



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending June 1, 2018**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Jun 4:
  - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
  
- Tuesday, June 5:
  - Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
  
- Wednesday, June 6:
  - Madison Street Coalition, 2 p.m., room 101
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
  
- Thursday, June 7:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  
- Friday, June 8:
  - No meetings scheduled

**A Day in Our Village is Sunday** – The 45th annual [A Day in Our Village festival](#) celebrating diversity and community involvement is scheduled for Sun., June 3. Activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations will be in [Scoville Park](#), Lake Street at Oak Park Avenue, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. along with live performances and a food court featuring local restaurants. [Rehm Park & Pool](#), Garfield Street at East Avenue, also will offer many activities from 1 to 5 p.m., with \$5 wristbands for unlimited access to carnival games, rides, entertainment, inflatables and the park's hand-powered trains. Details about this year's event are posted on the [Village website](#).

**Tax Task force seeks public input on fourth topic** – The Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force is seeking a fourth round of public input as it develops recommendations to identify cost efficiencies in the public services provided by the local governments that rely on property taxes. The Task Force has opened comments on the fourth of six topics at [www.oak-park.us/taxefficiencycomments](http://www.oak-park.us/taxefficiencycomments).

**Police Youth Basketball Camp registration underway** – Registration is now open for the annual [Oak Park Police Youth Basketball Camp](#), which will take place July 23-27 at Brooks Middle School. The free camp is available to Oak Park boys and girls ages 8 to 14 and includes group instruction, team play, one-on-one, full-court games,

contests and awards. Registration is required. Applications are available at [www.oak-park.us/police](http://www.oak-park.us/police) or in person at the Police Department.

**Historic Preservation Award nomination process begins** - Nominations for the 2018 Historic Preservation Awards are now being sought by the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission. October 12 is the deadline for submissions. The awards will be given during the Village's annual Stewardship Awards Ceremony, typically held in December. Single-family residences, apartment buildings, commercial buildings, public/institutional buildings and religious structures may be nominated in the following categories – restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use and additions/new construction. Additional awards are presented for stewardship, detail and design. More information, including the nomination form, submittal guidelines and lists of past winners, is available at [www.oak-park.us/historicpreservationawards](http://www.oak-park.us/historicpreservationawards).

**Commissioners invited to APA training session** - The [American Planning Association](http://www.americanplanning.org) will be offering a training session at Village Hall for citizen commissioners who are involved in the public hearing process. The session will review the responsibilities of commissioners, how to run a meeting, the standards for public hearings and the role of others in the process. Commissioners from the Plan Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Community Design Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission have been invited to attend the session on June 21, 2018 at 7 p.m.

**Vehicle sticker sales update** – The Village sold 7,441 vehicle stickers through the first three weeks [since sales began May 7](#), down slightly from the 7,493 stickers sold for the same period last year. More than 72 percent of this year's sales have been online via the Village website, with another 17 percent made at the counter in Village Hall. The share of mail-in sales could grow in the weeks ahead since renewal messages reached electronic mailboxes several days before those sent via U.S. Mail. With the cost of vehicle stickers the same regardless of the purchase method, the online option is promoted for its convenience, a factor that becomes more attractive as the deadline nears and lines grow at the Parking Services counter in Village Hall.

**Farmers' Market news** – Members of the Environment & Energy Commission were on hand again at the Farmers' Market last week handing out reusable bags and promoting other sustainability initiatives as part of the Go Green Days special event. Details about what's coming up at the Farmers' Market are available at [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket) under the "This month at the Farmers' Market" section, which is part of changes to the webpage coordinated by the Health and Communication departments to share updated information about the Market and its vendors. The Farmers' Market was also featured on the radio program *First Light* last Sunday morning on WDCB-FM 90.9. [Click here to listen to the insightful 13-minute segment.](#)

**Albion Project Update** – Demolition work continues at the Albion development site at the northwest corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue. Demolition work is anticipated to be complete by June 1, at which point the contractor will start work on the foundations. Work on the foundations and future construction of the building itself will require closing one lane of southbound Forest Avenue and adjusting the fence and sidewalk closures to accommodate the work.

**Boulevards Project** – The Public Works Department’s highest-visibility project of the season is set to begin with the repair and replacement of deteriorating utility lines and resurfacing North Boulevard and South Boulevard between Marion Street and Oak Park Avenue. By the end of next week equipment will start being mobilized to the site with construction expected to start shortly thereafter. Plans call for work on the water and sewer mains on North Boulevard from Forest Avenue to Kenilworth Avenue and under the Clinton Avenue viaduct. Affected roadways, including under the Kenilworth Avenue viaduct, will be completely reconstructed. North Boulevard will be restriped from Kenilworth Avenue to Oak Park Avenue to accommodate a new bike lane. The South Boulevard work will include lighting improvements, sidewalk repairs and street resurfacing as well as minor sewer repairs between Marion Street and Home Avenue. Outreach has begun to the affected residents and businesses. Periodic notifications and schedule changes will be posted on [www.oak-park.us/boulevards](http://www.oak-park.us/boulevards)

**Street resurfacing** – Curb and sidewalk removals began last week on Elmwood Avenue from Fillmore Street to Harvard Street, Home Avenue from Harrison Street to Monroe Street, and on Lombard Avenue from Madison Street to Washington Boulevard. Curb and sidewalk pours have begun on East Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard. Notices have been mailed to residents who will be affected by the work, which will be at various locations throughout the Village.

**Alley Improvements** – Pavement removal began in the alley located between Harvard and Fillmore streets and Elmwood and Gunderson avenues. Eight alleys have been completed so far. Thirty-eight residents within the boundaries of the alley projects have elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed. Participants are able to take advantage of the Village’s contract unit price, which is lower than the cost a single property owner would pay to hire a contractor. The sewer contractor will return to complete the remainder of the alleys beginning on June 4 after school is complete for the year.

**Miscellaneous Construction Updates** – Construction on Fillmore Street is complete and now the contractor will be addressing the remaining punch list items over the next couple of weeks. The eastbound lane of South Boulevard remains closed between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street along the frontage of the Lincoln development, and has been closed to all traffic until the end of the day on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for AT&T, Comcast, and WOW to install multiple communication ducts and fiber optic services for the development and to better serve the area for future fiber optic or high speed internet requests. Signage indicates that the businesses west of Marion Street are open. AT&T soon will close the curb lane of northbound Harlem Avenue south of South Boulevard to bury aerial phone lines which should be completed over the next week. The lane closures associated with the work will only occur during working hours along Harlem Avenue. No work was done in the public right of way this week along Euclid Avenue for the District House development. Work will begin on Lake Street in a few weeks.

**Public Works Activities** – It was a busy week for the Street Division as crews removed a decorative canopy at North Boulevard and Marion Street for the railroad to make concrete repairs, cut six openings for upcoming water service upgrades and street

repairs, and completed an alley drainage project for the Engineering Division. Crews also completed paver repair work to prevent trip hazards at 225 Harrison Street. In addition to daily activities, block party season has begun with crews delivering barricades for 28 locations this weekend, as well as assisting with set up for the weekly Thursday Night Out event in Downtown Oak Park and Day in Our Village and the Oak Park and River Forest high school graduation on Sunday, June 3. Water and Sewer Division crews repaired water main breaks at 1108 and 1136 N. Euclid Avenue. Crews also inspected fire hydrants and made repairs as necessary at various locations throughout the Village. Forestry Division crews continue parkway tree trimming, removals, and wood chip deliveries while the contractors continued stump and parkway tree removals throughout the Village. On Sun., May 27 a large limb from a parkway elm tree at 834 N. Euclid Avenue fell into the yard and Forestry crews and a contractor responded and had the limb removed. On Wednesday, May 30, a large elm tree limb failed as a result of the severe weather. The limb blocked Iowa Street and southbound Oak Park Avenue but no damage to public or private property occurred. Forestry staff and a contractor responded and Oak Park Avenue was reopened by 9:00 p.m. However, Iowa Street remained closed for the night and was reopened Thursday morning. Another limb failed at 205 Pleasant Street where there was also no property damage. Forestry staff was informed Thursday morning and removed the limb. Both trees have been scheduled for removal.

**Employee news** – The Village bid farewell to three long-time employees who retired this week with a combined 92 years of experience at the Village. Lillian Catala, a Cashier in the Finance Department, retired Friday after 33 years as a Village employee. Health Inspector Kathy Berens-Haas also retired Friday after a 31-year tenure at the Village. Last but not least, Vernell Henderson, a Permit Technician in the Permit Processing Division of the Development Customer Services Department, retired Thursday after 28 years working at the Village. Their service to Oak Park, individually and collectively, is greatly appreciated.

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