



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 11, 2018**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, May 14:
 - Special meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, May 15:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, May 16:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, May 17:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
- Friday, May 18:
 - No meetings scheduled

Vehicle sticker sales begin – Village vehicle stickers [went on sale this week](#) as renewal notices were sent to residents who purchased stickers last year. Every Oak Park resident who owns or leases a motor vehicle is required to display a valid Village sticker annually before July 15 to get [the lowest rate](#). Renewal notices were sent by both mail and email, depending on how last year's purchasers chose to be notified. Last year, 21,105 stickers were sold during the renewal period, 57 percent online.

Tax Task Force update – The first of six separate online commenting pages was opened officially this week as part of the Taxing Body Efficiency Task Force efforts to generate public input. About 120 comments have been posted to date at www.oak-park.us/taxefficiencycomments on the first topic -- *How have property tax levels in Oak Park impacted you?* Commenting on this topic will remain open through Sun., May 13, with the second topic set to open commenting on Mon., May 14. The second topic will seek comments on residents' perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of the services currently provided by local governments. More details on the Task Force are posted at www.oak-park.us/taxtaskforce.

CDBG funding increase – Federal dollars for projects in the Village supported by Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) have increased nearly 11 percent for program year 2018 from last year. The Village has been authorized to allocate \$1,686,004 for projects and programs during the current 2018 plan year, which runs from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, an increase of \$163,467. Recommendations for local allocation of these funds by the Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission (CDCAC) will be presented to the Village Board for consideration in June. Board consideration

includes authorizing the required 30-day public comment process on the proposed allocation plan. CDBG funds are essential to a wide variety of community and economic development activities that help revitalize neighborhoods, spur economic development and improve community services. ESG funds support providers of services that are related to homelessness assistance.

Sustainability grant – Oak Park is among six communities in the United States and Canada to share \$900,000 in matching grants for sustainability efforts that focus on empowering and engaging low-income neighborhoods. The matching grant of \$49,250 will be managed by the [Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation](#) for local education and outreach on solar development and procurement programs. Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Agnew was instrumental in identifying and preparing the grant application. The funding is through the [Partners for Places](#) matching grants program, which pairs city governments with philanthropy to support sustainability projects. Other grant recipients include Edmonton, Canada, Honolulu, Indianapolis and Los Angeles County. [Click here to read the news release.](#)

FLW trail launched – The Illinois Office of Tourism announced this week that the state has launched a new self-guided tour of Frank Lloyd Wright sites throughout Illinois. The itineraries include a 110-mile road trip from Chicago to Rockford, with stops in Oak Park, Geneva, Hampshire and Belvidere. Another option charts a roughly 240-mile journey from Chicago to Springfield, dropping by Oak Park, Kankakee and Dwight before culminating in the capital. The trail will be marked by brown signs with a white font and geometric design reminiscent of Wright. The Illinois Department of Transportation is expected to install the two-foot square signs later this summer. Wright fans can go to the state's tourism website, [EnjoyIllinois.com](#), to find self-guided itineraries. Wisconsin tourism officials reported an increase in visitors after the state launched [its own Wright trail](#) last year.

Water quality report published – The annual report on the quality of Oak Park's municipal water supplied was published this week. Officially designated as the *Consumer Confidence Report*, communities are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to publish a report each year. This most recent report, which is based on water samples collected in 2017, is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/waterqualityreport. An archive of past water quality reports is posted at www.oak-park.us/waterquality. Paper copies are available by request to the Public Works Department either by calling 708.358.5700 or emailing publicworks@oak-park.us.

Boulevards construction preparation – Efforts are ramping up to make sure residents and businesses are aware of the major infrastructure improvements planned for North and South boulevards between Marion Street and Oak Park Avenue. Construction is expected to begin in late May or early June and will impact traffic, parking and refuse collection. Plans call for water and sewer improvements on North Boulevard between Forest and Kenilworth avenues, including under the Clinton Avenue viaduct. Affected roadways also will be completely reconstructed, and North Boulevard restriped to accommodate a new bike lane from Kenilworth Avenue to Oak Park Avenue. The South Boulevard work will include lighting improvements, sidewalk repairs and street resurfacing as well as minor sewer repairs between Marion Street and Home Avenue. Notifications and schedule changes will be posted online as needed at www.oak-park.us/boulevards.

Spring tree planting – The Forestry Division began the annual spring parkway tree planting program this week. Some 289 trees are set to be planted by next week across the Village. Species diversity continues to guide tree selection, with the focus on promoting a stable and biologically diverse urban forest that is disease and insect resistant. This spring round of planting will include 31 species – [click here to see the list](#).

Alley improvements – Pavement removal began this week on alley segments between North Avenue and LeMoyne Parkway and Oak Park and Grove avenues. Signs with projected completion dates are posted at each location. So far this construction season, three alleys have been completed and reopened. The owners of 32 properties within the boundaries of the season's alley projects have elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The first resurfacing projects of the season are scheduled to begin next week with curb removal south of Madison Street. Project signs with projected completion dates will be posted at each location and Village staff will coordinate parking and refuse collection during the work. Ontario Street is scheduled to be closed Tues., May 15 between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street to allow a crane to replace HVAC equipment on the roof of the adjacent Brookdale senior living facility. Emergency access has been coordinated with the Fire and Police departments. The early stages of demolition got underway this week on the northwest corner of Lake Street and Forest Avenue where the Albion redevelopment project will be built. A neighborhood meeting was held with residents to discuss potential construct impacts and contact information. One lane of Clinton Avenue remains closed under the viaduct between North and South boulevards as ComEd crews continue infrastructure relocation activities. Paving began this week on Fillmore Street between Highland Avenue and Austin Boulevard. The project is set to be completed within the next two weeks, including parkway restoration.

Public Works activities – Forestry Division crews had to deal with scattered damage created by a fast-moving storm that swept through the Village early Wednesday evening. A large Linden tree on the parkway was uprooted in the 1000 block of North Taylor Avenue and large limbs came down at several locations. No injuries or property damage were reported. Street Division crews finished installing alley speed humps at various locations throughout the Village, repaired pavers in business districts and prepared sites for the annual sculpture walk coming next week to the Southtown Business District along Oak Park Avenue between Lexington and Van Buren streets. Street Division crews restored parkways affected by water services repairs and picked up litter in business districts and Village parking lots. Water & Sewer Division crews replaced a damaged fire hydrant at Taylor Avenue and Greenfield Street and repaired a sewer lateral at 1007 N. Lombard Ave. Crews also completed a water service upgrade at 1009 N. Lombard Ave. as part of the ongoing lead abatement program. Forestry crews delivered several loads of wood chips in response to residents' requests.

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