



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 6, 2018**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 9:
 - Reinventing Government Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, April 10:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber

- Wednesday, April 11:
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101

- Thursday, April 12:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

- Friday, April 13:
 - No meetings scheduled

CDBG allocation process underway – The application review process is underway to determine local distribution of federal [Community Development Block Grant](#) (CDBG) and [Emergency Solutions Grant](#) (ESG) funds allocated through the Village. CDBG funds are for activities targeted to low- and moderate-income persons, and ESG funds are distributed to agencies that assist persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The [Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee](#), which works with Village staff to manage the process, will be meeting through April 24 to review and discuss applications for Plan Year 2018 grants. The committee is reviewing 20 grant proposals and presentations from local non-profits organizations. Once the seven review meetings have concluded, recommendations will be presented to the Village Board for consideration. Plan Year 2018 is from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019.

Boulevards project – The Engineering Division hosted an open house Thursday (April 5) for business operators likely to be affected by major infrastructure improvements planned for both North and South boulevards. Plans call for water and sewer work on North Boulevard from Forest Avenue to Kenilworth Avenue and under the Clinton Avenue viaduct. Affected roadways, including under the Kenilworth Avenue viaduct, would be completely reconstructed, and North Boulevard restriped from Kenilworth Avenue to Oak Park Avenue to accommodate a new bike lane. The South Boulevard

work would include lighting improvements, sidewalk repairs and street resurfacing as well as minor sewer repairs between Marion Street and Home Avenue. With Village Board approval, work could start in early May. [A map of the proposed work is posted on the Village website.](#)

Holmes School expansion – Underground utility work related to the scheduled expansion of Holmes Elementary School on Chicago Avenue is expected to continue for another week. Village water and sewer mains are being relocated, but most of the work is occurring within a fenced area. Construction related to the building expansion is expected to continue through the summer.

Helping children in need – The Village is partnering with not-for-profit [Cradles to Crayons](#) to collect new and gently used clothing, shoes, art supplies and books for homeless and low-income children ages 12 and under. A collection box will be placed at Village Hall until April 20 where employees and residents can drop off new and gently used everyday essentials.

Alley improvements – Underground drainage improvements began this week on alley segments under construction in various part of the Village. Pavement removal is scheduled to begin next week on the alley segments between Division and Thomas streets, and Oak Park and Euclid avenues. Seven residents within the boundaries of the projects have elected to have their private garage aprons replaced as their alleys are reconstructed. Participants are able to take advantage of the Village's contract unit price, which is lower than the cost a single property owner would pay to hire a contractor.

Miscellaneous construction updates – The sidewalk along Harlem Avenue by the Lincoln Properties development on South Boulevard will be closed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tues., April 10 for remaining ComEd tasks related to the project. Bids have been received for the first round of street resurfacing projects. With Village Board approval of a contractor, work could start in May. The sidewalk at the southeast corner of Marion Street and North Boulevard will be closed for about two weeks beginning next week as Union Pacific Railroad contractors begin repairs to the viaduct. The Oak Park leg of the Lake Michigan pipeline project is still on track to be completed in May. Fillmore Street then will be paved from Highland Avenue to Austin Boulevard.

Public Works activities – A small contingent of trucks was back out salting bridges and main streets Wednesday morning after light snow brought the threat of spotty icing. Water & Sewer Division crews replaced sewer basins at Ontario Street and Humphrey Avenue, 16 Iowa St. and 230 Flournoy St. Crews also repaired a water valve box at Harvey Avenue and South Boulevard and a water service at 537 S. Elmwood Ave. Street Division crews continued patching pavement where water line breaks had been repaired and picking up litter in business districts and Village parking lots. Forestry Division crews are focused on preparing for spring tree planting on parkways. The Environmental Services Division reported continued growth in the residential composting program with 95 new households added this year through March. The [CompostAble program](#) now serves 1,446 households. New subscribers have cited the incentive program of three months free with a 12-month commitment as a factor. Staff is hoping promoting the program at Earth Fest on April 21 will further increase participation.

Honeybees coming to Village Hall – Plans are in progress to set up two honeybee hives at Village Hall similar to the ones at the Public Works Center. The two hives will be placed on the small balcony over the south entrance to Village Hall. Information about the hives has been provided to employees via the employee website, including answers to questions about safety. Village Forester Rob Sproule, who manages the hives at the Public Work Center, will oversee the new hives at Village Hall as well. If the Village Hall hives prove as successful as those on the Public Works Center roof, they could produce more than 120 pounds of honey in a season once the colony is established. While the new hives at Village Hall and the current ones on the roof of the Public Works Center won't solve the wider problem of a decline in these important pollinators, this small, local program does promote a healthy environment for bees that can benefit local gardeners.

Health awards – The Health Department, in cooperation with the Board of Health, has begun the annual process of gathering nominations for the William Fitzsimmons Awards that honor those who made exceptional contributions to improving the health of Oak Parkers. A nomination form is posted online at www.oak-park.us/healthawards, along with lists of past winners. Forms also are available at Village Hall. The nomination deadline is 5 p.m., Fri., May 4.

Employee News – Jesus Rodriguez has joined the Street Lighting Division of the Public Works Department. This is Jesus's second time with the Village. He worked in the Forestry Division from August 2006 until October 2013 before leaving to become a forestry foreman with the Village of Lincolnwood. Jesus returns to the Village with experience as an electrician, which makes him a great addition to the Street Lighting Division.

###