



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending March 31, 2023**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 3:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, April 4:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Wednesday, April 5 (First night of Passover observed):
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
- Thursday, April 6 (Second night of Passover observed):
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, April 7:
 - No meetings scheduled

**COVID-19 Weekly Reports are posted at www.oak-park.us/covid19
just click on the *Status report bulletin* heading**

Early voting continues at Village Hall – Early voting continues all weekend at Village Hall for the April 4 Consolidated Municipal Election. Voters can cast a ballot from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday. Note that Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day. Voting takes place at designated polling sites on Election Day – [click here to search Election Day polling sites](#). More information about early voting in Oak Park is posted on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Yard sign recycling – Once the April 4 Consolidated Municipal Election concludes, residents will be able to recycle yard signs through a special drop-off coordinated by the Public Works Department. Corrugated plastic signs and aluminum frames can be dropped off for recycling between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays starting April 5 through April 19 in the first-floor lobby at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. The corrugated plastic and aluminum frames used in yard signs are not eligible for recycling through the Village's residential recycling program, so residents are asked to refrain from disposing of the signs in their recycling carts and instead use the drop-off system at Public Works.

Reduced-cost parking permits – Participants in the Oak Park Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program are now eligible for reduced-cost parking permits. The Village Board recently adopted the initiative as a step toward its goal of ensuring community affordability. Eligible residents will be able to purchase a quarterly Village parking permit for a reduced flat fee of \$50, equating to individual savings of between 57 to 81 percent,

depending on the type of parking permit. Village staff intends to work with community stakeholders to identify other potential groups to include in the near future.

Free COVID-19 testing this Sunday – The Oak Park Health Department is hosting a special COVID-19 testing event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Sunday, April 2 at Lindberg Park, 1150 N. Marion St. With families returning from spring break travel, the event offers a chance for residents to make sure they are not bringing COVID-19 with them into the classroom and workplace. All testing is free and both rapid and PCR testing is available. More information about COVID-19 testing in Oak Park is available at www.oak-park.us/testing.

Yard waste collection begins next week – Weekly collection of yard waste returns April 3 for residential properties served by the Village's refuse hauler. Bundled brush no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs and vines will be picked up on regular refuse collection days. A green yard waste sticker must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container. Stickers are \$3.10 each and available at most grocery stores, as well as Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Residents are urged to look for alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or [composting](#). For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Employee news – Scott Triner is the newest member of the Information Technology Department after joining the organization as an IT Operations Specialist this week. Scott graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's in Computer Science and has acquired several IT trade certifications. For the past five years he worked in end-user support and system maintenance for companies of various sizes and industries.

In Case of Emergency (ICE) packets available through Township – Oak Park residents can request an In Case of Emergency (ICE) Packet that contains a medical information form to be stored in the freezer, where it can be easily located by paramedics in the event of an emergency. The initiative is a new collaboration between the Oak Park Township and Oak Park Fire Department intended to better prepare residents for instances when emergencies strike. The packet also includes a decal to be placed on the front of the freezer to draw paramedics' attention to the fact a completed ICE Packet is inside. ICE Packets are available for pickup at the Oak Park Township Senior Services Center at 130 S. Oak Park Ave. For more information, contact 708.383.8060 or seniors@oakparktownship.org.

Artists sought for mural project – Artists are being sought to create murals that will continue the transformation of the railroad retaining walls along the Green Line corridor from dull, blank concrete into canvases as part of the Oak Park Area Arts Council's Mini-Mural Program. Each artist selected receives \$750 for materials prior to beginning the project and another \$750 upon completion. The deadline to apply for the first round is May 13. A second round of applications will be accepted until June 17. Find more information, including the program application form, at www.oak-park.us/minimural23.

Be cautious of electricity scammers – If someone calls or knocks on your door promising a better deal on electricity, be cautious – you could be misled into switching to a supplier that will cost more. The Village is recirculating this message after a report of an unscrupulous

solicitor visiting the home of an Oak Park resident earlier this month. Salespeople who offer to save you money may ask for your account number or to see your bill. Most likely they are selling a low introductory rate or trying to get your account number so they can switch you to a different provider without your permission. Representatives from the Village or its electricity supplier, [MC Squared Energy](#), never solicit door-to-door or by telephone. More information, including some basic guidelines to help avoid scams, is available on the Village website – [click here to view](#).

Visit Oak Park appoints Executive Director – Visit Oak Park appointed Annie Coakley as its next Executive Director, the marketing organization announced this week. Since 2014, Coakley served as Executive Director for Downtown Evanston. Previously, she spent 16 years with the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development. According to the announcement, Coakley will use her experience to address an immediate to-do list that includes a strategic planning initiative to chart Visit Oak Park's future, developing and managing upcoming marketing campaigns, and building stronger relationships with Visit Oak Park partner communities. She will join the organization on May 1.

Update for 828 Woodbine Ave. – This week Village officials met with representatives from the Cook County Health Department and the Illinois EPA, as well as the property owner of 828 Woodbine Ave. While additional trenching was taking place on March 29, an underground storage tank was discovered at the rear of the property near the alley. The Oak Park Fire Department is taking the lead to work with the home owners and an environmental contractor to remove the UST and remediate the issue as soon as possible. The Fire Marshal has also followed up directly with neighbors who have previously expressed concern over the oil spill.

Resurfacing of Various Streets – The 2022 street resurfacing improvements resumed on March 20 with construction layout, tree pruning, and saw cutting. This week, concrete curbs and sidewalks were removed on one side of the street. Locations are to be graded and prepared for replacement over the next few days. The underground contractor began adjusting utility structures on March 30. Affected residents received notices and parking passes.

Annual Sidewalk Program – The deferred sidewalk program from 2022 will begin next week. Work will largely be contained in the north half of town. Sidewalk work will occur on one side of the street to allow for ADA access during construction.

2023 Division St. Water and Sewer Improvements – Work began late last week on the watermain improvements between Fair Oaks Ave. and Lombard Ave. Work is expected to continue in this area through the end of next week. Affected residents received notices and parking passes.

2023 Water Main Valve Replacements – The replacement of the two valves at Augusta/Grove and Berkshire/Grove started earlier this week and will be complete by March 31. Pavement patching, curb replacement, and landscape restoration for all sites will be scheduled for the coming weeks.

Pleasant & Marion – The carpentry contractor for the new development is installing trusses and sheathing for the sixth floor. Interior wall framing for the maisonette units is in progress this week, and window installation is ongoing for the site.

Nicor Inspection Project – This week the contractor for the Nicor Gas project is televising the 1100 block of Cuyler Ave and 800 block of Lombard Ave. Partial lane closures are anticipated.