



Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 20, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 23:
 - Special Meeting of the Village Board which will consist of an Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, April 24:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124

- Wednesday, April 25:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., Oak Park Library main branch, 834 Lake St.
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 101

- Thursday, April 26:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Friday, April 27:
 - No meetings scheduled

Earth Fest is tomorrow – Oak Park's celebration of green living is tomorrow (Sat., April 21) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Public Works Center. With forecasts calling for temperatures in the mid-50s, the event could see the biggest turnout since it began in 2010. The family-friendly event will include tours of the Public Works Center, activities for kids, live entertainment and several recycling opportunities, as well as a wide range of vendors providing hands-on activities, environmental services, free samples and green goods for sale. More details are [posted on the Village website](#).

Parking pilot discussion – The Transportation Commission is scheduled to hold another public meeting Mon., April 23 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall to discuss the parking pilot plan options. The latest proposal has been posted online at www.oak-park.us/parkingpilot since April 2 and will accept public comments until noon, Mon., April 23, either via the web page or email to parking@oak-park.us. Village staff has worked with commission members and representatives from municipal parking strategy consultant [Dixon Resources Unlimited](#) to distill research findings and public

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input gathered from public meetings, a community forum and comments posted online and submitted via email.

Winter's grip – Crews were out twice this week salting bridges and other areas prone to icing after freezing rain and light snow created the potential for hazardous driving conditions. Public Works Director John Wielebnicki reports that in the dozen or so years for which he has records, the early Thursday morning precipitation tied a record for the latest measurable precipitation of the season set back in 2013. John reports that his crews are cautiously optimistic that plowing and salting duties have ended for the season, but remain ready to respond if needed.

Narcan use report – Police and Fire are reporting that 90 doses of Narcan were administered in 2017 in response to drug overdose incidents, an increase from 76 cases in 2016. Of the doses administered in 2017, 63 percent were administered to nonresidents, who were mostly male (76 percent), involved heroin (74 percent) and occurred on public property (77 percent). The number of incidents that occurred on public property suggests CTA trains continue to be a popular venue for users, with illicit activities beginning in Chicago and ending up in Oak Park.

Tree planting – Parkway locations where nearly 300 new trees will be planted in May have been marked. These trees will include more than 30 different species, an approach arborists say is the best way to avoid future blights that can sweep through a single species with devastating results as illustrated with Dutch elm disease and the emerald ash borer. New trees planted in Oak Park typically are 10 feet to 15 feet tall with a two-inch trunk diameter and a 36-inch root ball. Each new tree is planted and mulched, and a watering bag attached that is refilled regularly during the first growing season. A second planting of about 225 trees is planned for the coming fall. Information on tree care in the Village is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.

Alley improvements – Pavement removal began this week on the third alley segment of the season, this one between Augusta Boulevard and Iowa Street, and east of Lombard Avenue. Underground drainage improvements also continued on other alley segments under construction. The number of property owners within the boundaries of the alley projects that have elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed has grown to 24. These property owners will receive the Village's contract unit price, which is lower than the cost a single property owner would pay to hire a contractor.

Miscellaneous construction updates – One lane of Clinton Avenue is closed under the railroad viaduct between North and South boulevards as ComEd contractors relocate their facilities for planned water and sewer project improvements. Borings to collect soil samples continued along the Lake Street corridor, creating some temporary parking losses adjacent to the work, but not interrupting traffic flow. Work on the utility lines that will serve the Rush Oak Park Hospital improvement project continued to create traffic issues as Madison Street is reduced to one lane in each direction. Relocation of Village water and sewer lines on the Holmes Elementary School expansion site on Chicago Avenue is wrapping up. The sidewalk at the southeast corner of Marion Street and North Boulevard is expected to reopen next week as Union Pacific Railroad contractors complete repairs to the viaduct. Viaduct work will then shift to the southwest corner.

Public Works activities – Street Division crews relocated planters and Village garbage cans on Harrison Street at Lombard Avenue to make way for a new development project. Crews also continued resetting pavers on Lake Street in the downtown area, repaired bluestone sidewalks as needed, patched streets opened for water line repairs and picked up litter in business districts and parking lots. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at 543 N. Oak Park Ave., a sewer lateral at 503 Madison St. and a sewer line at 6717 North Ave. A water service also was upgraded at 714 N. Lombard Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Forestry Division crews removed stumps and began pruning trees along Fillmore Street.

Employee news -- Community Relations Coordinator Cassandra Hurt has successfully completed a 40-hour performance-based mediation skills training program offered by the [Chicago Center for Conflict Resolution](#). The training focuses on both conceptual and practical knowledge in dispute resolution and conflict management, important skills for the Community Relations Department, which offers mediation services as an alternative to the legal system. She is now certified to mediate disputes involving landlords and their tenants, among neighbors, within families and between consumers and businesses. Cassandra joined the Community Relations Department one year ago this month after more than 20 years of public and community service experience, including in housing, employment, economic development and social services.

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