



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending April 18, 2014**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- April 19:
  - Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9 a.m., 105 S. Oak Park
  
- April 21:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 8:00 p.m., room 101
  - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- April 22:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- April 23:
  - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 101
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
  - Condo Training Series, 7 p.m., room 101
  - OPAAC Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Community Design Commission, 7:15 p.m., room 101
  - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- April 24:
  - Plan Commission Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Special Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101

**Police to participate in UIC study** – Oak Park Police once again will participate in an independent study by the UIC Center of Research in Law and Justice to help establish benchmarks for excellence in policing. In 2010, Oak Park was among the first police departments in the region to participate in UIC's Citizen Satisfaction Survey. As in the previous survey, we will be asking citizens who have come in contact with an Oak Park Police officer during a traffic accident, traffic stop or non-violent crime to rate their experiences. As police reports are filed, a letter will be sent from the Police Chief to each individual within 10 days after contact with an officer. All survey responses are anonymous and will be collected and managed solely by the UIC research team. The project begins April 18. As survey information is compiled, UIC researchers will provide summary reports. During the last survey, our [police officers were reviewed very positively](#) not only by residents, but by the community at large.

**Grove Apartments win award** – Interfaith Housing Development Corporation's Grove Apartments has been selected as Illinois Housing Development Authority's 2014

Affordable Housing Champion Award winner for the metropolitan Chicago category. The awards committee noted that Grove Apartments embodies many key focus areas of the IHDA's Annual Comprehensive Housing Plans. Areas of focus include integrated and supportive housing settings, linkages between housing, transportation and employment, and preservation of affordable housing. The award will be presented at the ceremony and reception scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m., April 22 at the Chicago Hyatt Regency hotel, 150 Upper Wacker Drive.

**Aggregation information distribution begins** – Constellation Energy, the new supplier for the Village's electricity aggregation program, began distributing notices about the program change by mail yesterday (Thursday). The information highlights the option of calling a toll-free number to choose an all-green electricity supply at a cost estimated to be less than \$1 more per month for the average residential household. The company's call center also was expected to be ready to accept calls from residents who wish to take advantage of this option. The temporary switch of our aggregation participants to ComEd for the month of May did create some confusion in the community which peaked as a result of a letter from ComEd which was not provided in advance to the Village. However, we have been able to allay citizen concerns and answer their questions in advance of the arrival of the official mailing from the Village and Constellation. Our first communication effort is being directed to providing citizens with the information they need to make their choice. Special thanks to those Trustees who took to social media to help spread the word. We will continue to provide information on the program up through the May 8 deadline, including in the May issue of the OP/FYI newsletter.

**Public Works activities** – Crews continued pothole patching and repairing openings where water utility repairs were made. Street sweeping and cleaning parking areas and lots in the business districts also kept crews busy. A sewer basin frame was repaired at 310 Lake St., and the Village's side of the water service at 538 S. Grove Ave. was replaced as part of the lead abatement program. Sewer cleaning in preparation for televising continued. Forestry crews removed damaged and diseased trees at 822 N. Cuyler Ave., 1023 Wesley Ave., 143 S. Harvey Ave. and 601 S. Grove Ave. Several trim requests also were completed and tree stumps ground out in preparation for spring parkway plantings. Some 120 households participated in Saturday's latex paint exchange.

**Outdoor sculpture walk to return** – Work is well underway for the upcoming outdoor Sculpture Walk. Twelve new works of public art should be installed by June 1. This year's walk will be in the Hemingway Business District along Oak Park Avenue between Ontario and Pleasant streets. A brochure with a map and descriptions of each sculpture will be available at the Oak Park Visitor's Center, 1010 Lake St., and an interactive map will be posted at [www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk](http://www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk).

**Employee news** – Two employees in the Water & Sewer Division – Brad Jelinek and Maurice Thompson – resigned to pursue new opportunities after a decade with the Public Works Department. Their experience and expertise will be missed, but we wish them well in their new endeavors