



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending October 6, 2017**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, October 9:
  - Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, October 10:
  - Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
  - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, October 11:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, October 12:
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
- Friday, October 13:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Fire Department open house is Saturday** – The Oak Park Fire Department will open the main station on Euclid Avenue to the community on Saturday (Oct. 7). Oak Parkers young, old and in between with an interest in modern firefighting and emergency medical services are invited to tour the facility and equipment from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is held in conjunction with national Fire Safety Month. [More details are posted online...](#)

**Market patrons alerted to garage repairs** – Staff has been alerting Farmers' Market patrons who use the nearby OPRF public garage that they will encounter limited available spaces as major repairs to the facility continue through the remainder of the season. While only 50 spaces in the garage are expected to be open on Saturdays during the project, ample parking is available on nearby streets, including on South Boulevard, south of the train tracks.

**iGov Committee information** – Staff is working to update a page on the Village website created last year to post materials about the iGov intergovernmental committee. We also will continue to place meeting notices and agendas on the website calendar. iGov Committee information will be posted at [www.oak-park.us/igov](http://www.oak-park.us/igov).

**Neighborhood Walk focus** – In the coming weeks, property maintenance inspectors will be on the 100 block of North Marion Street, the 700 - 900 blocks of Lyman

Avenue and the 900 - 1100 blocks of North Lombard Avenue as part of the *Neighborhood Walk Program*. Inspectors will be looking for deterioration and deferred maintenance issues that could create health and safety problems and detract from property values and the general attractiveness of the community. If a violation is observed, the property owner will be sent a notice that indicates what repairs need to be made and a timeframe for completing them. Residents who need more time to correct a violation will be directed to contact the inspector who signed the letter to set up a maintenance schedule or request an extension. The Neighborhood Walk Program, which has been in place for several decades, is administered by the Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department. Exteriors of the Village's single-family, two-flat and three-flat residences are inspected annually as part of the program, which was created to help protect Oak Park's aging housing stock from decay and encourage proper maintenance.

**Diabetes workshop set** – Oak Park Township officials have asked the Village to help spread the word about an effort to help area seniors learn about managing diabetes. A six-week workshop is set for 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday from Oct. 10 through Nov. 14 at the Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. The program, entitled *Take Charge of Your Diabetes*, will help participants learn about healthy eating, pain management and medication, as well as how to communicate with family and medical professionals. If you know of anyone who might benefit from the program, please urge them to call 708.383.8060 or email [cduignan@oakparktownship.org](mailto:cduignan@oakparktownship.org) to register.

**Downtown construction update** – Work continues at a brisk pace on and around the Emerson development project downtown, as Target prepares for its anticipated Oct. 22 opening. Crosswalk installations continued where Maple Avenue intersects Lake and Westgate streets. Landscaping also continued along Westgate Street and the south section of Maple Avenue. Replacement of the sidewalk ramps and driveway island also has begun on the west end of Westgate Street, along with activities related to repaving Westgate Street from Harlem Avenue to Maple Avenue. Traffic on North Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street is now restricted to eastbound only as street reconstruction has begun, along with installation of light pole foundations and electrical conduit on the north side.

**South Boulevard/Harlem Avenue redevelopment update** – Foundation work continues at the Lincoln Properties development site on South Boulevard east of Harlem Avenue. The eastbound lane of South Boulevard likely will remain closed between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street for materials staging and construction equipment, but ensuring access to the businesses near site will be a priority. Engineering Division staff continues to work with the contractor to make sure construction signs do not confuse potential customers.

**Lake Michigan pipeline project** – The water main to carry Lake Michigan water to the villages of Brookfield and North Riverside has been completed past Taylor Avenue, as work progresses to the east toward Austin Boulevard. The majority of underground pipe should be installed through Oak Park by early October, with some work near Austin Boulevard scheduled to be completed in early to mid-November. Street reconstruction activities along the pipeline route are underway with new curbs, sidewalks, alley entrances and driveway aprons being installed between Euclid and

Ridgeland avenues. A project website managed by the engineering company posts the latest schedule information – [click here to view](#).

**Street resurfacing** – Resurfacing of the Village's half of Austin Boulevard at the Harrison Street intersection will begin next week. The project, which is expected to last only a few days, will limit traffic to one lane in each direction and eliminate turns from Austin onto Harrison Street. Repaving of other Village streets continued this week with asphalt operations on Wisconsin Avenue between Madison and Randolph streets, South Boulevard between Cuyler and Harvey avenues, Pleasant Street between Ridgeland and Harvey avenues, Superior Street between Elmwood and East avenues, and Randolph Street between Harlem and Wisconsin avenues. Landscaping crews continued work on Humphrey Avenue between Division and Greenfield streets and on Taylor Avenue between Berkshire and Greenfield streets. Work will continue on these sites throughout next week.

**Washington/Wisconsin traffic signal** – The contractor has no new information on how equipment availability will impact the activation of the new traffic signal planned for the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue. The signal was originally expected to become operational in November, but manufacturers have shifted inventory to hurricane recovery efforts, which has affected projects across the country. In the meantime, work continues on site preparation. Crews will complete all of the above ground and underground work, then suspend the final installation tasks until the inventory situation improves. In addition to the new signal, the project also includes dedicated turn lanes on Washington Boulevard. Traffic continues to pass safely through the work zone.

**Miscellaneous construction projects** – Repairs are scheduled to begin next week on about two dozen segments of historic sandstone sidewalk at various locations in the community. Workers will focus on eliminating trip hazards on these sidewalk segments, which date back to the early days of the Village. This is the second year of the program, which strives to maintain rather than replace these historic elements with concrete. Crews also continued with cleanup, repair and replacement of new sidewalk sections that were damaged or vandalized during construction. Street microsurfacing is substantially complete, with re-application of pavement markings underway. Union Pacific Railroad crews have completed initial work on the retaining walls where tracks pass over Village streets, but engineering staff is working with the railroad to identify other locations that can be repaired before winter.

**Public Works activities** – Early preparations for winter began this week with the delivery of 18 pallets of special salt infused with beet juice. This treated salt is less corrosive and considered more environmentally friendly, making it a good choice for parking decks, garages and certain sidewalks. Streets Division crews repaired brickwork on Oak Park Avenue at Hunter Court south of Lake Street. Crews also continued weed control, viaduct cleaning and litter pick up in Village parking lots and business districts. In addition, Streets crews are preparing for the October 16 start of the leaf collection program and the estimated 2,000 tons of leaves that will be gathered from Village streets during the seven-week program. Water & Sewer Divisions crews repaired broken fire hydrants at Division Street and Grove Avenue, and at Washington Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue. Crews also repaired a water main break at 521 N. Oak Park Ave. and a sink hole at 139 Harrison St. Street

Lighting Division crews worked with an electrical contractor to reset a street light pole knocked down in a vehicle accident at Harlem Avenue and Lake Street.

**Employee news** – Three veterans in the Oak Park Fire Department have been promoted to lieutenant and three new firefighter-paramedics have joined the team. Promoted to lieutenant were Steve Ausmann, Robert Rehse and Kyle Bush. Ausmann, a 19-year veteran, has a decade of experience as a fire investigator, is a lead instructor for Loyola Medical Center’s Emergency Medical Technician Program and holds multiple fire service certifications through the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. Rehse, an 18-year veteran, has served as the emergency medical services coordinator and has multiple fire service certifications through the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. Bush, an 18-year veteran, has been a training coordinator, has Bachelor’s degree from Indiana University and also holds multiple fire service certifications through the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal as well. New to the Fire Department are Thomas E. Carbonneau, former paramedic for the Lyons Fire Department, William S. Farnon, former paramedic for the Wheaton Fire Department, and Michael L. Heureux, an electrician. All three were sworn in as firefighter-paramedics and have begun the standard probationary period.

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