west of Austin Boulevard. At this point, workers will bore under Austin Boulevard. A project website managed by the engineering company provide the latest schedule information – [click here to view](#).

**Public Works Activities** – Streets Division crews painted curbs, hydrants and no-parking corners near schools, delivered barricades for block parties and special events, and completed routine sign work. Crews also cleaned Village parking lots, viaducts and areas in the downtown business districts. Water & Sewer Division crews replaced a catch basin on Harlem Avenue at Harvard Street, repaired a fire hydrant at 149 S. Oak Park Ave., reset water shut off boxes at 300 S. Lombard and 421 S. Austin Blvd, and completed a water service upgrade at 1038 N. Grove Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. The Street Lighting Division secured a street light pole knocked down in a vehicle accident at 1004 N. Austin Blvd. The light pole will be replaced. Building Maintenance Division staff addressed cleaning and security issues at the Metra station downtown, ensuring that the automatic door-locking system is working properly and power washing the ramp and warming shelter.

**Employee news** – Christina Waters has joined the Development Customer Services Department as an Executive Secretary. Prior to joining this Village this week, Christina was an administrative coordinator at the [Shirley Ryan AbilityLab](#), a physical therapy and rehabilitation hospital. She also worked 16 years with the Park District of Oak Park, serving in a variety of roles including facility attendant, youth athletics coach and facility scheduling coordinator, managing more than 200 rental contracts for park facilities per year, A graduate of [Robert Morris University](#), Christina has a bachelor's degree in business administration. In her new role with DCS, she will provide a wide range of administrative support to the department's management team.

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