



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Jan. 24, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- January 27:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- January 28:
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- January 29:
 - No Scheduled Meetings

- January 30:
 - No Scheduled Meetings

2013 crime data released – The Police Department released the [2013 crime data](#) this week highlighting a record low. As you may have seen in the [news release](#), Police Chief Rick Tanksley took care to note that the data is little solace to the victim of a crime and stressed the empathy his officers bring to every call for assistance. Beyond the perception sometimes created by a small number of individual incidents, the numbers are impressive and speak well of the men and women in the [Police Department](#) who keep our community safe and welcoming.

Latest snow removal update – Public Works crews were back on the street this week cleaning up after the latest snow event on Monday night and Tuesday morning. In addition to plowing and salting streets, crews plowed alleys Village wide after high winds and snow had added another eight inches to this season's total. The department also was able to arrange public sidewalk snow removal through the Village program that links seniors in need of help with a contractor. In the meantime, Waste Management is continuing to collect holiday trees, the effort delayed because many trees were frozen in snowbanks.

Public Works activities – The Water & Sewer Division repaired a fire hydrant that was damaged by a vehicle at 533 N. Marion St. The division also repaired a water main break at 1033 N. Elmwood Ave. and continued checking for frozen fire hydrants at various locations throughout the Village. Tree pruning continues, with Forestry

Division trimming 43 trees on Linden Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Division Street. Tree trimming is expected to continue through April as weather permits.

Employee Appreciation Activities - The Village Manager's Office and department directors are inviting employees to celebrate the start of a new year with a tasty breakfast at either Village Hall or the Public Works Center this coming week. The events will be an opportunity to thank employees for a job well done in 2013, and will include drawings for fun giveaways. Smaller informal gatherings with police officers and firefighters at the Police and Fire departments also are being held.

Earth Fest seeking sponsors – While April may seem a long time away, efforts already are gearing up to attract sponsors for the Village's fourth annual celebration of green living – [Earth Fest](#) – scheduled for Sat., April 26, in our LEED® Gold-certified Public Works Center. A call for sponsors will be in the February [OP/FYI](#) community newsletter and letters soon will be going out to last-years' participants. Sponsorships range from \$125 to \$1,000. As in past years, sponsors will receive special recognition in event promotional materials. This year's event will highlight zero-waste block parties, eco-friendly landscapers, local chefs and restaurants, games and activities for children, items for sale and entertainment. In addition, recycling booths will be available for eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids, rechargeable batteries, cell phones and old blue jeans. A sponsorship form will be posted at www.oak-park.us/earthfest. Inquiries will be directed to 708.358.5778 and sustainability@oak-park.us.

Fire Department lends assistance – Our firefighters joined forces with several other suburbs to battle two extra-alarm fires in Cicero Tuesday. One incident involved two warehouses in an industrial park on the north side of the town, the other a multi-unit residential building with ground-floor retail near Laramie Avenue, south of Roosevelt Road. Our Quint and south engine crews were involved hands-on battling the blazes for several hours under the extreme weather conditions. In addition, our [Fire Department's](#) command vehicle provided much-needed logistical and communications support. Oak Park response was under the Division XI [Mutual Aid Box Alarm System \(MABAS\)](#).

Social media leadership – The [Communications Department](#) is taking a leadership role among similar-sized local government organizations in advocating for social media adoption and best practices. Social Media Coordinator Patrick Rollens recently signed on to write a monthly column for [Emerging Local Government Leaders](#), an industry network, about social media in local government. His first two columns for [December 2013](#) and [January 2014](#) are available online. Patrick also will co-host a webinar about social media in February for the [National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors \(NATOA\)](#).

New Human Resources Director – Monday will be the first day on the job for the Village's new [Human Resources](#) Director, Kimberly Evans Shamley. Kim was chosen through a rigorous vetting process that began with 119 candidates. The top five contenders were interviewed initially, and those individuals considered to be the best three candidates went before a panel of department directors. Kim had the best mix of training and experience to take on the challenges here and maximize the

opportunities to further improve our focus on customer service. Prior to accepting the position here, Kim served as the Director of Human Resources and Logistics for the [Public Building Commission of Chicago](#), a post she held for five years. She has a master's degree in public administration and management from DePaul University and a bachelor's degree in international business administration and management from Illinois Wesleyan University. Her professional background also includes positions with the [Alliance for the Great Lakes](#), LaSalle Bank and the [General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church](#).

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