



Village Manager's Report Weeks ending March 24, 2017

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, March 27:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Tuesday, March 28:
 - Board of Health, 7:00 p.m., room 201
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, March 29:
 - CDCAC, 6:00 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, March 30:
 - CDCAC, 6:00 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee 7:00 p.m., room 215

Water survey begins – The bi-annual water backflow protection survey required by the EPA began reaching residents this week. The Village has continued to use Aqua Backflow to manage the survey and inspections that will be required for those property owners who do not have devices installed to prevent water from flowing back into the municipal water supply from connections within their properties. The look of the [materials included in the mailing](#) had some residents asking if the questionnaire was indeed from the Village. Staff is working to assure residents that the survey is official Village correspondence and the information provided, which is limited to types of water connections, will be used only for official purposes. A list of answers to frequently asked questions about the survey has been [posted on the Village website](#) since the first survey was conducted in 2015.

Animal license renewal underway – Oak Park pet owners who receive an animal license renewal notice in the mail or by email are being encouraged to renew online at www.oak-park.us/onlineservices. The online system allows owners to delete pets they no longer own and add new ones. Pet owners still have the option of mailing in their payment or coming to Village Hall. All dogs and outdoor cats are required to display a current animal license by May 1. The license fee is \$10 for a neutered/spayed dog and all cats, and \$25 for any non-spayed/non-neutered dog. Proof of a current rabies inoculation and spaying/neutering is required to license a new pet.

Chicago Avenue update – Construction will resume next week on Chicago Avenue between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. Workers will remove sidewalks for new lighting and to improve drainage. Letters were sent to alert residents and businesses to the upcoming construction and staff also met individually with business operators.

Miscellaneous construction – Water and sewer main improvements are scheduled to begin the week of April 3 on Taylor Avenue between Flournoy and Harrison streets. Improvements will begin next week on multiple alley segments with underground drainage improvements. Alley pavement work will follow beginning in early April.

Downtown construction projects – Streetscape work related to the Emerson redevelopment project downtown will begin next week. The project includes new concrete sidewalks, black curbs, decorative lighting, installation of the new Maple Avenue along the west side of the site, new brick street on Westgate Street and resurfacing of the other streets adjacent to the site. The sidewalk and parking lane on the south side of Lake Street will be closed from the new Maple Avenue to the east side of the development starting next week to install underground electrical and the new sidewalks and curbs. The parking and loading zones along the development site frontage on Lake Street will be closed until about early May.

Public Works Activities – Street Division crews installed benches in the South Town Business District and in the Arts District. Crews also framed a sidewalk for concrete as part of restoration from water and sewer work. Water and Sewer Division crews repaired a sink hole at 1522 N. Austin and repaired a broken sewer lateral at 905 N Harvey. Crews also repair a fire hydrant on the NWC of Austin and Lake and repaired a b-box at 637 S Oak Park. Tree pruning work continued with activity on Elmwood and Fair Oaks between Chicago and Division. Contractors continued removing diseased and damaged trees.

Employee news – Chris Bowman has joined the Development Customer Services Department as a residential property maintenance inspector. Chris had been a part-time water meter reader with the Village for four years prior to assuming this full-time position. A lifelong Oak Park resident, Chris attended Hatch Elementary School, Emerson Middle School and Oak Park and River Forest High School. He studied trade skills at Triton College. Tanya Maxwell has joined Human Resources Department as the part-time Human Resource Coordinator. Tanya, an Oak Park resident, has experience in both human resources and insurance, most recently as a licensed insurance broker, and is finishing her last class for a business administration undergraduate degree. Her new duties will include assisting with the many administrative tasks that help keep the department running smoothly.

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