



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending April 5, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, April 8:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Tuesday, April 9:
  - Community Development Citizen Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., room Council Chamber
  - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- Wednesday, April 10:
  - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m. room 101
  
- Thursday, April 11:
  - Civic Information systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Community Development Citizen Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., room 101
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
  
- Friday, April 12:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Neighborhood walks begins** –Development Customer Services staff soon will begin the annual [Neighborhood Walk Program](#). Inspectors from the Neighborhood Services Division will be walking the community examining the exterior of both single- and multi-family buildings looking for deteriorating conditions, code violations and safety issues. Property owners will be notified by letter if repairs must be made and given a timeframe for re-inspection. The purpose of the decades-old program is to ensure public safety and maintain community aesthetics.

**Crime-free housing workshop** – Twenty-four landlords and property managers attended the season's first [crime-free housing](#) training workshop held last week. Future workshops are scheduled 9 a.m. to noon on April 26 and May 22. Topics covered in the training include renting and fair housing, evictions, tenant rights, rental licensing and ordinances governing housing. Property owners and managers interested in more information on the training workshops or wanting to register are asked to email [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us).

**Westgate repairs** – Westgate Street will be closed from Marion Street west to the cul de sac for about a week to repair the heated sidewalk. Contractors working for The Emerson development will be making the repairs on the south side of Westgate. The

underground electrical circuit was damaged during the construction of the development.

**Helping children in need** – The Village is partnering once again with not-for-profit [Cradles to Crayons](#) to collect new and gently used clothing, shoes, art supplies and books for homeless and low-income children ages 12 and under. A collection box has been placed at Village Hall and at the Public Works Center where employees and residents can drop off new and gently used everyday essentials. Donations also will be accepted at [Earth Fest](#). Donated items are hand selected to meet the needs and wants of a local boy or girl. [Click here for a list](#) of acceptable items.

**Video uploader garners attention** – The recent launch of a [website feature](#) that allows citizens to upload images and videos directly to the Oak Park Police Department got the attention of the [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#). Information about the file upload feature was included in the technology section of the IACP [daily news briefing \*The Lead\*](#), which is read by the organizations 30,000 members in 150 countries. The upload feature was included in the [OP/FYI newsletter](#) and highlighted via social media, which lead to a [story by the local Oak Leaves reporter](#) and featured in the Chicago Tribune. WMAQ-TV also picked up the story for its Tuesday morning news.

**New tourism guide** – A new tourism guide has been released by Visit Oak Park, the first promotional item issued under the organization's new leadership. The guide marks the launch of a new strategy to target regional travelers and will be inserted into the May/June edition of [Midwest Living magazine](#), which has 320,000 subscribers in five states and key Midwest markets. In addition, 70,000 copies of guide will be inserted into the May issue of *Chicago Magazine* and another 30,000 copies distributed to local area attractions. A digital copy will be available at [VisitOakPark.com](#), but is [available now via this link](#).

**South Boulevard update** – Sidewalk installation was completed this week in front of the Eleven33 development on South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street. The remaining crosswalk work leading to the public transit station should be completed next week. If pavement markings are completed by April 12 as planned, South Boulevard will be opened to two-way traffic by April 15.

**Alley improvements** – Alley work began this week at numerous locations, including storm sewer installation north of Madison Street west of Lombard Avenue. Storm sewer work will begin next week in alleys north of Randolph Street between Euclid and Linden avenues. Fifteen alleys are scheduled for reconstruction this season.

**Madison Street construction** – Preparation for the Madison Street improvement project is scheduled to begin the week of April 15. Letters about the project have been sent to the businesses and residents affected by the work. In addition to targeted communications to the businesses along the corridor and neighborhood residents, construction updates will be posted on the dedicated project website [www.madisonstreetconstruction.com](#).

**Construction updates** – The east-west alley behind the Albion at Oak Park development on Lake Street was expected to reopen by the end of this week following completion of the masonry work on the north side of the building. Comcast will repair a fiber optic communication duct on Oak Park Avenue at the Hunter Court crosswalk south of Lake Street starting Wed., April 10. The Comcast repair is expected to take two days and will require closing about eight parking spaces during the work day. Broadband provider Wide Open West began prep work for installing fiber optic cable on Randolph Street starting at Harlem Avenue and progressing east to Euclid Avenue. Construction of the stone planter is underway by the District House development at Lake Street and Euclid Avenue, along with other punch list items on various segments of the sidewalk.

**Public Works Activities** – Street Lighting Division crews responded to two vehicle accidents that brought down poles on Harrison Street at Wesley Avenue and at 400 S. Scoville Ave. Division crews also had to install temporary aerial power to correct streetlight outages on several blocks of Forest Avenue and Erie Street. The aerial cables will ensure functioning lights until the underground cable can be repaired. The Forestry Division's annual winter tree pruning cycle is nearing the end, with contractors spot pruning throughout sections south of Madison Street. Crews also delivered mulch and compost to District 97 schools and relocated and removed planting containers in the downtown area. Potholes continued to keep Streets Division crews busy, along with picking up litter and cleaning Village parking lots as needed. Crews also temporarily patched an opening from a water main break on Augusta Boulevard at Humphrey Avenue and removed a portion of a fence damaged in a vehicle accident near Adams Street and Austin Boulevard. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired two main breaks on Augusta Boulevard at Humphrey Avenue, rebuilt a basin at Augusta and Belleforte avenues, and repaired a water shutoff box at 1105 Wesley Ave.

**Employee news** – Marnelle (Marni) Curtis has joined the Development Customer Services Department as a part-time Executive Secretary. Prior to joining the Oak Park team, Marni worked for the Oak Park Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, as well as the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Marni recently relocated to Oak Park. In her new role, she will provide administrative support to the wide range of activities managed by the Department.

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