



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Jan. 10, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- January 13:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board rescheduled Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 8:00 p.m., room 101

- January 14:
 - No scheduled meetings

- January 15:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - OPAAC Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- January 16:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215

Snow response update – The Public Works Department worked nonstop starting around noon on Sat., Jan. 4 and continuing late into the night on Sun., Jan. 5 battling a snowfall that officially dumped nine inches in our area. The snow was followed by record-breaking low temperatures that made chemical treatment of the streets ineffective. As temperatures moderated, Streets Division crews began salting main streets, plowing and salting streets around all schools and clearing school crosswalks and other streets and alleys still impacted with snow. Sidewalks on Harlem Avenue over I-290 were cleared overnight Thursday, which allowed crews to close lanes with minimal impact when traffic volume is low compared to that during normal business hours.

Thaw could produce localized flooding – With temperatures expected to be above freezing for several days and rain in the forecast, we may face the possibility of localized flooding from the snow melt. Refreezing at nighttime should mean snow will melt slowly over time and drain properly. However, sewer drains covered or clogged with large snow mounds could create some drainage issues. The public has been asked to report problem areas on the public way to publicworks@oak-park.us or 708.358.5700.

Refuse collection delay -- Due to the extreme weather conditions, Waste Management did not operate their normal collection schedule on Mon., Jan. 6. Operations resumed on Tuesday, but trucks still had difficulty accessing some alleys due to the snow. They are working a schedule offset by one day for refuse, recycling,

and holiday tree collections, which means a Saturday collection. The route supervisor will update Public Works with collection and accessibility information as necessary.

Refuse, recycling container access – Public Works is urging residents to ensure their refuse and recycling containers are accessible as snow in alleys can sometimes make it difficult for haulers to empty them. Residents are being urged to report a missed pickup directly to our contracted hauler, Waste Management, by calling toll free 888.656.5350. [Information on refuse hauling](#) is posted on the Village website.

Holiday tree pickups continue – The Village’s waste hauler will continue picking up holiday trees through next week. Collections began this week, but were delayed one day by the snow and cold weather. Waste Management did not operate here on Mon., Jan. 6, which required them to schedule a Saturday pickup to get back on schedule, which also affected tree pickups. Residents requiring additional information about holiday tree recycling are urged to contact Public Works at 708.358.5700 or publicworks@oak-park.us.

Water main breaks – The Water & Sewer Division repaired a water main break at 1134 Linden Ave. in front of St. Giles School on Wednesday. Crews also responded to a break at 324 S. Euclid Ave. the following day as well as a broken sewer lateral at 534 Home Ave. and a broken water service at 734 S. Scoville Ave. In addition, the Division turned off a valve for a leaking hydrant at the south Fire Station, responded to several calls of frozen pipes and checked fire hydrants for freezing throughout the Village.

Police calls for service update – Police are reporting that calls for service in 2013 were down from 2012. Through December 2013, police had responded to 33,140 calls, compared to 33,512 in 2012. High-priority calls also were down slightly in 2013. Some 10,848 high-priority calls were received through December 2013 as compared to 10,936 calls for the same period in 2012. High-priority calls historically have represented about a third of all calls for service. Police fielded 13,370 medium-priority calls and 8,922 low-priority calls in 2013, compared to 13,447 and 9,129 respectively in 2012. Response times remained high, with officers responding to high priority calls in an average of three minutes and 39 seconds. [Click here to review the data.](#)

2013 administrative professionals training - During 2013, twelve administrative professionals from various Village departments participated in three training and professional development sessions that were well received by the group. The first session was held in March and conducted by the Village’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) providers on Time Management. In August, the group was given a tour of the main fire house and the Public Works Department. The majority had not toured either facility and as a result, both tours were very positive. The last training session focused on advanced Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook training. Training for the administrative professionals group will continue in 2014. The average years of service for each member of this employee group is nearly 13 years with the Village of Oak Park.

Employee appreciation breakfasts scheduled – The Village Manager’s Office and department directors will host an employee appreciation breakfast later

this month. The event will celebrate the start of a New Year with a tasty breakfast at Public Works on January 29 and Village Hall January 30.

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