



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 5, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- April 8:
 - No scheduled meetings
- April 9:
 - Condo Network, 7pm, room 201
 - Medical Reserve Corps, 7pm, room 102
- April 10:
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- April 11:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7pm, room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30pm, room 201

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

- April 13: Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9 a.m., Oak Park Township
- April 20: Board Outreach Event - Earth Fest, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Public Works
- May 6: Village Board – Swearing In, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- June 2: Board Outreach Event - Day in our Village, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Scoville Park

Paint exchange is Saturday – The Public Works Department will hold its popular paint exchange Saturday, offering residents an opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint or get free paint for a home project. Half-to-full cans of latex paint will be accepted from 9 – 11 a.m. Then anyone in need of paint can pick from the morning's collection from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Please refer anyone needing more information to 708.358.5700 or publicworks@oak-park.us.

Sewer Backup Protection Grant Program update -- During the first quarter of 2013, the Housing and CDBG Programs Division processed 32 applications for sewer back up prevention system grants. Of these applications, 16 were new this year, while 23 were on the waiting list from 2012. Seven applications were denied because the scope of work was not eligible under the program guidelines. The average cost of an overhead sewer system this year is \$6,081 and the average cost of a backflow prevention system is \$4,528, a decline from last year's costs. Approximately half of the funds budgeted for the program in 2013 have been committed or paid. Based on

these average costs, we likely will be able to fund approximately 29 more grants this fiscal year.

Dispatch center names new director – John R. Ferraro has been selected to be executive director of the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC), effective May 6. Currently deputy director for DuPage Public Safety Communications in Glendale Heights, he brings some 20 years of experience in public safety communications to the WSCDC. His past experience includes the Northwest Central Dispatch System in Arlington Heights, where he served as operations manager, training officer and a telecommunicator. He also worked part time as a telecommunicator for the Village of Deerfield Police Department. An eight-year veteran with the United States Coast Guard Reserve, John has an Associates of Liberal Arts degree from Oakton Community College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management and Leadership from Judson University in Elgin and is an adjunct faculty member at William Rainey Harper College, Palatine.

Community photo contest – A group of local nonprofits and agencies, including the Village of Oak Park, has teamed up to host a community photo contest from April 1 through May 1. Photographers are invited to submit Oak Park-related photos in five different categories. A jury of local community members will select winners from each category and one overall winner. Winners will receive a professionally produced print from Holiday Camera, and winning entries will be displayed this summer in the community gallery at Village Hall. Organizers hope to use other submissions, even those that don't win, in newsletters, magazines, brochures and websites to help promote Oak Park. [Click here for information](#) and contest rules,

ComEd Rate changes update – ComEd has begun the process of establishing its new rates for 2013-2014, which are expected to be below Oak Park's Community Choice Aggregation Program fixed rate of 5.79 cents per kilowatt hour. Village staff is working with aggregation supplier Intergrys to identify appropriate options for recommendation to the Board. It should be noted that ComEd does not offer a fixed rate as does Oak Park's program. In addition, residents and small businesses that enrolled in our program have been enjoying a rate substantially lower than ComEd's for the past 16 months, saving about \$20 per month for a collective savings of about \$4.3 million to date. Oak Park's aggregation program also secured its price for 100-percent renewable energy credits, the first in the nation, while the state portfolio standard which ComEd must follow requires only a fraction of the total power supply to be sourced from renewable energy. [Click here to review a chart](#) that compares ComEd's new rates with those of Oak Park's Community Choice Aggregation Program.

Oak Park film shoot – Hollywood continues to find Oak Park's look, feel and streamlined film permit process ideal, which can mean economic benefits for the local economy. The latest activity had Community Relations coordinating with ABC television on the new series [Doubt](#), which will premiere later this year. The new series, which filmed scenes for the pilot inside the Oak Park Arms Thursday (April 4), is a legal drama featuring a retired police chief turned attorney. With this and other productions, Community Relations works with the film companies to ensure minimal disruption in the neighborhoods.

Fire Department update – The Fire Department responded to 501 incidents in March, up slightly from February's 424 calls, but reflecting a more normal volume.

Emergency medical service calls continued to dominate activities, with the 313 incidents representing 62 percent of all March activity. General calls for service were second with 88, followed by alarms initiated (80) and fire/hazardous conditions (20). Crews responded to three fire incidents in March resulting in \$37,362 in total damage. The most serious incident was a kitchen fire at 620 S. Austin Blvd. Crews also responded to an incident in the 400 block of Wesley Avenue where a truck plowing snow from a private driveway caught fire. Fortunately the truck, which was ablaze when crews arrived, was not close to the house when the fire started. Two new stair chairs were put into service in March, providing for increased patient and crew safety by allowing patients to be glided down stairways rather than lifted and carried. The Department also took delivery of a new ambulance in March, some three weeks ahead of schedule. The new ambulance currently is in Fleet Services being outfitted and finished with exterior decals.

Community Relations quarterly activities update –The first quarter of 2013 continued to be brisk for the Community Relations Department, which had 410 contacts covering a wide range of diversity and quality of life concerns. Landlord/tenant issues were the largest single category with (128) contacts, followed by general information requests (47), graffiti tags removed(45), special events (36), general complaints (31), referrals to community resources (30), human relations concerns (20), fair housing issues (14), neighbor conflicts (14), diversity counseling sessions (13), new resident orientation (12), sign complaints (7), mediations (6), VOP-TV promotions (5) and film permits (2).

Capital Improvements activities – Water service installation is complete on LeMoyné Parkway. Contractor will start pavement work the week of April 8. Work associated with installing a new water main continues on Taylor Avenue between South Boulevard and Randolph Street. This phase of the project is expected to take two weeks.

North Boulevard sewer and water main improvements – North Boulevard will be closed to traffic from Kenilworth Avenue to Oak Park Avenue beginning the week of April 8 to install new sewer and water mains. The Village has coordinated the project with the affected businesses, residents and parking permit holders. Work also will involve utility connections on Oak Park Avenue later this month and require closing southbound Oak Park at North Boulevard. Construction on North Boulevard is anticipated to be completed in early June.

Ridgeland Common project update – Replacement of the water main under Ridgeland Common is scheduled to begin on Monday, April 8. The initial stage of the project will be connecting the new line on Ridgeland Avenue at North Boulevard. Ridgeland will be closed through April 15, with traffic detoured to Oak Park Avenue and Austin Boulevard.

Tree Pruning winding down – The Forestry Division continued in-house parkway tree pruning between Lake and Division streets, working from Austin Boulevard toward East Avenue. The section between South Boulevard and Chicago Avenue is complete.

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