



Village Manager's Report Weeks ending May 12, 2017

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, May 15:
 - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, May 16:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m. room 102
- Wednesday, May 17:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7:00 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 p.m. room 201
- Thursday, May 18:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 7:00 p.m., room 215
- Friday, May 19:
 - No meetings scheduled

Sculpture walk poised to begin – Public Works crews completed work related to the public art for the annual [Sculpture Walk](#) that is scheduled to begin officially next week. The [Oak Park Area Arts Council](#) has scheduled a kick-off reception for 6 to 8 p.m., Sat., May 19 at Trattoria 225 on Harrison Street. Returning for its sixth year, the walk will feature 12 sculptures displayed outdoors in the Oak Park Arts District along Harrison Street between Ridgeland Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Visitors also will be able to download the free [Otocast](#) app on their smartphones to access information about the sculptures and hear descriptions of the work by the artists.

Distracted drivers ticketed – The Police Department's participation in the first-ever [Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week](#) resulted in 91 citations and two arrests during a special enforcement effort April 24 – 28. Members of Oak Park's community policing unit conducted targeted enforcement missions at various locations throughout the Village to focus specifically on motorists driving while on their cellphones, a particularly dangerous activity. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 3,500 people were killed and an estimated 391,000 injured nationwide in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2015. State law prohibits the use of hand-held cellphones, texting or using other electronic communications while operating a motor vehicle. Hands-free devices and Blue Tooth technology is allowed for persons 19 or older. Police say that while this special enforcement effort may be over, watching for distracted drivers has become a standard part of patrolling the community.

Farmers' Market volunteer recruitment – The Farmers' Market Commission held its annual volunteer recruitment night this week at the main [Oak Park Public Library](#). This informal orientation session provides anyone interested in the [Oak Park Farmers Market](#) an opportunity to learn more about becoming a part of this quintessential Village summer experience, which opens on May 20. The market now has a list of more than 100 residents, including commissioners, who are ready to help out if needed. In the meantime, the Communications Department is working with the commission to design and produce a new single-panel informational handout that will be part of its seasonal promotion effort. In addition, a dozen videos about the Farmers' Market and its farmers are [posted on the Village's YouTube channel](#).

Housing program participation – The Village received 33 eligible applications for the Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program by the March 3 deadline. Of those applications, 21 included grant requests, while the remaining 12 requested marketing services agreements only. The Housing Programs Advisory Committee likely will review applications at its June 21 meeting and then make referrals to the Village Board for review. The program is designed to encourage fair housing practices, expand housing options for prospective renters and improve the quality of the community's multi-family building stock. Grants provide up to \$10,000 for eligible building improvements. The owner must match the Village's contribution two to one and enter into an agreement with the Oak Park Regional Housing Center to affirmatively market all available rental units. Marketing services agreements allow owners to take advantage of the Housing Center's marketing services without a grant.

Fire Department report – Oak Park firefighter/paramedics fielded 543 calls for service in April, bringing the yearly total to 2,166. Calls for emergency medical services continued to dominate the data, the 352 EMS calls representing 65 percent of all April calls. The 68 general service calls represented the second largest category in April at 13 percent, followed by 51 alarms initiated calls (9 percent), 44 good intent calls (8 percent) and 22 fires/hazardous conditions calls (4 percent). The Department fielded nine fire calls in April, the most significant a house fire in the 1000 block of North East Avenue caused by an overheated dishwasher. The fire was contained to the kitchen area and was quickly extinguished, although the floor and cabinets were damaged. Field inspections for the build-out of the Coopers Hawk restaurant at 150 Forest Ave. are continuing, as are sprinkler inspections for the Emerson development downtown. The annual fire safety class held for every second grade class in the Village got a boost in April with delivery of a safety trailer provided by MABAS Division 11.

Downtown construction update – Underground work began this week for street lighting at the Emerson project site downtown. Work is scheduled to continue next week, but should not affect traffic on Lake Street. The sidewalk and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street by the project site will be closed during May from the new Maple Avenue to the east side of the development site. Comcast continued installing a fiber optic line to serve the Emerson development and nearby businesses downtown. Work includes trenching through the Marion Street and North Boulevard intersection and boring under Village the Village. Flaggers are on site during the construction hours to maintain traffic flow.

Chicago Avenue streetscape/resurfacing – Work continued this week on the south side of Chicago Avenue with curb improvements between Harlem and Belleforte

avenues. The existing roadway asphalt will be removed next week in preparation for resurfacing of this final section remaining from last year's complete resurfacing of Chicago Avenue from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Permanent street striping also is scheduled to begin next week from Belleforte Avenue east to Austin Boulevard.

Miscellaneous construction projects – Replacement of the water main on Taylor Avenue between Harrison and Flournoy streets has been completed and residential water services will be transferred to the new main next week. Underground drainage improvements continued this week on alley segments set to be reconstructed, while pavement removal continued on the alley north of Berkshire Avenue between Kenilworth and Grove avenues, the eighth alley segment of the season. Thirty residents within the boundaries of the alley projects now 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. Resurfacing projects carried over from last year began today (Fri., May 12) on Lombard Avenue between Van Buren and Adams streets and Taylor Avenue between Adams and Madison streets. In addition to resurfacing, these projects also include improvements at the corners to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Over the next few weeks, interns will inspect and catalog sidewalks with trip hazards and ADA deficiencies as part of the Village's annual trip-hazard inventory

Lake Michigan pipeline project – Work in Oak Park on the water line that will carry Lake Michigan water to the villages of Brookfield-North Riverside water is set to begin in late May at Harlem Avenue and continue into late November. The project will involve the entire length of follow Fillmore Street, which will be reconstructed as part of the project. Residents and businesses whose properties are adjacent to the construction route will receive letters detailing the work, garbage collection strategies and parking coordination prior to the start of actual construction.

Public Works Activities – Street Division crews assisted with the installation of the new permanent sculpture *High Beam* at the south east corner of Harrison Street and Lombard Avenue, as well as oversaw the installation of sculptures in the Oak Park Arts District for the annual sculpture walk. With the asphalt plants now open, crews also were able to fix street openings where water line repairs had been made. New installations also continued for the new signs that are part of the parking regulation messaging project. In addition, crews swept and cleaned the viaducts along North and South boulevards, delivered and picked up barricades for the annual Ethnic Festival Parade, filled potholes and completed a range of routine tasks such as cleaning up after vehicle accidents. Water & Sewer Division crews replaced water meters at 935 S. Kenilworth Ave. and 1221 N. East Ave., repaired a sewer lateral at 312 N. Kenilworth Ave. and installed water line taps at 1040 N. Lombard Ave. and 1042 Chicago Ave. Forestry Division personnel oversaw private contractors taking down diseased and damaged parkway trees, removing stumps and landscaping various public areas in the Village. Forestry crews continuing working with young trees planted in the fall, removing any remaining burlap root coverings and rope, and attaching watering bags. Spring tree planting started yesterday (Thurs., May 11), with plans to add about 365 new trees to the Village's urban forest.

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