



Village Manager's Report Week ending Feb. 23, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 26:
 - Executive Session, 6 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, Feb. 27:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, Feb. 28:
 - Historic Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., Main Library, 834 Lake St.
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, March 1:
 - Plan commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Friday, March 2:
 - No meetings scheduled

Board goals now online – The 2018-2019 Village Board goals are posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/boardgoals. Visitors to the page will see the core values followed by icons representing each goal. Each icon links to a page with details that particular goal. In addition to the dedicated, short url, links to the goals page also are posted in the *useful links* box that appears on all website pages that contain information about the Village Board.

Composting goes interstellar – Staff enlisted the crew of the iconic Starship Enterprise to help promote [Compostable](#), the Village recycling program for organic refuse. A video conceived and created by Media Production Manager Joe Kreml urges residents not to *Klingon* to the old ways of recycling and to make composting their prime directive. IT Operations Director Tomas Kiliukvicius (aka Commander Pavel Chekov) demonstrated skills far beyond those of a typical network specialist, while IT Office Coordinator Linda DeViller embraced the color blue. [Click here to view the video...](#)

Police program garners new interest – A recent social media post about a long existing Police security inspection program generated positive responses when reintroduced recently. Oak Park Police have for many years offered free security checks of homes and businesses through the Resident Beat Officer program. The typical security inspection includes an evaluation of all door locks, windows and

entrances as well as garage doors and windows. The inspection includes recommendations for improvements to deter burglaries, which represented nearly 20 percent of local crime last year. To schedule an inspection appointment, property owners are urged to [contact their Resident Beat Officer](#) or email police@oak-park.us.

Day in Our Village is recruiting – Recruiting is already underway to attract participants and volunteers for the 45th annual *A Day in Our Village*, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement scheduled for Sun., June 3. In addition to participants who set up booths, volunteers also are needed to donate an hour or two of time well before the event, distributing promotional literature and hanging posters around the community, as well as help out at the event. Anyone needing more information on participating or volunteering to help can call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us. Exhibitors can reserve a space online at www.oak-park.us/diovregistration.

Artists needed – The Oak Park Area Arts Council is managing three separate public projects, each offering an opportunity for local arts to display their talent and perhaps earn a sale or a stipend. The search for 12 pieces of art for the seventh annual Oak Park Sculpture Walk has begun, with a March 30 deadline. Artists also are being sought to paint 20 murals as part of the ongoing program to transform the railroad retaining walls along the Green Line corridor from dull, blank concrete into canvases. The Arts Council also is seeking artists to create hand-painted banners that will be installed on about three dozen new streetlight poles along Harrison Street in the Oak Park Arts District. Artists are invited to visit www.oakparkareaartscouncil.org or email info@oakparkartsdistrict.com for more details.

Municipal service delivery statistics – The upcoming issue of the *OP/FYI* newsletter will include the annual overview of services provided to the community by municipal employees. The March/April issue of the newsletter should begin arriving in residential mailboxes by the end of next week. However, if you would like an early look, the newsletter already is posted online – [just click here to view](#).

Miscellaneous construction updates – South Boulevard is expected to reopen to westbound traffic next week after being completely closed between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street to allow operation of a construction crane. Site cleanup continued this week where the former District 97 administrative building and Robinson's Ribs Restaurant were demolished on Madison Street east of Home Avenue. Engineering staff is taking steps to ensure pedestrians are safe along the outermost perimeter of the demolition site. Data collection surveys resumed this week for next construction season's road and utility projects.

Public Works activities – Crews were on the streets again Saturday (Feb. 17) as another nearly two inches of snow fell. Streets also were salted Wednesday (Feb. 21) in advance of falling temperatures following the heavy rainfall. As the snow melted, Street Division crews focused on filling potholes, picking up litter and street sweeping. Street Lighting Division crews repaired several traffic signals including at Oak Park Avenue at Madison and Lake streets, and at Harvey Avenue and Lake Street where weather-related power interruptions and outages occurred. Street Lighting Division crews repaired damaged cables in the 1000 block of north Oak Park Avenue. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired broken fire hydrants at Cuyler Avenue and Harrison Street and at Washington Boulevard and Euclid Avenue, and water

services at 900 Forest Avenue and 700 Gunderson Avenue. Pruning of large parkways trees is expected to wrap up next week. Work currently is underway on Cuyler Avenue between Division Street and North Avenue.

Employee news – The skills within the Law Department continue to be noticed beyond the Village, with Assistant Village Attorney Rasheda Jackson winning a legal writing award and Village Attorney Paul Stephanides named to new roles with two professional organizations. An article penned by Rasheda titled *The Illinois Tort Immunity Act: A Checklist for the Municipal Attorney*, was awarded third place in the [Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association's](#) annual writing competition. She received a plaque from the association, whose members include 242 practicing local government attorneys across the state. Meanwhile, Paul was elected vice president of the same state association and selected to chair the Home Rule Attorneys Committee of the [Illinois Municipal League](#). As committee chair, Paul will play a key role as the association's members discuss, provide input on and review legal matters, litigation, legislation and regulations involving home rule municipalities.

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