



Village Manager's Report Week ending May 3, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, May 6:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, May 7:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, May 8:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, May 9:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, May 10:
 - No meetings scheduled

Paper shredding, clothing recycling – The Village will host free paper shredding and clothing recycling events from 9 a.m. to noon tomorrow, Sat., May 4 at the Public Works Center. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes of papers with personal information. As in past years, the Village is partnering with the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago to recycle textile-related items including used clothing, shoes, belts, hats, towels and linens. Items that cannot be reused are sent to developing nations to repurpose.

Stricter recycling guidelines – Waste Management, which provides refuse and recycling services for all Oak Park residential properties of five or fewer units, will stop emptying recycling carts that contain common contaminants such as plastic bags, soiled food containers and non-recyclables like Styrofoam, garden hoses and propane tanks. Beginning May 6, warning stickers will be applied to recycling carts that contain items that can't be recycled. After a two-week warning period, haulers will not empty carts until the contaminants are removed by the resident. [More details are posted on the Village website.](#)

North Avenue revitalization presentation – An open house on the proposed North Avenue revitalization plan is scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thurs., May 9, at Trinity Galewood Church, 1701 N. Narragansett Ave. in Chicago. A presentation of the draft recommendations for the Chicago Department of Transportation's *Chicago-Oak Park Mobility Study on North Avenue* is set to begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Area residents, business owners, community leaders and other interested stakeholders are asked to

RSVP to ccambray@cmpa.illinois.gov or 312.386.8748. More information is posted on the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning website – [just click here](#).

Earth Fest wrap-up – The snow didn't keep away the more than 1,000 attendees, vendors and Village employees who participated in the 10th annual Earth Fest held this past Saturday at the Public Works Center. More than 60 vendors, including not-for-profits and community organizations, were on hand to celebrate green living and learning. The Farmer's Market band did not disappoint and the performance by the Hula School of Chicago and the bounce house drew big crowds. The new henna tattoos offered by a local high school artist and face painters also were big hits. [Working Bikes](#) braved the snow to accept bike donations, while many residents got their first introduction to [Our Planet Automotive](#), Oak Park's own green auto repair business. Resources for eco-friendly lawn maintenance and gardening were provided by the [Deep Roots Project](#), and the Village's local chicken whisperer was there as usual to talk about raising chickens in an urban environment. In addition to multiple recycling options, [Cradles to Crayons](#), which provides essential items to children in need, collected an entire truckload of donations. The event also featured tours of the Public Works Center, with staff from each division on hand to answer questions about the tools of their trades, including the trucks and specialized vehicles that are always popular with the youngsters. Visitors consumed more than 600 free hot dogs and the lines for free popcorn were unending. Staff already has begun planning for next year's event.

Crime-free housing training – Sixteen property owners and managers attended the mandatory crime-free housing training session held last week at Village Hall. Representatives of the Neighborhood Services Division and Community Relations Department explained [the program](#), which was created to help discourage problem tenants and prepare property managers to deal with issues quickly and effectively. The training requirement is part of the Village's property licensing process for all rental buildings, including condominiums and properties with three or fewer units. The next training session is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, May 22.

ZBA project updates – The Zoning Board of Appeals voted to support three relief applications at its May 1 meeting. Noah Properties, LLC, sought a special use permit to build 10, three-story townhomes at 6033 North Ave.; the Language and Music School sought a parking variance at 509 N. Oak Park Ave.; and Saint Catherine Saint Lucy School, 27 Washington Blvd., requested a front-yard setback variance to build playground equipment along Humphrey Avenue. The ZBA's recommendation on the Noah Properties special use request will come to the Village Board for consideration.

Vehicle licenses go stickerless – *Your plate is your sticker* is the new mantra in Parking & Mobility Services as *stickerless* vehicle licenses go on sale this month for 2019-2020. The new virtual vehicle licenses are part of a broader move to eliminate all physical vehicle-related decals, including those for parking permits and passes. Instead of looking for decals on windshields and windows, parking enforcement officers will use mobile readers to scan license plates while driving by at up to 15 miles per hour. This new technology will help improve operational efficiencies and support the community's environmental sustainability goals. The change also will save time for residents who eventually will be able to purchase permits, reserve

passes, pay parking meters and renew vehicle licenses from any smartphone or mobile device through a new Oak Park parking app that soon will be available.

Police launch camera registry – After introducing an online tool for citizens to upload videos that might help solve neighborhood crimes, Police now are inviting citizens to register their cameras and help create a community-wide network. By setting up a formal, but voluntary camera registration process, investigators will know if video evidence might be available at a particular location and who to contact to retrieve it. Both residential and commercial property owners are invited to register their surveillance cameras. The video upload and camera registration process are offered at www.oak-park.us/policevideo.

Village Hall parking lot update – The construction schedule still calls for closing the Village Hall parking lot completely beginning May 7, as the first major improvements to the lot in at least two decades moves into high gear. Despite the wet weather this week, crews removed large sections of pavement providing the first real look at the extent of the project. The majority of the parking spaces in the four center lanes of the lot remained available to vehicles during the work through this week, but the majority of staff already had begun parking on side streets as stipulated in the comprehensive parking management plan. The lot is expected to remain closed for at least four weeks. Extensive signage is in place to help guide visitors to the nearby parking options.

Madison Street work continues – Unfavorable weather conditions this week slowed, but did not stop site preparation for the Madison Street improvement project. Crews soon will be removing medians, before turning to sidewalks and curbs between Austin Boulevard and Ridgeland Avenue. Work on the sidewalks between Ridgeland and Home avenues will not begin until June 15 to reduce impact on student pedestrians. The project team has maintained frequent communications with the business operators and residents who have signed up for updates at the dedicated project website www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

South Boulevard status – The permanent traffic signals were turned on this week at South Boulevard and Harlem Avenue, as the work on South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street moves closer to an early June completion target. Crews are expected to apply permanent pavement markings and finish installing sidewalk furniture, trees and planters next week. Once ComEd installs a new service meter at Harlem Avenue, the temporary signal poles will be removed and the remaining sidewalk installed.

I-290 bridge rehab – Rehabilitation of the bridge over I-290 at Oak Park Avenue continued this week, with work focused on the parapets. Necessary closures of the sidewalk have been limited to between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. to reduce impacts to pedestrians accessing the public transit station during the day.

Water and sewer improvements – Preparation will begin next week for a sewer and water improvement project on Clarence Avenue between Roosevelt Road and Harvard Street. Preparation activities include installing information and construction signage, pruning tree roots and installing tree protection. Residents affected by the

work were notified by letter this week. Actual construction work is scheduled to begin the week of May 13.

Alley improvements – Storm sewers were installed south of Greenfield Street west of Lombard Avenue this week as alley improvement work continued. Pavement removal is set to start next week in the alley south of LeMoyne Parkway and west of Marion Street. New concrete pavement was poured in the alley south of Washington Boulevard between Harvey and Lombard avenues. These locations are among the 15 alley segments scheduled to be reconstructed this season.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Traffic on Madison Street will be interrupted intermittently next week for utility work related to the Rush Oak Park Hospital construction project. Weather delayed AT&T's scheduled manhole repairs at the entrance to Village parking Lot 10 and on the private north-south alley north of Lake Street, just east of Harlem Avenue. Once the repairs are made, AT&T crews will restore the brick at the Marion Street location as well as on Oak Park Avenue by Hunter Court just south of Lake Street where underground work had occurred previously. Broadband provider Wide Open West is still on Randolph Street installing new fiber optic cable between Harlem and Euclid avenues.

Public Works activities – Crews were back on the street early Saturday (April 27) responding to yet another late-season snowfall. Response lasted until about midnight, with the residual salt and relatively warm pavement temperatures preventing overnight freezing. Forestry Division crews spent much of Monday responding to residents' requests to remove parkway tree branches damaged by the heavy wet snow. Spring tree planting got underway, but the weather slowed efforts to plant most of the 254 new parkway trees set to go in this season. The week's heavy rains kept Water Division crews busy patrolling for flooded streets and clearing sewer inlets where needed. Crews also replaced a broken catch basin frame at 47 Garfield St. Streets Division crews restored pavement and parkways impacted by water and sewer repairs, installed a bench and two bike racks and removed parking meter posts on Marion Street.

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