



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending April 4, 2014**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- April 7:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- April 8:
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
- April 9:
  - Condo Training Series, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- April 10:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 101

**Successful Police records audit completed** – The Police Department successfully completed an onsite [Law Enforcement Agencies Data System \(LEADS\)](#) audit conducted by the Illinois State Police. This comprehensive audit, the first here in 10 years, covered technical security, state regulations regarding user rules and records accuracy as it relates to the FBI's [National Crime Information Center \(NCIC\)](#) and other criminal data systems. While Police still are awaiting the final evaluation from the State Police, Chief Tanksley says special thanks are in order to Marcey Stachura in the Records Division who successfully navigated the audit process with minimal findings.

**Solar bus shelter planned** – Pace will replace the bus shelter at Oak Park Avenue and South Boulevard with a new [solar-powered advertising shelter](#). Installation is scheduled for Tues., April 8, and should take no more than a day to complete. Solar collectors will provide power for lighting the advertising panel and the shelter area. According to PACE, the revenue stream generated from advertisers offsets the cost of regular maintenance and cleaning, as well as electric lighting for enhanced passenger security.

**AT&T repair to affect South Marion** – The Village has been notified by AT&T that they need to repair a collapsed cable duct at 212 S. Marion St., south of Pleasant Street. They likely will be seeking a permit soon, which will provide us with more details on the scope of the work and the schedule. We had asked AT&T to consider scheduling the work to coincide with our project to rebuild the speed table on North Marion at Westgate Street so that we could perhaps use the same contractor to ensure proper

restoration of this important area. However, AT&T has indicated a need to move quicker than our late June/early July timeframe for North Marion may allow. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

**Dog park, turf field to reopen** – The grand re-opening of the turf field and dog park at Ridgeland Common is scheduled for Sat., April 5 as the renovation of the facility at Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue nears conclusion. The dog park will re-open at 10 a.m. and the turf field at 10:30 a.m. followed by a pitch, hit and run competition for ages 7 to 14. This event is free, registration is required to compete. Visit [www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org) for more details.

**A Day in Our Village update** – The annual [A Day in Our Village](#) festival appears to be on track for another big year. Community Relations Director Cedric Melton reports that about 60 organizations already had signed up for booth space in the June 1 event. Competition for space is likely to get intense as the event date nears, since the reconstruction of Scoville Park reduced the space available for the event. If you know representatives of any organizations that hope to participate, but have not yet signed up, you may want to [direct them to this link](#) to reserve a space soon.

**Cross-border collaboration continues** – Fresh off the success of the January meeting that featured discussions on building stronger relationships between Oak Park and the Austin/West Garfield Park communities, the [Community of Congregations](#) will continue exploring the topic at its spring meeting scheduled for 7:15 p.m., April 28, at Unity Temple. Community Relations Director Cedric Melton will participate in a *table talk* program designed to foster meaningful discussions and activities between members of the communities involved. Of particular interest is the [Dinner & Dialogue program](#), which many Austin entities have expressed an interest in incorporating as a regularly scheduled event among members of communities.

**Second Green Tuesday lectures set** – The ninth annual Green Tuesdays lecture series will continue on April 8 at the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. Next week's lecture by Michael Iversen from the University of Illinois Chicago will focus on the ecology of cities. The sessions are 7 to 8:30 p.m. Like Green Tuesdays of the past, the 2014 series is focusing on current unique local environmental challenges.

**Lawnmower exchange update** – The past weekend's lawnmower exchange event ended the polluting ways of 21 gasoline-powered machines. Each person who turned in a lawnmower received a rebate of up to \$150 towards the purchase of a new electric, battery-powered or non-motorized push mower.

**Paint exchange is coming** – The [annual latex paint exchange](#) is scheduled for Sat., April 12 at the Public Works Center. Residents can safely dispose of unwanted, but useable latex paint from 9 to 11 a.m. and get free paint 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Only half-to-full cans of latex paint will be accepted. Anyone requiring more information, can call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Sewer cleaning delayed** – Due to weather delays, siphon cleaning of Ridgeland Avenue sewer lines is still underway. However, the contractor anticipates completing the work by the end of next week barring any further weather delays.

**Pothole patching continues** – The Streets Division continued patching potholes throughout the Village. Work also included saw-cutting, excavating and adding new concrete to several openings made to repair water main breaks. In the meantime, the Village’s private contractor began sweeping main and side streets this week.

**Water-related work continued** – The Water & Sewer division repaired a broken sewer lateral at 843 Home St., repaired a sink hole at 529 N. Grove Ave. and upgraded the public side of the water service at 1125 S. Oak Park Ave. as part of the water service lead abatement program. The division also continued clearing sewer inlets at various locations throughout town to reduce the chances of flooded streets.

**Tree trimming winding down** – The Forestry Division continued parkway tree pruning as the winter cycle winds down. Crews worked on the 500 and 600 blocks of N. Marion Street and on Paulina Street and Schneider and Miller Avenues. The division also removed a parkway tree at 1006 S. Austin Ave. that was uprooted by high winds as well as removed several hanging limbs and small branches in various parts of the Village. Winkler Tree Service completed its winter cycle tree-trimming contract. In preparation for spring parkway planting, Forestry personnel began visiting nurseries to choose the 339 trees to be planted at selected sites throughout the Village.

**Employee news** – Village Engineer Jim Budrick has announced his plans to retire on May 30 after what will be more than 35 years of service to the community. Jim began his career here as traffic engineer, working his way up to Village engineer in 1987. During this time, he has worked for nine Village managers. Jim’s expertise, knowledge, historical perspective and institutional memory will be sorely missed.

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