



Village Manager's Report Week ending March 28, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- March 31:
 - Transportation Commission, 7:30 p.m. room 201

- April 1:
 - No scheduled meetings

- April 2:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201

Online pothole reporting offered – Residents have been invited to report potholes via a form posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/pothole. Residents have long been able to report potholes via an [existing online form](#) that allows users to report a wide range of problems and issues. However, staff created the form just for potholes to make it even easier for users.

Yard waste collection begins Monday – Regular collection of yard waste will begin Mon., March 31. The program originally was scheduled to begin April 1, but was pushed up a day to start on a Monday to coincide with the start of the weekly trash collection schedule. Bundled brush no larger than two feet in diameter and four feet in length and yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, shrubs and vines will be picked up on regular refuse collection days. A [green yard waste sticker](#) must be attached to each brush bundle, 32-gallon paper bag and rigid container. Residents are urged to look for alternatives to bagging yard waste such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders or backyard compost piles. [Click here for more information](#) on refuse and recycling collection or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Pet licenses renewals begin – The Health Department has begun notifying current pet owners about renewing their licenses. New this year, the department worked with Information Technology to do an email notification prior to the typical mail renewal reminders. Some 3,000 emails went out to those who had provided emails as part of last year's renewal process. The goal is to eventually reduce the amount of direct mail that is required for the renewal information. Communications with pet owners, both by email and U.S. mail, encourages them to [renew online](#) and provides the necessary unique information to do so. The option of mailing in their payment or coming to Village Hall will continue to be offered and the actual tag still will be delivered by mail. 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 \$13 for any non-spayed/non-neutered dog.

Weather-related activities update – The Streets Division salted for a minor snow event on Tuesday, which was the 38th of the season. Accumulation was less than an inch, but brought the season’s total snowfall to 86.1 inches. With plowing and salting no longer dominating activities, the Streets Division is focusing on patching potholes throughout the Village. The Water & Sewer division replaced a broken fire hydrant at 129 N. Oak Park Ave. and rebuilt the fire hydrant on Erie Street at Austin Boulevard. The division also continued clearing sewer inlets at various locations throughout town to ensure any remaining melting snow would not create pools of standing water.

Village presence at ribbon cuttings – Members of the [Development Customer Services](#) team attended an [Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce](#) ribbon-cutting event Friday at [Madd Love Beauty & Spa](#), 6130 Roosevelt Road. The event was the first of what we hope will be many, as a new effort begins to create a greater Village presence at business-related events in the community. Future ribbon-cutting events where team members will appear include 11 a.m., Fri., April 4 at [Prevail](#), 848 Lake St., and 11 a.m., Fri. April 18 at [Palmgren Acupuncture](#), 115 N. Marion St.

Development Customer Services building update – The volume of permit and plan review applications decreased about 14 percent in February as compared to the previous month as the winter construction slow-down continued. At the end of the month 27 applications were in the plan review queue with seven cases overdue an average of four days. Permits were issued for Update Interiors, 122 N. Marion St., and for repairs to the roof structure at Oak-Leyden Developmental Services, 320 Chicago Ave., where eight bow string trusses had failed. [Click here to read the full February report.](#)

Environment lectures series start next week – The [Environment & Energy Commission](#) has once again partnered with local organizations to present the annual *Green Tuesday* environmental lecture series scheduled for 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday in April at the [main branch of the Oak Park Public Library](#). Like Green Tuesdays of the past, the 2014 series, which is the ninth year for the event, will focus on current unique local environmental challenges. This year’s local lectures will align with the [2014 Earth Day global theme of Green Cities](#). For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Tree trimming, EAB removals continue – The Forestry Division continued the winter tree pruning cycle, trimming parkway trees on the 500 and 600 blocks of Belleforte Ave and the 600 and 700 blocks of N. Marion St. The division also removed parkway trees in decline at 704 and 843 N. Marion St. and assisted ComEd with two tree removals in the alley behind 100 N. Harvey Ave. Village contractor Winkler Tree Service trimmed trees on various sections of Taylor Avenue, Berkshire Street, Humphrey Avenue, Hayes Avenue, LeMoyne Boulevard and Greenfield Street. Contractor A&B Landscaping continued removing parkway trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) between Austin Boulevard and Harlem Avenue and Harrison and Madison streets. A&B also continued stump removals.

Employee news – Carrienne R. Carallis has been selected as the new Grants Coordinator in the Housing & CDBG Division of Development Customer Services. Among her duties will be helping administer the Village’s Community Development Block Grants Program, writing plans and other vital documents, and ensuring

compliance with federal rules, regulations and guidelines. In addition, Carrienne will play a key role in the Village's expansion of CDBG into previously unexplored areas such as economic development. Prior to joining the Village team, she was Contract Outcomes Analyst at [Heartland Human Care Services](#) in Chicago. In other employee news, congratulations to Sustainability Coordinator K.C. Doyle who has accepted a new position with Lake County and Steve Touloumis, our chief building inspector, who is leaving to join a private- sector company. We wish them both well in their new career endeavors.

###