



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 16, 2014**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- May 18:
 - Village Board Retreat, 8 a.m. – noon, The Carleton

- May 19:
 - Village Board Photos, 7:00 p.m., room 201
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- May 20:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- May 21:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m. room 101
 - OPAAC Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- May 22:
 - Plan Commission Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101

Comprehensive Plan update – After several lengthy meetings, the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) has reviewed the 11 main chapters from the public focus group sessions and provided the planning consultants with comments and recommendations. The supporting chapters and appendices will be reviewed by CPAC on May 29 in preparation for a public presentation of a final draft in either late June or early July. This presentation before the Plan Commission will be an open meeting and public comment will be taken for the record. The final draft will be released to the public for review well in advance of the presentation. A presentation to the Village Board will be scheduled based on member availability, with adoption possible in late August or early September.

Roosevelt Road analysis status update – Development of a report that will analyze Roosevelt Road economic funding resources has begun. The report, being prepared by contractor [Ehlers Inc.](#), will outline available resources, eligibility for each resource and estimated equalized assessed value (EAV) for the project area. Stakeholder focus groups are tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m., Thurs., June 5 and 8 a.m., Fri., June 6. An online survey also is scheduled to go live the first week in June. The final report with recommendations likely will be ready in early July.

Viaduct repairs to affect Harlem traffic – The CTA notified the Village that repairs to the viaduct on Harlem Avenue south of Lake Street will reduce traffic to one lane in both directions on Harlem from 8 p.m., Fri., May 30 through 6 p.m., Sun., June 1. With [Uncork Illinois](#) scheduled for Sat., May 31, the project could cause some traffic congestion. However, the CTA will provide employee flaggers to facilitate traffic movement. [Click here to see the traffic diversion plan.](#)

Public Works activities – Patching potholes and street openings from water utility repairs continued. Crews also repaired and replaced damaged signs and garbage cans at various locations, while street sweeping continued. Broken fire hydrants were repaired at 553 N. Marion St. and 900 S. East Ave. by the south Fire Station. Crews also repaired a broken water shutoff valve at 14 Madison St. and upgraded a water service at 1104 S. East Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Stump removals continued in preparation for parkway tree planting, which was scheduled to begin today following the delivery of 100 new trees. Removal of damaged and diseased trees also began this week and the planters in the commercial districts were landscaped. Letters were sent to waste haulers and business owners reminding them that Village ordinance prohibits activity in alleys before 7 a.m. Letters also were sent to some 80 landscape companies reminding them to register their leaf blowers as required by ordinance to ensure compliance with noise level limits. Forestry personnel conducted a safety seminar for Public Works staffers who use chainsaws, chippers and bucket trucks.

Capital improvements update -- Rain delayed sewer cleaning on Ridgeland Avenue, as another two days of dry weather is needed to complete the project. Sewer cleaning and inspections at other locations in the Village are scheduled to begin next week. The water main improvement project scheduled for the 700 block of South Highland Avenue and on Van Buren Street from Cuyler Avenue to Harvey Avenue will start on Van Buren at the end of the month, and then move onto Highland when the school year ends in early June. All asphalt paving remaining from the 2013 contract season has been completed. However, some pavement markings and sealing still must be completed at various locations.

Fire Department commended for inventiveness – Our Fire Department recently received a letter of commendation from the medical director of the Loyola Emergency Medical Services System for an unusual, but very effective patient removal procedure. Crews used a rope rigging and rescue basket to lower an elderly patient with severe hip fractures from the attic roof of her home because the tight, spiral staircase would have compromised immobilization of the injuries.

Public service video to air at Lake Theater – A 45-second public service announcement on the dangers of second hand smoke produced by the Health and Communications departments will air for 10 weeks later this summer at the Lake Theater. The PSA, created by VOP-TV Manager Joe Kreml, communicates the message that rather than just going away, second-hand smoke finds its way into the lungs of others and, according to the Surgeon General, is ultimately responsible for 40,000 deaths per year in the U.S. alone. Funding from an [Illinois Tobacco Free Communities](#) grant made the project possible. Entitled *Sensitive Smoking*, the PSA also will run on VOP-TV and the Village's YouTube channel – [click here for a preview.](#)

Police activities update – Police responded to 2,581 calls in April, the highest so far this year. However, high-priority calls in April were the second lowest this year. The 789 high-priority calls represented about 31 percent of the volume. Medium-priority calls – such as accidents without injuries – represented about 43 percent of all calls, which is typical in any given month. Officers were on the scene of high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 22 seconds in April, the second fastest average response time so far this year. Oak Park continued to represent the largest percentage of calls handled by the West Suburban Dispatch Center in April at 60 percent, a percentage consistent with our population share. [Click here to see the police call data.](#)

Fire Department update – Firefighters responded to 471 calls in April, bringing the year's total to 2,160. About two-thirds of the calls (66 percent) were for emergency medical services, followed by alarm initiated (16 percent), service calls (12 percent) and fire/hazardous (6 percent). Average response time in April – including turnout and travel – was four minutes and two seconds, well below the six-minute industry average. The department also responded to 19 calls for mutual aid and received mutual aid on 10 occasions. EMS calls resulted in contact with 332 patients in April, which included 290 transports to a medical facility. Of the transports, 142 required advanced life support services. Firefighters responded to 13 fires in April, four of which were in buildings. The highest-loss incident was a kitchen fire that firefighters put out with fire extinguishers. The damage could have been much less destructive if the homeowner had a fire extinguisher nearby. A second fire of note occurred when a tree trimming crew allowed a large branch to sever the electric service to the house. The still energized wires ignited combustible material on the ground. The fire was extinguished with care, while waiting for ComEd to arrive.

Building activities update – The volume of permit and plan review applications increased about 75 percent in March from the previous month, as the cold weather finally eased. At the end of March, 37 applications were in the plan review queue with eight cases overdue an average of six days. Permits were issued for [Red Mango](#) yogurt shop, 1044 Lake St. and Fresko Yogurt & Juice Bar, 136 N. Oak Park Ave. [Click here to reach the full March report.](#)

Employee news – Police Crime Analyst Susannah Yong was one of only four individuals to earn an award from the [International Association of Crime Analysts](#) for her contributions to the field. The award was for Susannah's role in identifying a burglary pattern that helped lead to the arrest of two suspects responsible for numerous burglaries – [click here to read the Police Chief's memo to his staff announcing the award.](#) In other employee news, Oak Park resident Linda Deviller is the new executive secretary in Development Customer Services and Ngozi Eneogwe is our new environmental health intern.

New Parking Director – Jill Velan has been hired as the Director of Parking & Mobility Services. As part of the competitive recruitment for the position, Jill was selected following review of nearly 30 applications that led to interviews with multiple candidates before panels that included the Village Manager, a department director and community and business leaders. In addition to her interim role as our parking director since 2012, Jill's past experience includes more than 12 years in local government as village administrator for the Village of Antioch and an assistant village administrator for the Village of Lincolnwood. Duties there included managing the day-

to-day operations, economic development, budget preparation and capital improvement planning, as well as maintaining cooperative service agreements with neighboring municipalities. Jill holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University.

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