



Village Manager's Report Week ending March 27, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, March 30:
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Tuesday, March 31:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, April 1:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- Thursday, April 2:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, April 13 – Village Board Special Meeting regarding Madison Street, time to be determined., 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

Unity Temple restoration to begin – Construction staging began this week for the comprehensive restoration of [Unity Temple](#). The project will be completed in two phases – exterior and interior. Exterior work, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of June, will include repairs to the walls, roof slabs, roofing, downspouts and skylights, as well as restoration of the planters and flatwork. A geothermal well field also will be installed at the north end of the property to provide air conditioning. Work on the interior is scheduled to begin in June and be completed in November 2016. The building will be closed to the public once the interior work begins. A temporary construction fence will be erected around the entire site and pedestrian traffic will be re-routed into the parking lane along Lake Street while work occurs on the geothermal system, which still is pending permit approval by the state. A covered sidewalk canopy will be incorporated into the scaffolding system to provide pedestrian protection along Kenilworth Avenue.

Metra station repairs update – Metra is tentatively scheduled to begin exterior repairs on its Marion Street station in April. The project was originally scheduled to begin in January and is expected to take about a month. Work will require temporarily

closing the stairway access from Marion. Limited street interruption is expected, but northbound Marion Street traffic may be detoured periodically for materials delivery. Flaggers will be on hand to direct traffic. A few metered spaces on North Boulevard also may need to be closed temporarily. In addition to repairing the brick on the stairway and the exterior of the warming center, the platform also will be resurfaced. Work is not expected to impede train boarding. Riders will be able to access the station from the Forest Avenue stairway and the multi-modal station to the west of Marion, which has entryways from both South and North boulevards.

Backflow survey distributed – Residents should have begun receiving the state-required survey to identify and eliminate connections that could allow contaminants to accidentally flow back into the drinking water from sources such as fire protection sprinkler systems, boilers, lawn sprinklers and swimming pools. The [Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#) requires communities to survey all its water customers every two years. The short survey can be completed online or returned via fax, email or U.S. Mail. Oak Park's cross-connection control program is managed by Elgin-based [Aqua Backflow](#), which will gather and compile the survey information. Respondents who have or require backflow protection, may be contacted for testing, repair or installation.

Snow operations update – Public Works crews were back on the streets early Monday plowing and salting in response to a fast-moving storm that resulted in about seven inches of snow in Oak Park, the most for this late in the season since 1982. With temperatures staying near or above freezing following the storm, streets were quickly cleared following a messy early rush hour. Staff will remain vigilant over the coming few weeks, as measurable snow remains a possibility well into April.

Capital improvement updates – Demolition of the 260 Madison St. building is expected to begin within the next two weeks, following removal of asbestos remaining from the original construction of the former automobile dealership and repair facility. Improvements are expected to begin in mid-April on two projects not completed in 2014 – the east-west alley south of North Avenue between Humphrey Avenue and Austin Boulevard and the north-south alley between Woodbine and Kenilworth avenues from Berkshire to Greenfield streets. Work also is scheduled to begin next month on the first alley project for 2015 – the T-shaped segment between Harvey and Lombard avenues between Roosevelt Road to Fillmore Street, and the east-west alley south of Harrison Street between Taylor and Lyman avenues. Spot repairs on Ridgeland Avenue between South Boulevard and Erie Street in mid-April will kick off the major sewer replacement project planned for this important north-south roadway. The work will require closing Ridgeland from Lake Street to Chicago Avenue for approximately three weeks. Signs alerting motorists to the closure should be in place by early next week. The main portion of the project from Chicago Avenue to Division Street is scheduled to start in early June.

Public Works activities – Pothole patching and litter clean-up continue to be major activities for Streets Division crews. Street-sweeping also has begun. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at Chicago and Belleforte avenues and a water service at 506 S. Austin Blvd. Crews also cleaned catch basins in north Oak Park and jetted sewer mains in south Oak Park. Forestry crews continued winter-cycle pruning and removing diseased and damaged smaller trees, while private contractors

focused on removing the larger ones affected by the emerald ash borer and Dutch elm disease. Meanwhile, the Village Forester has begun visiting nurseries and tagging trees for spring planting.

Employee news – Four new firefighter/paramedics were sworn in at Village Hall Monday. They are Timothy Steffen, Adam Smith, Brent Mason and Zachary Byington. Street Lighting Division's Keith Seat recently earned a certificate of completion for traffic control systems from the Apprentice and Journeyman Training Committee of the [Electrical Training Alliance](#). Keith has been an employee of the Village since 2008, coming to the Public Works Department early last year from the Parking & Mobility Services Department.

###