



Village Manager's Report
Weeks ending March 3, 2017

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, March 6:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, March 7:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Wednesday, March 8:
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101

- Thursday, March 9:
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council, 3 p.m., room 101
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- Friday, March 10:
 - No scheduled meetings

Health assessment survey begins – The Health Department has initiated the *Community Health Needs Assessment* process undertaken every five years as part of the state certification process. Working with the Oak Park Township's Community Mental Health Board, the River Forest Township Mental Health Committee and the Rotary Club of Oak Park and River Forest, an online survey has been prepared to gather community input to help set future public health priorities, including behavioral health and developmental disabilities. The survey, which is posted at www.oak-park.us/needsassessment, should take no more than about 20 minutes to complete and all respondents are anonymous.

Parking review update – Plans are in place to gather public input into the parking review process that will be similar to what was done for the I-290 discussions. Communications staff has created an overview web page at www.oak-park.us/whatdoyouthink that explains the process and outlines a tentative schedule for the topics to be reviewed. The page also includes a brief video overview of the process. A separate web page for each topic will be created a week in advance of each meeting that will provide an overview of the specific topic, a brief video and any materials available for review. Visitors to the page will be able to post comments related to the current discussion topic that will be shared with the Village Board prior to the public meeting. The opportunity to comment will be promoted through the

Village's usual public information channels, including social media. As with the I-290 process, the link shared with the community will go directly to the page for the specific topic scheduled to be reviewed.

Sales tax data report – Data provided by the Illinois Department of Revenue shows that Village sales tax receipts for 2016 surpassed \$6 million for the first time. Preliminary annual state data has Village revenues of \$6,177,008 from January through December 2016, a 3.4 percent increase over the \$5,977,630 in sales tax revenue reported in 2015.

Lake Street plans presented to businesses – Village staff and representatives of the design consultant met with Downtown Oak Park businesses to gather feedback on planned [improvements to Lake Street](#). Staff reports that responses from the business operators were positive, especially with the decision to separate the work downtown into two segments – Harlem Avenue to Marion Street and Marion Street to Forest. Phasing the work in this way should reduce the impact on the central business district.

Fire Department Report – The Oak Park Fire Department responded to 519 calls in February, bringing the annual total to 1,074 through the first two months of 2016. Both February and January calls are down from last year, a decline the department attributes to the lack of snow and ice. Calls for emergency medical services were up slightly as a percentage of all calls, the 341 calls in February representing 66 percent of all calls. The 78 general service calls represented the second largest category in February at 15 percent, followed by 37 good intent and 37 alarm initiated calls at 7 percent, and the seven fires/hazardous calls representing 5 percent of the monthly total. The average response time was four minutes and 32 seconds, with crews responding to EMS calls in an average of four minutes and five seconds. Fire personnel had contact with 346 patients in February. Of the 298 patients transported to a medical facility, 160 required advanced life support services. Crews responded to 12 fires in February, three at structures, including the early morning incident at 316 Washington Blvd. that severely damaged a six-flat building. Fire Prevention Bureau staff began inspections for the build-out of the new restaurant at 150 Forest Ave. and tested sprinklers for the low-rise portion of The Emerson development on Lake Street.

Public Works activities – Street Division crews continued sweeping streets, picking up litter in the business districts and Village parking lots, and filling potholes. Water & Sewer Division crews traced sewers on Lake Street as part of the planning for future improvements and repaired a broken water service at 300 S. Oak Park. Ave. Tree pruning continued with activity focused on Lombard Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Division Street. Contractors also removed diseased and damaged trees throughout town.

Kids' fest is Saturday – The Park District and its volunteer Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory will host a free family event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun., March 5 at the Conservatory. The event also will feature George the double yellow-head Amazon parrot, who lives in the Conservatory's tropical room. Hands-on educational activities and self-guided tours are planned. [More information is posted online.](#)

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