



## Village Manager's Report Weeks ending May 5, 2017

### Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, May 8:
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- Tuesday, May 9:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Wednesday, May 10:
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Public Works Center
  
- Thursday, May 11:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation, 7:30 p.m., room 201

**Ethnic Festival is Saturday** – The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Ethnic Festival is set for 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., tomorrow (Sat. May 6), at Julian Middle School. Festivities will get underway with a parade beginning at the school. Parade participants will line up at 9:30 a.m. at Washington Boulevard and Cuyler Avenue. The route will be north on Cuyler, west on Randolph to Harvey, north on Harvey to Pleasant, west on Pleasant to Cuyler, and south on Cuyler back to the school. The festival also will be celebrating World Languages Day. [Click here to see the event flyer and map of the parade route...](#)

**Quarterly financial report** – The financial report for the first quarter of 2017 will be included in today's agenda packet. The report also will be [posted on the Village website for public review](#). The Finance Department prepares a quarterly financial report and analysis to provide elected officials and staff with a year-to-date financial summary that compares actual activity to that projected in the budget. This 2017 first-quarter report has been reformatted from the previous version to have more of an accounting/financial statement focus. Please note that numbers and classifications within the report are unaudited and subject to change. A cover memo in the report from Chief Financial Officer Steve Drazner provides a detailed explanation of the report's content.

**Electric aggregation enrollment underway** – The electricity aggregation enrollment process began this week with mailings to customers who already participate as well as those who might want to join in the community program for the first time. Electricity customers who receive a letter from *Constellation Energy Services*, but

already participate in the Village's aggregation program will be enrolled automatically after May 23, unless they choose to opt out by following the instructions in the letter. Electricity customers who use another power provider, but want to join the Village program, will need to follow the instructions in the letter and contact Constellation directly. [Click here to read more...](#)

**Vehicle sticker sales to begin** – Sales of Village vehicle stickers for the 2017/2018 season begin next week as renewal notices go out Monday to the owners of vehicles registered to Oak Park residents. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to purchase and display a Village sticker annually before July 15 to get the lowest rate. The rate increases by \$20 after the deadline and failure to display a valid sticker also could result in a \$75 ticket. A current vehicle sticker is needed to purchase a parking permit. Communications messages will encourage current sticker holders to renew online and new residents to contact Parking Services to purchase a sticker for the first time. Those who renew online also have the option to receive next year's renewal notice via email, eliminating the need for a paper notice sent by mail. The online renewal system will go live Monday. Information on this year's vehicle sticker program was [published in the current issue of the OP/FYI newsletter](#). The message will be disseminated periodically via all communications channels including social media right up until the deadline.

**Comments sought for parking review** – As part of the Village Board's comprehensive review of Oak Park's wide array of parking rules and regulations, public comments are being solicited via the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/whatdoyouthink](http://www.oak-park.us/whatdoyouthink) for Monday night's board meeting. This latest comment page focuses on standardizing overnight permit times and identifying potential new spaces using current restrictions on two of the Village's most traveled daytime commuter routes – Austin Boulevard and Harlem Avenue north of Division Street, the only Oak Park section of Harlem where the state allows on-street parking. These two sections of the Village share similar traffic patterns, but differ greatly in parking demand and regulations. The public is invited to review information related to the discussion topic, including a video, and post comments until noon, Monday, which will give staff time to share comments with the board prior to the meeting that evening. Comments are moderated to eliminate spam and any inappropriate language, but all comments posted to date are visible to all and will remain so as the study continues. Visitors to the page also can view comments related to the first meeting on signage.

**Celebrating Building Safety Month** – For the second year, the Development Customer Services Department is participating in [Building Safety Month](#), a public awareness campaign to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures. The public is invited to stop by Village Hall and pick up information regarding responsibilities when excavating, how to handle dealing with lead paint, backyard and pool safety, and a variety of other safety tips.

**Downtown construction update** – Comcast began installing a fiber optic line this week to serve the Emerson redevelopment project and nearby businesses downtown. The project requires trenching through the intersection of Marion Street and North Boulevard, and boring under the Village parking just north of North Boulevard (Lot 10). Engineering Division staff worked with Comcast to plan the project so it would have minimal effect on parking. However, some traffic disruptions are occurring during construction hours, but flaggers are on hand to ensure the safe flow of

vehicles. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of next week. In other construction downtown, the underground work for street lighting at the Emerson project site is scheduled to begin next week, but should not affect traffic on Lake Street.

**Chicago Avenue construction update** – With new concrete curbs and gutters in place on the north side of Chicago Avenue, work will shift next week to the south side as improvements continue between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. Work on the remaining permanent street striping also is scheduled to begin next week from Belleforte east to Austin Boulevard. This is the final phase of the complete resurfacing of Chicago Avenue from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard that began last year.

**Water/sewer/alley improvements** – Water main replacement began this week on Taylor Avenue between Harrison and Flournoy streets. Once the work is completed, crews will replace individual residential water lines and transfer them to the new to the new main. Crews hope to wrap up the work prior to the [What's Blooming on Harrison festival](#) set for Sat., May 20. Underground drainage improvements continued this week on alley segments under construction, while pavement removal continued on the alley north of Augusta Boulevard between Kenilworth and Grove avenues. Four more residents within the project's boundaries have opted to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed, bringing the total of participants to 28.

**Public Works activities** – Street Division crews moved planters and began preparing sites for the art to be displayed in the annual outdoor sculpture walk, which will be held this year in the Arts District along Harrison Street. Crews also began installing the new parking regulation signs as part of the pilot program to clarify and simplify messaging. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sink hole at 220 N. Kenilworth Ave. and a fire hydrant damaged in a vehicle accident at 1116 Garfield St. Crews also patrolled streets during the heavy rains, clearing sewer inlets as needed to minimize street flooding. Forestry contractors continued removing damaged and diseased parkway trees, landscaping and removing stumps at various locations. In-house Forestry crews focused on caring for newly recently planted young trees, including removing any remaining burlap root coverings and attaching watering bags.

**Employee news** – Long-time Village employee Fred Gutierrez is the new Building Maintenance Contract Coordinator. In his new role, Fred will oversee all maintenance contractors and vendors, and provide oversight to all building maintenance and repair projects. His role also entails managing building maintenance supplies and materials. Fred, who brings more than 35 years of experience as a building maintenance professional to the job, has been with the Village since 2001. He has worked in both the Building Maintenance and Water & Sewer divisions of the Public Works Department. Five new Police officers were hired this week, two of whose academy training was waived because they are already state-certified police officers in the Village of Stickney. Joining the department to immediately begin Oak Park's 18-week training and evaluation program will be Sean Piondexter, who has been a certified police officer since 2012, and Richard Foytik, an Oak Park resident, who has been a certified police officer since 2013. Kamile Sutaite, who has a bachelor's

degree in criminology and is fluent in Lithuanian; Arturo Vera, who has a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and is fluent in Spanish; and Michael Rumoro, who also has a bachelor's degree in law enforcement, will start the 11-week Chicago Police Academy on Monday.

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