



Village Manager's Report The Week Ending March 25, 2016

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, March 28:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Tuesday, March 29:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, March 30:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Thursday, March 31:
 - CDCAC, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- Friday, April 1:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

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

Oak Park Station work to begin – Water and sewer work could begin as early as Monday for the Oak Park Station development on Lake Street, pending permit approvals by the [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District](#). The Village has approved the traffic control plan required for a right-of-way obstruction permit to be issued. Flaggers will be required from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. to maintain two-way traffic on Lake Street. The contractor also is required to use steel plates to fully re-open Lake Street to two-way traffic after 3 pm. The work will occur just south of the sidewalk on Lake Street, but likely will create daily traffic delays for about a week.

Sales tax revenue data report – The final sales tax revenue data for 2015 just in shows an overall increase of 2.63 percent in receipts and a 5.25 percent increase in local liquor sales tax receipts as compared to 2014. The data is somewhat mixed when broken down by business district. The Arts District, North Avenue, Roosevelt Road and Chicago/Ridgeland business districts saw some declines, which likely can be attributed to the significant decrease in gasoline prices in 2015. However, sales tax revenue increased for the Lake/Austin and Southtown business districts, likely due to Pete's Fresh Market, which opened in September, and Carnival Grocery, which opened in November. [Click here to read the comparison report.](#)

Marion Street viaduct reopens – The southbound lane of Marion Street at the North and South boulevards viaduct has been reopened to traffic. ComEd had closed the lane to relocate electrical services from the Westgate Street area of the Oak Park Station development site.

South Boulevard streetscape work set to begin – Underground utility work is set to begin next week on South Boulevard between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue. The work is part of the first phase of a major streetscape project that will extend the look of the Marion Street palette for the South Blvd Streetscape Project, from Harlem Ave to Marion Street westward. This section of South Boulevard will be completely closed to traffic for about a month. The street then will be reopened to east-bound traffic, but remain closed to westbound traffic for an additional month as the project continues.

Public radio focuses on diversity history – Oak Park’s historically active approach to diversity continues to interest reporters, as WBEZ-FM’s [Curious City](#) program came to the Village to discuss our view of real estate for sale signs. The story wasn’t a new one, but one that needs to be retold periodically to remind everyone how the community created a welcoming identity that is still very much a part of our DNA. In addition to interviewing Community Relations Director Cedric Melton, who most often takes the calls when the occasional for-sale sign pops up, the reporters talked with Bobbie Raymond who provided detailed context for Oak Park’s journey toward policies that nurtured diversity. The nine-minute interview and a transcript of the story are posted online – [click here to read and/or listen](#).

Rec center discussion report – The Park District is reporting that about 100 individuals turned out for Thursday’s discussions of a new community recreation center. The two meetings were led by consultants from architectural design firm [Sink-Combs-Dethlefs](#), which had held focus groups earlier in the week and had already engaged other taxing bodies in dialogue, including meeting with Village elected officials and senior staff. The [public meeting presentation is posted online](#), along with [a questionnaire](#) that will be available through April 5. An open house to learn more about the study is scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m., Wed., April 27, at Cheney Mansion. More information on the feasibility study is posted on the Park District website – [click here to view](#).

Appeal to filmmakers continues – Two major filming projects were here recently, as Oak Park continues to top the list as a prime location for motion picture and television projects. The Community Relations Department coordinated production logistics of an episode of NBC’s popular hit show [Chicago PD](#), and a commercial featuring the New Jersey based Janssen pharmaceutical company. The television production crew and actors were on Division Street at Harlem Avenue, using the gas station on the northeast corner as a backdrop and the former health club on the southeast corner for an inside set. The commercial was filmed in the 400 block of north Humphrey Ave. Community Relations worked with the production companies, the Police and Parking Services department to ensure minimal impact on the neighborhoods. Judging by reports of the number of onlookers during the shoots, community residents were welcoming and enjoyed having a little taste of Hollywood on their blocks. Location scouts continue to express their interest in the Village’s classic look and feel, as well as our seamless film-permit process that allows for a customized production experience.

D200 preparing for new pool discussions – Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 has begun a new round of efforts to publicly explore options for replacing and/or rebuilding the school's 90-year-old swimming pool. The school board has scheduled community tours and meetings on April 9, 11 and 12 to discuss options and gather community feedback. Complete details on the meetings are [posted on the high school website](#).

Chicago, CTA construction local impacts – A major sewer project in Chicago and an upcoming CTA green line improvement project are or will be impacting travel into and from Oak Park. The sewer project underway in Chicago has completely closed Madison Street east of Austin Boulevard, detouring westbound Chicago traffic south at Central Avenue to westbound Roosevelt Road, then north on Ridgeland Avenue and back to Madison. While Madison is fully open within Oak Park, eastbound traffic through Oak Park is being detoured south on Ridgeland, east on Roosevelt and north on Central around the work. The project is expected to extend well into the summer. Meanwhile, the CTA has begun alerting its riders to planned track improvements that will begin in April along the entire Oak Park stretch. Work will occur over seven weekends, beginning after the Friday rush and ending before the Monday morning rush. Passengers will be bused around the closed stations and various north/south Village streets may be temporarily closed as the work progresses. Parking also may be affected along South Boulevard for equipment and materials staging.

Public Works activities – Sidewalk brick was repaired after a water leak and a light pole installed at Oak Park Avenue and Madison Street. Streets Division crews also continued street sweeping and picking up litter in parking lots throughout the Village. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at 1214 N. Humphrey Ave. and a water service leak at 844 Madison St. A broken fire hydrant was replaced at Oak Park Avenue and Fillmore Street, and poorly draining sewer inlets and basins were repaired and rodded at 140 and 334 S. Austin Blvd. Forestry Division crews began landscaping throughout the Village, cleaning and mulching in cul-de-sacs, parking lots and in-ground. In addition to routine tasks such as responding to resident requests and removing dead and dying ash trees, Village foresters also began preparing for the upcoming construction season by pruning trees along Chicago Avenue and Fillmore Street. Crews from the tree-trimming contractor are finishing work on the north/south streets and will be transitioning to South Boulevard, working east to west.

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