



Village Manager's Report The Week Ending August 12, 2016

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, August 15:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Tuesday, August 16:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, August 17:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, August 18:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
- Friday, August 19:
 - No scheduled meetings

Corn roast this weekend – It's [National Farmers Market Week](#) and Oak Park is celebrating in style Saturday with fresh-picked corn from market growers sold by the ear hot off the roaster from about 9 a.m. to noon. Special guest [WBEZ](#) Chicago Public Radio also will be on hand along with all of the regular vendors, musicians and homemade donuts that make the Oak Park Farmers' Market such a popular destination.

Mosquito abatement district sprays – As part of its efforts to eliminate mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus, the [Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) sprayed in Oak Park Wednesday night for the first time this season. However, MAD has been spraying in other communities within its 77-square-mile jurisdiction. [West Nile virus](#) has been found consistently in birds and mosquitoes throughout Illinois, including in both Oak Park traps. Questions regarding spraying, including options for those medically sensitive to the insecticide are being directed to 708.447.1765. In the meantime, communications efforts have continued to remind residents that they can sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme to be notified by email, text or automated telephone call should the Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District schedule spraying in Oak Park. Individuals without computer access may call 708.358.5694 and leave a number for telephone notification only.

Construction underway at Village Hall – Major repairs to the Police Department's underground garage at [Village Hall](#) began this week, affecting street parking and pedestrian access to the south entrance. Much of the work will be below ground level, but replacement of the at-grade driveway along the south entrance between Lombard and Taylor avenues also is part of the construction activity, which requires pedestrians to follow a specific, well-

marked route to the doorway. Building access will be maintained from the south parking lot throughout the project, including at the Lombard entrance for persons with disabilities. More details on the project are [posted on the Village website](#).

Business investment report posted – The Development Customer Services Department has released its latest report highlighting business investment in the community. Highlights include information on four new restaurants that are expected to open within the fourth quarter, joining six other eateries that have opened this year. [Click here to review the Business Investment Update](#).

Budget wins award – The Village has received the [Distinguished Budget Presentation Award](#) for the current budget from the [Government Finance Officers Association \(GFOA\)](#). This award, which the Village has won multiple times, is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by our organization. In the words of the letter from the GFOA, this award “reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.” To receive the budget award, our Finance Department staff had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that required our budget to be not only a policy document and financial plan, but also an operations guide and communications device.

Garage canopies installed – New canopies went up this week at the Holley Court Parking Garage to provide shelter not only for motorists entering and exiting the garage, but also protect the ticket equipment from the elements. The steel canopies are eight and a half feet tall, six feet wide and five feet deep. The size, which reflects a European minimalist design, was limited by the right of way and ability to provide sufficient structural support. The new canopies are located at both the Marion Street and Ontario Street entrances to the garage. The equipment at the other garages is inside the structures, so do not require any additional protection.

Community award nominations sought – Staff liaisons to the Disability Access, Environment & Energy and Historic Preservations commissions have asked us to remind the Village Board and the community that nominations are still being sought for three special awards. The awards recognize efforts by organizations, individuals and businesses to improve the Village through historic preservation, sustainability and accessibility. The deadline for nominations is October 14, with awards to be presented in December. More information is [posted on the Village website](#).

Harrison Street lighting update – Most of the new ornamental light poles and fixtures are in and wiring has been installed along Harrison Street from Ridgeland Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Two remaining old poles still need to be removed and replaced with new ones, which is expected to occur next week. The new lighting control boxes also have been installed and connected to the electrical source.

Chicago Avenue update – Sewer work on Chicago Avenue is winding down, with the street expected to reopen to traffic by the end of next week. Focus then will shift to the state resurfacing project, with some preliminary work and delivery of equipment and supplies already beginning. In the meantime, traffic detours via Division Street and Oak Park Avenue remain in place. While the paving project likely will create traffic disruptions along Chicago Avenue, the street will remain open.

HAWK pedestrian crossing beacon update – Work began this week on the new high-intensity activated crosswalk beacon, or HAWK street crossing signal on Chicago Avenue at Harvey Avenue. The new signal, which will give Chicago Avenue motorists a red light when activated by pedestrian button or electronic detection of a bicycle, is expected to be completed by the end of October. In addition to the red signal for motorists, walk indicators will be displayed for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing Chicago. The signal heads facing traffic on Chicago remain dark unless the signal is activated.

Elevate Oak Park development progress – Water service connections were expected to be completed this week at the Westgate Street cul-de-sac. Crews also connected the new eight-inch water main to the existing valve. The last of the sewer inlets and storm laterals were to be completed this week as well. The water main also was completed on the south section of the new Maple Avenue, with installation of the new sewer main set to begin. The first of the two alleys being improved adjacent to the project was expected to be opened to vehicles by the end of the week.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Work on the South Boulevard streetscape project between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue remains suspended pending arrival of supplies needed to complete the electrical phase of the project. Only sod and punch list items remain of the season's first round of alley improvements, tasks that should be completed by the end of the month. Pavement patching continued this week, an approach that helps prolong roadway life. Nicor continued parkway restorations on the north side of the Village, with Engineering Division staff following the progress to assess the work and note areas that require additional remediation.

Public Works Activities – Routine summer tasks continue to be the primary focus at the Public Works Center. Streets Division personnel are busy delivering and picking up barricades for special events and block parties, posting no-parking placards where needed, applying permanent pavement patches where water repairs were made during the winter and completing a wide range of seasonal maintenance tasks such as litter removal and weed control. Water & Sewer Division crews upgraded water services at 1102 S. Grove Ave., 1230 N. Grove Ave. and 401 Chicago Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Division crews also installed City of Chicago water meters at the north vault and repaired a 12-inch water line valve at Lake Street and Lombard Avenue. Forestry Division routine summer tasks included tree removal, landscape restorations and responding to resident requests. Building Maintenance Division personnel continued the management of the work on the Village Hall boiler, which is in the final stages. Tasks include overseeing inspections of various components of the boiler system and the planned replacement of the water heaters at Village Hall. Building staff also is working with ComEd to review the scope of work for relocating the utilities associated with the construction of a storage garage at the main Fire Station.

Employee news – An event celebrating the contributions of retiring Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley held Thursday at the [Nineteenth Century Club](#) drew a sizeable crowd of citizens, colleagues and well-wishers. Resolutions honoring the Chief were presented from the Village, U.S. Senate, Illinois Senate, Illinois House of Representatives and Cook County Board. Community Relations Director Cedric Melton served as master of ceremonies, balancing humor with sincerity to capture the bittersweet nature of the moment. Personal experiences with Rick shared by Cedric were amplified by reminiscences of the Chief's early

years by Sherlynn Reid, who Cedric introduced to a standing ovation as an [Oak Park icon](#). In closing the event, Rick credited his success to the community and noted how pleased he was to pass the baton to his long-time friend and colleague, Deputy Chief Anthony Ambrose, who he said shared his commitment to community policing. More information on Rick's 32-plus years on the force is [posted on the Village website](#). We also produced a brief, humorous video capturing several events from this tenure, which was played to open the retirement program. The video [is posted on the Village YouTube channel](#).

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