



Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 11, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- April 14:
 - No meetings scheduled

- April 15:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- April 16:
 - Fair Housing Task Force Meeting, 5:30 p.m., room 101
 - Reinventing Government Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - OPAAC Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Permit Replacement Project, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- April 17:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215

- April 18:
 - No Scheduled Meetings

- April 19:
 - Intergovernmental Committee, 9 a.m., 105 S. Oak Park

Upcoming Village Board Special Meetings – The Village Board will have special meetings on both Monday, April 21 and Monday, April 28. Please be sure to place these dates on your calendar. The April 21 meeting will begin with an executive session at 6:30 p.m. followed by an open meeting to review the Citizen Survey results. The April 28 meeting (start time to be announced) will be to receive a recommendation from the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation related to the redevelopment proposal for the property locally known as Colt-Westgate near Lake Street and Harlem Avenue.

Paint exchange is Saturday – The annual [Great Paint Exchange](#) is Saturday at the Public Works Center. Residents can safely dispose of unwanted, but useable paint from 9 to 11 a.m. and get free paint 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Only half-to-full cans of *latex* paint will be accepted.

Burglary prevention seminar – Oak Park Police officers will join representatives of the Chicago Police Department and Cook County State's Attorney to present a seminar to

help property owners avoid being a burglary victim. The seminar is scheduled for 11 a.m., Saturday, at [Village Hall](#).

Area I-290 expansion meeting scheduled – Representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation have scheduled an area public meeting to address residents' concerns about plans to expand I-290. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., April 22 in the auditorium of the [Proviso Math and Science Academy](#), 8601 W. Roosevelt Road, Forest Park. IDOT officials involved in the [proposed expansion of the Eisenhower Expressway](#) will be joined by representatives of the Chicago Transit Authority to discuss the status of the project and address citizens' concerns. Our local watchdog group, [Citizens for Appropriate Transportation](#), will be involved as well.

Health contributors honored – Two individuals and three local organizations were honored with the Dr. William Fitzsimmons Public Health Award for their contributions to the health and well-being of Oak Parkers during National Public Health Week, April 7-13. The Fitzsimmons Award for Excellence in Public Health is named in honor of the Oak Park Health Department's medical consultant from 1976-1992. The annual awards are presented by the Board of Health and Department of Public Health. This year's winners are Dr. Paul Schattauer of the Green Medical Practice; Greenline Wheels; Mary Ellen Sjostrom, RN; the Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry; and Prevail. More details were included in a news release that is [posted on the Village website](#) and will be included in the May [OP/FYI](#) newsletter.

Top-scoring restaurants honored – The 10 restaurants scoring the highest for their food service sanitation efforts were announced this week by the Health Department. The annual Johnson Restaurant Awards, now in its 29th year, are based on scores from a 45-point inspection survey. This year's winners were [Aripo's Venezuelan Arepa House](#), 118 N Marion St.; [Cucina Paradiso](#), 814 North Blvd.; [Marion Street Grille](#), 189 N. Marion St.; [King and I](#), 105 N. Marion St.; [Eyrle](#), 128 N. Oak Park Ave.; [Buzz Café](#), 905 S. Lombard Ave.; [Eduardo's Natural Pizza](#), 6831 North Ave.; [Flat Top Grill](#), 728 Lake St.; [Boss Burrito](#), 1110 Westgate St.; and [TGI Fridays](#), 401 N. Harlem Ave. Recipients receive a door decal and a recognition certificate from the Health Department. More details are [posted in a news story on the Village website](#).

Street status update – Public Works Streets Division crews continued patching potholes throughout the Village and repairing streets that were dug out to repair water utility breaks. Waste Management, the Village's street-sweeping contractor, continued the season's first cycle. Public Works crews also began cleaning up debris in various parking lots and business districts.

Water & sewer work – Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at 827 N. Lombard Ave. and upgraded the public side of the water service at 1231 Hayes Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. The division also cleaned sewers in preparation for an upcoming sewer televising project.

Forestry moving into spring mode – Planning is underway for the spring parkway tree planting program. More than 300 trees are scheduled to be planted on parkways throughout the Village. Forestry Division crews also repaired split-rail fencing at various locations around town and began preparing the landscape planters for the front of the Public Works Center. In addition, numerous service requests were

completed, including removing a large hanging branch from a parkway tree on the 800 block of S. Kenilworth Ave.

Teaching abstinence – Health Department has been awarded a [Teen Pregnancy Prevention](#) grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health to fund the recently completed eight-week course focused on providing young adolescents with the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and pregnancy by abstaining from sex. Twenty-one seventh-grade parochial school students participated in the weekly program, which addressed the consequences of risky behavior, how to respond to peer pressure and refusal and negotiation skills. The program uses an [evidenced-based curriculum](#) recommended by the [Office of Adolescent Health](#) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create a positive, youth-centered learning environment through small group activities and role play.

Police activities update – Oak Park Police responded to 2,390 calls in March, down slightly from the 2,418 calls received in February and 2,398 calls in January. However, high-priority calls were up in March, totaling 815 compared to 732 in February and 804 in January. Medium-priority calls, such as accidents without injuries, continued to be the largest single category of calls in March, with 930 calls as compared to 1,020 in February and 1,007 in January. Police were on the scene of high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 15 seconds, down from February's response time of four minutes, six seconds and January's three minutes and 41 seconds. The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center fielded 5,001 calls in March with about 60 percent of the calls from Oak Park, a percentage that has held steady so far this year.

Fire Department March update – The Oak Park Fire Department responded to 548 calls in March, up about 10 percent over normal seasonal expectations. About 63 percent of the calls were for emergency medical services. Of the 338 patients, 263 were transported to a medical facility with 163 requiring advanced life support services. The backpack style *first-in* bags the department began testing in January to carry equipment to calls have received positive feedback from the medics. The bags, which national studies indicate may help reduce lifting injuries, have been expanded to all emergency response apparatus. Firefighters responded to six fires in March, including one caused by improperly disposing of smoking materials. The others fires were related to cooking incidents. Rapid response times continued in March, with firefighters being on scene in five minutes and 25 seconds, which is below the national standard of six minutes.

Making connections – Patrick Rollens, the Village's communications and social media coordinator, has joined the [Code for America's Peer Network](#). The network is designed to bring together local government innovators to share resources and best practices, and collaborate on common problems. [Code for America](#) is a nonprofit organization that connects cities with technologists, web developers and civic hackers to improve how government serves its constituents. The Communications Department initially contacted Code for America last year about the possibility of getting more involved with the organization.

Rozmus honored for ComPostable – Environmental Services Manager Karen Rozmus received innovation awards from both the Suburban Branch and the Chicago Metro

Branch of the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the [ComPostable Program](#). More than 500 households are participating in the Village composting program, which uses special collection carts where yard waste and food scraps can be combined. It is the goal of the Village to double participation this year. [Prospective participants can sign up online](#).

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