



Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 26, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 29:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, April 30:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, May 1:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Thursday, May 2:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, May 3:
 - No meetings scheduled

Earth Fest is Saturday – Oak Park's annual celebration of green living is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., April 27 at the Public Works Center. The Village Board will have a table among the wide range of vendors offering hands-on activities, environmental services, free samples and green goods for sale. This year's event also will include tours of the green-built Public Works Center, kids' activities, live entertainment and on-site recycling for prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses and hearing aids, which are not eligible for disposal through the Village's blue bin recycling program.. [Click here to read more...](#)

CDBG funding – The Department of Housing and Urban Development has notified the Village that \$1,776,251 will be available for local distribution through the Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant programs. The \$1,633,190 in CDBG funds is a decrease of 3.13 percent from the prior year and the \$143,061 in ESG funds is an increase of 4.4 percent. Funding for these programs is based on the number of qualifying governmental entities in any given year, so year-to-year fluctuations are common. The Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee will recommend local funding allocations to the Village Board in June. These federal funds are for the 2019 plan year, which runs from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. CDBG funds activities targeted to low and moderate income persons, and ESG funds go to agencies that assist persons experiencing or at risk for homelessness.

Village Hall parking lot update – Work to improve the Village Hall Parking lot got underway this week. A fair number of parking spaces remained available within the lot, but many of the Police and official pool cars have moved to the adjacent side streets. A majority of employees also have begun parking in designated areas on neighborhood streets. When the lot is closed completely – most likely beginning Tues., May 7 – a comprehensive parking management plan that includes extensive signs will be in effect to help guide visitors and employees to nearby parking options. More details, including a map of parking options, are [posted on the Village website](#). An internal communications plan for employees has been implemented. The project is expected to continue into June.

Parking amnesty results – The Village collected \$60,564 from 1,892 citations during the [parking ticket amnesty program](#) offered from Feb. 4 through April 4. Given the age of many of the citations, difficulty contacting scofflaws was expected. In addition to giving vehicle owners an opportunity clear their records, the amnesty program also helped streamline implementation of the new unified parking system about to be implemented. By not having to import so many outdated files into the new system, has helped to simplify the launch process.

Pleasant Street demolition update –The Historic Preservation Commission voted to deny a Certificate of Economic Hardship to demolish residential structures at 1014 and 1018 Pleasant Street. The resolution to deny the request, which was approved at a special meeting on April 24, was preceded by a public hearing. The HPC found that the economic hardship claim was not substantiated. The applicant can appeal the denial to the Village Board.

ZBA project reviews – The Zoning Board of Appeals will review three applications at its May 1 meeting. Noah Properties, LLC is seeking a special use permit to build 10 three-story townhomes at 6033 North Ave.; The Language and Music School is seeking a parking variance at 509 N. Oak Park Ave.; and Saint Catherine Saint Lucy School, 27 Washington Boulevard, is seeking a front yard setback variance to build playground equipment along Humphrey Avenue.

Grant application denied – The Engineering Division was notified this week that the Village would not share in the \$5.2 million in federal dollars allocated through the Illinois Department of Transportation for infrastructure projects related to the [Illinois Safe Routes to School Program](#). The Village had sought \$199,151 to install rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) along school routes at major street crossings. The majority of infrastructure projects chosen by IDOT in this round were awarded to areas outside of the greater Chicagoland area. [Click here to see a list of recipients...](#)

Building Safety Month – The Permit Processing Division of the Development Customer Services Department will showcase [Building Safety Month](#) in May by providing information on topics such as how to safely use electrical cords, create exit paths and determine what projects need permits. The campaign, designed to raise awareness about building safety, is sponsored by the [International Code Council](#) in cooperation with a diverse partnership of professionals from the construction, design

and safety communities and the support of corporations, government agencies, professional associations and nonprofit organizations.

Movie screening to help homeless – The Oak Park Homelessness Coalition will screen [The Public](#), a dramatic adaptation of how an act of civil disobedience turns into a standoff with police when homeless people in Cincinnati take over the public library to seek shelter from the bitter cold. The screening is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., May 15 at the Lake Theatre. Tickets are \$20 and will benefit the library and [Housing Forward](#). Tickets may be purchased online – [just click here](#).

Celebrating seniors – In recognition of *Celebrating Seniors Week*, the Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department will offer tips on choosing a contractor. The presentation, entitled *How to Choose the Right Contractor*, is scheduled for 2 p.m., May 7 in the Oak Park Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. The week of May 2 – 9 is dedicated to honoring, recognizing and serving seniors in Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park. More information is posted online – [just click here](#).

Madison Street work begins – Preliminary activities for the Madison Street improvement project continued this week, including transplanting several trees from medians to other locations around the Village. Crews also gave away plants to interested residents as workers attempt to salvage the median planters that are set to be removed as part of the project. Removal of the medians is tentatively scheduled to begin May 1 at Austin Boulevard, with work progressing west. In addition to targeted communications to the businesses along the corridor and neighborhood residents, construction updates are being posted at www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

South Boulevard status – Crews continued installing sidewalk furniture along the frontage of the Eleven33 development on South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street, which is now open to two-way traffic. Work will begin soon on the signal at Harlem Avenue, but no impacts to traffic are expected. Final landscaping is slated to begin in early May with final completion anticipated in early June.

Alley improvements – As alley work continued this week at numerous locations, storm sewers were installed north of Greenfield Street west of Marion Street, with pavement removal set to start next week. Pavement was poured in the alley south of Washington Boulevard between Harvey and Lombard avenues. Fifteen alleys are scheduled for reconstruction this season.

Construction updates – Rehabilitation of the bridge over I-290 at Oak Park Avenue resumed this week after a winter hiatus, with activity focused beneath the bridge structure, which should not affect pedestrian or traffic movements, but will require closing I-290 at night under state guidelines. Union Pacific Railroad crews will be working on the bridge over Austin Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat., April 27, which will reduce traffic to one lane in each direction. Broadband provider Wide Open West is still at work on Randolph Street installing new fiber optic cable between Harlem and Euclid Avenues. Traffic on Maple Avenue continues to be interrupted intermittently as crews install a storm water retention system for Rush Oak Park

Hospital. ATT is scheduled to repair a manhole next week on Marion Street adjacent to the Village parking Lot 10 entrance, but two-way traffic will be maintained by a flagger. Crews will restore the brick at this location as well as on Oak Park Avenue by Prairie Way just south of Lake Street where underground AT&T work also occurred.

Public Works Activities – Parkway tree planting is scheduled to begin next week, with more than 250 trees going in at locations throughout the community. Forestry Division crews also oversaw transplanting five large trees from medians on Madison Street to various locations in the community including the Dole Library and Village Hall. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a broken sewer line at 1020 Clinton Ave. and replaced a valve vault frame and lid at Lake Street and Euclid Avenue. Crews also upgraded a water service at 736 S. Harvey Ave. as part of the ongoing lead abatement program. Streets Division crews cut seven openings for various water and sewer repair work, with pavement restoration set to follow next week. Viaduct washing, filling potholes, and litter cleanup of business districts and Village parking lots continued as well.

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