



Village Manager's Report Week ending March 2, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 5:
 - Executive Session, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, March 6:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Historic Preservation Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Wednesday, March 7:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- Thursday, March 8:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Friday, March 8:
 - No meetings scheduled

Village Hall to host early voting – Village Hall will host early voting for the 2018 Primary Election beginning Monday (March 5) and continuing through March 19, including weekends. Installation of voting machines began yesterday in room 101. Grace-period registration also will be offered during early voting hours. Given the lower turnout typical for a primary election, voting should not disrupt daily business in Village Hall. More information on early voting, including hours, is posted on the Village website - [just click here](#).

Second IMET payment received – The Village recently received a payment of \$30,378 from [Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund \(IMET\)](#), the second payment since the fund was defrauded of \$50 million in 2014. To date, the Village has recovered \$60,869 or about 10 percent of the amount in the fund. Over the last few years, IMET has been actively attempting to recover the stolen funds. At the time of the fraud, the Village had about \$613,000 invested when the fund was permanently frozen by IMET following discovery of the incident. Oak Park was among the more than 200 Chicago-area municipalities, school districts, park districts and other public entities that had invested tax dollars in the IMET local government pool.

Commission referrals – Four applications have been referred to the Plan Commission for consideration. A recent request to amend Article 9 (Site Development Standards), Section 9.3 (Accessory Structures and Uses) and Subsection (A)(5)(a) of the Zoning Ordinance to change the existing requirement that detached accessory structures

must be set back was continued for further discussion. The Commission will consider adding *Physical Therapy Clinic* to the medical use category list in Article 8 (Uses), Section 8.3 (Use Restrictions), Table 8-1: Use Matrix. If approved, the Commission then will consider a special use permit for a 1,840 square foot in clinic in the Arts District at 207 Harrison St. Finally, the Commission will consider creating a new Zoning Ordinance Section 8.4(E) (4) "for requests for reasonable accommodations to be reviewed and acted upon in accordance with federal, state and local laws and regulations." While the Zoning Ordinance no longer requires the Village Board to make such referrals to commissions, the recommendations of the Plan Commission will come to the Village Board for a final decision.

Recruiting farmers – Work is well underway to recruit farmers for the 43rd season of the Oak Park Farmers' Market set to open on May 19. The Communications Department worked with the market manager and commission members to ensure all of the required forms and guidelines were updated and [posted online](#) so that the recruitment process could proceed quickly and efficiently. More than two dozen vendors participated last year and space is limited. The recruitment process must start early to ensure all applicants are properly vetted and meet the strict participation guidelines that govern the Oak Park Farmers' Market.

New water payment vendor – The Finance Department is working to launch a new payment system that will make it easier for consumers to review and pay their water bills online. Customers will be able to make a quick, one-time payment without registering, but those who create an account can set up automatic, recurring payments, save payment information for later use and view usage and payment history. In addition, customers who set up accounts will receive email reminders when the bill is ready and a confirmation after payment is made. The improved consumer interface will be provided by [InvoiceCloud](#), but will interface with the [BS&A Software](#) solution already in place.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The westbound lane of South Boulevard has reopened between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street after being closed to allow operation of a construction crane. Cleanup continued this week on Madison Street east of Home Avenue where the former District 97 administrative building and Robinson's Ribs Restaurant were demolished. Data collection field work for next construction season's road and utility projects was completed this week. The Engineering Division has applied for a cost-sharing program through the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District that allots funding to help municipalities address flooding issues.

Public Works activities – Improved weather conditions allowed Street Division crews to return to routine activities, including sweeping streets, filling potholes and picking up litter. Crews also patched pavement where repairs to water mains were made and placed 30 planters along Chicago Avenue between Austin Boulevard and Ridgeland Avenue in preparation for spring planting. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired broken sewer frames at 1122 S. Lombard Ave. and at Randolph Street and Pennsylvania Way. Crews also repaired water services at 837 N. Taylor and 1134 Wisconsin avenues. Tree pruning contractors are working on Taylor Avenue between Division Street and North Avenue, as they continue to move east. Pruning of large parkway trees should be completed next week, with plans to go back through the winter pruning section to trim smaller parkway trees and complete punch list items.

Parkway trees exhibiting structural deficiencies are being removed in various locations as needed.

Employee news – The [Star Trek themed composting video](#) produced by the Communication Department and featuring IT Department staff has found fans beyond the community. WGN-TV aired the video on its morning show this week, while the hosts discussed its creativity and humorously lamented their inability to produce such fun and informational content. The station also promoted [the segment on its Twitter feed](#).

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