



**Village Manager's Report  
Weeks ending May 19, 2017**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, May 22:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, May 23:
  - First Time Homebuyer's Seminar, 6 p.m., room 101
  - Board of Health Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, May 24:
  - HPC Architecture Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., Oak Park Library, 834 Lake Street
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, May 25:
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Friday, May 26:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Farmers' Market opens Saturday** – The Oak Park Farmers' Market will open for its 42nd season this Saturday, May 20. Opening day will feature seed-potting activities for children, as well as *go-green* tables with information to help families live and garden in more environmentally friendly ways. Several new farmers will be joining the market this season, including vendors offering artisanal goat cheese, quail eggs and ancient grains. [Click here to read more about this season's Market...](#)

**House walk is Saturday** – The owners of historic Frank Lloyd Wright houses and other landmark residences in Oak Park will invite the public inside their carefully restored homes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., tomorrow (Sat., May 20). The 2017 *Wright Plus Housewalk* kicks off a year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. This year's walk will include interior tours of rarely seen private homes and public buildings designed by Wright and his contemporaries. More information about the house walk, tickets and related events are posted at [www.flwright.org/wrightplus](http://www.flwright.org/wrightplus).

**Vehicle sticker sales underway** – Renewal notices have gone out to the owners of vehicles registered to Oak Park residents. Notices were delivered by U.S. Mail as well as by email to those who signed up last year to forgo a paper notice. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase and display a Village sticker annually before July 15 to get the lowest rate. The rate increases by

| \$20 after the deadline. Failure to display a valid Village sticker -could result in a \$75 ticket. [Rates vary by type of vehicle](#) and a current vehicle sticker is needed to purchase a parking permit.

**Parking revenue update** – The Parking and Mobility Services Department has released the revenue summary for March, which provides a detailed look at the first-quarter 2017 activity. First-quarter revenues are tracking closely with 2017 budget projects. The data indicates that the shift from hourly meter parking to hourly garage parking is consistent with the loss of the metered surface lots where the Emerson redevelopment project is being constructed between Lake Street and North Boulevard. [Click here to read the complete first-quarter report...](#)

**Chicago Avenue streetscape/resurfacing** – The roadway surface is being removed between Harlem and Belleforte avenues in preparation for resurfacing of this final section of Chicago Avenue remaining from last's year complete resurfacing from Harlem to Austin Boulevard. Crews continued striping streets this week from Belleforte east to Austin. Work on the sidewalks and curbs should be completed within about two more weeks.

**Downtown construction update** - Underground work continued this week for streetlights at the Emerson project site downtown. Work is scheduled to continue next week, but should not affect traffic on Lake Street. The sidewalk and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street by the project site will be closed during May from the new Maple Avenue to the east side of the development site. Meanwhile, Comcast has installed most of the fiber optic line that will serve the Emerson development and nearby businesses downtown. Work this week by Comcast crews included trenching through the Marion Street and North Boulevard intersection. Related work in the nearby surface parking lot (Lot 10) is completed, but limited paving and curb repairs are set for next week to address a drainage issue at the southeast corner of the parking lot.

**Water/sewer main improvements** – Water main replacement on Taylor Avenue between Harrison and Flournoy streets is nearing completion. The existing water main on Taylor will be closed next week as customer services are moved to the new main. The work will involve a brief water shutoff to customers on Harrison Street between Lombard and Lyman avenues. Staff has worked with the local businesses to minimize disruptions caused by the temporary loss of water. The contractor will complete remaining underground work within the next week and then begin replacing curbs and sidewalks as needed as well as pavement. The construction site will be barricaded and separated from the Blooming on Harrison festival tomorrow (Sat. May 20). Final concrete work on Highland Avenue between Madison Street and Jackson Boulevard likely will begin next week and take about two weeks to complete, with final paving to follow.

**Alley improvements** – Underground drainage improvements continued this week on alley segments being reconstructed, while pavement removal continued on the alley north of Thomas Street between Fair Oaks and East avenues, the ninth alley segment of the season. Thirty one residents within the boundaries of the alley projects have elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed, allowing them to take advantage of the Village's contract unit price, which is lower than the cost a single property owner would pay to hire a contractor.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Resurfacing projects carried over from last year continued this week on Lombard Avenue between Van Buren and Adams streets, and Taylor Avenue between Adams and Madison streets. Sidewalk at the corners are being removed and replaced prior to resurfacing to bring them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Engineering Division interns will inspect and catalog sidewalks with trip hazards and ADA deficiencies over the next few weeks as part of the annual Village-wide trip-hazard inventory.

**Lake Michigan pipeline project** – With work on the water line that will carry Lake Michigan water to the villages of Brookfield and North Riverside expected to begin later this month, letters are being prepared for residents and businesses whose properties are adjacent to the construction route. The letters will detail the project scope, garbage collection strategies and parking coordination plans. The project, which will involve the entire length of Fillmore Street across Oak Park, will continue into late November with some parkway restoration likely to follow in spring 2018. Fillmore will be completely reconstructed as part of the project, including new pavement, curbs and sidewalks as well as new water and sewer mains along some sections. Extensive efforts to protect parkway trees during construction will begin next week under the supervision of the Forestry Division.

**Public Works activities** – Streets Division crews put the final touches on the installation sites for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Oak Park Sculpture Walk now underway in the Art District along Harrison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Streets crews also made permanent repairs to pavement temporarily patched following water line repairs that occurred during the winter. Crews also replenished the public woodchip bin at Madison Street and Highland Avenue, installed alley speed bumps, completed accident cleanups, filled pot holes and erected signs as needed. Water & Sewer Division crews replaced residential water meters per the ongoing change-out program, upgraded water services at 301 N. Ridgeland Ave. and 936 N. Taylor Ave., and replaced the fire hydrant at 1012 S. Austin Blvd. Crews also repaired a sewer frame in the alley at 156 N. Oak Park Ave. and continued clearing clogged sewer basins and inlets to reduce the chances of flooding during heaving rains. Parkway tree and stump removals continued this week as did landscaping of public property throughout the Village. Forestry crews responded to residents' requests for pruning, chip deliveries and landscape restorations. Spring tree planting is complete, with 365 trees planted at a rate of about 50 trees per day. Another 200 trees will be planted in the fall.

**Employee news** – Rachel Nesbitt has joined the Development Customer Services Department as Business License Officer. Among her responsibilities will be the day-to-day aspects of licensing including those related to chauffeur, liquor, solicitor and businesses. Rachel comes to the Oak Park from the Village of Maywood, where she was involved in a range of activities during her three-year tenure, including Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) officer, real estate transfer stamps and water billing delinquencies. Prior to moving into municipal government, she worked as a loan officer for Chase bank.

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