



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending April 15, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 18:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - CDCAC, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, April 19:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Wednesday, April 20:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m. room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, April 21:
 - CDCAC, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- Friday, April 22:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Saturday, April 23
 - Earth Fest, 10am – 2pm, Public Works Building
- Tuesday, May 3
 - Reinventing Government Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Room 130

Valet parking stands go red – Two new London-style red telephone booths were installed this week downtown to serve as valet parking stands. These fun, high-profile booths should help raise the visibility of the valet stations, located on the north side of Lake Street just west of Marion Street and on the northeast corner of Marion and North Boulevard. Parking Services reports that the valet program is growing in popularity as both new users and repeat customers take advantage of the convenience and reasonable prices.

Earth Month events continue – About 340 households participated in Saturday's paper shredding and clothing recycling events at the Public Works Center, diverting nearly 9,300 pounds of materials from landfills. The *Great Paint Exchange* is set for this Saturday (April 16) at the Public Works Center, with half-to-full cans of latex paint accepted from 9 to 11 a.m. and anyone in need of paint invited to pick from the collection from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Earth Fest will round out the month's events on Sat. April 23. More information on Earth

Fest, including the food truck vendors scheduled to participate, is posted at www.oak-park.us/earthfest.

Lake & Euclid activity – Contractors for the investors interested in developing the former Tasty Dog site at Lake Street and Euclid Avenue will be on the site two days next week gathering soil samples. Contractors will be working on behalf of the [Ranquist Development Group](#) at the company's expense. No activity will occur inside the building. All work will be within the property lines and should not affect neighboring businesses or residents. The site originally was a gasoline station and had to undergo remediation prior to its current development. A no further remediation (NFR) letter was acquired from the Illinois EPA at that time. Staff is continuing to negotiate a redevelopment agreement with Ranquist for Board review.

South Boulevard streetscape update – Underground utility work has been pushed back until next week as construction details are finalized. The first phase, which entails underground utility work, will completely close South Boulevard to traffic between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street for about a month. Once this phase is completed, this section of South Boulevard will be reopened to east-bound traffic, but remain closed to westbound traffic for an additional month.

Marion crosswalks delayed, Harrison lighting work begins – Improvements to crosswalks on Marion Street remaining from last year have been put on hold until the end of May. Marion Street will be an important detour route during the South Boulevard streetscape project and crosswalk repairs would further complicate travel in the area. Work on the crosswalks likely will resume by the end of May. Meanwhile, lighting improvements began this week on Harrison Street, with the pole locations determined between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard.

Alley and sidewalk improvements move ahead – Sewers have been installed in five alleys, and concrete pavement poured in one alley. Eight residents within the alley project area chose to participate in the related private garage apron replacement program, which gives them the Village's contract unit price. Sidewalk improvements continued at various locations north of Lake Street on Lombard, Cuyler, and Harvey avenues.

Oak Park trivia – Staff found a few interesting tidbits on the website www.usa.com, which compiles a wide range of information on cities, towns and neighborhoods across the United States. While we cannot unequivocally vouch for the accuracy of the information, it is fun to read. For example, the site says Oak Park is number one on the list of cities with the oldest houses; number three on the list of cities with the most local government spending on parking facilities per resident (2004); number eight on the list of cities with oldest houses, but youngest residents; number 13 on the list of best educated cities with the highest percentage of residents with bachelor degrees; number 62 on the list of cities with largest percentage of male architects, surveyors and cartographers; and 60302 was number 87 on the list of zip codes with the most museums (2005). We also were high on lists for female judges, lawyers and scientists. Most of the information noted here was categorized for cities with populations of more than 50,000 residents.

Non-Village construction updates – The City of Chicago's sewer project continues to detour Madison Street traffic passing through Oak Park. While Madison Street remains fully open

within Oak Park, westbound traffic is being detoured south to Roosevelt Road at Ridgeland Avenue, and eastbound traffic is being detoured south to Roosevelt at Central Avenue in Chicago. Improvements to the CTA Green Line tracks through Oak Park continued as well, with work occurring after rush hour on Fridays and ending before rush hour on Monday for several more weekends. All CTA stations in Oak Park are closed during the work, with buses taking passengers between stops. Overnight parking is being affected by equipment placement and materials staging along the route as well, but information has been provided to permit holders in advance of the work. Nicor contractors continued parkway restoration in north Oak Park following the installation of new mains and services, with work this week on Marion Street, Fair Oaks Avenue and East Avenue.

Public Works Activities – Street furniture was relocated this week to make way for outdoor dining at the new Q-BBQ restaurant set to open soon on Marion Street. Streets Division crews also continued repairing and replacing brick pavers at various locations in downtown, installed two new valet parking booths, cleaned sidewalks and added more spikes to deter the pigeons at the Marion Street viaduct. Litter removal, parking lot cleaning and pothole filling continued as well. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sinkhole at 214 N. Lombard Ave. and cleaned catch basins and jetted sewers at various locations in anticipation of spring rain storms. The Forestry Division is preparing for the spring tree planting season, tagging trees and marking locations. Crews are set to begin planting 349 trees throughout the Village in the second half of May. The contractor role in the winter pruning cycle has been completed and the focus of Village crews has moved to landscaping throughout the Village. Forestry crews also continued to handle a range of routine tasks, such as responding to resident requests and removing ash trees damaged and infested with the emerald ash borer.

D97 hosting school visioning meetings – [District 97](#) has scheduled the first of what officials are calling community conversations about the future of the public elementary schools from 9 to 11 a.m., Sat., April 16 in the main branch of the [Oak Park Public Library](#). More information on the conversations, including times, dates and locations of future meetings is [posted on the school district's website](#).

Employee news – Fire Lieutenant Scott Bartelt will be promoted to the new position of Deputy Chief of Community Services and Firefighter/Paramedic William Towler will be promoted to Lieutenant at a ceremony set for 9:30 a.m., Monday (April 18) in the Council Chamber. The Deputy Chief of Community Services is a new position established to manage and supervise the Fire Prevention Bureau, which was recently relocated to the second floor at Village Hall to enhance customer service and communication with other Village departments. Scott is a 23-year veteran of the Fire Department and worked as a fire inspector for three years in addition to coordinating the department's public education programs for several years. Bill has 13 years of service with the department and will be assigned to shift one.

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