



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Weeks ending March 10, 2017**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, March 13:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, March 14:
  - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, March 15:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, March 16:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30p.m., room 215
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Friday, March 17:
  - No scheduled meetings

**Public commenting on parking sign concepts** – The first few days of opening online commenting for proposed changes to the design of Oak Park's on-street parking restriction signs drew about two dozen comments from residents. The public comments, which may be posted until noon Monday (March 13), at [www.oak-park.us/whatdoyouthink](http://www.oak-park.us/whatdoyouthink), will be provided to the Board as part of the study session discussion scheduled for Monday evening. All comments posted to the page will remain viewable by the public even after the posting deadline ends.

**Daylight Saving Time returns** – Just a reminder that we will lose an hour this weekend as Daylight Saving Time begins begin at 2 a.m., Sun., March 12. Clocks should be set ahead one hour. The Fire Department recommends using the time change as a convenient reminder to replace the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but an estimated one-third has dead or missing batteries.

**Boiler grant in works** – Efforts to marry the two new boilers installed last year in Village Hall with existing infrastructure that could not be changed has the Building Services Division in line for a \$2,400 grant. Conditions within the building limited equipment to a particular type of boiler that is not as energy-efficient as would have been ideal. However, the efforts of staff and the contractor to maximize energy efficiency within the existing constraints of the building got the attention of the

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, which administers the state Illinois Energy Now grant. Staff is working on compiling the required documentation to secure the grant.

**Lake Street improvement project update** – After meeting last week with downtown businesses to gather feedback on planned [improvements to Lake Street](#), Village staff and the design consultant now are investigating vaults under sidewalks that may be affected by the work. Meetings were held this week with various business owners along the corridor to identify properties with basement areas that extend under the public sidewalk, a common practice at the time many of our commercial structures were built. Identifying these vaulted sidewalks prior to the start of construction is critical to crafting a work plan to eliminate, repair or protect them. Property owners or business operators who have vaulted space under the sidewalk on Lake Street are being urged to call 630.430.6392 or email [stevep@thomas-engineering.com](mailto:stevep@thomas-engineering.com), the consultant working with the Village on the project. In other Lake Street-related construction news, the contractor for The Emerson development downtown is scheduled to begin road reconstruction and installing lighting by the end of the month for North Boulevard, Westgate Street and the new Maple Avenue adjacent to the property.

**Chicago Avenue resurfacing** – Minor work began this week to repair the temporary pavement markings and other items related to last season's Chicago Avenue resurfacing project. Village staff is scheduled to meet with the contractor this week to review the schedule for the remaining portion of the project between Harlem and Belleforte avenues, which will include streetscape improvements as well as new pavement. Residents and businesses affected by the work will be notified once the schedule is set.

**Alley reconstruction report** – Since the start of the Village's five-year accelerated alley reconstruction program in 2015, the average condition of the Village's 634 alley segments has risen to 68 from 63. By the time the program ends, the average condition is projected to be about 70 or 71. Prior to the start of the accelerated program, 158 of the Village's alley segments had been reconstructed since 2002. At the completion of the accelerated program, another 125 alleys will have been replaced, bringing the total to 283 alleys replaced since 2002. By the end of 2019, approximately 45 percent the Village's alley network will have been reconstructed since 2002.

**Weather-related activities** – Street Division crews were called out Wednesday to remove portions of a roof that blew onto Jackson Boulevard from the building at 747 S. Maple Ave. due to the high winds. Wind also blew over a traffic light at Oak Park Avenue and Jackson Boulevard, and shifted the direction of a traffic signal at Washington Boulevard and Lombard Avenue. Crews also salted bridges during the early morning hours of Sat., March 4 as a precaution due to a minor accumulation of snow.

**Public Works activities** – Street Division crews installed bump-outs for a traffic calming study at Berkshire and Grove avenues, and swept no-parking zones, business districts and Village parking lots. Water & Sewer Division crews continued tracing sewers on Lake Street as part of the planning for future improvements. Crews also repaired broken [buffalo boxes](#) housing water shut-off valves at 1108 S Elmwood Ave., 6926 Roosevelt Road and 1046 Wesley Ave. Street Lighting crews will replace

light poles next week that were damaged in vehicle accidents at Austin Boulevard and Harrison Street and at Clinton Avenue and South Boulevard. The Forestry Division's seasonal tree pruning program continued with activity this week on Harvey and Cuyler avenues, between Chicago Avenue and Division Street, and in various areas between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street. Contractors also continued removing diseased and damaged trees throughout town.

**Bake sale space available** – The Farmers' Market is reminding local not-for-profit organizations seeking fundraising opportunities that a space is available each Saturday from opening day through October. A bake sale application may be downloaded via a link at [www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket](http://www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket). Applications will be accepted through April 14.

**Employee news** – Forestry Division crew member Ron Schwab and Fleet Mechanic Tom Glenn spent March 6 and 7 in Naplate, Ill., helping in the cleanup after a [tornado swept through the small community](#) recently leaving considerable damage. The pair deployed the Village [grapple truck](#) as part of an [Illinois Public Work Mutual Aid Network \(IPWMAN\)](#) call for support. The Oak Park Public Works crew was among those from a number of communities within the IPWMAN that responded to the call for assistance in Naplate and nearby Ottawa.

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