



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending March 14, 2014**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- March 17:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m. room 130
  - Reception in Council Chambers, 7 p.m.
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- March 18:
  - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
  
- March 19:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
  
- March 20:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215

**Police on the lookout for impaired, unbuckled revelers** – Police are conducting special traffic patrols and stepped-up enforcement through St. Patrick's Day, Mon., March 17, targeting drivers under the influence and motorists who aren't wearing safety belts. The stepped up patrols are part of the national [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) program that helps fund the cost of additional hours.

**Audit schedule set** – The Finance Department has established the schedule for the audit for the year ending Dec. 31, 2013. Preliminary work has been underway since the year ended and the detailed tasks of preparing the audit has begun. The first draft of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and management letter for the year is scheduled for May 23. [Click here to see the full schedule.](#)

**Snow response continued** – Public crews responded to two snow events this week for a season total of 37 events. Another 4.1 inches of snow fell, bringing the accumulation for the season to an incredible 85.5 inches. According to our records, this season now ranks as the second snowiest since record keeping started in 1928. The 1978/79 winter season saw the most snow with a total accumulation of 89.7 inches.

**Pothole patching in full swing** – The Public Works Department is in full pothole-patching mode as the freeze/thaw cycles increase in frequency. When Streets Division crews are not plowing, at least one crew works to fill potholes. The number of repeated snow events and weekend storms has meant crews have only been able to work on potholes on a single Saturday. However, a crew will be working this weekend. To date, 60 tons of pothole patching material has been ordered. About 150 tons of

material was purchased for all of 2013, as this season's records are likely to include potholes as well. The Village maintains all roadways within the corporate limits, including Washington Boulevard and Ridgeland Avenue, which are state highways. In addition, the Department maintains half of the perimeter highways on our borders, which include the east side of Harlem Avenue, south side of North Avenue, west side of Austin Boulevard and the north side of Roosevelt Road. The first priority is filling potholes on perimeter and main streets such as Oak Park Avenue, Ridgeland Avenue and Madison Street. Residential streets are secondary, unless we learn of significant potholes that need to be addressed immediately. We also respond to calls and emails from residents who report potholes in the neighborhoods.

**Snow impacts traffic lights** – Street Lighting Division crews had to clear snow from LED traffic signals, which do not produce enough heat to melt the snow. The blowing, wet snow could have obscured traffic signals and led to accidents. This is the first time in the more than 10 years LED traffic signals have been used that the problem has occurred. Crews also had to replace a street light pole damaged by a vehicle at Harlem Avenue and Erie Street.

**Water main breaks** – Weather also had Water & Sewer Division crews repairing water main breaks at 926 S. Taylor Ave. and 114 N. Oak Park Ave. Crews also repaired a water service leak at 214 N. Austin Blvd. and unthawed a frozen water service line at 115 N. Kenilworth Avenue, as well as cleaned sewer inlets at various locations throughout town to ease street flooding caused by melting snow and ice.

**Aggregation program update** – The second of two public meetings on the Village's electricity aggregation program was held Thursday evening at Village Hall. As with the first meeting held last week, an overview of the program was presented and next steps outlined as the Village prepares to go back onto the open market to seek bids from providers. The meetings were intended to gather public input into how the [Community Choice Aggregation Program](#) will be administered. The Plan of Operation and Governance has been amended to reflect terms and conditions for the upcoming contract period, June 2014 to June 2015. This amended plan comes to the Village Board for consideration at Monday's regular meeting.

**Tree trimming continued** – Forestry Division crews continued trimming parkway trees, focusing on the 500 and 600 blocks of Woodbine Avenue, the 500 block of North Oak Park Avenue and the 600 block of Forest Avenue. Village contractor Winkler trimmed trees on the 700 and 1200 blocks of Columbian Avenue, 1000 block of North Elmwood Avenue and on Fair Oaks Avenue and Berkshire Streets. Removal of parkway trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer is underway south of North Avenue. Forestry personnel have distributed door hangers at various locations notifying property owners of the pending removal of the infested parkway trees.

**Sewer backup protection grant cycle underway** -- Applications now being accepted for financial assistance to install an overhead sewer or a backflow prevention system to protect homes from backup during a heavy rain event. Eligible homeowners may qualify for a grant of 50 percent of the total cost of sewer backup prevention improvements, up to a maximum of \$3,500. Anyone who meets the program guidelines can apply, regardless of income. Details on the program, including the application materials, are [posted on the Village website](#). Interested residents are

urged to contact the Housing & CDBG Programs Division at 708.358.5410 or email [housing@oak-park.us](mailto:housing@oak-park.us) for more information.

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