



Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 10, 2013

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- May 13:
 - Village Board Special Meeting (swearing-in) 7 p.m., room 201 followed by Special Meeting in room 101
 - OPAAC Scholarship Review, 5:30 p.m., room 102
- May 14:
 - Condominium Network, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Medical Reserve Corps, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Comprehensive Plan - Envision Oak Park – Focus Group Workshops, 7 p.m. OPRF High School South Cafeteria
- May 15:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- May 16:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215

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

- June 1: breakfast reception with elected officials, 8:30 a.m., Oak Park Library
- June 2: Board Outreach Event - Day in our Village, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Scoville Park
- July 4: Parade, 10 a.m. (Ridgeland/Jackson)

Vehicle sticker sales begin – Vehicle sticker sales began this week, after renewal notices were mailed to the more than 27,000 residents who bought stickers last year. We anticipate that online sales will continue to grow from the 62.8 percent level in 2012, as residents take advantage of the 10-percent discount and ease of online renewals. But for those who still choose to renew in person, staff experience suggests that moving the renewal deadline last year to July 15 from June 30 reduced the typical last-minute rush and wait times for in-person renewals, resulting in a more customer-friendly experience. We will provide updates on the status of renewals in the weeks ahead.

Hydrant flushing underway – If you notice discoloration or cloudiness in your water, don't be concerned. Crews are flushing hydrants through May 27 to remove unwanted sediment, a routine step that helps maintain water quality and ensures

hydrants are working properly. Any discoloration or cloudiness should clear if the cold-water tap is allowed to run for a few minutes. The discoloration does not pose a health hazard, but you may want to avoid doing laundry until the water clears. [Click here for more information](#) about hydrant flushing or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

North Boulevard sewer and water main improvements – Work continues on the project to replace aging water and sewer mains on North Boulevard between Kenilworth and Oak Park avenues, and on Kenilworth from South Boulevard to Lake Street. Oak Park Avenue was reopened to southbound traffic Wednesday afternoon.

Public Works activities – The Forestry Division continued mulching, watering and placing watering bags around newly planted parkway trees. In-house parkway tree also continued between Chicago Avenue and Division Street, with crews working from Ridgeland Avenue toward East Avenue. The Street Services Division is focusing on repairing pavement and filling potholes. The Water & Sewer Division repaired sink holes at 124 N. Kenilworth Ave. and 216 Forest Ave., while also continuing to rod curb inlets that are slow to drain at various locations throughout the Village.

Free condo board training – The next in a series of free, one-hour training sessions for condominium board members who want to learn more about how to meet their responsibilities is scheduled for Tues., May 14. This session will focus on hiring a management company. The final session, collections and foreclosures, is scheduled for June 11. Sessions are held at 7 p.m., in Village Hall. The seminars are presented by [Association of Condominium, Townhouse and Homeowners Associations](#) (ACTHA). Anyone needing more information should be referred to the Housing Programs & CDBG Services at 708.358.5410 or e-mail housing@oak-park.us.

Plant & seed exchange set – The annual spring perennial plant and seed exchange is scheduled for Sat., May 11 at the Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St. Plants dropped off from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. will be available for exchange from noon – 12:30 p.m. Call 708.725.2400 or visit www.fopcon.org for more information.

Nicor Challenge goal reached – Oak Park businesses and residents came through in the final days of the [Community Challenge](#), ensuring the West Cook YMCA will get the full \$25,000 grant for an energy efficiency upgrade project. The Challenge, created by Nicor Gas to promote its energy efficiency initiatives, relied on participating communities to encourage residents and businesses to sign up for energy savings tools and programs. With each registration for one of six programs, \$50 was added to the grant up to a maximum of \$25,000. The \$25,000 check will be presented during a ceremony scheduled for 8 a.m., Fri., May 17 at the West Cook YMCA, 255 S. Marion St.

Building & Property Standards Department update – As temperatures rose, so did permitting and construction activity. Permit applications increased 100 percent and permits issued increased 40 percent in April as compared to March. Requests for construction inspections also increased by more than 40 percent in April. At the end of the month, 38 applications were in the plan review queue with 12 cases overdue an average of nine days each. The plan review for the *OMG! Brunch and Boutique* at 100 S. Oak Park Ave. was reviewed and approved. Permits also were issued for restarting construction on 10 townhomes in the [SoHo](#) development at South Boulevard and Home Avenue. [Click here to read the full April BPS report.](#)

Fire Department update – The Fire Department responded to 505 incidents in April, up only slightly from March's 501 calls. Emergency medical service calls continued to dominate activities, with the 323 incidents representing 64 percent of all April activity. Alarms initiated were second with 88, followed by general calls for service (64) and fire/hazardous conditions (30). Crews responded to one fire incident in April – a fire in a laundry at 6045 North Ave. that resulted in \$37,362 in damage. Crews also mitigated a gas leak in a vacant building that could have led to a serious incident, as well as successfully treated an 18-month-old child in full cardiac arrest at a public restaurant.

Police calls for services update – Calls to police increased in April, as Police responded to 2,775 calls as compared to 2,633 calls in March. Medium-priority calls such as accidents with no injuries, continued to be the largest category of calls in April, representing about 40 percent of total calls. The number of high-priority calls represented about 35 percent of all calls in April. Police fielded 975 high-priority calls in April, compared to 901 in March. Response times remained low in April, with officers responding to high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 12 seconds, a decrease from March's average response time of three minutes and 32 seconds. So far this year, Oak Park Police have responded to more than 10,100 calls for service.

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