



Village Manager's Report
Week ending October 12, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Oct. 15:
 - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, Oct. 16:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, Oct. 17:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, Oct. 18:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Room 215

- Friday, Oct. 19:
 - No meetings scheduled

Fire Department open house – The annual open house at the main fire station is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., tomorrow (Sat. Oct. 13). In addition to the opportunity to get up close to the equipment, the family-friendly event will include tours and safety education activities. The event is held in conjunction with national Fire Safety Month. [Click here to read more...](#)

Weekend architectural tour – Nine Oak Park sites will be among the 250-plus locations featured this weekend's in *Open House Chicago*, the Chicago Architecture Foundation's annual free, behind-the-scenes look at many of the region's great places and spaces rarely open to the public. In addition to Oak Park's iconic Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio at 951 Chicago Ave., featured local sites also will include the Oak Park River Forest Museum, 129 Lake St. More information, including a list of all locations, is posted at openhousechicago.org.

Leaf collection begins with added week – The annual fall leaf collection program is scheduled to begin Monday (Oct. 15). Each quadrant of the Village was scheduled originally to get seven opportunities to dispose of leaves on a specific day of the week as [indicated on a map](#) published in the most recent edition of the OP/FYI newsletter and online. However, because of the late fall, the program will be extended for an additional week, a decision that came after the newsletter was distributed. The information on the additional week will be promoted in the November/December issue of the newsletter and via other communications tools as the program schedule progresses. Official messaging will continue to urge residents to consider composting or using leaves as garden mulch as an alternative to raking.

Food and thought – The Community Relations Department and Commission will partner with Unity Temple Restoration Foundation to host a four-part [Dinner & Dialogue](#) series that will explore issues relevant to the community. The popular program brings individuals of different races and views together over a meal to help break down barriers and issues that so often divide people. Topics for the series are still being finalized, as are the date and location details, but aging in place, intergenerational relations and analyzing the impact of the [America to Me](#) documentary are being considered as discussion topics. So far this year, the Dinner & Dialogue program has sponsored four dinners that brought together nearly 50 individuals for good food and frank conversation.

ZBA activities – The Zoning Board of Appeals this week approved requests for variances for the two major District 97 school expansion projects. Variances for Longfellow Elementary, 715 Highland Ave., allow for no setback for a fenced-in play area along Jackson Boulevard and no additional on-site parking for the expansion that will house eight new classrooms. The variance for Lincoln Elementary, 1111 S. Grove Ave. was not to require an additional parking space for the expansion that will house 10 new classrooms.

Berkshire sewer project – Preparation will start next week for a sewer relief project on Berkshire Street between Grove and Linden avenues. The scope of the underground work will mean that the curb will be replaced and the street resurfaced. Should the project not be completed prior to winter, the street will be reopened to vehicles and work completed in the spring. Residents affected by the work, including St. Giles Parish and School, have been notified of the upcoming work and its impacts on the neighborhood.

Redevelopment project news – Work resumed this week at the [District House](#) development at Lake Street and Euclid Avenue as the sewer contractor installed a catch basin, made a connection to the main sewer and relocated a fire hydrant. The electrical contractor is expected to be on site next week, but the sidewalk along Lake Street likely will not be open until mid-November. Meanwhile, by the [Eleven 33 development](#) in the Hemingway District, crews prepared foundations for street light poles on South Boulevard and began reconstructing the alley east of the site. The next major step will be pouring concrete for the adjacent Harlem Avenue sidewalk, which will cause periodic lane closures on the busy roadway.

Traffic studies – Work is underway across the Village to update traffic flow studies of residential streets last completed in the late 1990s. The data will be used to help analyze future traffic issues that may come before the Transportation Commission for review. Data collection is expected to continue for several more weeks, but traffic flow will not be affected.

Construction updates – Restoration and street light installation are proceeding along both North and South boulevards and under the Kenilworth Avenue viaduct. Periodic notifications and project schedule changes are posted online at www.oak-park.us/boulevards. Paving is expected to continue for up to two more weeks on the 10 blocks of streets and four parking lots being rehabilitated during the season's final round of paving projects.

Public Works activities –Streets Division crews spent much of the week preparing trucks and training operators for the fall leaf collection program that begins next week. Crews also repaired four street openings where water main work had occurred and prepared another seven locations for repair. Street Lighting Division crews repaired a faulty circuit causing a streetlight outage on the 800 block of North Harvey Avenue. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at 730 S. Cuyler Ave. and a water line leak at 514 Wesley Ave. Crews also upgraded a water service at 627 N. Ridgeland Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. A Forestry Division crew removed a tree damaged by a Waste Management truck in the alley between Kenilworth and Gove avenues in the 700 north block and continued marking locations of fall tree planting.

Police Chief Search – The search for Oak Park's next Chief of Police got underway officially this week with the posting on the Village website and a range of other law enforcement recruitment sites that reach regional and national audiences. The job posting calls for an "experienced, knowledgeable and community-engaged professional" to become Oak Park's 13th Police Chief since the Village was incorporated in 1902. Current Oak Park police officers and residents were asked to offer input via online surveys and additional opportunities for public input are planned as the selection process narrows the field of candidates. Information on the search process is posted at www.oak-park.us/chiefsearch.

Police Officer recruitment – The Village has begun accepting applications for entry-level officers with the Oak Park Police Department. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 26. Candidates must be at least 21 years of age at the time they apply and no older than 35 on the application closing date. Other requirements include a high school diploma or GED, 60 accredited college semester hours with a minimum C grade-point average, U.S. citizenship and a valid Illinois driver's license. Collecting applications is just the first step in a rigorous process to identify and test candidates. More information about the testing and hiring requirements are available at www.oak-park.us/jobs.

Employee news – Susie Trexler has joined the Development Customer Services Department as the new urban planner for historic preservation. In addition to a master's degree in historic preservation from the [University of Oregon](http://www.universityoforegon.edu), Susie also brings four years of experience as an architectural historian, having completed consulting projects both in Illinois and nationally. In addition, Susie was a guest relations staff member at the [Frank Lloyd Wright Trust](http://www.franklloydwrighttrust.org) and currently is a member of the [Skyline Council](http://www.skylinecouncil.org), Landmark Illinois' committee of young preservation professionals.

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