



Village Manager's Report
Week ending March 9, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 12:
 - Personnel Committee, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, March 13:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Wednesday, March 14:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102

- Thursday, March 15:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215

- Friday, March 16:
 - No meetings scheduled

Grant program launched – The Neighborhood Services Division is working with the [Center for Neighborhood Technology](#) to launch [RainReady Oak Park](#), a program to help property owners pay for smart landscaping approaches that will better manage rain water. Thirty single-family Oak Park property owners will be selected after the April 1 application deadline to receive up to 50 percent of the cost of green landscaping solutions such as rain gardens and permeable pavement. The maximum grant is \$1,300. The program was tested last year with 10 properties, and could grow in future years depending on community interest. [More information is posted on the Village website.](#)

Projects in historic districts – So far this year, the Historic Preservation Commission has approved Certificate of Appropriateness applications for five properties planning building improvement projects. Among the projects approved were new basement window openings, a one-story rear addition and decorative window replacements. A Certificate of Appropriateness review is required for all historic landmarks, projects that propose full or partial demolition in a historic district or properties being altered with Village funding. Reviews are based on the Village's Architectural Review Guidelines, which follow criteria set by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. More information on the process is [posted on the Village website.](#)

Building conference coming here – Architects, contractors, craftspeople, designers, building owners and facilities managers from across the region will gather for the [2018 Traditional Building Conference](#) set for April 24 – 25 at the Nineteenth Century Club. The two-day interactive symposium gives participants an opportunity to learn from best-in-class experts and practitioners about historic preservation, adaptive use,

urban infill, classical design, sustainable design building restoration/maintenance and traditional craft. The conference also is a registered provider of American Institute of Architects (AIA) continuing education credits.

Early voting underway – Early voting got underway this week and will continue through March 19 in room 101 at Village Hall. Turnout has been relatively light, but steady as voters cast ballots to determine who is on the general election ballot in November. Village ordinance prohibits anyone from erecting any kind of signs on public property, but some exceptions apply at election time. For example, as a polling place, candidate signs may be placed around Village Hall within certain distance restrictions. Complaints are being handled individually to ensure the proper action is taken. More information on early voting, including hours, is posted on the Village website - [just click here](#).

Fair Housing poster contest – Students from kindergarten through high school are invited to participate in a poster contest expressing what fair housing means in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Oak Park's Fair Housing Act. Entries must be received by March 23. All posters will be displayed at the [Oak Park Public Library](#) and a winner from each age group will be honored at a reception on April 21. Find complete details and contest rules at www.oak-park.us/housingpostercontest.

Property tax appeals underway – The Cook County Assessor's office has announced that appeals of the assessed valuations of Oak Park properties will be accepted through April 2. This appeal period is the first of two opportunities Oak Park residents will have to appeal their assessments this year. The Township Assessor's office is offering help to residents who want to appeal.

Pipeline project returns – Underground work for the pipeline project to bring Lake Michigan water to the villages of Brookfield and North Riverside is scheduled to restart next week on Fillmore Street between Lyman Avenue and Austin Boulevard. Work in Oak Park is expected to continue into late May. Once all work is complete, Fillmore will be paved between Highland Avenue and Austin Boulevard, the last remaining stretch of roadway affected by the project as it passes through our community. Letters have been sent to residents who will be affected by the work, including parking passes as needed for those who may temporarily lose access to their garages.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Underground utility work was scheduled to begin today (Fri., March 9) on Harlem Avenue along the Lincoln Property project at South Boulevard. The work, which will require removal of the sidewalk and close the northbound curbside lane of Harlem, is expected to continue through next week. All construction activity is limited to daytime hours as specified in the Illinois Department of Transportation permit that was required to work on Harlem, which is a state highway. Engineering staff has taken steps to ensure pedestrians are safe along the perimeter of the redevelopment site. The eastbound lane of South Boulevard remains closed between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street along the frontage of the new development.

Public Works Activities – Crews were back on the streets overnight Tuesday and Wednesday salting in response to persistent light snow and freezing rain. With declining need for snow response, Street Division crews have been able to refocus

their efforts on much-needed routine tasks including sweeping streets, filling potholes, picking up litter and patching pavement where repairs had been made to water lines. Street Lighting Division crews moved a light pole that was near a fire hydrant that needed to be replaced. In addition to replacing the hydrant at Berkshire Street and Hayes Avenue, Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at 915 Pleasant St. and a sewer lateral at 935 N. Taylor Ave., and reset water shutoff valves at 831 S. Grove Ave. and 215 Harrison St. As seasonal parkway tree pruning comes to an end, the Forest Division has begun planning for spring planting, including tagging trees for placement. Removal of diseased and damaged parkway trees continued, as did responses to specific request from residents related to parkway trees that affected their properties.

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