



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending Mar. 22, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- March 25:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- March 26:
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m., room 102
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- March 27:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council, 7 p.m., room 102
 - HPC/Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- March 28:
 - No scheduled meetings

Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):

- April 1: Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
- April 1: Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- April 13: Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9 a.m., Oak Park Township
- April 20: Board Outreach Event - Earth Fest, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Public Works
- May 6: Village Board – Swearing In, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- June 2: Board Outreach Event - Day in our Village, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Scoville Park

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Early voting about to begin – Village Hall once again will be an early voting site, with polls opening here on Monday. Early voting will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, through April 6 in advance of the April 9 Consolidated Election. The volume of voters is not expected to rival that of the November election, since no national races are on the ballot.

Capital Improvements activities – Water services are being installed on LeMoyné Parkway as part of the project to improve the water and sewer mains. A similar project has begun on Taylor Avenue, between South Boulevard and Randolph Street. The Taylor Avenue project will include a new water main, sewer services, sidewalks, curbs and paving, as well as related work. In addition, surveying continues on streets and alleys where projects are planned for this construction season.

Public Works activities – Preparations for Earth Month in April continue. The Public Works Center will host the fourth annual Earth Fest on April 20, as well as a range of other events including the Great Pain Exchange and paper shredding. Earth Fest also will coincide with the Public Works Open House. Tree trimming continues, with crews focusing on the area between South Boulevard and Chicago Avenue, from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue. Crews from both the Forestry Division and a private contractor are involved.

Avenue Garage solar project award – The solar array on the Avenue Garage continues to be a favorite with the American Public Works Association (APWA). The project was given an award in January by the APWA Suburban Branch in the category of projects of less than \$5 million. Now, the APWA Chicago Metro Chapter has selected the project as the 2013 Project of the Year in the same category. The project then will move on to the next APWA level where it will be considered for national recognition. These awards recognize excellence in public works and alliances between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer and the contractor and are testaments to the Village's commitment to sustainability and environmental initiatives. This latest APWA award will be presented at the group's annual luncheon scheduled for Thurs., April 4, in Addison. Since the system was brought online on April 13, it has generated more than 110,880 kWh as of March 22, which is better performance than expected. More information on the project, including a link to [real-time generation data](#), is posted at www.oak-park.us/solar.

YMCA to receive Nicor grant – The West Cook YMCA will receive up to \$25,000 from the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program as part of the *Community Challenge*. The final grant amount will depend on participation of local residents in the challenge. For every utility customer who signs up for one of six Nicor Gas energy efficiency programs, \$50 will be added to the grant. As of Thursday, 327 Oak Parkers had signed up, which represents \$16,350 for the West Cook YMCA. So far, Oak Parkers are well ahead of the other Challenge community, Evanston, which has 202 participants working for the city's grant recipient the YWCA Evanston/North Shore.

Comcast audit – Using the village manager's spending authority, we intend to hire accountants from the law firm of Moss & Barnett to audit the books of Comcast as required to initiate a formal franchise renewal process. The decision was made to hire Moss & Barnett after only one other firm responded to a request for proposals. After reviewing the two proposals, and discussing the options with the Civic Information System Commission (CISC) the Commission and staff concurred that it was advantageous to the Village to have a professional relationship between the auditor and attorney's working on behalf of the Village as we negotiate with Comcast on our long-expired franchise agreement. The firm's accountants have extensive experience in such matters, including with Comcast. The cost is not to exceed \$9,000. While state law allows us to audit only the most recent two years – in this case 2011 and 2012 – we may be able to identify sufficient missed revenue to cover

the cost of the audit. Regardless of what is found, a formal audit of this kind is required to begin a formal franchise renewal process as opposed the informal process that has been underway for some time now with no acceptable resolution.

Holiday traffic enforcement update – Police joined a statewide effort over the St. Patrick’s Day holiday to target impaired and unbuckled motorists. Some 25 citations were issued, including five for driving under the influence, as police stopped 40 motorists on Friday and Saturday. Efforts focused each night on the 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. time period when statistics show that the highest numbers of motorists drink and drive and the fewest use seat belts. The Oak Park crackdown was part of a statewide effort funded by federal traffic safety grants through Illinois Department of Transportation’s Division of Traffic Safety as part of the national [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) and [Click It or Ticket](#) public education campaigns. Similar high-visibility enforcement efforts are launched during other major holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Robbery suspects charged – The two men who severely damaged a new police squad car when they rammed it with an SUV while fleeing a burglary have been charged with residential burglary and criminal damage to state-supported property. Unfortunately, the cost of repair exceeds the value of the vehicle. Compensation from the suspects is unlikely.

VOP-TV update – If you haven’t checked out the [Village’s YouTube channel](#) in a while, you may have missed the series VOP-TV is producing with local food blogger David Hammond. The latest episode of *You Really Should Eat This* adds a twist, replacing eat with drink as they explore a classic Manhattan at [Barclay’s American Grille](#). Other episodes have included black bean stew at [Taste of Brasil](#) and corned beef hash at George’s Restaurant. The intent of the series is to showcase some of what Oak Park has to offer without overtly promoting an individual business, which would conflict with the station’s government programming mission.

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