



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending March 6, 2015**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, March 9:
 - Village Board Special Meeting regarding Intergovernmental Collaboration Sustainability, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, March 10:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, March 11:
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, March 12:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, March 16 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Monday, April 13 – Village Board Special Meeting regarding Madison Street, 7 p.m., room 101

Spring ahead -- [Daylight Saving Time](#) will begin at 2 a.m., Sunday (March 8). Clocks should be set ahead one hour. The [Fire Department](#) recommends using the time change as a convenient reminder to replace the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Lake+Forest update – The Village Manager’s Office has used its administrative authority to allow work at the Lake and Forest development site to go until 7 p.m. under specific conditions, one hour past the 6 p.m. construction deadline set by ordinance. The extended workday will be allowed only on days when floor concrete is scheduled to be poured. Floor area concrete must be installed in one continuous pour, and the extra hour may be necessary to ensure proper installation. The first concrete pour is scheduled for the basement on Monday (March 9), so work may continue until 7 p.m. Staff will work with the contractor to provide advance notice when additional floors are scheduled to be poured and the workday may need to be extended the extra hour.

Tree City USA honors – Once again, the Village has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. This is the 31st year in a row the

designation has been bestowed upon the Village. Even after so many consecutive Tree City USA awards, the designation is significant because it acknowledges the skill and commitment of the Forestry Division to providing the highest quality of care for the nearly 19,000 trees on parkways throughout the community. Oak Park is among more than 3,400 Tree City USA communities. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. More information on Tree City USA is posted at www.arborday.org/treecityusa.

Snow operations continued – Crews were back on the streets plowing and salting this past Saturday and again on Tuesday as brief snow events affected road conditions. Rising temperatures predicted for the weekend should cause significant melting, but also could create slick spots on some streets, especially if nighttime temperatures dip below freezing. Staff also will remain alert for the potential of any localized flooding caused by melting snow or clogged sewer inlets.

Health award nominations needed – If you know someone who made an important contribution to improving the health of Oak Parkers in 2014 please help us make sure they get the recognition they deserve by nominating them for a *Fitzsimmons Public Health Award*. The deadline to make a nomination for the award, named in honor of local physician and humanitarian William Fitzsimmons, is 5 p.m., Fri., March 13. A [nomination form is posted on the Village website](#) along with details on winners from past years. Forms also are available at Village Hall. Completed forms should be mailed to or dropped off at the Oak Park Department of Public Health, Village Hall, 123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302, Attn: Public Health Awards. Nominations also may be sent via email to health@oak-park.us. Nominations submitted via email should include responses to all fields listed in the original nomination form.

Plastic bag survey – Initial promotion this week of the possible regulation of single-use plastic bags quickly generated about 200 responses to the consumer survey. Members of the Environment & Energy Commission have been discussing information they have gathered on the topic from across the country, but want to have a broader discussion with the community before making a recommendation to the Village Board on any possible action. Separate surveys were created for consumers and business operators since they are likely to view the issues from different perspectives. The strategy is to use the Village's general communications tools to reach consumers, but use more targeted tools to reach business operators. [Click here to see the consumer survey](#) and [click here for the business survey](#). Ideally, consumers or business won't cross over to take the other survey. But that is not a major concern since such online surveys are not statistically valid research tools. However, these survey results should provide some indication of how such regulations would be viewed by those who live and operate businesses in the community.

Public Works activities – Crews continued to focus on pothole patching throughout the Village, as well as clearing sewer inlets in advance of warming temperatures and thawing snow. A pit meter frame at 115 S. Ridgeland Ave. also was repaired. Forestry crews pruned trees on the north side of Village and have begun reviewing trees identified in the inventory as needing attention to determine what work is needed. The Village's forestry contractor continued trimming trees north of I-290, moving eastbound from Austin Boulevard.

In-person voter registration ends next week – Tuesday (March 10) is the last day for anyone planning to vote in the April 7 municipal election to register in person. Anyone who misses the deadline still will be able to register during early voting hours, but also must immediately cast a ballot. In-person registration is offered from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at [Village Hall](#) and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays at [Oak Park Township](#). The [main Library](#) offers limited in-person registration services, but recommends calling 708.383.8200 for availability. Voter registration requires two types of identification, at least one with the current address. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill. More information on registration and voting options is [posted on the Village website](#).

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