



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending May 2, 2014**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- May 5:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- May 6:
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
  - Property Tax Workshop/Senator Harmon, 7 p.m., room 201
  
- May 7:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. room 101
  - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
  
- May 8:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

**May 18 – save the date:** The Village Board of Trustees are asked to save the date on Sun., May 18 from 8 a.m. to noon for a Board retreat.

**Recycle paper, old clothing Saturday** – The Public Works Department will host recycling events for both personal papers and old clothing from 9 a.m. to noon tomorrow (May 3). An industrial shredder will be available for residents who wish to safely dispose of documents containing personal information to help prevent identity theft. Each household is limited to two bags or small boxes. Only items with personal information such as canceled checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information will be accepted. The Department also has partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation to recycle old clothing and apparel of all types and in any condition, which is sent to developing nations to repurpose. Acceptable items include shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels.

**Conservatory plant sale this weekend** – The Oak Park Conservatory will hold its 29th annual plant sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., tomorrow (Sat.) and from noon to 3 p.m., Sunday. A variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers - most grown in the Conservatory - will be offered.

**Improvements to overnight parking pass system in high demand** – Since the Village launched the new overnight, on-street parking program in March there have been 1,636 accounts opened online through May 1. Some 5,178 passes were issued via

the online portal. Of these passes issued, 826 were paid, generating \$5,782 in revenue.

**Aggregation update** – Staff have continued to disseminate information residents need to take advantage of the Village’s electricity aggregation program, including choosing Constellation’s all-green option. The May *OP/FYI* newsletter, which already is [posted online](#), should be arriving in mailboxes today and tomorrow with a [main story](#) focusing on the deadline. The deadline also is the focus of the lead story on the [Village website](#). A how-to video is airing on our [YouTube channel](#) and on our cable station available to subscribers on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T Uverse channel 99. A display ad also appeared in this week’s Wednesday Journal and will appear again on May 7, the day before the deadline. We have provided materials to various organizations to share with their constituents and have facilitated considerable social media buzz.

**Postal advisory council** – The U.S. Postal Service has asked the Village to help promote its efforts to recruit volunteers to serve on a local customer advisory council for Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park. According to information provided by the Postal Service, the advisory council is intended to provide a forum for customers to meet with postal representatives to discuss concerns, ideas and suggestions for improving customer satisfaction. Postal officials say they also will work through the council to help disseminate information on new or changing local programs, policies and procedures. Applications are available in Post Offices in Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park. Anyone with questions or seeking more information is asked to call Postal Service Customer Service at 630.260.5783.

**Earth Fest report** – Saturday’s Earth Fest event the Public Works Center included 45 vendors and more than 500 attendees. The event included recycling demonstrations, ideas on planning green block parties and food trucks offering a variety of food from vegan to organic. This was the fifth year for the event.

**Public Works activities** – The Streets Division continued patching potholes and repairing water utility openings throughout the Village. The division also continued parking lot and Marion Street viaduct cleaning projects as well as repairing the timber retaining wall adjacent to Village Lot 115 on South Boulevard at Maple Avenue. The Water and Sewer division repaired a water main break at 1046 Belleforte Avenue, a broken sewer lateral at 1018 Hayes Avenue and the Village’s side of the water service at 208 N. Ridgeland Ave. In addition, crews completed flood patrol in various sections throughout town during rain showers. The Forestry Division planted a tree at Percy Julian Middle School on April 25 in celebration of Arbor Day, while crews and contractors also continued grinding stumps in preparation for parkway tree planting.

**Leaf blower restrictions in effect** – The Public Works Department is reminding residents that gas-powered leaf blowers louder than 65 decibels or that don’t meet federal emission regulations may not be used in Oak Park from June through September. The ban, which was adopted following a recommendation from the Environment & Energy Commission, applies to both landscapers and homeowners. Gas-powered blowers that emanate fewer than 65 decibels and meet emission standards may be used during the ban if they have been tested and approved by the

Village through the Public Works Department. Should you receive any inquiries, please have them call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Employee news** – The Public Works Department recently welcomed a new engineer. Joseph W. Powers has assumed the responsibilities of an Engineering Technician I, including preparing project drawings from field survey information. Powers, who has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Notre Dame, comes to the Village after working as a civil engineer with a private firm in St. Charles.

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