



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending Mar. 15, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- March 18:
 - Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 8 a.m., room 130
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- March 19:
 - Medical Reserve Corp, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- March 20:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- March 21:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215

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

- April 20: Board Outreach Event - Earth Fest, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Public Works
- June 2: Board Outreach Event - Day in our Village, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Scoville Park

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Code changes outreach update – The second of the two scheduled public forums on the [proposed changes to the building and property codes](#) now under consideration was held this week. Staff reports that attendance was similar to the first meeting on March 6 with about a dozen individuals coming out to listen and ask questions. No new issues were raised by attendees. Much of the discussion continued to center on the sprinkler requirement, further illustrating the need to make sure the limited impact of this particular proposed change is explained adequately. Questions and concerns raised by the public will be taken into consideration by the [Building Codes Advisory Commission](#) at its March 21st meeting to finalize a matrix for public review and Village Board review at a later date.

Grant to help with EAB response – The Forestry Division will be adding 100 extra trees to the 2013 planting inventory thanks to a \$30,000 grant through the [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus](#). This is the second time the Village has earned the grant, which is funded by the USEPA's [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#). The grant will be administered through the Mayors Caucus' [Mitigating EAB Impacts on the Urban Forest Municipal Grant Program](#). The Village will match the grant via in-kind services that are already planned as part of our response to Emerald Ash Borer, so there will be no additional cost to earn the funds. Competition for the grants was robust, according to the letter alerting the Village of the award. Some 157 grants were submitted, but only 30 were selected for funding.

Chamber names new director – Cathy Yen, a 19-year resident of Oak Park, has been picked to succeed Jim Doss as director of the [Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce](#). She will begin on March 18, just a few days before Doss officially retires on March 22. The chamber appointed Yen as interim director for a year, and then will decide to make her appointment official or conduct a search. Doss held the post for 12 years.

Capital Improvements update – Water and sewer main improvements on LeMoyne Parkway are continuing with new water services currently being installed. A similar major construction project is planned for Taylor Avenue between Randolph Street and South Boulevard. The work on Taylor is scheduled to begin the week of March 25 and likely will take about four months. A new water main will be installed, followed by new sewer services in the street. New water service lines then will be installed up to the valve (buffalo box) in the parkway for each property. Curbs and sidewalks also will be replaced, the street rebuilt and paved, and the parkways restored. Letters have gone out to all Taylor Street residents directly affected by the project, telling them of likely street closures from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and giving them a contact name and telephone number for questions and concerns. In other capital projects, replacement of the water main under Ridgeland Common is scheduled to begin in early April.

Public Works activities – The Water & Sewer Division repaired a water main break at 708 N. Oak Park Ave. and a water service leak at 820 S. Austin Blvd. Workers also repaired a fire hydrant damaged by a vehicle at 1447 N. Austin. The Environmental Services Division is preparing for Earth Month in April. Among the events planned are the Great Paint Exchange, paper shredding and Earth Fest. Event details were published in the [March/April OP/FYI](#) and will be re-promoted as the date nears. In other Public Works activities, tree trimming continued in the area between South Boulevard and Chicago Avenue, from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue, with crews from both the Forestry Division and a private contractor involved.

ComEd contest for not-for-profits – ComEd apparently is following [Nicor's lead](#) in sponsoring a contest to help a not-for-profit organization earn money for a green project. In celebration of Earth Month, ComEd will award a minimum of six, \$5,000 grants to 501(c)(3) agencies that submit and implement an idea, activity or project to educate the communities they serve about the benefit of being energy-efficient. The focus will, of course, be primarily on electricity savings. ComEd has not asked for help

spreading the word, choosing instead to send out invitations to qualifying organizations via direct mail. However, if you know of any organizations that may be interested, but did not receive an invitation, please direct them to ComEd.com/EarthMonthGrant for an application and more information. The deadline to enter is April 12.

Health award nominations -- Fri., March 22, is the deadline to nominate an individual or organization for the annual William Fitzsimmons Award that honors those who made exceptional contributions to improving the health of Oak Parkers in 2012. Nomination forms are available at [Village Hall](#) and online – [just click here](#). Completed forms may be dropped off or mailed to the Health Department. Nominations also may be made via e-mail to health@oak-park.us if the message includes responses to all fields listed in the original nomination form. The Fitzsimmons Award is named for the local physician and humanitarian who served as the Health Department's medical consultant from 1976 to 1992.

First-time homebuyer seminar – The [Housing Center's](#) free monthly first-time homebuyer seminar is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., March 26, at Village Hall. Seminars are held the fourth Tuesday of every month to help individuals interested in learning more about buying a home and securing a mortgage. Advance registration is not required, but if you know of someone who would like more information, please refer them to 708.771.5801.

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