



Village Manager's Report Week ending April 17, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Saturday, April 18:
 - Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9 a.m., 105 S. Oak Park
- Monday, April 20:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, April 21:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, April 22:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 101
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, April 23:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - Commissioner Boykin Town Hall Meeting, 6 p.m., room 201
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102
- Friday, April 24:
 - Arbor Day ceremony, noon, Scoville Park

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, April 27 – Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tues, April 28 – West Nile Virus forum, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

Municipal arboretum accreditation confirmed – Official notice has been received from the [Morton Arboretum](#) confirming the Village's accreditation as Illinois' first - and the nation's fourth - municipal arboretum. What makes Oak Park's accreditation unusual is that it is for the entire Village, rather than for a specific, defined area within a community such as a park. The accreditation will be noted as part of an Arbor Day celebration set for noon, April 24 in Scoville Park, where saplings grown from acorns of some of the Village's oldest oak trees will be planted. A representative from the Morton Arboretum is expected to join Park and Village officials for the public event. [More information on the accreditation is posted on the Village website.](#)

GIS services go live – Village staff now has access to the *MapOffice* application through our participation in the [GIS Consortium](#). In its initial roll out, staff has basic mapping tools for tasks such as measuring distance and area, and charting elevation. Individual parcel summary information also is available by address, including zoning and county property data such as property identification numbers. Staff is targeting a roll-out of some information for public use in June.

Metra station work to begin – Metra has alerted the Village that work will begin Monday on its Marion Street station. The project was originally scheduled to begin in January. Work is expected to take about a month. The stairway access from Marion will be closed temporarily. Limited traffic interruption is expected, but northbound Marion Street traffic may be detoured periodically for materials delivery. Flaggers will be on hand to direct traffic. In addition to repairing the brick on the stairway and the exterior of the warming center, the platform also will be resurfaced. Four metered spaces on North Boulevard may need to be closed temporarily.

West Nile Virus forum scheduled – The Board of Health has scheduled a public forum to discuss what can be done to prevent the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. The forum will be at 7 p.m., Tues., April 28, in the Council Chamber. In addition to Board of Health members and Village public health staff, a representative of the [Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District](#) is expected to attend.

Recycling events Saturday – Two free recycling events will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday (April 18) at the Public Works Center. Documents containing personal information will be shredded and old clothing will be collected for repurposing of the materials. Document shredding is limited to two bags or small boxes per household, which should only contain items such as checks, documents containing credit card numbers, social security numbers and medical information. As for the clothing, most items will be accepted, including shoes, belts, hats, bags, linens and towels. The Epilepsy Foundation, which is sponsoring the clothing collection, sends the items to developing nations where they are repurposed.

Free community health fair is Sunday – The Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce will offer a free community health and wellness fair from noon to 4 p.m., Sunday (April 19) in the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex. The event will feature more than 50 exhibitors, 14 speakers, health screenings and giveaways. The Park District also will offer free exercise classes and [U.S. Olympian Emery Lehman](#) will be on hand to sign autographs. More information is [posted on the Chamber website](#).

Preservation awards search begins – The Historic Preservation Commission has issued the call for nominations for the 2015 [Historic Preservation Awards Program](#). The deadline for submissions is Aug. 28. Nominations can be [made online via an electronic form](#) or by submitting a traditional paper nomination form. More details are [posted in a news story on the Village website](#).

Help finding right tree offered – The forestry subcommittee of the Community Design Commission is offering free help selecting the right tree species for residents to plant in their yards. Subcommittee members will help assess the planting site and offer advice on species by factors such as size, habit, texture, growth rate, maintenance

and seasonal color. This subcommittee offers the service during the commission's regular monthly meeting. Residents wishing to schedule a consultation are asked to call 708.358.5440 or email planning@oak-park.us.

D-97 seeking facilities advisory committee volunteer – [Elementary School District 97](#) is seeking two individuals from the community to serve on its Facilities Advisory Committee, which provides oversight on a wide range of issues and projects. Any Oak Park resident who would like to be considered for membership should email cjasculca@op97.org. More information is posted on the school district's website - [just click here](#).

Central reservoir project update – Work on the central reservoir improvement project is underway. The Stevenson Park field has been closed and the contractor is removing soil from the top of the reservoir. An erosion control plan is in place to temporarily stockpile the soil at the [Miller Meadow Forest Preserve in Maywood](#) following analysis of samples. The reservoir has been drained, and interior repairs are being performed. Restoration bid documents were posted Thursday, with plans to present a proposal to the Village Board for consideration at the May 18 regular meeting.

Ridgeland Avenue sewers and paving update – The Ridgeland Avenue sewer project began Thursday as planned, requiring the street to be closed between Lake Street and Chicago Avenue. Traffic is being detoured to Oak Park Avenue, but local traffic is allowed between Erie Street and Chicago Avenue. This phase of the project is expected to take about three weeks. Sewer work then will shift north, requiring Ridgeland to be closed from Chicago Avenue to Division Street likely into August. The sewer project is being coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, which plans to pave Ridgeland from South Boulevard to Division Street. Coordination between the sewer and resurfacing contractors should allow for a substantial portion of the concrete work to be completed during the sewer-related road closure, minimizing traffic disruption. Resurfacing will take place following the completion of the sewer project. Ridgeland should be open to traffic during the repaving, but delays and lane closures are likely.

Alley improvements update – Work is underway on the first round of alley projects scheduled for the 2015 season. Concrete was poured in two alley segments on the south side of the Village earlier this week, with a third expected to be poured by the end of the week. Work also is underway on storm sewers in alleys where concrete is scheduled to be poured. Each alley project typically takes about three weeks, with all work for this phase scheduled to be completed in mid-June. The pre-construction meeting for the two alley projects remaining from the 2014 schedule was held this week, with surface removal planned to begin next week. In an unrelated matter, Nicor is replacing the gas main and services on the 400 block of N. Elmwood Ave., work that is expected to be completed in about two weeks.

Public Works Activities – Spring cleaning continued in the business districts, along with litter pick up, and sidewalk brick repair and replacement. A sink hole at 105 S. Marion St. and a water main break at Greenfield Street and Hayes Avenue were repaired. Traffic signal control cabinet issues at Madison Street and Oak Park Avenue were resolved and a hanging light fixture was repaired at the Marion Street viaduct.

Forestry crews continued pruning, removing stumps, responding to resident requests and removing trees infested with emerald ash borer. Preparations for spring tree planting and in-ground landscaping are underway, along with plans for celebrating Arbor Day next week. Contractors continued removing damaged, dead and dying trees between Division and Madison Streets. The Fleet Services Division plans to install a scrap metal collection container for department use that will be picked up by a recycler, eliminating the current practice of staff having to deliver the materials to the recycling center.

Employee news – Chris Bowman, an employee in the Public Works Department, received his Class C Water Operator’s license from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. To earn the license, Chris had to demonstrate knowledge in areas such as water disinfection, storage and distribution. He also is now qualified to run the pump stations should the need arise. Forestry Division staff attended state flagger training this week, gaining important knowledge about protecting work zones.

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