



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending March 20, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, March 23:
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Tuesday, March 24:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 201
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
  
- Wednesday, March 25:
  - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 201
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Thursday, March 26:
  - No scheduled meetings

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Monday, April 13 – Village Board Special Meeting regarding Madison Street, 7 p.m., room 101
- Monday, April 20 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Monday, April 27 – Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101

**Early voting begins Monday** – Early voting will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon., March 23 through April 4 at Village Hall, including Saturdays. Grace-period registration also is available for anyone who missed the March 11 deadline to register. As in past elections, county administrative staff will set up operations in the welcome desk and actual voting will take place in room 101. More information on early voting and grace-period registration is posted at [www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections).

**Draft grant priorities set for review** – Staff is gearing up to gather public input on priorities for the 2015 – 2019 consolidated plan related to how the Village allocates Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). An open house is set for 4 to 7 p.m., Thurs., March 26 at Village Hall. Interested parties are invited to attend at any time during these hours to ask questions, provide feedback

or engage in discussion about the priorities. A formal draft of the Consolidated Plan should be released in mid-summer, which will provide an additional opportunity for public review and comment. The draft priorities are [posted on the Village website](#).

**2015 Community Survey** – Preparations are underway for the 2015 Village of Oak Park Community Survey. Residents will receive the survey in the mail in August and September. The [National Research Center, Inc. \(NRC\)](#), a social science research firm whose core business is community surveys, administer Oak Park surveys in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011 and 2013. Through its collaboration with the [International City Managers Association](#), NRC has developed a national database of community surveys and survey questions, which allow the Village to compare many of the results with those from similar communities in Illinois and across the country. Results of these [past survey results are posted on the Village web site](#).

**Emergency response volunteers sought** – Volunteers are being sought to join the community emergency response team - or CERT - that helps support response efforts after an emergency or natural disaster. [Local CERT volunteers](#) are trained in a range of skills, including basic firefighting, search and rescue, emergency triage and first aid. Volunteers with a variety of backgrounds are needed, including health care and public education. Prospective volunteers must attend training sessions scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturdays, May 9 and 16, and 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sun., May 17. For more information or to sign up, call 708.358.5488 or email [msnow@oak-park.us](mailto:msnow@oak-park.us).

**Permit activity** – The number of plan review and permit applications in January was about 5 percent higher than January 2014. Revenue generated was substantially higher than in the previous year due in part to the large renovation project at Pete's Fresh Market. The volume of applications for plan reviews and permits remained basically the same in January as December, with the initial plan review pass rates doing well. Requests for construction inspections dropped by about 10 percent in January as compared to December, however, the drop is likely due to the cold weather. In February, the volume of plan reviews and permit applications rose about 12 percent over February of last year, but the volume dropped by about 13 percent compared to this January. Requests for construction inspections rose about 15 percent in February over the prior month. Notable projects included the Barre Code fitness center, 1040 Lake St., Carnival Foods, 824 S. Oak Park Ave., Austin Gardens Environmental Center, 167 Forest Ave., Noble Kinsman Brewing Company, 6806 Roosevelt Road, Pink Nail Salon, 123 N. Marion St., The Beer Shop, 1026 North Boulevard and Fleet Feet Sports at 102 N. Marion St. [Click here to read the January and February permits processing reports](#).

**Capital improvements update** – Three projects currently are out for bid – the second alley improvement contract, the first of two street resurfacing contracts and a water valve replacement project. These three items are tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Board for consideration at the April 20 meeting. Engineering staff is working with the Illinois Department of Transportation's paving contractor and the Village's sewer contractor to coordinate construction on the two projects scheduled for Ridgeland Avenue this season. A project schedule could be ready by next week.

**Public Works activities** – Several dozen broken and worn out bricks were replaced on the Hunter Court walkway, as street sweeping began in the business areas, main streets and permit parking areas. Spring litter clean-up also began in various parking lots, viaduct areas and other problem locations in the Village. Pothole patching also continued. A water opening was temporarily patched at 1174 S. Ridgeland Ave., and repairs were made to a water main at 722 N. Harvey Ave. and fire hydrants on the northeast corner of Chicago and Harlem avenues and the northwest corner of Maple and Chicago avenues. Catch basins were cleaned on the north side and sewer mains flushed on the south side. A water service was traced at 1140 Garfield Ave., combined sewer laterals traced at 401 S. Maple Ave. and a new water service installed at 159 N. Elmwood Ave. Staff continues to work with ComEd to remedy issues affecting lighting on the Lombard Avenue overpass. Tree trimming continued, as the winter cycle winds down, with Forestry crews working on the north side, and contractor crews focusing on the area north of I-290, moving eastbound from Austin Boulevard. Contractor crews also are removing damaged and diseased trees throughout the Village.

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