



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending May 23, 2014**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- May 26:
 - Village Hall Closed in observance of Memorial Day

- May 27:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- May 28:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 201
 - Fair Housing Task Force, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Community Design Commission, 7:15 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- May 29:
 - Reinventing Government Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Plan Commission Special Meeting, 7 p.m. room 201

Farmers' Market opens Saturday – The Oak Park Farmers' Market will [open for its 39th season](#) on Sat., May 24. The Farmers' Market is held from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. every Saturday from opening day until the final market, which this year will be Nov. 1. The market will return to its usual site on the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot on Lake Street, one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. A majority of the vendors now accept credit/debit cards. More information on the market is [posted on the Village website](#).

On-street parking restrictions eased over holiday weekend – The [overnight parking ban](#) will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets over the Memorial Day weekend. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., May 24, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Tues., May 27. However, restrictions will remain in effect in overnight permit areas, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street overnight parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including all daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. The holiday does not affect parking meters. Anyone requiring more information, should call the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Police targeting unbuckled drivers and passengers – Oak Park Police will be out in force over the Memorial Day weekend looking for unbuckled motorists and impaired drivers. Since Jan. 1, motorists in Illinois are required to wear seat belts in all seating positions in the car, not just the front seat. Police say they will be out enforcing seat belt laws around the clock and anyone caught not wearing a seat belt will be ticketed. [Read more...](#)

Village Hall closed Monday – [Village Hall](#), 123 Madison St., will be closed on Mon., May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance. Information on Village Hall, including hours and directions, is [posted on the Village website](#).

Funds for homeless restored – The Village will receive a \$108,633 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) after all, even though the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development had ruled earlier that changing demographics in our community would preclude us from the program for the first time since 1987. The federal funds were redirected through Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), which, after an appeal from the Village, agreed to provide the funds for homeless assistance in Oak Park. In preparing for our initial request to HUD for the 2014 program year, the Village conservatively estimated our ESG allocation to be \$108,000, nearly all of which would go to two agencies – the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and West Suburban PADS.

Budget document wins award – For the second consecutive year, the Village's budget document has received a [Government Finance Officers Association \(GFOA\) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award](#). The award, which we now have received for both our FY2013 and FY2014 budgets, is considered the highest form of recognition in government budgeting. To be eligible, organizations must publish a budget document that is a policy document, operations guide, financial plan and communications device. The [GFOA](#), founded in 1906, represents nearly 18,000 federal, state, provincial and local finance officials. [Click here to read the award letter](#).

Comment sought on county hazard mitigation plan – Anyone interested in learning about Cook County's hazard mitigation plan is invited to [attend a public meeting](#) scheduled for 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tues., May 27, at the Berwyn Police Department, 6401 W. 31st St. Meetings also are scheduled for May 28 in Orland Park and May 29 in Glenview. A computer workstation will be available to show which natural hazards have the potential to affect property, along with maps of Cook County depicting the location and extent of the natural hazards. The plan also is [available online](#) for public review and comment. In addition, county residents are urged to [take an online survey](#).

Capital improvements update – Sewer cleaning on Ridgeland Avenue is complete. This season's sewer cleaning and inspections will begin on May 28. Since many of the sites are within business districts, crews will work with district representatives to minimize disruptions. Trenchless repair of the sewer on North Boulevard immediately

west of Oak Park Avenue was scheduled for today (May 23). The work involves grouting a sewer joint, which was not set properly during installation. No-parking signs with the date and times of the work were posted along the viaduct and merchants in the district were notified in advance. Water main improvements are scheduled to begin next week on Van Buren Street between Cuyler and Highland avenues. Work will move to Highland between Van Buren and Jackson Boulevard on June 11 after the school term ends. State-funded resurfacing projects on portions of Grove Avenue, Lombard Avenue, Taylor Avenue and Berkshire Street will begin the first week of June.

Public Works activities – Patching potholes and street openings from water utility repairs continued. Bases for the art in the upcoming [Sculpture Walk](#) were painted, delivered and installed in the [Hemingway District](#), requiring the relocation of some planters. Repair of the bluestone on North Marion Street downtown is underway. A water main break was repaired at 934 N. Grove Ave. and a water service leak repaired at 511 S. Harvey Ave. Crews also cleaned sewers at various locations throughout the Village. Forestry crews were called in Tuesday night to clear storm damage caused by the powerful rainstorms that passed through the area. About 100 new trees were planted in north sections of the Village, while trees affected with Emerald Ash Borer were removed. Regular maintenance of landscape planters has begun.

Participants still needed for sustainability research study – With participation apparently lagging, Illinois Institute of Technology researchers are asking us to help them get more people to [to take an online survey](#) designed to determine what factors actually contribute to sustainability in an urban/suburban context. The survey, which is rather involved and takes 45 minutes to complete, covers topics such as energy consumption, transport movements and quality of life. Residents who began the survey, but didn't complete it can start where they left off. All responses are confidential. Questions about the survey or the study should be directed to pdu@iit.edu.

New Forester hired -- Rob Sproule joined the Public Works Department on May 19 as the new superintendent of the Forestry Division. He brings extensive experience in arboriculture, landscaping and forestry management, having worked for New York City, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District in various capacities including forester, tree surgeon and senior horticulturist. Most recently he managed the trees and shrubs at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Rob has bachelor's degrees in environmental science and political science from Fordham University and a master's degree in forestry from the University of Maine. He is a certified arborist and municipal specialist with the [International Society of Arboriculture](#).

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