



Village Manager's Report Week ending March 22, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 25:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, March 26:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124

- Wednesday, March 27:
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., Main Library, 834 Lake St.
 - Historic Preservation Commission, Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, March 28:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Friday, March 29:
 - No meetings scheduled

CDBG infrastructure eligibility grows – Based on the latest information from the [American Community Survey](#), Oak Park now has 14 census tract areas eligible for Community Development Block Grant infrastructure improvements, up from 10 the last time the analysis was done five years ago. Using the new data provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a map has been created to illustrate low- and moderate-income areas within the Village where the federal CDBG funds can be expended for infrastructure improvements. The new map displays existing areas that remain eligible in gray with a gray border. The census tracts in gray with a blue border represent newly eligible areas. The census tract in red with a red border represent past areas that are no longer eligible. [Click here to view the new map...](#)

Lake Street project communications planning – Key stakeholders in the 2020 Lake Street improvement project gathered at the Public Works Center this week to learn details of how they and the community will be kept in the information loop once work begins next year. Representatives of the public relations firm hired by the project contractor joined staff from the Public Works and Development Customer Services departments to discuss a detailed communications strategy created to ensure information is shared in a timely and effective manner via a dedicated website, email lists and one-to-one interaction. The Chamber of Commerce, Oak Park Economic

Development Corporation, Downtown Oak Park, Hemingway Business District and Pleasant Business District all sent representatives to the meeting to offer feedback and input that will help improve communications messages and approaches. Attendees at the meeting also agreed to serve on an ad hoc committee that will meet regularly to ensure effective outreach to residents, businesses, customers and visitors likely to be most affected by the project.

Parking pilot final phase – The third and final phase of the [Parking Pilot Program](#) has begun with improved signage going in along residential streets throughout the test area. Some 1,000 signs will have been removed, moved, replaced or added to the area by the end of April, with the goal of simplifying and streamlining messages for improved clarity and compliance. The new regulations impose a uniform three-hour time limit on parking from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday – Friday. However, residents who reside on the affected blocks will be exempted from the time limit with their valid Oak Park vehicle stickers. [Click here to see photos](#) of the new signs compared to the old ones...

Screen Break at Village Hall - More than 160 kids of all ages participated in three Village-sponsored family-friendly events held as part of the community's *Screen Break* initiative. The Fire Department hosted tours of the Central Fire Station Monday afternoon, while the youngsters toured the Police Department Tuesday afternoon. Following the tour of the Police Department, kids learned about the Village Hall beehives at an event hosted by the Sustainability and Forestry divisions. The three events were part of a larger effort among community organizations in Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park to encourage kids to put their screens away and get out and play during Screen Break week from March 18 – 23 – [click here to see the full calendar of events](#).

Alley improvements prep – Logistical preparation for alley improvement projects planned for the upcoming construction season has begun. The pre-construction meeting was held last week, with work expected to start April 1. Fifteen alleys are scheduled for reconstruction this season at various locations in the Village. Resident notifications, alternative parking for those who temporarily lose access to their garages and signage were among the topics discussed during the planning session.

South Boulevard update – Installation of the ornamental street lighting began this week on South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street. Next week, contractors are scheduled to work on the Harlem Avenue traffic signal and install the last of the bluestone sidewalk adjacent to the alley by the Eleven33 development. In the meantime, this block of South Boulevard remains open only to westbound traffic until required striping is applied.

Construction updates – The east-west alley behind the Albion at Oak Park development on Lake Street is expected to remain closed at Forest Avenue for another three weeks as masonry work progresses on the north side of the structure. Broadband provider Wide Open West is expected to begin installing fiber-optic cable in April on Randolph Street between Harlem and Euclid avenues. The majority of the work will be in the parkway using directional boring. Traffic on Randolph Street traffic

should not be affected, but some temporary closures of side streets may be necessary as the work progresses.

Public Works Activities – The approaching spring season had Forestry Division crews out installing watering bags on the young trees planted last fall to ensure their health as summer heat returns. Tree pruning continued on parkways south of I-290 west of Oak Park Avenue. Water & Sewer Division crews also focused on the potential challenges of a new season, clearing sewer inlets to help minimize the chances of street flooding during a heavy rainfall. Crews also repaired a catch basin at 6535 North Ave. and a water line valve at Woodbine Avenue and Berkshire Street. Streets Division crews filled potholes on side streets, restored parkways where underground utility repairs had occurred, collected litter and power washed the Marion Street viaduct and Clinton Avenue stairway. Street Lighting Division crews repaired a faulty vehicle detector loop at Home Avenue and Madison Street.

Employee news – After successful completion of the required one-year probationary period, the Fire Department this month officially welcomed Bret Mercado to its ranks. Brett, who was a licensed paramedic when he signed on with Oak Park, also was required to pass the Loyola Emergency Medical Services system test and complete basic firefighter and hazmat operations training at the Fire Academy in Romeoville. In Public Works Department employee news, Kent Boedeker is a new Engineering Technician and Mary Avinger was promoted to Administrative Assistant after nearly 20 years as an Administrative Secretary. Kent, who was a GIS analyst before joining the Village, has a bachelor's degree in in Geographical Information Systems from Indiana University.

###