



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

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- February 25:
 - Village Board Finance Committee, 6:45 p.m., room 101
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- February 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
- February 27:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake Street
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 102
 - HPC/Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- February 28:
 - No scheduled meetings

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

- March 4: Candidate Forum, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Public Works
- April 20: Board Outreach Event - Earth Fest, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Public Works

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Snow removal activities update – Two snow events were managed by Public Works crews over the past week. The snowfall predicted for Thursday night and Friday (Feb. 21/22) fell short of predictions, but still required considerable effort by Public Works crews to clear the streets. Snow began falling around midnight, eventually accumulating about three inches. Fifteen pieces of equipment were deployed overnight, with tandem plowing and salting focusing on the main routes to ensure safe passage for emergency vehicles if needed. All school crosswalks were cleared well in advance of classes beginning. The emergency snow parking rules were implemented at 8 a.m. to ensure curb-to-curb plowing of snow routes and easier plowing of side streets. Crews also salted Village streets for a snow event on Tuesday, Feb. 19, which accumulated less than an inch.

Parkway tree trimming continues – Crews from the Forestry Division and private contractor continued trimming parkway trees in the area between South Boulevard and Chicago Avenue, from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue. The Forestry Division also removed nine parkway trees from various locations throughout the Village that were in decline and eventually could have posed a public safety hazard.

Visioning event draws large crowd – Some 160 participants signed in at the Comprehensive Plan visioning kick-off event held Wed., Feb. 20 at the Nineteenth Century Club. Participants were there to help the consultants and staff prioritize a broad set of issues. The event focused on 11 topics identified by the advisory committee and consultants through prior public input sessions. The consultants used a keypad polling system where voting results were instantly shown to the audience. Some discussion ensued after each topic voting. The next steps will be to develop more focused community discussions on the eleven identified topics -- land use and built environment; arts and culture; parks, open space and environmental features; neighborhoods, housing and diversity; education; community health and safety; transportation and infrastructure; community life and engagement; economic health and vitality; environmental sustainability; and governmental excellence. Photos from the event are posted on the [Village's facebook page](#). Information related to the process is posted and maintained at envisionoakpark.com.

Capital improvements update – In advance of a major infrastructure project planned for the spring on North Boulevard and Kenilworth Avenue, Business Services and Engineering staff have met with those business owners likely to be most affected. The project, which will entail replacing the sewer and water mains on North Boulevard from Kenilworth to Oak Park Avenue and Kenilworth from North Boulevard to Lake Street, has been designed and released for bids. The contract is expected to come before the Village Board on March 18, with work beginning within days of an award. Representatives of the businesses with whom staff spoke naturally are concerned about the impact the work likely will have, but also understand the need to replace the aging infrastructure that has been in place since the late 19th century. North Boulevard and Kenilworth will have to be closed during the height of the project but North Boulevard is expected to be substantially completed by June 1. Parking staff also are working with permit parkers who will be displaced temporarily by the project.

First-time homebuyer seminar – The [Oak Park Regional Housing Center](#) will present its monthly first-time homebuyer seminar at 7 p.m., Tues., Feb., 26 here at Village Hall. The free seminars are held the fourth Tuesday of every month. The topics focus on information most useful to individuals interested in learning more about buying a home and securing a mortgage. If you know anyone who may be interested, please refer them to the housing center at 708.771.5801.

Reading to portray same sex marriage court decision – The Oak Park Community Relations Commission is helping the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) promote a reading of [8](#), a play that portrays the closing arguments of the federal trial that overturned a California constitutional amendment eliminating rights of same-sex couples to marry. The one-night-only event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Sun., March 10, at the Arts Center of Oak Park, 200 N. Oak Park Ave. The presentation will be followed by a discussion of marriage equality in Illinois. The

reading was made possible through the [American Foundation for Equal Rights](#). For more information, including tickets, visit [opalga.org](#).

Nicor Gas community challenge underway – Oak Park is participating in the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program Community Challenge with the goal of reducing energy use Village wide. For every Nicor Gas special program a resident or business participates in through April, \$50 will be awarded to help fund an energy efficiency project for the West Cook YMCA, the organization Oak Parkers selected via an online voting process. The goal is to raise \$25,000 in rebates and incentives. For more information or to sign up, go to [www.NicorGasEnergyBUZZ.com](#) and click on *start my EnergyBUZZ*.

New business updates from the Village Clerk – The catering license for [Food Obsession](#), a new catering company at 809 South Blvd. (formerly Perfect Dinner), is scheduled for review by the Liquor Control Review Board on Feb. 26. Daniel Vogel, the business owner, noted at the time of his business license application that he had investigated spaces in Chicago and several neighboring suburbs, and found the application process with the Clerk's Office to be much easier than any other option he considered. He hopes to open within the next month. [Cuzzo's Pasta, Pizza, Panini and More](#) (formerly Nick's Pizza) at Madison and Ridgeland avenues plans to open in the next few weeks. Oak Park native Mary Moy-George, the new owner of [OMG! Brunch](#) (the old Thyme & Honey space on Oak Park Avenue) and [Boutique](#) (former Val's Halla location on South Boulevard), has submitted a liquor license application and plans to appear before the LCRB at its March meeting. Her plans are to offer catering and take-out for commuters, and she anticipates a June opening. [Serenitea](#), new tea shop in the Pleasant District, is continuing the build-out on Pleasant Street.

Award presented to Jim Budrick – Village Engineer Jim Budrick was presented with a community service award from the [Illinois Association of Park Districts](#) and the [Illinois Park and Recreation Association](#) at a Park District of Oak Park board meeting Thursday night. Jim was nominated in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding contributions towards the advancements of parks, recreation and leisure in the Village of Oak Park.

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