



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending December 1, 2017**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, December 4:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, December 5:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, December 6:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)
- Thursday, December 7:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Police Community Meeting, 7 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)
- Friday, December 8:
 - Police Community Meeting, 9:30 a.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)

Upcoming events:

- Wednesday, Dec. 13:
 - Property Stewardship Awards – preservation, environment and design, 7 p.m., Nineteenth Century Club – [click here to view the invitation](#)

Police community meetings – Police Chief Anthony Ambrose and members of his command staff have scheduled community discussions next week to help allay concerns created by the recent attempted carjacking on North Lombard Avenue. Two sessions are planned to accommodate residents' schedules – 7 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 7 and 9:30 a.m., Fri., Dec. 8. Both sessions will be held in the council chamber of Village Hall. In addition to answering questions from attendees, Police will discuss how Oak Park may be affected by what has become a wave of much-publicized, attempted and successful car hijackings throughout the Chicagoland area involving teenagers in similar incidents from the loop to the north and western suburbs. As you know, Oak Park Police work closely with the Cook County State's Attorney's office and other law enforcement agencies when crimes cross jurisdictional boundaries. While Police are stressing the importance of having face-to-face discussions, the Dec. 7 meeting will be streamed live and archived via a link at www.oak-park.us/commissiontv.

Community awards ceremony -- Organizations, individuals and businesses will be honored for their efforts to improve the Village through property preservation, sustainability and accessibility at an award's ceremony scheduled for Wed., Dec. 13 at the Nineteenth Century Club. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the awards ceremony begins at 7 p.m. The annual awards are presented by the Historic Preservation, Environment & Energy, Community Design and Disability Access commissions. Attendees are asked to RSVP to aschell@oak-park.us by Dec. 7.

Oak Park in the international news – The Village was featured prominently in a recent article in a British magazine about the literary tradition of Chicago. A travel writer for [The Spectator](#), which claims to be the “best-written and most influential weekly in the English language,” began with Ernest Hemingway’s home here and progressed through Chicago’s Wicker Park, Printer’s Row and the Art Institute before ending up at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home and Studio in an interesting take on history and the evolution of writing and art in the area. [Click here to read the article...](#)

Valet parking update – The Village’s valet parking program will end on December 30 in accordance with the proposed fiscal year 2018 recommended Village Budget. The program has been funded with parking fee revenue through the Parking Enterprise Fund. Notice of the upcoming change in services was given to the contractor, as well as to the Pleasant District and Downtown Oak Park business associations.

Downtown construction update – The decorative crosswalks at the Westgate Street cul-de-sac have been completed and traffic from Marion Street restored. Punch list items are being addressed throughout the area, including adjustments to the sidewalks and street pavers and repairs to concrete sidewalks and curbs.

South Boulevard/Harlem Avenue redevelopment update – South Boulevard has reopened to westbound traffic as the mixed-use redevelopment project just west of Harlem Avenue continues. The project is now well out of the ground and connected to the Village’s water system on Maple Avenue. The alley east of the site soon will be closed temporarily for utility work, but staff is coordinating parking and access with adjacent properties. Engineering Division staff has remained vigilant in ensuring the construction site and signage do not confuse or impede potential customers of the restaurants along the boulevard east of the work site.

Madison Street demolition – Asbestos removal is winding down at 970 Madison Street in preparation for demolition, which likely will occur in January. All removal activities are inside the building away from the adjacent sidewalks, but pedestrians are being directed around the site to minimize any concerns about the type of work underway. The Home Avenue and Madison Street frontages are closed to pedestrians and a Police Community Service Officer is stationed at the intersection to direct pedestrians around the site during hours when students typically walk to and from nearby schools.

Pipeline update, surveying for future projects – Reconstruction is wrapping up for the year on Fillmore Street between Highland and Lyman avenues now that the pipeline project along the route has been shut down for the season. The first course of pavement has been completed between Highland and Lyman avenues to allow for plowing during the winter. The final pavement course will be applied in the spring as

weather improves. Meanwhile, surveyors are in the Village gathering information for next year's road and utility construction projects.

Historic sidewalks repairs – Work is nearing completion at various locations where segments of historic sandstone sidewalk are being repaired. Repairs include eliminating trip hazards by resetting the squares to help maintain the historical character rather than replacing them with modern concrete. Concrete that closely resembles the color of the sandstone will be tested during the winter in areas where the sandstone had shattered beyond repair. These sidewalk segments date back to the earliest days of the Village and preserving them where possible has been a long-standing priority.

Public Works Activities – The annual leaf collection program wrapped up this week. Residents who missed any of the seven opportunities to have their leaves removed will be asked to bag their leaves, attach a green yard waste sticker and call the Public Works Department for pickup. Collection will be coordinated with the compost collection schedule. In addition to pushing leaves this week, Streets Division crews repaired and reattached trash can lids damaged by the recent high winds and kept litter at bay in Village parking lots and business districts. Street Lighting Division technicians repaired a light pole that was damaged in a vehicle accident at Oak Park Avenue and Thomas Street. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a broken water valve at Chicago and Grove avenues, a sink hole at Berkshire Street and Fair Oaks Avenue, a water main break at 543 N. Oak Park Ave., and a fire hydrant at Ridgeland Avenue and Harrison Street. Forestry Division crews removed watering bags from young trees, offering the bags to residents to encourage them to continue watering trees on their parkways.

Employee News – Eric Pedersen has joined the Neighborhood Services Division of the Customer Services Department as Community Development Technician. His duties will include managing the Single-Family Rehabilitation and Small Rental Property Rehabilitation loan programs. Eric has more than 15 years of experience as a general contractor, including managing custom residential and multifamily projects. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in business from Arizona State University and a Master of Business Administration from Loyola University. In employee news from the Public Works Department, Jim Sarros of the Fleet Services Division has been certified as a Master Truck Technician by the [National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence \(ASE\)](#). A 30-year-plus veteran with the Village, earning the certification required passing a rigorous series of written tests as well as documenting at least two years of relevant hands-on experience. Jim also is an ASE-certified Master Automotive Technician certification. The Fleet Services Division is charged with maintaining and repairing the entire Village fleet of more than 250 municipal vehicles, including a growing number of hybrids. In Police news, sergeants Roger Grivetti, Thomas Dransoff and Michael Lepczynski were promoted to Police Commander today (Fri., Dec. 1) by the Village Manager. A public ceremony will be held later this month concurrent with promotions for Police Sergeant, which were finalized earlier this week by the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. The date and time of that ceremony will be shared in advance.

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