



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 24, 2019**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, May 27:
 - No meetings scheduled – Village Hall closed for Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 28:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, May 20:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, May 30:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, May 31:
 - No meetings scheduled

On-street parking restrictions eased – [Overnight on-street parking restrictions](#) will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets over the Memorial Day weekend. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., May 25, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., May 29. However, restrictions will remain in effect in prepaid overnight permit areas, such as on-street enclaves and on-street overnight parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including posted daytime restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

Village Hall closed Monday - [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Mon., May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are asked to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance. The holiday also will delay refuse hauling by one day for residential properties of five or fewer units served by Village's contractor, which will mean a Saturday collection next week.

Stickerless vehicle licenses on sale – Letters and email notices have gone out to current vehicle license holders reminding them that it is time to renew. Renewal notices include instructions and a unique link code that will allow recipients to create a new online portal account where they can renew, purchase and manage their vehicle licenses and parking permits. The renewal process also represented the launch of the [new online system](#) for all vehicle-related services that will rely on license plate recognition and eliminate the need to affix a decal to the windshield.

Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase a vehicle license annually before July 15. License prices increase \$20 after the deadline. Failure to display a valid Village license by the deadline also may result in a \$75 ticket. [Click here to read more...](#)

North Avenue planning report – The Chicago Metropolitan Agency on Planning (CMAP) presented the first round of ideas for revitalizing North Avenue to residents, business owners, community leaders and other interested stakeholders at a [recent open house](#). The recommendations were in a technical services report prepared by the [Urban Land Institute](#) as part of the broad-based [effort to create a long-term strategy](#) to enhance the important North Avenue business corridor. CMAP is working with The North Avenue District (a private organization), City of Chicago and Village of Oak Park to develop a plan for leveraging development opportunities along North Avenue to create a stronger, economically revitalized corridor. Among the ULI recommendations presented at the open house are installing pedestrian refuge islands, enhancing bicycle connectivity, improving parking and coordinating traffic management. The ULI report also recommended creating attractive and coordinated streetscape, medians, crosswalks, lighting, banners, public art and street furniture. [Click here to read the ULI report...](#)

Oak Park makes coolest suburb list – Oak Park was recently chosen as the coolest suburb in America by the home and décor website [Apartment Therapy](#), which recently showcased the top suburbs for their cultural activities, sense of community and quality of life. The article, [posted here online](#), notes our architecture, trees and proactive stance toward diversity among the key factors that set our community apart from most other metropolitan suburbs who earned their 2019 *Readers' Choice* award. Evanston was the only other Illinois suburb to make the cut.

Village Hall parking lot status – The first layer of new asphalt was installed this week in the Village Hall parking lot after crews removed the old asphalt and milled the surface. Most of the concrete work also has been completed, including for the plaza area. Repair of the underground garage roof is nearing completion. More work remains before the lot can reopen, but the rapid transformation of the site this week is being watched by employees and visitors who are eagerly awaiting the return of on-site parking.

Lake & Forest traffic disruptions – Traffic will be interrupted on Lake Street and Forest Avenues for about a month beginning next week as a ComEd contractor is scheduled to begin work to provide the primary power supply to the new Albion development. Most of the activity will occur during the overnight hours to reduce impact on traffic flow. Work will begin in the alley west of Forest Avenue and progress towards Lake Street. A large underground manhole will be installed at the west jog of Forest Avenue, which will require closing northbound Forest Avenue for several days. The contractor then will install conduit on Lake Street from the alley west of Forest Avenue to the east jog of Forest Avenue. This work, which should be completed in early July, will require closing eastbound Lake Street during the overnight hours. An AT&T contractor will take advantage of the project to install fiber optic conduits in the same trench so that high-speed internet will be available to

businesses on Lake and Marion street south and west of the Forest Avenue intersection.

Madison Street update – Concrete work will begin next week on Madison Street. A staging plan has been developed so that pedestrian routes will remain available through the corridor while portions of sidewalk are closed for replacement. Communications with the business operators and residents most affected by the project has been maintained via email and in person. The communications effort also includes construction updates posted on the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

South Boulevard streetscape status – Crews installed decorative sidewalk planters along South Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue as the project moves toward a June 15 completion date. Trees, plants and roadway signs are next on the list along with removing the temporary wooden light poles so that the sidewalk at Harlem Avenue can be completed following installation of a new electrical service meter for the traffic signals.

Water and sewer improvements – Clarence Avenue remains closed between Roosevelt Road and Harvard Street as materials and equipment were delivered this week for the upcoming water and sewer improvement project. Saw cutting was completed at the intersections and remaining inlet filters installed. Sewer main installation will begin at Harvard Street and work south along Clarence Avenue.

Alley improvements – As alley work continued this week, storm sewers were installed south of Chicago Avenue west of Lombard Avenue. Pavement removal has started in the alley south of Greenfield Street and west of Austin Boulevard. Alley pavement was poured in the alley south of Greenfield Street between Lombard and Hayes avenues. Eight of the fifteen alleys that are scheduled for reconstruction this season have been repaved.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The sidewalk along the west side of Oak Park Avenue remains partially closed as rehabilitation of the bridge over I-290 continues. Utility work related to the Rush Oak Park Hospital construction project will continue to disrupt traffic periodically on Madison Street through next week. Maple Avenue will be closed at times, but should be reopened at the end of each day. A&T still has not scheduled brick restoration for Marion Street near North Boulevard or on Oak Park Avenue by Hunter Court just south of Lake Street. Restoration work associated with broadband provider Wide Open West's new fiber optic cable installation is pending. Repairs of the Union Pacific concrete retaining walls at the southeast corner of Harlem Avenue and North Boulevard have been delayed until early June. The street frontage along The District House site at Lake Street and Euclid Avenue was paved and stripped this week.

Public Works Activities –Streets Division crews began preparing wall panels on the viaducts along North and South boulevards for this year's first round of murals. Regular street sweeping is set to begin next week now that the traffic study has concluded. Streets crews also temporarily patched one opening where an underground water line repair had been made, repaired brick pavers downtown,

picked up litter and filled potholes. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired the sewer line at 915 N. Lombard Ave., while also inspecting and repairing fire hydrants at various locations throughout the Village. In addition to responding to resident requests, pruning and landscape restorations, a Forestry Division crew was called in over the weekend by Police to remove a large limb down at Harvard Street and Wenonah Avenue.

Employee news – Jewel Dillard has joined the Development Customer Services Department as a full-time Customer Service Representative II in the Parking Division. Jewel comes to the Village after spending the past several years working in the financial services industry. In other employee news, Nina Campbell has joined the Adjudication Office as the part-time Community Service Coordinator handling juvenile cases. Nina has a master’s degree in psychology from National Louis University and more than 10 years of experience handling child welfare matters. Forestry Superintendent Rob Sproule led a training session on urban forestry and chainsaw and chipper safety for the [Illinois chapter of American Public Works Association's Roads Scholar Program](#) held recently in Effingham. The program offers training in most aspects of municipal road right-of-way work tasks.

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