



Village Manager's Report
Weeks ending December 16, 2016

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, December 19:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Tuesday, December 20:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, December 21:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, December 22:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Friday, December 23:
 - No scheduled meetings
 - Village Hall Closing at noon
- Monday, December 26:
 - Village Hall Closed

Warming centers open – The Village is helping to spread the word about warming centers as temperatures have dropped to dangerously low levels and urging residents to check in on their neighbors. Local warming centers include Rush Oak Park Hospital, which is open around the clock, and West Suburban Medical Center, which is open from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., but may extend hours if conditions warrant. Oak Park Township also is a warming center for seniors age 60 and over from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays, as is Village Hall during business hours. If transportation is needed, residents can call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800.

Madison Street video – Possible future plans for Madison Street are highlighted in a new video airing on VOP-TV and the [Village YouTube channel](#). The video offers a brief overview of what is being considered and why, taking care to note that the consideration process has just begun and that the public will have ample opportunity to be a part of the process. [Click here to watch the video](#).

Snow update – The week began early for the Public Works crews who took on the season's first significant snowfall that had accumulated 6.5 inches by Sunday evening. Crews worked around the clock through the weekend salting and plowing streets, clearing school crosswalks and shoveling sidewalks within the public way.

The application of anti-icing agents Friday prior to the storm helped with the removal effort. A smaller snow event Tuesday required some additional salting of streets, crosswalks and public way sidewalks. Crews were preparing to be back on the streets this weekend as well, with forecasters calling for a new storm that could bring another eight inches of snow to the community.

Sidewalk shoveling – The past weekend snow storm generated some interest in sidewalk shoving requirements on the Village Facebook page. Our response focused on the importance of complying with the requirement to make it safer for pedestrians, rather than to avoid a ticket. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. Property owners also are urged to help neighbors in need. Residents also can contact the Public Works Department at 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us when help is needed.

Elevate update – Westgate Street will be closed next Thursday and Friday (Dec. 22 and 23) between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue for installation of the steel for the bridge connecting the buildings that front Lake Street and North Boulevard. Traffic flaggers will be on site during working hours to ensure access between the Westgate cul de sac and Marion Street to the offices. Westgate will be reopened to one lane of traffic at the end of each workday under the new bridge. Waste haulers will be notified to service the area the morning prior to start of the fabrication work. The developer also will notify the affected businesses so they can plan accordingly. Similar closures and traffic management will be necessary in the coming weeks as bridge exterior is built out.

Downtown construction updates – Repairs to the crosswalks on Marion Street downtown have been suspended due to the weather. Temporary repairs are being made to keep them passable, but permanent repairs will not be completed until spring. The season's final streetscape work on South Boulevard should be completed by the end of next week. The bicycle shelter has been installed and the poles for the pedestrian lights will be installed next week by the new dining area on the south side of South Boulevard, between Marion and the alley.

Chicago Avenue resurfacing – Cold weather delayed the remaining temporary striping on Chicago Avenue until at least next week. All remaining areas will be temporarily striped and then replaced with permanent striping in the spring as part of the resurfacing and streetscape projects planned for between Harlem and Belleforte avenues.

Historic sidewalk repairs – Repairs have been made to 17 historic sandstone sidewalk sections to eliminate trip hazards. Work was on hold this week due to the cold weather. About two dozen sections were scheduled for repair, work that will help determine if maintaining, rather than replacing, these historic sidewalks should become a regular annual task. These sidewalks date back to the earliest days of the Village.

Miscellaneous construction projects – The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (HAWK) signal at Chicago and Harvey avenues is set to be activated Monday (Dec. 19). Temporary electronic message signs will be set up near the intersection to alert vehicle drivers to the new signal, which has a different look from typical traffic signals. Work

continued on bicycle parking projects including shelters and fixit stations at various locations. Sewer inspections and cleaning continued this week, including on Lake Street downtown, where work has been limited to night time hours to minimize impact on traffic and businesses. Minor punch list items related to the new lights on Harrison Street are being addressed, but should be completed by the end of the year.

New store on Marion – A new retail outlet announced it will open at 122 N. Marion St. in early spring 2017. JAYNE, which will sell women’s clothing, shoes, body products, home goods and gifts at its new Oak Park location, will fill about 2,500 square feet of retail space. JAYNE’s proprietors operate several sister stores in the area, including Madison Street Shoes in Forest Park and Craig’s shoes in Berwyn.

Road conditions posted online – Anyone planning a holiday road trip may want to visit www.gettingaroundillinois.com for the latest conditions update before heading out. Just click on the *winter road conditions* tab for a map that provides an overview of how the roads are looking throughout the state. The site, managed by the Illinois Department of Transportation, is updated around the clock during winter storms. [Click here to view a video](#) of how IDOT gathers the data for the map.

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