



**Village Manager's Report
Weeks ending April 21, 2017**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, April 24:
 - Transportation Commission, 7:00 p.m., room 101

- Tuesday, April 25:
 - Home Buyer Seminar, 6:00 p.m., room 101
 - Board of Health, 7:00 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124

- Wednesday, April 26:
 - CDCAC, 6:00 p.m., room 130
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
 - Disability Access Commission, 7:00 p.m., Public Library 834 Lake Street
 - Community Design Commission, 7:00 p.m., room 101

- Thursday, April 27:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Friday, April 28:
 - No meetings scheduled

Earth Fest is Saturday – Oak Parks' eighth annual *Earth Fest* is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., this Saturday (April 22) at the Public Works Center. This year's celebration of green living will feature kids activities and dozens of vendors and organizations offering information, free samples and green goods for sale. Tours of the LEED Gold-certified Public Works Center and recycling of many items not eligible for disposal through the Village's regular program also are planned. More details are [posted on the Village website](#).

Deadline to renew pet licenses approaching – Residents are being reminded that all dogs and outdoor cats are required to display a current [animal license](#) by May 1. Pet owners who have received an animal license renewal application in the mail or via email are encouraged to [renew online](#). The online system allows pet owners to delete pets they no longer own and add new ones. Payment is made with a credit card, a receipt sent via email and the actual tag delivered in the U.S. Mail. Pet owners also have the option of mailing in their payment or coming to [Village Hall](#). Oak Park licenses more than 3,000 dogs and cats each year.

Discouraging parkway tree swings – As the weather warms each year, staff begins reminding property owners that while swings in parkway trees may appear fun, they

actually threaten the health of the trees as well as pose public safety concerns. The number of swings that pop up each season is not that great, but the risks associated with them can be serious. Not only can trees be damaged, but swing paths sometimes reach into parking zones and over sidewalks. Village ordinance prohibits attaching any man-made object to trees and shrubs located on parkways and other Village property, including rope, wire, nails, signs and posters. More information on the care of trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.

Telephone service legislation – The Citizens Utility Board is urging citizens and communities to vocally oppose proposed state legislation that would end traditional landline telephone service. Senior citizens and low-income individuals likely would be the hardest hit, CUB says, since mandated low-cost calling plans would be eliminated. The law also could affect 911 and medical monitoring services that tend to use more reliable via landlines, CUB officials say. They are urging Illinoisans to contact their legislators to oppose Senate Bill 1381 and House Bill 2691 by visiting SaveOurPhoneService.com or calling 1.844.220-5552. [Click here to read the CUB news release...](#)

Chicago Avenue construction – Foundations and wiring for new street lights have been installed on the north side of Chicago Avenue, as works continues on the final phase of the project between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. Temporary poles were installed to ensure proper lighting until the new poles are delivered by the manufacturer. Wiring for new street lights on the south side of the street is being installed this week. Spot repairs to sewers also were tentatively scheduled this week, with flaggers in place to maintain traffic flow during the work. Engineering Division staff continues to keep area business operators updated on the progress of project and any specific impacts.

Water and sewer main improvements – Underground utility work was completed at Taylor Avenue and Harrison Street, with pavement restoration expected by end of this week. Underground utility work will continue next week on Taylor Avenue between Harrison and Flournoy streets.

Alley improvements– Underground drainage improvements continued this week on alley segments set to be reconstructed this season, while pavement removal began on North Boulevard between Kenilworth and Oak Park avenues. Nine residents within the project's boundaries have opted to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed, allowing them to take advantage of the Village's contract unit price.

Miscellaneous construction projects – The fire hydrant on Lake Street adjacent to the Emerson redevelopment project downtown was relocated. Staff is awaiting the final revised schedule for underground electrical work and roadway excavation within the fenced construction site. The remaining work from the 2016 project to reset historic sandstone sidewalks was completed this week. The work in central Oak Park focused on resetting the 100-year-old sandstone sidewalk segments to help meet ADA standards and mitigate trip-hazards. Plans are to continue preserving the remaining sandstone sidewalk segments in upcoming years.

Public Works activities – Street Division crews repaired a street opening on the 600 block of South Lombard Avenue where a water line repair had been made, and

continued installing seasonal speed bumps in designated alleys. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired sewer laterals at 1127 Gunderson Ave. and 723 Woodbine Ave. and completed water service upgrades at 1167 Home Ave. and 831 and 835 N. Grove Ave. Crews also assisted with tracing water services on the 900 block of South Grove Avenue for an upcoming water and sewer main replacement project. Landscape maintenance began this week across the Village. Forestry contractors continued removing problem trees, while in-house crews worked with their Street Division colleagues to build publicly accessible compost and wood chip storage bins in the Village parking lot on the southwest corner of Madison Street and Highland Avenue.

Employee news – Cassandra L Hurt has joined the Community Relations Department. In her role as Community Relations Coordinator, Cassandra will assist Director Cedric Melton with strengthening outreach and collaboration efforts with area groups, as well as support the department’s mission of promoting positive quality of life for residents. She brings more than 20 years of experience in public and community service to the new role, including housing, employment, economic development and social services. Cassandra has a bachelor’s degree from Northeastern Illinois University with concentrations in public affairs and human services. Scott Brinkman is the new Streets Division superintendent in the Public Works Department. Scott has been with the Village since 1998, most recently serving as interim superintendent and a supervisor. Development Customer Services Director Tammie Grossman and Village Planner Craig Failor have been selected for membership in the [ELY Chapter](#) of Land Economics Society’s [Lambda Alpha International](#), a global society for top professionals. Members of the highly selective group are involved in ownership, management, regulation and conservation of land, as well as its development, redevelopment and preservation.

###