



Village Manager's Report Week ending March 8, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 11:
 - Village Board Special meeting, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, March 12:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, March 13:
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, March 14:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., room 101
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, March 15:
 - No meetings scheduled

Daylight Saving Time returns – Just a reminder that we will lose an hour this weekend as Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m., Sun., March 10. Clocks should be set ahead one hour. The Fire Department recommends using the time change as a reminder to replace the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but an estimated one-third has dead or missing batteries.

Free wellness clinic is Sunday – The [Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce](#) will host its fifth annual Health & Wellness Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sun., March 10 at Fitness Formula Clubs in downtown Oak Park. The free event will feature fitness classes, complimentary screenings, family activities, healthy snacks and giveaways from more than 80 area health and wellness exhibitors. [Click here to register online](#) via Facebook.

Grant allocations hearings begin – The Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC) will hold the first of several public hearings on March 14 to review proposals for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. About \$380,000 is available for Program Year 2019, which is from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020. Twenty-two grant proposals submitted by local non-profit organizations will be reviewed by the committee and recommendations made to the Village Board for consideration and

final action. The allocation review meetings should wrap up by the end of April. CDBG funds support programs for low- and moderate-income individuals. ESG funds are distributed to agencies that assist people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Bake sale space available – The Farmers' Market Commission is seeking local not-for-profit organizations to hold bake sales during the upcoming season. One space is available each Saturday from opening day through October. Applications are posted via a link at www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket and will be accepted through April 1.

Sponsors, vendors wanted – Sponsors and vendors are needed for Earth Fest, the Village's annual celebration of green living set for April 27. Sponsorships range from \$125 to \$1,000. Vendors can rent a booth for just \$50. The applications form is posted online at www.oak-park.us/earthfest. As in past years, the Public Works Center will host an open house in conjunction with Earth Fest.

Health award nominations sought – The Board of Health has issued its annual call for nominations for *William Fitzsimmons Award* given for exceptional contributions to improving the health of Oak Parkers. The nomination deadline is 5 p.m., Fri., March 22. A nomination form and lists of past winners are posted at www.oak-park.us/healthawards.

Albion update – A portion of the alley north of the [Albion redevelopment](#) site at Lake Street and Forest Avenue will be closed for about four weeks beginning next week for façade masonry work. Access to the alley will not be available from the east, but garbage haulers will have access from the west. Parking Services will work with the Park District to provide safe temporary parking and drop-off points for activities at the [Austin Gardens Environmental Center](#).

Weather response– Crews had to deal with only two minor weather events this week, a welcome change from a busy February. The light snow that began to fall during the afternoon on Tuesday (March 5) kept crews on the job throughout the night and early morning. While the total accumulation was less than half an inch, single-digit temperatures required diligence to keep the streets, Home Avenue Bridge and pedestrian crossings safe. The low temperatures also required applying calcium chloride to improve effectiveness. Crews were back on the streets early Friday (March 8) as another blast of light snow created minor accumulations. Rising temperatures are predicted through the weekend along with rain and even thunderstorms, so plow drivers should catch a break.

Private fiber install – A contractor for Wide Open West will be installing a fiber-optic cable on Randolph Street from Harlem to Euclid avenues. The majority of the work will occur in the parkway using directional boring, which should limit traffic interruptions. However, temporary disruptions to north-south traffic may be necessary at intersections as the work progresses. The actual start date has not yet been set, most likely due to the unpredictable weather.

Miscellaneous project updates – Right-of-way work, including the striping required to open South Boulevard to two-way traffic between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street, and installation of the remaining sidewalk east of the commercial driveway entrance

at the [Eleven33](#) development site, remained stalled due to weather. Annual sewer cleaning and inspections continued this week at various locations throughout the Village.

Public Works activities – The season’s large number of potholes kept Streets Division crews busy, along with picking up the usual wind-blown litter in the business districts and along numerous streets. Two street openings where water line repairs had been made also were temporarily patched, with plans for permanent fixes when temperatures improve. Forestry Division crews responded to reports of brush on parkways and a large limb that fell this week at Washington Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a fire hydrant at Garfield Street and East Avenue, while also continuing to inspect hydrants throughout the Village to ensure none were frozen and would operate properly in an emergency.

Employee news – Permit Processing Supervisor Stacy Dexter has earned her *ICC/AACE Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector* certification from the [International Code Council](#). This is her fourth certification by the ICC as she works toward the final exam to become a Certified Building Official, which will include exams in legal, management and building standards disciplines. Her other certifications include Residential Plans Examiner, Building Plans Examiner and Permit Technician. Stacy joined the Development Customer Services Department Permits Processing Division in 2017 after nine years in the Building & Zoning Department of the Village of Oswego. In other DCS employee news, Urban Planner Susie Trexler will speak on the Village’s historic preservation practices at the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce’s next design and construction industry gathering on Mon., March 25. The event is set for 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Pleasant Home. Professionals from the building trades, architecture, real estate and related fields are invited to attend the event. [Click here](#) for more information or to register.

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