



Village Manager's Report The Week Ending April 8, 2016

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 11:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Study Session, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - CDCAC, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, April 12:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, April 13:
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m. room 101
- Thursday, April 14:
 - CDCAC, 6:30 p.m., room 101
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Friday, April 15:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Monday, April 18
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Saturday, April 23
 - Earth Fest, 10am – 2pm, Public Works Building

Weekend recycling opportunities – April is a big month for earth-friendly events at the Public Works Center, featuring paper shredding, clothing recycling, a paint exchange and Earth Fest. Residents can shred sensitive papers and recycle old clothing from 9 a.m. to noon tomorrow (Sat. April 9). The shredding program is meant only for items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information. Households are limited to two bags or small boxes each. The clothing recycling program is for items made of materials that can be repurposed, so condition is not an issue. Items such as shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels will be collected by the Epilepsy Foundation. The [paint exchange](#) will follow on April 16, and then [Earth Fest](#) on April 25.

Federal grant allocations announced –The Village has been awarded \$1,521,166 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, a slight increase from the previous plan year allocation. In addition to helping pay for Village infrastructure, health, code and housing activities, a share of the funds will go to local organizations that provide essential services to Oak Park residents. The Village also will receive \$135,513 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds to assist persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This was a slight decrease from the current ESG allocation. Funds for both programs will become available beginning in October.

Oak Park Station update – With the fence up, the site graded and environmental remediation well underway, the developer has begun installing components of the foundation structure on the north parcel near Lake Street. The east bound lane of Lake Street will be closed to traffic for two weeks for sewer work, but traffic flaggers will be on hand during construction hours of 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. to ensure two-way traffic. Steel plates will be used where necessary to keep Lake Street open to two-way traffic after 3 pm. Updates on the project are being [posted on the Village website](#) as they become available.

CityView update – The Development Customer Services Department is poised to launch CityView, the new software solution for licensing, permitting and inspections set to go live on May 9. The current software system is scheduled to be turned off on April 29 to migrate existing data to the new system. Information will be input by hand during the week between the two systems. While this time likely will be difficult, the bright side is that staff will have an opportunity to practice how they might have to deal with an unexpected issue such as a power failure. In the meantime, staff will participate in two weeks of intensive training beginning April 25 in preparation for the launch. CityView staff will be on site the week of May 9 to assist with any issues and make any needed last-minute tweaks to the system after it goes live. Once up and running, CityView will improve the permit processing functions by allowing multiple departments to communicate more efficiently and effectively. In addition, customers will be able to obtain real-time information about their permit applications, inspections, license applications and property complaints.

Diversity program gets attention – Oak Park's [Dinner & Dialogue](#) program will be featured in two [Alliance for Innovation](#) publications – *Transformations*, which goes to all members, and *Ambassador Update*, which goes to the organization's emerging leaders. The article, penned by Community Relations Director Cedric Melton, traces the creation of the program that brings together a diverse group of community residents for frank discussions about race relations and related issues over a good meal. Since the program's debut, nearly 50 dinners have been held in private homes throughout the Village. [Click here to read the article](#) as submitted for publication.

Health Department featured – The [Oak Park Department of Public Health](#) was among Cook County's six certified health departments commemorating National Public Health Week with an event showcasing their important role in preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health. The event, entitled *Beat Diabetes*, was held Thursday (April 7) at the Stickney Township Public Health District's South Clinic in Burbank. Interim Health Director Mike Charley discussed the Oak Park Farmers' Market Healthy Nutrition Incentives Program, which helps area Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants pay for farm-fresh fruits and vegetables. Public health officials from Chicago, Cook County, Evanston Skokie

and Stickney also gave presentations on programs in their jurisdictions. [Click here to read the news release with more details on the event.](#)

Miscellaneous construction updates – Weather postponed repairs planned for this week to Marion Street crosswalks, but work should restart next week. Lighting improvements on Harrison Street from Ridgeland Avenue to Austin Boulevard are scheduled to begin next week. Notices were mailed to residents and parking passes provided as needed. Sewer work related to alley improvement projects started Monday south of I-290. Sidewalk improvements also began this week in various locations north of Lake Street on Austin Boulevard, Humphrey Avenue, Taylor Avenue and Lombard Avenue. Underground utility work related to the South Boulevard streetscape project is scheduled to begin next week. South Boulevard will be closed to all traffic between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street for about a month, and then be open only to eastbound traffic for an additional month.

Non-Village construction activities – Eastbound traffic on Madison Street continues to be detoured south on Ridgeland Avenue to Roosevelt Road, then east to Central Avenue as Chicago Water Management Department contractors continue work on a major sewer project. Madison Street remains open within Oak Park to Austin Boulevard. Parkway restoration continues in sections in north Oak Park where Nicor crews replaced mains and services. Improvements to the CTA Green Line tracks began as scheduled on April 1 at the Harlem station. Work is staged to occur over seven weekends beginning each Friday after rush hour and continuing until just before the rush begins each Monday. However, no work is scheduled for this weekend. All Oak Park stations are closed when work is underway, with buses providing transportation between stops.

Public Works activities –Brick pavers were replaced at Oak Park Avenue and Garfield Street and a temporary pavement patch installed after a water line repair at Augusta Street and Austin Boulevard. Streets Division crews also continued picking up litter, cleaning parking lots and filling potholes. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sinkhole at 538 N. Lombard Ave. and upgraded a water service line at 45 Chicago Ave. as part of the Village’s lead abatement program. Crews also cleaned and rodded sewer basins at various locations throughout the Village. Forestry Division crews pruned trees along Chicago Avenue and Fillmore Street in preparation for upcoming construction. Crews also did landscaping work throughout the Village, focusing on cul-de-sacs, parking lots and in-ground planters. Routine Forestry tasks continued, including responding to resident requests, removing ash trees and winter-cycle pruning. Private contractor pruning is nearing completion for the season. All north/south streets between South Boulevard and Madison Street have been completed. The east/west streets between Washington Boulevard and Madison Street are all that remain in this year’s cycle.

Ceremonies for all-weather fields – The public is invited to grand opening ceremonies Saturday (April 9) for the all-weather sports fields at the middle schools. Ceremonies are set for 9 a.m. at Julian Middle School and 10:30 a.m. at Brooks Middle School. The fields will be used by students on school days during school hours and will be scheduled for use by various sports affiliates on certain days and times. However, they are open to the public when not scheduled for programmed activities.

Employee news – Long-time Village employee Grace Kenney will be inducted into the [Chicago 16-inch Softball Hall of Fame](#) next week for her service to the uniquely Chicago

sport. Grace will join the ranks of those individuals and teams who the organization says “have exemplified excellent 16-inch softball talent, sportsmanship and set a precedent for future generations.” She will receive the honor at a dinner April 16 at the Drury Lane Theatre and Conference Center in Oak Brook Terrace. Grace has been with the Village since 1999 and currently serves as the Office Manager for the Public Works Department. A great story on Grace and her softball achievements was published in the *Beverly Review* newspaper – [click here to read it](#).

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