



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending April 10, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, April 13:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- Tuesday, April 14:
  - No scheduled Meetings
  
- Wednesday, April 15:
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
  - Community relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
  
- Thursday, April 16:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
  - Commissioner Boykin Town Hall Meeting, 6 p.m., room 201
  - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- 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

**Paint exchange is Saturday** – The annual [Great Paint Exchange](#) is scheduled for Saturday 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. The event gives residents an unusual opportunity for disposing of paint, since it cannot be sent to a landfill if it is still liquid.

**Environment testing at South Boulevard/Harlem site** – Lincoln Properties has scheduled environmental testing next week for the parcels included in the mixed-use development planned for the site. The west parking lot will be closed Tues., April 14 and the east lot be closed Wed., April 15. Parking permit holders were notified of the testing and appropriate signage will be erected.

**Ridgeland Avenue construction to begin** – The signs are up on Ridgeland Avenue alerting motorists to the busy construction season ahead for the section between Division Street and South Boulevard. Sewer work will begin next week, requiring closing Ridgeland from Lake Street to Chicago Avenue. Work is scheduled to move north in June, requiring closure from Chicago Avenue to Division Street through

August. Street paving will follow the sewer improvement project. Staff is working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to coordinate the sewer and paving projects, but traffic likely is to be disrupted well into the fall. More details on the schedule are in a news story [posted on the Village website](#).

**Seminar to address housing disability provisions** – The Village has joined with the [HOPE Fair Housing Center](#) to sponsor a free seminar for rental property owners, managers and leasing agents to learn more about their responsibilities to accommodate persons with disabilities. The seminar is scheduled for Thurs., April 16, in the small meeting room of the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. Two seminar sessions are scheduled – 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. More details are [posted on the Village website](#).

**TIGER grant period begins** – The U.S. Department of Transportation [recently announced](#) that \$500 million will be made available for projects under the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. The pre-application deadline is May 4 and applications must be submitted by June 5. As in past years, staff will be assessing capital projects that might meet TIGER guidelines for funding. More information will be provided in the near future.

**Promoting biodiesel use** – The Fleet Services Division has become a member of the [B20 Club](#), a program of the Illinois Soybean Association and American Lung Association created to help promote the use of biodiesel fuel. All 71 of the Village's diesel vehicles run on B20 bio diesel fuel, including fire engines and snow plows. Biodiesel fuel helps reduce greenhouse gas, provides greater diversity in fuel supplies and is manufactured domestically from waste products. B20 has been the diesel product of choice for the Village since 2008. Beyond bragging rights among peers for being green, membership in the B20 Club also offers access to technical webinars and experts in related emerging plant-based fuel technologies.

**Capital improvements update** – Work has begun on improvements to the central reservoir. The baseball field at Stevenson Park has been closed and the contractor has started stripping the dirt from the top of the reservoir. The Engineering Division will bid the restoration work to ensure a competitive price. Work is underway on three alleys on the south side of the Village, the first alley projects planned for the 2015 construction season. Each alley is expected to take about three weeks to complete. The two alley projects remaining from the 2014 schedule should start in late April. Bids have been received for the second phase of alley improvements and a street resurfacing project, and are scheduled to be presented to the Village Board for consideration at the April 20 meeting. Demolition of the 260 Madison St. is awaiting final paperwork from the contractor and should begin in the coming weeks. Commonwealth Edison is nearing completion of the design for a new electrical duct on Forest Avenue from Erie Street to the alley north of Lake Street. This new electrical duct will provide additional power and reliability not only to the new development at Lake and Forest, but to the entire downtown area as well. Work on the new duct is expected to start later this spring. Nearby property owners, including the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio, will be notified when ComEd provides a detailed work schedule.

**Public Works activities** – Spring cleaning continues, with the Streets Division focusing on potholes and litter cleanup in the business districts. Crews also are using the mall *Green Machine* sweeper to clean in public parking areas where a larger street sweeper will not fit. Sidewalk brick repair and replacement continued on Hunter Court and in the south town business district. Water & Sewer Division crews upgraded water services at 701 S. Euclid Ave. and 1153 Gunderson Ave. as part of the Village’s lead abatement program. Crews also repaired a sewer frame at 6931 North Ave. and reset a water shut-off valve at 518 S. Taylor Ave. Removing trees affected by emerald ash borers and responding to residents’ requests for trimming kept Forestry Division crews busy this week. They also spent time in the south town business district removing planters where streetscape improvements are planned. The planters were relocated along North Avenue. The latest cycle of tree trimming has been completed, but contractors are continuing to remove diseased and damaged trees of concern. Crews have moved to the area between Division and Madison streets now that removals between North Avenue and Division Street are completed. Landscape maintenance and stump removals are scheduled to begin next week.

**Employee news** – The Fire Department welcomed its first woman lieutenant this week, as 19-year-veteran Delayne Carson was promoted in a ceremony at Village Hall. Carson also was the department’s first female firefighter. Three new firefighters, Jacob Haag, Daniel Leiner and Patrick Sanchez, were sworn in at the ceremony as well. Greg Soltwisch has joined the Streets Division. He has more than seven years of experience in public works, most recently with the Downers Grove Township. Two important positions became vacant this week, as Jason Paprocki, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, and Kristine Giornalista, Neighborhood Services Manager, resigned to pursue new opportunities. Jason, who has worked with the Village since June 2012, accepted a position with the Village of Oak Brook, and Kristine, who joined the Village in August 2014, is relocating to Madison, Wisconsin. Recruitment is underway to fill both positions.

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