



Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 26, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Oct. 29:
 - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Special Meeting, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, Oct. 30:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Wednesday, Oct. 31:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Thursday, Nov. 1:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Friday, Nov. 2:
 - No meetings scheduled

Final Farmers' Market – The final [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#) of the season will be this Saturday (Oct. 27). As in past years, [traditional stone soup](#) made from vendor vegetables will be ladled up from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty. Patrons are urged to help make the event earth-friendly by bringing their own mugs. This year was the 43rd season of the Farmers' Market and plans already are underway for 2019.

Trick or treat hours – Official hours for [Halloween trick or treating in Oak Park](#) are 3 to 7 p.m., Wed., Oct. 31. Police urge parents to accompany their young children, especially after dark, and inspect all treats. Police, who will be out in force throughout the afternoon and evening, also are asking drivers to be extra cautious as pedestrian volume is expected to be unusually high. More [information on Halloween safety is posted on the Village website](#).

Electric charging stations– The electric car charging stations in Lot 10 on North Boulevard between Marion Street and Home Avenue are back in service. The stations under the solar collection canopy apparently were turned off inadvertently by ComEd in August. The [Center for Neighborhood Technology \(CNT\)](#) has operated the stations since I-GO car-sharing was sold to a private vendor in 2013. CNT officials have told the Village they no longer have an interest in owning the stations or solar canopy. Staff is pursuing transferring this resource to the Village to further expand the local charging network in support of community sustainability goals. More information will be provided as discussions with CNT progress.

Special events workshops – Workshops have been scheduled to help guide representatives of organizations that sponsor special events through the new

automated permit application process set to launch in 2019. Workshop sessions are scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 8 at Village Hall. Participants will learn about changes to the application, review required information and get help budgeting for Village services related to an event. An [online workshop registration process](#) has been set up to allow participants to pick a time slot that best meets their schedules. Inquiries also may be sent to a new dedicated email address, specialevents@oak-park.us.

Garage repairs update – Structural repair work, including concrete repairs to floors and stairs, painting of railings and resealing, will move next week to the east tower of the Holley Court Garage. The entire tower, including the stairwell, will be closed until Nov. 9, at which point the stairwell will be reopened. The west tower, which has been closed for similar repairs, will reopen prior to the east tower construction. Signs noting the new closures and directing parkers to the other available stairwells and elevators will be posted early next week. The contractor has been asked to maintain bridge access on the third and fourth floors into the Shaker Building for as long as it is safe to do so. However, work also is needed on the bridges and the elevator areas on these floors, so they will need to be closed temporarily at times. Immediately following the structural work, replacement of the east elevator’s hydraulic lift cylinder will commence, with the expectation the elevator, which has been out of service since September, can be operational by the end of November.

Early voting – A steady stream of voters took advantage of early voting at Village this week after the polls opened Monday (Oct. 22). Early voting will continue until 5 p.m., Nov. 5. Grace-period registration also is offered during early voting hours for those individuals who missed the registration deadline. Village Hall voting hours, which vary depending on the day, are [posted online](#). More information on the Nov. 6 General Election, including polling sites by address, is available on the Cook County Clerk’s website www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections.

Zoning amendment application – The Plan Commission will hear an application for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance from the business owners of the Halverson Group at 7 p.m. on Thurs., Nov. 1 for the property located at 193 N. Marion St. The Zoning Ordinance text amendment application and special use application seeks to add and approve a use for *“Work Lounge - A shared office-concept use including a first floor facility for the presentation of live performance (such as music, theatrical plays, stand-up comedy, magic, open-mic nights, spoken word), as well as events and group activities (such as salon-style discussions with authors, scholars and community members, trivia nights, pool and dart leagues, murder-mystery events, sporting event viewing, birthday parties, holiday parties, anniversary parties, corporate off-site meetings and book clubs). A Work Lounge venue does not include any adult entertainment or gambling,”* within the Downtown districts. They are also requesting a special use permit to allow this use on the first floor of 193 N. Marion Street in the DT-1 Downtown Central Sub-District. The applicant is also working with staff to create a liquor license category for this use.

Bridge work - Improvements to the expressway overpass on Oak Park Avenue between Garfield and Harrison streets began this week on the west sidewalk, which had to be closed to pedestrians. Once work is completed on the west side of the bridge, activity will shift to the east side, requiring that sidewalk to be closed. The work is expected to be complete by mid-December.

Madison Street demolition – Pre-demolition activities for the former Car-X building at 700 Madison St. should begin next week with utility disconnections and asbestos abatement. Actual demolition of the building is still a few weeks away. The property will be fenced securely and adjacent sidewalks closed to pedestrians on both Euclid Avenue and Madison Street. An alternate pedestrian path will be available in the adjacent parking lane on Madison Street, protected from traffic by a barricade.

Redevelopment project news – Crews working on the streetscape by the [Eleven 33](#) development project this week poured concrete for the sidewalk at the southeast corner of Harlem Avenue and South Boulevard. Concrete also was poured for the base of the bluestone sidewalk planned for the south side of South Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue along the frontage of the development. Concrete also was poured for the alley east of the development, which will be partially reopened next week. South Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue is expected to remain closed to vehicles into next month, with intermittent lane closures on Harlem Avenue. In other development news, work continued along Lake Street at the [District House development](#) at Euclid Avenue as crews work toward opening the east-west sidewalk by mid-November.

Construction updates – North and South boulevards were set to reopen to traffic by the end of this week, as the project comes to an end. All paving projects have been completed for the season at various locations in the Village. Replacement of leaking and malfunctioning water main valves began this week, which is an annual activity. Underground work is scheduled to begin next week for the sewer relief project on Berkshire Street between Grove and Linden avenues. The project also includes replacing curb and resurfacing the street.

Public Works Activities – In addition to pushing leaves for the [annual collection program](#), Streets Division crews installed a new bike rack at Cuyler Avenue and Roosevelt Road, painted curbs indicating no parking at various locations and restored five parkways and four streets where water line repairs had been made. Street Lighting Division crews reinstalled two light poles that had been knocked down in the Westgate cul-de-sac and worked with contractors on new street lights by the District House project on Lake Street and Euclid Avenue. Crews also completed electrical connections for the Arts District gateway sign on Lombard Avenue near Harrison Street. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sewer connection at 1012 N. Harvey Ave. and upgraded water services at 1004 Wisconsin Ave. and 1021 Superior St. as part of the lead abatement program.

Employee news – Streets Division Supervisor Tom Fulton has successfully completed a three-year training program through the [Illinois Public Service Institute \(IPSI\)](#) for public service professionals. Participants attend three-week courses each fall and spring in Effingham, Ill., where courses focus on service excellence, supervisory skills and leadership development. In other employee news, Communications & Social Media Coordinator Erik Jacobsen attended public information officer awareness training this week at the [DuPage County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management](#) in Wheaton. The full-day course provided an in-depth look at the role and functions of a professional public information officer when emergency situations arise. More than two dozen communications professionals from throughout the Chicago area attended the class, which was designed for officials who may be

responsible for disseminating information to the public and working with the news media during an incident.

Police promotions - The Police Department welcomed two new sergeants this week, as Officer Robert Monty and Detective Ronald Bongat were promoted at a ceremony Wednesday (Oct. 24) at Village Hall. Sgt. Monty has been with the Police Department since 1996 and Sgt. Bongat since 1999. As the search for a new Chief of Police continues, interim roles have been assigned to veteran sworn staff to ensure comprehensive management of vital department activities. Upon recommendation of Acting Chief LaDon Reynolds, Village Manager Pavlicek has assigned Commander Joe Moran the role of Interim Deputy Chief for the Field Services Division, and Community Policing Sergeant Dave Jacobsen has been assigned the role of Interim Commander for the Operations Division.

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