



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 9, 2014**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- May 12:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - HPC Education Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- May 13:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130

- May 14:
 - Condo Training Series, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m. room 101

- May 15:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - Plan Commission Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201

May 18 – save the date: The Village Board of Trustees are asked to save the date on Sun., May 18 from 8 a.m. to noon for a Board retreat.

Plant exchange is Saturday – Oak Park Conservatory's annual plant exchange is scheduled for Sat., May 10. Plants can be dropped off from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and then new plants picked up from noon to 12:30 p.m.

Vehicle sticker sales about to begin – Renewal notices will soon be in the mail as Parking Services launches the annual [vehicle sticker](#) renewal cycle. Mail notices are set to go out Monday to the owners of the nearly 28,000 vehicles registered to Oak Pak residents. Public information efforts will continue to focus on the advantages of online renewal, particularly the 10-percent discount for using the automated system. The online renewal service will be operational Monday. The \$20 late fee kicks in this year at the stroke of midnight, Mon., July 14, and the online system will begin assessing the late fee at that time. Last year, about 60 percent of sales were online, 30 percent in person at the Parking Services counter in Village Hall and 7 percent via mail. The remaining 3 percent of renewals last year were at the computer kiosks the IT Department set up at Village Hall in the final days of the renewal cycle.

ComEd substation construction update – ComEd was expected to begin erecting wall panels this week as work continues on the substation on North Boulevard just east of the main Fire Station on Euclid Avenue. Construction traffic likely will increase as the precast panels are delivered. This phase of the project is scheduled to be completed

by May 30. The fence then will be moved closer to the substation and the street reopened. However, parking along the street will not be recovered until a masonry wall covering is erected.

Animal license renewals up significantly – The Health Department reported a significant increase in animal license renewals this year, including online activity. As of May 5, some 2,377 pet licenses had been renewed, compared to 1,427 last year. Nearly 75 percent of this year’s renewals were online. For the first time, the 3,000 pet owners with email addresses on file were notified electronically that their dog or cat license was due for renewal, a strategy that likely contributed to the high renewal rate. May 1 was the deadline to renew.

Bike sharing survey underway – Oak Parkers interested in bringing bike sharing to the Village are invited to [take an online survey](#) as part of the study commissioned through the [Active Transportation Alliance](#). The study, which will serve as an addendum to our 2008 Bicycle Plan, is focusing on ways to bring bike sharing and other bike-related practices and infrastructure to Oak Park. [More information on the bike-sharing study and bicycling in Oak Park is posted on the Village website.](#)

West Nile Virus prevention efforts gear up – Thanks to a \$19,110 grant from the state and county health departments, our Health Department is ramping up its annual West Nile Virus (WNV) prevention efforts. The program again will focus on public education, since limiting the chances of being bitten by WNV-carrying mosquitoes is the best defense. In addition to the WNV telephone hotline, information in the *OP/FYI* newsletter and updates to the [Village website](#), the Department also will have an environmental health intern from Northern Illinois University augmenting staff efforts to survey the community for mosquito breeding sites, collect dead birds for testing and educate residents and businesses on WNV prevention. Predicting the prevalence of the disease in any given season is difficult, so state officials have yet to issue any information on how bad they think this season may be. Weather, numbers of birds that carry the virus, numbers of mosquitoes that spread the virus and human behavior are all factors that can influence when and where outbreaks occur.

Gardening gloves a hit on social media – As part of the West Nile Virus outreach campaign, Communications staff engaged residents on social media by sending out gardening gloves embossed with the “Fight the Bite” logo. Staff reported that interest in the campaign was high, with the postings generating some positive discussion on sites like Facebook and Twitter. The gloves were paid for with a grant.

Sculpture Walk update – The Public Art Advisory Commission is expected to complete selection of display sites this week for the annual outdoor Sculpture Walk. This year’s walk, which is scheduled to return on June 1, will feature 12 new works of public art in the Hemingway Business District along Oak Park Avenue between Ontario and Pleasant streets. A brochure with a map and descriptions of each sculpture will be available at the Oak Park Visitor’s Center and an interactive map will be posted at www.oak-park.us/sculpturewalk.

Capital improvements update -- Asphalt paving projects remaining from 2013 are underway on Belleforte and Cuyler avenues from Chicago Avenue to Augusta Street, as well as on Greenfield Street from Linden Avenue to Oak Park Avenue; Taylor

Avenue from Chicago Avenue to Iowa Street; and Harvard Street at Austin Boulevard. The pavement and parkways were restored following completion of the water main relining project on Lombard Avenue at I-290. Sewer cleaning and inspections at various locations in the Village are scheduled to begin the week of May 19. The water main improvement project scheduled for the 700 block of South Highland Avenue and on Van Buren Street from Cuyler Avenue to Harvey Avenue will start on Van Buren at the end of the month, and then move onto Highland when the school year ends in early June. Plans are being designed for alley improvement projects, including for the green alley program, with bids likely to be sought in late June and early July. Plans also are being designed for the season's local street resurfacing projects, with bids sought in early June. State-funded local road resurfacing is tentatively scheduled for an early June start date. The remaining work associated with the Chase Bank electrical improvements on Marion Street, just north of Lake Street, is complete and the road reopened to traffic.

Recycling guide available online – The Village's comprehensive recycling guide, [Beyond the Bin: Recycling in Oak Park](#), received its first substantive update in more than five years this week. The directory, produced by Karen Rozmus, the Environment & Energy Commission and Communications staff, offers an array of options for eco-conscious residents interested in going "beyond the bin" when it comes to recycling.

Public Works activities – Patching potholes and street openings where water utility repairs were done continued. A water main break was repaired at 1111 Clarence Avenue, a broken water service repaired at 1201 N. East Ave. and a water service upgraded at 834 Fair Oaks Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Contractor Waste Management began the seasons' second Village-wide street sweeping cycle. Tree-stump removals continued in preparation for spring planting as the final list of trees was given to planting contractor, Atrium Landscape. Parkway trees were trimmed at 1126 and 1136 Clinton Ave., and at 747 Wesley Ave. Contractor [City Escape Garden & Design](#) began planting flowers in the commercial district planters.

Paper shredding a hit – The paper shredding and used clothing recycling events at the Public Works Center this past Saturday attracted participants from more than 200 households. The clothing and apparel collection was co-sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation. The department is gearing up for the return of summer monthly electronics recycling, which begins May 31 and continues the last Saturday of the month through October.

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