



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 1, 2015**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, May 4:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m./reception prior to Swearing-in Ceremony at 7 p.m. , 201

- Tuesday, May 5:
 - Community Relations Commission, 6:30 p.m., room 215
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130

- Wednesday, May 6:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m. room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201

- Thursday, May 7:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

- Friday, May 8:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, May 11 – Village Board Special Meeting, time TBD tentatively 7:30 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, May 14 – Reinventing Government Meeting, 6 p.m., room 130
- Monday, May 18 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Monday, May 25 – Village Hall Closed for Memorial Day Holiday
- Tuesday, May 26 – Village Board Special Meeting, 7:p.m., room 101 (tentative)

Earth Fest results – Some 40 vendors joined eight divisions of the Public Works Department and other Village representatives at Earth Fest Saturday, with a range of booths and displays. The event's 540 attendees were down slightly from last year, most likely due to the weather that may have discouraged those who typically walk and bicycle to the event. Staff reported that the many children in attendance were thrilled to climb into Public Works trucks, a fire engine and a police car as they learned about the wide range of services provided by the Village.

Arbor Day event – The Village and Park District formally acknowledged the accreditation of Oak Park as the state's first municipal arboretum at an Arbor Day

event last week. Activities included students from the Green Club at Beye Elementary School planting saplings grown from the acorns of some of Oak Park's oldest oak trees. Also on hand for the event was a representative of the Morton Arboretum, which gives the accreditation, and local citizen groups that gathered the acorns from the pre-European settlement Oaks and worked with the Arboretum to propagate them and local nurseries to grow them to planting size.

Reservoir project update – Improvements to the central reservoir are continuing. The water level has been lowered completely, allowing for interior pressure washing and repairs to be performed. Bids for restoring the parkway are scheduled to be presented to the Village Board for consideration on May 18.

Ridgeland Avenue update – The first stage of the Ridgeland Avenue sewer project is scheduled to wrap up next week. Concrete patching and asphalt will be added once the work is complete to allow for traffic. Ridgeland will remain open to traffic until the second stage of sewer work begins, which will require traffic to be detoured between Chicago Avenue and Division Street. This phase is tentatively scheduled for June through July. The Village continues working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to coordinate the sewer project with the paving project scheduled for this year. Coordination of the two separate projects should allow a substantial portion of the paving-related concrete work to be performed during the road closures for the sewer work, minimizing disturbance to motorists.

260 Madison Street demo update – Demolition of the Village-owned building at 260 Madison St. was scheduled to begin Thursday (April 30). A construction fence will enclose the area, and the sidewalk in front of the building will be closed for the duration of the demolition. Officials of nearby Percy Julian Middle School were notified of the work. Demolition and site restoration is expected to take about three weeks.

Alley improvements updates – Three alleys rebuilt under the 2015 schedule have been reopened, while pavement removal and storm sewer work is continuing on alleys scheduled to soon receive new concrete. Sewer work has been completed on 10 alleys so far this season. To date, 27 residents have chosen to reimburse the Village for new concrete garage aprons connected to the new alleys. Each alley typically takes about three weeks to complete. This phase of alley improvements, including restoration, is expected to be completed by June 15. The two alleys remaining from the 2014 season are expected to be completed and opened by May 10.

Private utility project updates – Commonwealth Edison is completing the design for a new electrical duct on Forest Avenue from Erie Street to the alley north of Lake Street. This new electrical duct will provide additional power and reliability to the downtown area as well as supply power for the Lake & Forest development. Installation is expected to start later this spring and notifications will be sent to the affected residents, including the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio, as soon as ComEd provides a detailed schedule. Nicor is replacing the gas main and installing new services on the 400 and 500 blocks of North Elmwood Avenue. The project is expected to be completed in another week, including parkway restoration.

Public Works Activities – Repairs to brick sidewalks continued in the business districts, as did preparation of the tree pits for outdoor dining areas downtown and in the Hemingway District. Crews cut street openings for water utility repairs, installed temporary seasonal alley speed bumps, patched potholes, removed graffiti and transported compost to Rehm Park for the participants in the Village’s ComPostable Program. A water service leak at 700 N. Harvey Ave. was repaired and a collapsed catch basin restored at 1001 Linden Ave. Clogged Village sewer laterals were cleared at 24-26 S. Austin Blvd., and a one-inch water service upgraded at 1007 Highland Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Crews also continued jetting main sewers near I-290 and cleaning inlets between North Avenue and Division Street. Routine tree pruning, stump removal and landscape restoration continued.

Conservatory plant sale this weekend – The Oak Park Conservatory will hold its annual public plant sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat., May 2, and from noon to 3 p.m., Sun., May 3. Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory, volunteers who support the facility year round, get the first look from 2 to 6 p.m., Fri., May 1. A variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers - most grown in the Conservatory - will be offered. For more information call 708.725.2400 or visit www.oakparkconservatory.org.

Oak Park makes the list – Oak Park is among the 10 top places to relocate, according to Huffington Post, which is promoting an [infographic from Lincoln Property Company](#). Oak Park shares the list with the likes of Austin, Texas, Boulder, Colorado and San Diego, California, markets in which Lincoln has properties. This represents some savvy marketing by Lincoln, given the popularity of top 10 stories on the web. In a blog on the company website, Oak Park is described as close enough to the city, but far enough to enjoy the changing seasons. [Click here to read the descriptions](#) of each city on the list.

Employee news – Congratulations are in order for Asst. Village Manager Rob Cole, who has been offered the position of Deputy Village Manager for [Scarsdale, NY](#). His last day with the Village will be May 8. Rob has worked for the Village nearly 20 years and has been extremely interested in advancing his career in city management, so it is with regrets that we wish him well.

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