



Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 13, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 16:
 - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, April 17:
 - Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force, 8 a.m., Public Works Center
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, April 18:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101

- Thursday, April 19:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - Collaboration for Early Childhood, 5:30 p.m., room 101

- Friday, April 20:
 - No meetings scheduled

Earth Fest preparations – Preparations are well underway for the ninth annual Earth Fest, set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., April 21 at the Public Works Center. A table has been reserved for the Village Board among the 70-plus vendors expected to participate in what promises to be the biggest Earth Fest yet. In addition to the wide range of vendors providing hands-on activities, environmental services, free samples and green goods for sale, this year's event will include tours of the Public Works Center, kids' activities, live entertainment and on-site recycling for eyeglasses, sun glasses and hearing aids, all of which are not eligible for disposal through the Village's blue bin recycling program. More information is [posted on the Village website](#).

High school tours, public meeting – Imagine OPRF has scheduled tours and a community meeting to gather feedback on the first round of potential options for improvements to Oak Park and River Forest High School. Visitors can tour the high school at 10 to 10:45 a.m., Sat. April 14 and 5:45 to 6:15 p.m., Mon., April. 16. The community conversation is scheduled for 7 p.m., Mon. April 16 in the high school's south cafeteria. [Click here to view the event flyer](#). More information is [posted on the OPRF High School website](#).

Bag use decline considered good news – Fees for single-use bags declined in February, as retailers reported charging for about 27,300 fewer bags than in January, the first month the fee was implemented. The Village share of the bag fee – five cents per bag – was \$9,912.72 in February compared to \$11,277.69 collected in January. Retailers reported charging customers for more than 198,200 bags in February, compared to about 225,500 bags in January. March fees are due on April 25 and further decline could be considered an indication of how well the community has embraced the program.

Permit processing update – Applications for building permits have grown steadily this year, with 841 applications filed through March. Some 363 permit applications were submitted in March, compared to 243 in February and 235 in January. The Permits Processing Division of the Development Customer Services Department also reports that nearly half of all applications have been initiated online via the [VillageView portal](#). So far this year, \$426,000 in permit fees has been collected on projects valued at more than \$31 million. Staff had conducted nearly 2,000 inspections through March. [Click here to view the full report](#).

Alley Improvements – Underground drainage work continued this week on alley segments under construction as part of the first round of planned improvement projects. Pavement removal has begun in the alley between Division and Thomas Streets, and east of Oak Park Avenue. Fifteen residents within the boundaries of the alley projects have elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed. Participants are able to take advantage of the Village's contract unit price, which is lower than the cost a single property owner would pay to hire a contractor.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Soil borings will be collected next week along the Lake Street corridor for the upcoming project, creating some temporary parking losses adjacent to the work, but allowing for uninterrupted traffic flow. Madison Street will be reduced to one lane in each direction most of next week as utility lines for the Rush Oak Park Hospital improvement project are relocated. Relocation of Village water and sewer lines on the Holmes Elementary School expansion site is expected to continue for another week. The sidewalk at the southeast corner of Marion Street and North Boulevard will be closed for another week as Union Pacific Railroad contractors continue repairs to the viaduct. The Oak Park leg of the Lake Michigan pipeline project remains on track for May completion, and will be followed by paving Fillmore Street from Highland Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

Public Works Activities – Freezing temperatures meant a small contingent of workers was back on the streets Monday (April 9), salting bridges and streets for the minor accumulation. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a valve box at Linden Avenue and Greenfield Street, a sewer lateral at 47 Chicago Ave. and a water service at 1121 S. Harvey Ave. As temperatures warmed later in the week, crews began completing water service upgrades as part of the lead abatement program at 316 Washington Blvd., 839 N. Grove Ave., 634 N. Harvey Ave. and 1183 Home Ave. Street Lighting Division crews began repairs to a traffic signal knocked down in a vehicle accident at East Avenue and Madison Street. Crews also repaired a circuit on the 500 block of Madison Street after a contractor caused a small fire in the service box. Street Division crews began resetting pavers on Lake Street in the downtown

area, activity that is expected to be ongoing for several weeks. Crews also delivered compost to the Village parking lot at Highland Avenue and Madison Street for participants in the [Village composting program](#). Crews also continued patching streets where water line repairs had been made and picked up litter in the business districts and Village parking lots. Forestry Division crews delivered woodchips requested by residents and continued preparing for spring parkway tree planting.

Collaboration director stepping down – [Collaboration for Early Childhood](#) Executive Director Carolyn Newberry Schwartz has announced her intention to step down in August. The search for a predecessor has begun with the help of a national executive search firm that specializes in recruitment of chief executives for nonprofit organizations.

Employee news – The Police Department celebrated the promotion of four new sergeants and said goodbye to one longtime officer at a ceremony last Friday at Village Hall. The new sergeants are Joshua Bertels, Angelo Episcopo, Michael Rallidis and Nicholas Velez. Episcopo previously served as a detective while Rallidis, Velez and Bertels were patrol officers. Meanwhile, the Police Department bid a fond farewell to Robert Primak, who retired after more than 30 years with the Department. Primak most recently served as the Resident Beat Officer for Zone 4. Community Policing Sergeant Dave Jacobson will serve as the Zone 4 RBO until a replacement is selected.

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