



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending March 7, 2014**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- March 10:
  - Village Board Reinventing Government Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
  
- March 11:
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
  
- March 12:
  - Condo Training Series, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- March 13:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7pm, room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- March 14:
  - Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 8 a.m., room 124

**Daylight Saving Time returns this weekend** – We spring ahead at 2 a.m., Sunday, as Daylight Saving Time returns and clocks are set ahead one hour. The [Oak Park Fire Department](#) recommends using the time change as a convenient reminder to replace the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

**Financial report earns certificate of excellence** – The Villages 2012 [comprehensive annual financial report](#) has earned a certificate of excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award is considered the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. In a letter from the GFOA dated March 3, we learned our report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. The [GFOA](#) is a nonprofit professional association serving some 17,500 government finance professionals.

**Aggregation meetings** – The first of two public meetings to gather community input into how the Village's electricity aggregation program will be administered was held Thursday evening at Village Hall. An overview of the program was presented and next steps outlined as the Village prepares to go back onto the open market to seek bids from providers. The second public meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Thurs., March 13 here at Village Hall. Our [Community Choice Aggregation Program](#), which bundles residential and small business electric accounts to reduce costs, was approved by

voters in April 2011 and the subsequent bid process resulted in a lower cost for electricity and guaranteed power from cleaner sources. The market since has changed and the upcoming bid may be affected by anticipated rising costs associated with changes in the energy market and delivery of electricity. Residents have been urged to review the current [Village Electric Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance](#) prior to the meeting. Questions are being referred to Sustainability Coordinator K.C. Doyle at [sustainability@oak-park.us](mailto:sustainability@oak-park.us).

**Sustainability research study continues** – The response rate so far has been low to the call for residents to take an online survey as part of a study to determine what factors actually contribute to sustainability in an urban/suburban context. Entitled *A Study of the Sustainability Implications of Differing Urban + Suburban Locations in Chicago*, the project is a partnership between the Village, the Illinois Institute of Technology and the [Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat \(CTBUH\)](#). Respondents must be willing to spend about 45 minutes completing the questionnaire, which likely is a factor in the response rate. The survey covers topics such as energy consumption, transport movements and quality of life. If you wish to participate in the study, [click here to take the online survey](#). The project is being led by Oak Park resident Antony Wood, Ph.D. Questions about the survey or the study should be directed to [pdu@iit.edu](mailto:pdu@iit.edu).

**Public Works activities** – The persistent impacts of one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record continued to dominate activities at the Public Works Department. Crews responded to four snow events this week as another seven inches of snow meant more plowing and salting. Crews also were out filling potholes throughout the Village and placing temporary patches on streets where water main breaks and service repairs were completed. Recent water system repairs included frozen services at 1112 Edmer Ave., 1219 N. Elmwood Ave., 115 N. Kenilworth Ave., 217 Home Avenue (Pleasant Home) and 1164 S. Lombard Avenue, as well as a water main break at 44 Washington Boulevard.

**Winter tree trimming continues** – Forestry crews pruned trees on the 500 through 800 blocks of Woodbine Avenue and the 500 and 600 blocks of North Oak Park Avenue. [Winkler's Tree Service](#), the Village's trimming contractor worked on the 900 through 1200 blocks of North Kenilworth Avenue, the 500 through 1000 blocks of North Grove Avenue, the 500 through 1200 blocks of North Euclid Avenue and the 500 through 800 blocks of Linden Avenue.

**Police calls for service** – Calls to police increased slightly in February as compared to January. Police responded to 2,418 calls in February, up from the January total of 2,398. Medium-priority calls such as accidents with no injuries represented about 42 percent of total calls. The number of high-priority calls, which represented about 30 percent of all calls in February, was down from January. Police fielded 732 high-priority calls in February, compared to 804 in January. Officers responded to high-priority calls in an average of four minutes and six seconds in February. So far this year, Oak Park Police have responded to more than 4,816 calls for service.

**Fire Department update** – Fire Department crews responded to 507 calls in February, down from the 634 calls fielded in January. February's 291 calls for emergency medical services represented about 57 percent of all calls. General service calls were second with 100 (20 percent), followed by alarms initiated (19

percent) and fire/hazardous conditions (4 percent). Of the 291 EMS calls in February, 232 required transport to a medical facility, with 119 of these patients requiring advanced life support services. Firefighters responded to seven fires in February, with two sustaining substantial damage. One of the serious fires was believed to have been started by workers attempting to melt ice on a roof. The other was a kitchen fire. The average response time in February, including turnout and travel, was six minutes and 14 seconds, up about 14 seconds over standards due to the winter road conditions. The Fire Department also responded to 13 calls for mutual aid in neighboring communities.

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