



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending Mar. 1, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- March 4:
 - Candidate Forum, 5 – 6:30 p.m., Public Works
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers
- March 5:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
- March 6:
 - Proposed Code Changes Public Forum, 5 p.m., room 101
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- March 7:
 - BCAC, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):

- March 11: Village Manager Performance Goals, 7 p.m., room 101
- March 18: Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 8 a.m., room 130
- April 20: Board Outreach Event - Earth Fest, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Public Works

* * *

Code changes outreach – Two public forums have been scheduled to give property owners and managers, contractors, design professionals and the general public more information on the proposed changes to the building and property codes now under consideration. The forums are scheduled for 5 – 6:30 p.m., Wed., March 6 and 7 – 8:30 p.m., Wed., March 13 at Village Hall. Building & Property Standards Director Steve Witt, Fire Chief Tom Ebsen and Business Services Manager Loretta Daly will be on hand to discuss the proposed changes and answers questions. Information on the meetings and the changes has been distributed via our standard communications tools as well as through targeted outreach by Steve, Tom and Loretta. Should anyone ask you for details, please direct them to these individuals or to www.oak-park.us/codeamendments. A link to this page also is on the BPS page,

www.oak-park.us/building. In addition, the Building Codes Advisory Commission (BCAC) is scheduled to meet on Thurs., March 7 to review a synopsis of all proposed code changes, which will then be forwarded to the Village Board. At this time, we have not scheduled the second reading of the proposed Building Code changes for Village Board consideration.

Snow removal activities – The biggest snowfall of the season fell on Tuesday and Wednesday, dropping about four inches. By 3 p.m., Tuesday, 11 snow plows were on the streets. Smaller vehicles also were out clearing the sidewalks and overpasses near the mass transit stations, as well as school crosswalks. By 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, all main routes were clear and school crosswalks free of snow and slush. Six plows spent part of Thursday doing clean up at various locations in the Village. While snow showers continued, the plowing and salting combined with the relatively high temperatures to keep the streets clear. As temperatures dropped into Friday morning, the back side of the storm continued to generate lake-effect snow showers, adding another quarter inch or so to the week's total. Crews were out salting streets and keeping school crosswalks and sidewalks near the public transit stations clear. Meteorologists are reporting that the Chicago region had received more than 80 percent of the season's total snowfall in February alone.

Parkway tree trimming continues – Tree trimming continues in the area between South Boulevard and Chicago Avenue, from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue. Crews from both the Forestry Division and a private contractor are involved.

Carpet recycling program to begin – The Village has teamed up with Heritage Recycling LLC to provide curb side collection and recycling of used carpet and padding. The pilot program, which is similar to the current yard waste and bulk garbage sticker programs, begins March 1. During the pilot program, residential units may place an unlimited number of rolls out for collection so long as each has two blue stickers attached. Each roll must be no more than four feet wide (cut or folded) and not exceed 50 pounds. The rolls must be placed in a dry location such as on/ under a porch or in a garage. Program participants then contact the vendor via information on the sticker to arrange pick up. Stickers cost \$2 each and can be purchased at the Village Hall Cashier's Office. The cost for this program is the same as the cost for disposal in the landfill. The program was first mentioned in the [February OP/FYI](#), and will be further promoted via other means in the weeks ahead.

Parking lot signage pilot project – New parking lot signs soon will be going up along South Boulevard from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue as part of a pilot program to make the information clearer and more user-friendly. The new signage, which is the result of work by an internal ad hoc committee that began in the fall of 2012, will run for six months. The goal is to solicit feedback from customers that may help to refine the final approach to parking signage Village wide. Sign installations are expected to begin within the next several weeks. More details on the process to garner customer feedback will be provided as the pilot project moves closer to full implementation.

Electric vehicle charging station update – The electric vehicle charging stations installed in the Holley Court and Avenue parking garages this past December have



been well received by the public. Several users have taken advantage of the service, while also using the garage – such as this motorist who recharged recently at Holley Court. Typically, using a charging station requires a membership in a charging network. However, the Village allows vehicle owners to use its membership – they just have to ask at the security station in either garage. A full recharge takes about two to five hours, but most users likely will be just topping off while

they shop or run errands nearby. Staff will be monitoring usage over the coming year to determine if there is sufficient demand to expand charging station availability to other Village locations.

Daylight Saving Time returns soon – Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 a.m., Sun. March 10, when we set our clocks ahead one hour. We use the time switch to promote the reminder from the Oak Park Fire Department to use the change as a convenient reminder to replace the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This is an important message since experts say more than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but an estimated one-third have dead or missing batteries.

###