



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending March 18, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 21:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, March 22:
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 101
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m., room 102
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m. room 215
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, March 23:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee, 6:45 p.m., room 101
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, March 24:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Friday, March 25:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Saturday, April 23
 - Earth Fest, 10am – 2pm, Public Works Building

Valet parking update – The new valet parking service downtown is on pace to far outperform the temporary valet services that were available near 1035 Lake Street during the construction of the new Lake and Forest public parking garage. In the first two weeks of the new valet service, 63 customers used the North Boulevard and Marion Street Valet Stand and 66 customers used the Lake Street valet stand near Bar Louie. Feedback from area business owners and managers is very positive about the availability of a valet service during construction of the new public parking garage at Oak Park Station. Staff is working with the Downtown Oak Park business association and the Village's valet management company [SP Plus Corp.](#) on a marketing plan to promote the new parking service.

Garage equipment upgrades – The new validation/payment equipment at Holley Court Garage is now up and running. The equipment improves garage ingress and egress while reducing technical problems that occurred with the older equipment. As permit holders and hourly parkers become familiar with the new system, the process of getting in and out of the busy garage should become faster and more convenient. [Revcon Technology Group Inc.](#), the installer of the new [TIBA Parking Systems](#) equipment, is on pace to have the Avenue Garage upgrade completed next week. The same equipment also was installed in the new garage in the Lake & Forest development project. Village staff is working with area business operators to inform them of various options within the garage. The ultimate goal is to make parking more convenient for employees, visitors and shoppers in the central business districts.

Chicago sewer project traffic impacts begin – Contractors for the Chicago Department of Water Management began detouring Madison Street traffic through Oak Park this week for a major sewer project on the west side. Madison Street is completely closed east of Austin Boulevard. Westbound Chicago traffic is being detoured south at Central Avenue to westbound Roosevelt Road, then north on Ridgeland Avenue back to Madison. Eastbound Oak Park traffic is detoured in the reverse way. Madison Street within Oak Park is open fully to local traffic. The work is estimated to take up to 12 weeks.

Projects out for bid – The Engineering Division issued requests for proposals this week for Marion Street crosswalk improvements, street resurfacing and the salt storage facility roof structure. Improvements to Marion Street crosswalks will include replacing damaged bluestone with sturdier blue concrete similar to what was done on Marion last year between Lake Street and the viaduct. The street resurfacing advertisement is for the first of two resurfacing projects planned for the upcoming construction season. The salt storage project entails adding a roof structure to the pad built last year at the Cook County Forest Preserve District Maintenance Facility in Maywood.

Miscellaneous construction project updates – The southbound lane of Marion Street is now closed at the viaduct as ComEd relocates services from the Westgate Street area of the Oak Park Station development site. The work is projected to be completed by March 25. The rehabilitation of both the south and north water pumping stations is progressing. The interior work includes elevating walkways, color-coding pipe and installing skid-resistant flooring.

Public Works Activities – The warmer weather has allowed Streets Division crews to continue installing benches, relocating garbage cans, street sweeping and removing litter in parking lots and public areas throughout the Village. Water & Sewer Division crews had to shut off the water supply to Oak Park River Forest High School Wednesday after a break in a six-inch service line on school property. With no water to the school's restrooms, students were dismissed early. A water main break at Oak Park Avenue and Roosevelt Road and a catch basin at 2 Madison St. were repaired. A fire hydrant was rebuilt at Harlem and LeMoyné avenues, and a buffalo box reset at 737 N. Taylor Ave. Forestry Division crews began landscaping work across the Village, as well as gave the Metra station platform landscaping a thorough cleaning. Village Forestry crews also continued routine tasks of responding to resident requests, removing dead and dying ash trees, and pruning. The Forestry contractor continued winter-cycle pruning, with crews currently working on Wisconsin and Maple avenues between South Boulevard and Madison Street, moving west.

Township seeking volunteers – Oak Park Township has asked the Village to help spread the word about needing residents for three-year terms on its Youth Services and the Senior Services advisory committees. Applications are available at www.oakparktownship.org, at the Township office and by mail by calling 708.383.8005. The deadline to apply is Mon. April 11. The Youth Services Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month and advises the Township board on funding local agencies that sponsor programs for youth, especially those at risk of becoming involved in harmful or illegal activities. The Senior Services Committee, which meets quarterly, monitors and makes recommendations about services and programs for senior citizens.

Pre-paid college fund savings event – Representatives of [College Illinois!](#) will host an information meeting to help residents learn about participating in the state's prepaid college tuition plan. The session is set for 6 to 7 p.m., Thurs., March 24, at the main Oak Park Public Library. The state program is based on Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code designed to help families save for college. Savings can be used for tuition, books and other education-related expenses at most accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities, U.S. vocational-technical schools and eligible foreign institutions.

Park to host rec center public meetings – The exploration of a community recreation center concept will engage the public at meetings set for 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Wed. March 23, at Cheney Mansion, 220 N. Euclid Ave. The meetings will be hosted by the Park District and led by consultants from architectural design firm [Sink-Combs-Dethlefs](#). The Park District already has engaged other taxing bodies in dialogue, including meeting with Village elected officials and senior staff.

OPEDC launches email newsletter – The Oak Park Economic Development Council has launched a new email newsletter to keep residents informed about new developments, business news and other related happenings. The plan is to distribute new information every other week. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Employee news – Syrises Myers from the Development Customer Services Department has earned certification as a Permit Technician. She earned the certification through the [International Code Council \(ICC\)](#), a private organization that also publishes code books and offers a wide range of continuing education training and certifications. Syrises, who joined the Village in August, had to pass study modules that entailed zoning, code enforcement and legal/management topics. Tim Buford of the Water & Sewer Division of the Public Works Division received his Class C [Public Water Supply Operator License](#) from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Certification requires specific experience, education and examinations. Operators also are required to meet continuing education requirements to renew their certificates. Tim has been with the Village since 2003.

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