



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending September 2, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, September 5:
 - Village Hall Closed
- Tuesday, September 6:
 - Village Board Contract Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Executive Session, 7:00 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
- Wednesday, September 7:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- Thursday, September 8:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m. room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Friday, September 9:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Saturday, September 10:
 - Village Board Outreach Event – Barrie Fest 1pm, Barrie Park

Parking restrictions eased over holiday – [Overnight on-street parking restrictions](#) will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets over the Labor Day holiday period. Restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Sept. 3 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Sept. 7. However, restrictions will remain in effect in areas such as on-street enclaves and zones that are reserved for permit holders. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

Final weekend for outdoor sculpture walk – The 5th annual outdoor sculpture walk will come to a close after Sept. 5, giving visitors just one more weekend to enjoy 12 original pieces of art along the winding walking paths of Mills Park. Brochures with details about the art and the artists are available by the exhibit, at all Oak Park public libraries, area businesses near the park and online at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk.

Village Hall closed Monday – [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Mon., Sept. 5 in [observance of Labor Day](#). Regular business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Parking

Services is open until 7 p.m. Mondays, except holidays. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

Refuse collections delayed – Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection services will be delayed by the Labor Day holiday. Monday's regular pick-up and all subsequent collections of the week will be delayed one day. More information about Village refuse collection is [posted on the Village website](#).

Village noted in arboretum publication – Oak Park's honor of becoming the state's first municipal arboretum was highlighted in the Morton Arboretum's quarterly publication, *Seasons*. [You can read the mention of our community on page five of the publication](#), which is included in a story about the impact the Morton Arboretum has had on the region in encouraging support of urban forests.

Electronics recycling results – The season's third [electronic recycling](#) collection event was held this past Saturday at the Public Works Center. Some 434 vehicles passed through the garage bay to drop off items from 444 households. The next and last electronics recycling event of the season is set for Sat., Oct. 29.

Village Hall garage repairs – Work continued this week on the underground Police garage at Village Hall. Most of the structural deck concrete has been removed to the relief of employees who had to endure a considerable level of noise from the jackhammering. The roadway along the south entrance is now completely gone, and the gap remains spanned with a golf-course-style bridge to maintain access from the parking lot. Building access also has been maintained at the Lombard Avenue entrance for persons with disabilities. Sandblasting of the rebar will begin soon to remove any residual rust before new concrete is poured. Tarps have been strategically placed to contain the sand particles and debris, and protect pedestrians on the bridge. This phase is expected to last about three days, but should produce less noise.

Chicago Avenue construction – Spot concrete curb replacement and upgrades to bring crossings up to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act continued this week on Chicago Avenue as part of the state resurfacing project. After questions from parents about why the work was underway while school was in session, a letter was emailed to residents served by Holmes Elementary School outlining efforts to ensure safe walking routes are maintained and explaining that work is restricted during drop-off and pick-up hours to minimize disruptions. Engineering Division staff is closely monitoring work by the school to ensure the contractor is complying with the restrictions. The concrete work, the most disruptive part of the project, is expected to wrap up by the school later this month. The project, which extends from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard, should be completed in November.

Construction downtown – No activities associated with Elevate Oak Park interfered with public right-of-ways this week. However, the sidewalk on Lake Street along the construction site remains closed to pedestrians, who are being directed to use the north sidewalk. Meanwhile on South Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue, roadway improvements are on hold awaiting delivery of bicycle parking rings and shelters. Staff met recently with the developer of the property at 1111 South Blvd. to coordinate remaining work and proposed project-related improvements.

Other construction updates – The lighting improvement project on Harrison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard continues the restoration phase with concrete replacement and landscaping. Brick replacement should begin next week. Work this week on the pedestrian crossing beacon at Chicago and Harvey avenues included installing underground electrical cables. Staff is coordinating with nearby schools and crossing guards to ensure construction does not interfere with pedestrians.

Street Repairs – Resurfacing activities continued this week on Wesley Avenue from Van Buren Street to Jackson Boulevard, Harvey Avenue from Randolph Street to South Boulevard, Randolph Street from Elmwood Avenue to Ridgeland Avenue, Pleasant Street from East Avenue to Scoville Avenue, and Clarence Avenue from Jackson Boulevard to Adams Street. Crews also continued to fill cracks in streets throughout the Village, a common maintenance technique to prolong the surface by keeping water from infiltrating and damaging the pavement structure.

Water and sewer main replacement – The year’s second round of water and sewer projects is set to begin next week. Mains will be replaced on Highland Avenue from Jackson Boulevard to Madison Street, and on Taylor Avenue from Flournoy Street to Harrison Street. All sections will be repaved once the underground work is completed. Since the Highland section is now closed, the pavement was graded to allow continued access by emergency vehicles.

Public Works activities – Engineering Division staff checked on all sidewalk and street construction projects to ensure potential hazards were sufficiently mitigated as work was suspended during the holiday weekend. Street Division crews repaired the pavement where a utility repair had been made on the 900 block of north Oak Park Avenue. The Water & Sewer Division repaired a water main break at Division Street and Taylor Avenue, a water service leak at 812 Augusta Boulevard, and sink holes at 1424 N. Austin Blvd. and on the northeast corner of Euclid Avenue and Adams Street. In addition, a catch basin at 624 Clarence Ave. and sewer laterals at 1050 N. Lombard Ave. and 1001 Hayes St. were repaired. Crews also reset buffalo boxes at 255 South Boulevard and 1419 S. Harlem Ave. Forestry Division crews continued trimming parkway trees along Chicago Avenue in preparation for the street repaving project.

Village Hall remodeling – The Building Maintenance Division worked through the past weekend managing the remodeling of Village Hall. This is Phase II of a three-year project. This past weekend the Administration area was remodeled. Focus shifted this week to the Parking Services Center, which has been moved temporarily into room 101 while the department’s carpet is replaced and area is remodeled. This work will continue through next weekend. Painting in various areas also resumed and will continue through next week. Last year, Development Customer Services, Finance and parts of Human Resources were remodeled.

High school prepares for pool referendum – With school board approval of a facilities plan and bond referendum, District 200 has begun a public information program to provide taxpayers with information to help them cast an informed vote on Election Day, Nov. 8. Voters will be asked to approve a bond issue of up to \$25 million. More information, including an individualized property tax impact calculator, is posted at facilities.oprfhs.org.

Superintendent search survey – Residents are invited to provide feedback on the qualities and experience they'd like to see in a new Oak Park River Forest High School superintendent [via an online survey](#). The survey will be open through Sun., Sept. 11. The new superintendent's tenure would begin with the 2017-2018 school year. More information on the search process is [available on the OPRF website](#).

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