



Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 27, 2017

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, October 30:
 - Business License Appeal Hearing Board, 6 p.m., room 201
 - Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, October 31:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Nov. 1:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- Thursday, November 2:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, November 3:
 - No meetings scheduled

Season's final farmers' market is Saturday – The season's final Farmers' Market is this Saturday, (Oct. 28). The culinary team from [Carnivore Oak Park](#) will use ingredients donated by Market vendors to prepare and serve *stone soup* to thank customers for their loyal patronage. Soup will be ladled up free of charge from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty. Serving stone soup on the last market of the season is a long-running tradition in Oak Park. A version of the European folk tale that inspired the local tradition is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/stonesoup. The Oak Park Public Library Book Bike also will be at the final market at about 10:30 a.m. with story time for kids.

Resource fair for parents – The Collaboration for Early Childhood will host a resource fair from 9:30 a.m. to noon tomorrow (Sat., Oct. 28) at the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. The fair will feature a variety of resources and programs available in the community to children from birth to 5 years old. More information is posted on the [Collaboration for Early Childhood website](#).

Cemetery walk rescheduled – After rain caused the cemetery walk to be postponed for the first time in 25 years, local actors will try again this Sunday, Oct. 29 to bring the stories of the dead to life. The guided tour of Forest Home Cemetery, 836 Desplaines Ave., in Forest Park, is hosted by the Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest. Tours begin at 1 p.m., with the last tour at 2 p.m. Call 708.848.6755 or visit www.oprfhistory.org for information on tickets.

Parking pilot program – Notices began going out this week to residents within the boundaries of a parking pilot program being developed in conjunction with parking consultant [Dixon Resources Unlimited](#). The letter invites residents to a public forum set for 6 to 9 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 9 at Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School. Changes under consideration will affect most current parking regulations. Based on community input gathered at the forum and via other methods, recommendations for a parking pilot program will be crafted, reviewed by the Transportation Commission and then presented to the Village Board for consideration of implementation in 2018. Notes and materials from the presentation and proposed changes will be posted after the public forum at www.oak-park.us/parkingpilot, where visitors also will be able to post comments. The study area is from the Union Pacific Railroad south to the Eisenhower Expressway and from Harlem Avenue east to Oak Park Avenue.

Property title fraud alert – Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough recently issued a consumer warning about companies offering to lock or freeze a property title to ensure owners know of any fraudulent activity related to their properties. According to the County Recorder, the offer is the real fraud. She says homeowners cannot *lock* their home titles, but they can get 24/7 monitoring and alerts through a free county property fraud alert program. Details are posted at cookrecorder.com/fraudalert. Staff has shared the information with the community via its public information channels.

Downtown construction update – Concrete and asphalt operations have started on North Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue and will continue through next week by The Emerson redevelopment project. Traffic remains restricted to eastbound travel. Work on the sidewalks, landscaping and light poles also is underway on the north side of North Boulevard, while on the south side work began to replace the concrete pad adjacent to the CTA/Pace stop at the Metra station along with sidewalk and curb. The alley entrance on North Boulevard at the east limits of the development site is now open. Installation of the decorative crosswalk across the new section of Maple Avenue at North Boulevard continued, but traffic flow has been maintained. Repairs to the sidewalks along Lake Street between Harlem and Forest avenues continued this week, but is expected to be completed by Nov. 1. The work includes eliminating sidewalk trip hazards, resetting bricks to grade, tree pit maintenance and repairs to the crosswalk on the south side of Lake Street at Marion Street. Signs are in place to guide pedestrians around construction.

South Boulevard/Harlem Avenue update – South Boulevard, which has been open only to westbound traffic from Marion Street to Harlem Avenue, will be closed to all traffic for several weeks beginning later this month as ComEd installs new electrical connections from Harlem Avenue to the development site. However, South Boulevard will not be closed completely until two-way traffic has been restored on North Boulevard. Engineering Division staff will continue to monitor the site and signage to ensure potential customers are not confused or impeded.

Water main valve replacements – Replacement of water main valves at various locations in the Village is expected to start on November 1 and last approximately one and a half weeks. The majority of the work will occur on Garfield Street between Oak Park and East avenues. Traffic likely will be detoured around Garfield Street construction sites.

Street resurfacing – Paving is expected to be completed next week on Wisconsin Avenue between Madison and Randolph streets, Randolph Street between Harlem and Wisconsin avenues, and the Village parking lot on North Boulevard just west of Oak Park Avenue (Lot 96). Landscaping continued on Humphrey Avenue between Division and Greenfield streets, Pleasant Street between Ridgeland and Harvey avenues, South Boulevard between Cuyler and Harvey avenues, and Superior Street between Elmwood and East avenues.

Lake Michigan pipeline project – Work on the water main to carry Lake Michigan water to the Villages of Brookfield and North Riverside has ended in Oak Park until spring. The pipeline has been installed to just west of Humphrey Avenue. All materials and equipment will be removed from the work site for the winter. Repairs and installation of smaller-diameter sewers and drainage structures should be completed this week between Highland and Lyman avenues. Street reconstruction along the pipeline route is underway, with installation of new curbs, sidewalks, alley entrances and driveway aprons scheduled to begin next week between Highland and Lyman avenues. Final paving of Fillmore Street is scheduled next week between Oak Park and Highland avenues.

Public Works activities – The [annual fall leaf collection program](#) continues to dominate the activities of the Streets Division, as the program moves into the third week of nighttime leaf pushing and daytime leaf pick ups. Streets crews also prepared the race routes for last Saturday's Frank Lloyd Wright Races, swept main streets, picked up litter in Village parking lots and business districts, and restored parkways damaged by repairs to underground water lines. Water & Sewer Division crews reset water shutoff valves at 1135 N. East Ave. and 1178 S. Harvey Ave. Forestry Division crews worked with a contractor to remove a large limb that fell from a parkway tree in the 900 block of North Humphrey Avenue last Sunday, damaging two vehicles. The limb was removed within about two hours.

Employee news – Grace Kenney is joining the Finance Department as Office Manager. An 18-year veteran Village employee, she is transferring from the Public Works Department where she started as an account clerk and rose to Office Manager prior to accepting the Finance Department position. Grace brings a wealth of experience to her new role, having served a brief stint in Finance a few years ago when the ADP payroll system was first launched. As Finance Office Manager, her primary responsibility will be payroll, a function previously managed by John Kramer, who was recently promoted to Senior Accountant. In addition to payroll, Grace also will oversee various administrative functions and special projects.

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