



Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 25, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- April 28:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m. executive session room 130 followed by 7:30 p.m. meeting in room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- April 29:
 - No scheduled meetings

- April 30:
 - Fair Housing Task Force, 7 p.m. room 101
 - Commission Chair Meeting, 7 p.m., room 124
 - Condo Training Series, 7 p.m., room 201

- May 1:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

Earth Fest is Saturday – The fifth annual Earth Fest is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., tomorrow (April 26), in the Public Works Center. This year's event will focus on green block parties and vendors will provide plenty of hands-on activities, free samples and information for families. In addition, Earth Fest organizers have invited several food trucks to park on South Boulevard, just outside the Public Works Center, and serve throughout the event. [Click here to learn more](#) about the Village's annual celebration of green living.

Aggregation communications update – Staff have continued to provide information and answer questions about the options residents have as we prepare to begin the new electricity aggregation contract year. Informational materials have been provided to various groups in the community and will be distributed at tomorrow's Earth Fest. We also have [posted items online](#) for any group or organization that may want to share them with their members and have provided copies of a flyer for religious leaders to distribute to their congregations Sunday. Advertising space has been reserved in the Wednesday Journal for both April 30 and May 7 and the [main story in the May OP/FYI](#) will feature the deadline and the options. A new story based on the newsletter will move to the main page of the website early next week, reframing and refreshing the story leading up to the deadline. The webpage www.oak-park.us/aggregation has been updated with the latest information as well, including the telephone number and call center hours. A short, option-based video will air on VOP-TV and be posted to the [Village's YouTube channel](#). New messages also will be disseminated periodically via social media. In addition, we have [reached out to](#)

[business owners and condo boards](#) to alert them to changes in state regulations related to electricity usage limits for participation in municipal aggregation programs. We will continue to aggressively distribute information through the May 8 deadline.

Smart grid participant recruitment to begin – A news release distributed today (Friday) is asking property owners who want to be considered when the smart-grid pilot project is launched to fill out a brief online form posted at www.oak-park.us/smartcityusa. The online form is the first step in creating a pool of potential participants whose properties may meet the criteria for consideration. Submitting information online will not guarantee selection, however, since additional, more in-depth screening will be necessary to identify properties that will meet some very specific criteria for the pilot program. However, we believe this approach will help us to gauge community sentiment about such a program and re-energize dialog within the community. This story is now the [main website story](#), which will refresh the page and make the new aggregation story posted next week appear as new news.

Public Works Department activities – The Streets Division continued patching potholes and repairing water utility openings, while the street sweeping contractor continued to focus on restricted parking areas. The Water & Sewer Division repaired water main breaks at 500 Washington Blvd and 1036 S Ridgeland Avenue. Crews also repaired a sink hole at 1135 S. Oak Park Ave., a catch basin at Fire Station #2, 900 S. East Ave. The Forestry Division performed trim requests at 1146 Wenonah Ave. and 800 S. Elmwood Ave., and began removing about 90 tree stumps in preparation for parkway tree planting. In the meantime, staff also prepared for Saturday's Earth Fest, which is expected to attract several hundred households interested in green block party planning ideas, recycling opportunities and food trucks.

Triton College to host job fair – Representatives from nearly [100 companies](#) will be on the Triton College campus in River Grove to recruit employees for full-time, part-time and seasonal positions on Thurs., May 1. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Cafeteria (B Building). If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let them know the event is free, but professional attire and a resume are required for entry. More information is available by calling 708.456.0300, extension 3619, or visiting www.triton.edu/careerserv.

Employee updates – John Hidalgo was recently named Permits Supervisor in Development Customer Services. Formerly a code enforcement officer, John has been with the Village since July 2012. He was selected from a sizeable field of candidates who applied for the important role of managing the plan review and construction permitting process.

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