



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending April 19, 2013**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- April 20:
  - Earth Fest, 10 a.m., Public Works, 201 South Blvd.
  
- April 22:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m. room 215
  
- April 23:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- April 24:
  - Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS, 201 S. Scoville
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - HPC/Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- April 25:
  - No scheduled meetings
  
- April 26:
  - No scheduled meetings

**Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):**

- April 29: Village Board Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (exec) followed by open meeting
- May 6: Village Board – Swearing In reception, 7:00 p.m., room 101, followed by Village Board Swearing in, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- June 2: Board Outreach Event - Day in our Village, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Scoville Park

**Heavy rains keep crews busy** – Heavy rains Wednesday and Thursday kept Public Works crews from several divisions busy clearing flooded streets and keeping sewers flowing. Nearly five inches of rain was recorded at the Public Works Center between noon Wednesday and noon Thursday. Despite the heavy rain and standing water in some areas, no streets were closed. A couple of dozen residents did call to report water in basements and yards. The majority of the basement flooding were building, not sewer, issues. Luckily, the storms did not produce high winds, so no tree damage was reported. In other Public Works areas, the Forest Division is pruning parkway

trees between Chicago Avenue and Division Street, working from Austin Boulevard toward East Avenue. The private contractor also continued street sweeping.

**Construction update** – The phase of the project to replace a water main under Ridgeland Common is expected to be completed on Mon., April 22, and Ridgeland Avenue reopened to traffic. Then, beginning on Tues., April 23 traffic on Oak Park Avenue is scheduled to be detoured at Lake Street and South Boulevard as part of a project to install new sewer and water mains on North Boulevard and Kenilworth Avenue. Oak Park Avenue is expected to be closed for about a week. As with the Ridgeland project, pedestrians will have access to the Green Line stop during construction.

**Budget wins top national award** – The Village has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the [Government Finance Officer Association \(GFOA\)](#) for fiscal year 2013. To earn the award, the Village had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. Our budget was assessed as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications vehicle. GFOA judges used 14 mandatory criteria within these categories to determine those entities who would receive the award. Special recognition goes to CFO Craig Lesner and Budget Director James Harris III whose dedication and attention to detail were essential to creating the document that earned the GFOA award. I believe we made substantive improvements to the 2013 budget process. As we begin the 2014 process in the next few months, we expect to continue the pursuit of excellence in our budget document.

**Earth Fest is Saturday** – The Village's fourth annual celebration of green living – Earth Fest – is scheduled for 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Sat., in the LEED Gold-certified Public Works Center. In addition to being a zero-waste event, this year's fest will offer residents the opportunity to drop off items that are not part of the regular recycling program, including blue jeans, glasses, hearing aids, prescription medication, compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs), cell phones, rechargeable batteries and corks. The Public Works Center also will be open for tours, allowing kids and parents to explore the snow plows, heavy-duty trucks and other equipment essential to public works services. More details are posted at [www.oak-park.us/earthfest](http://www.oak-park.us/earthfest).

**Comprehensive Plan focus groups begin** – The first in a series of three small-group sessions is scheduled for 7 – 9:30 p.m., Tues., April 23, at OPRF High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave., as the Comprehensive Plan process starts getting more specific. Participants will drill down into the 11 quality-of-life topics prioritized at the February visioning event. While the consultant is to have a professional facilitator in each group, Village staff also has been assigned to each group to help answer any questions that might come up. Similar sessions are scheduled for May 14 and June 5. More than 400 invitations went out to residents who had expressed an interest in participating, so we are hoping for a good turnout.

**First Village Manager passes** – Oak Park's first Village Manager, Mark Keane died last week in Sedona, Arizona. He was 93. Keane, who was a native Chicagoan who was hired here when he was 34 years old, served as Oak Park's Village Manager from 1953 – 1962. He went on to have a distinguished career, including deputy assistant secretary of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. He also was executive director of the International City Manager's Association, where

he founded the organizations retirement corporation. He last visited Oak Park in 2003 when the Village celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the adoption of the village manager form of government. While here, he was the grand marshal of our July 4 parade. A story and nice photo of Keane were published in the OP/FYI newsletter in 2003 – [click here to view](#).

**Online mapping** – Beginning the process of gathering data sets for the news web site, the Communications Department created a custom Google map highlighting the 59 designated historic landmarks in the Village. Using data supplied by the Historic Preservation Department, the map illustrates one of what we hope will be many ways to visualize and publish data online. The map is still a work in progress, but to take a look, just follow this link – <http://goo.gl/maps/So8db>.

**Cleanest restaurants recognized** – The Health Department and Board of Health recently recognized 10 local restaurants for their food service sanitation efforts. The restaurants received the Johnson Restaurant Award, named for Oak Park's first lunchroom that operated in the 1890s at 124 Lake St. The award is presented each year to restaurants that consistently meet or exceed state food safety standards. This year's winners were chosen from 79 eligible restaurants responsible for some of the most complex aspects of food service and meal preparation, including cooking, cooling, reheating and serving. The awards are based on scores from a 45-point inspection survey. This is the 28th year that the Johnson Restaurant Awards have been presented. Recipients receive a door decal and a recognition certificate from the Health Department. The winning restaurants are [Marion Street Grille](#), 189 N. Marion St.; [Aripo's Venezuelan Arepa House](#), 118 N. Marion St.; [King & I](#), 105 N. Marion St.; [Cucina Paradiso](#), 814 North Blvd.; [Penny's Noodle Shop](#), 1130 Chicago Ave.; [Jerusalem Café](#), 1030 Lake St.; [Buzz Café](#), 905 South Lombard Ave.; [Flat Top Grill](#), 726 Lake St.; [New Rebozo](#), 1116 Madison St.; and [Eyrle](#), 128 N. Oak Park Ave.

**Video showcases restaurant inspectors** – If you have ever wondered what is involved in ensuring our community's restaurant are clean and safe, [check out this VOP-TV video on YouTube](#). Joe Kreml followed Health Department sanitarians Cameron Hendricks and Kathleen Berens-Haas as they conduct inspections and teach the importance of safety in the kitchen. Illinois requires certified health departments to inspect all food establishments within their jurisdiction at least twice each year to check for state food code violations and make sure they are corrected. In 2012, the Health Department's Environmental Health Division performed 1,185 inspections of some 250 Oak Park establishments that provide food to the public, including full-service restaurants, grocery stores and health care and child care facilities. Sanitarians also work to educate food handlers, both on-site and in a formal classroom setting. The goal of the video is to increase awareness of the Village's ongoing efforts to help ensure safe and successful food establishments in Oak Park.

**Web site testing set** – As the Village prepares to roll out the newly redesigned website, a series of controlled usability testing sessions have been scheduled for April 24 at the main Oak Park Public Library. Residents who volunteered through a survey have been given the first opportunity to participate, but the invitation may go wider depending on response. The goal is to host four to six separate groups of five to seven people each for approximately one hour periods between 1:30 and 9 p.m. Participants will be given a series of specific tasks, but also have the opportunity to comment and make suggestions. Breakthrough Technologies, the vendor who developed the new site, will have a professional facilitator on hand to manage the

testing, which will not be open to the public for control purposes. Our goal is to have a true cross section of the community. A report will be compiled after the testing is complete.

**Arrests made in last year's shooting** – Two Chicago men have been charged in connection with the shooting death of a 25-year-old man last June in the 700 block of North Austin Boulevard near Chicago Avenue. Using surveillance video, police were able to identify the suspects and make the arrests. The two men were each charged with one count of first degree murder and are being held without bond. Police say the motive for the shooting was retaliation for an earlier altercation between the alleged shooter and the victim. Chief Tanksley praised the excellent work of his detectives and credited the cooperation and support of the FBI's Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, Chicago Police District 15 Commander Barbara West, Chicago Police Area North detectives and the office of the Cook County State's Attorney with making the arrests possible.

**Police calls for service up** – Calls to police increased slightly in March, after an unusually low number in February. Police responded to 2,633 calls in March, up from the February total of 2,135, which was a decrease from January's 2,580 calls. Medium-priority calls such as accidents with no injuries, continued to be the largest category of calls in March, representing nearly 40 percent of total calls. The number of high-priority calls, which represented about 34 percent of all calls in March, also was up from the February total, which was lower than in January. Police fielded 901 high-priority calls in March, compared to 731 in February and 880 in January. Response times remained low in March, with officers responding to high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 32 seconds, a decrease from February's four minutes and 10 second average response time and January's three minutes and 37 seconds. So far this year, Oak Park Police have responded to more than 7,300 calls for service.

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