



**Village Manager's Report
Weeks ending December 2, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, December 5:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, December 6:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130

- Wednesday, December 7:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Awards Ceremony, 7 p.m., 19th Century Club (doors open at 6:30) collaborative event including the Historic Preservation Commission, Environment and Energy Commission, Community Design Commission and the Disability Access Commission

- Thursday, December 8:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- Friday, December 9:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Monday, December 12: ONLY IF NEEDED Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Budget Adoption

Target announcement coverage – Tuesday’s announcement that Target would open in the heart of our downtown was reported by prominent news outlets across the region, including *Crain’s Chicago Business* and several city television stations. Target officials estimated that the announcement generated more than 30 million impressions, a traditional media metric that estimates the number of people who might have had the opportunity to see the story. The company’s media tracking included the [Village website](#) among those outlets where a story appeared. The announcement generated a robust discussion on the [Village’s Facebook page](#) as well.

Budget wins award – The Village has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2016 budget from the [Government Finance Officers Association](#)

(GFOA). This award, which the Village has won multiple times, is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by the organization. To receive the award, Finance Department staff had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation that required our budget to be not only a policy document and financial plan, but also an operations guide and communications device. Current and past budgets are posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/budget.

Marion Street occupancy – Real Estate agent David King is reporting that property on Marion Street between Lake Street and North Boulevard is now 100 percent leased. His declaration came with the news that a new restaurant soon would occupy the last remaining vacant storefront at 106 N. Marion St. The French-inspired fast casual restaurant Léa, which is owned by River Forest couple Nicolas Caulliez and Colleen Wagner, is scheduled to open in spring 2017.

Free tours of Wright home and studio – Free tours of the [Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio](http://www.flwright.org) will be offered tomorrow (Sat., Dec. 3). The first tour will begin at 10 a.m., with the final tour leaving at 4 p.m. The Home will be decked for the holidays with poinsettias, fresh flowers, evergreens and wreaths in keeping with the Wright family tradition. The event also will feature discounts on purchases from the Home and Studio Museum shop and free gift wrapping. More information is posted at flwright.org/homefortheholidays.

Seniors warned about fraud attempts – Recent reports of individuals knocking on doors claiming to represent Oak Park Township prompted officials to ask for our help encouraging citizens to confirm in-home appointments by calling 708.383.8060. As you know, Township Senior Services provides a wide range of programs for seniors, many of which are delivered in the home. Our messages are focusing on getting seniors to remember to always ask to see an official Township ID and to call 911 if they suspect someone knocking on their door is illegally representing themselves as a Township employee.

Community awards ceremony set – 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. 7 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 Commission, Environment & Energy Commission, Community Design Commission and Disability Access Commission. Please RSVP to aschell@oak-park.us.

Private screening planned for historical drama – The Community Relations Commission will host a private screening of the motion picture [Loving](http://www.loving.com), a historical drama about the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision that invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage. A reception prior to the screening is set for 5:30 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 8 at the Austin Gardens Educational Center, 167 Forest Ave. The screening will begin at 7:10 p.m. at the nearby Lake Theater, 1022 Lake St. Tickets are \$8.50 at the box office and seating is limited. [Click here to register](#).

Downtown Construction updates – Work on South Boulevard west of Marion Street included pouring concrete for the sidewalk and bus stop pad along the north side west of Harlem Avenue, installing tree grate supports and bluestone pavers by the outdoor dining area, placing soil in the granite planter and sodding the landscaped area near the new diagonal parking area. Crosswalk repairs on Marion Street will resume next week.

Chicago Avenue resurfacing – Crews began painting the pavement markings on Chicago Avenue this week as the resurfacing project nears completion for the season. Some additional pavement markings will be added in the spring, in conjunction with the paving and streetscape work planned for the section between Belleforte and Harlem avenues.

Highland Avenue construction update – The water and sewer portions of the reconstruction project on the 500 and 600 blocks of Highland Avenue were completed last week. This week, crews focused on preparing the stone base for the street surface and began installing new curb. An initial pavement layer is set to go down next week, but due to the arrival of cold weather, the final surface will not be installed until early spring. However, these two blocks of Highland will be open to vehicles and can be plowed.

Repairs to historic sidewalks – Work is scheduled to begin next week repairing about two dozen segments of sandstone sidewalk at various locations in the community. Workers will be focusing on eliminating trip hazards in these historic sidewalks, which date back to the early days of the Village. If the repairs are deemed successful, maintaining, rather than replacing these historic elements will become a regular annual project.

Miscellaneous construction projects – Crews continued installing bicycle shelters and fixit stations at various locations in the Village. Work to complete several related punch-list items will continue into next week, including some of the pavement at the east side of the Lot 10 site on North Boulevard by Forest Avenue. Repairs began this week on the brick surface of Wenonah Avenue between Harvard Avenue and Garfield Street, and on Humphrey Avenue between Harrison Street and Jackson Boulevard. Crews will focus on sunken and broken bricks and should be finished before the end of next week.

Public Works activities – With cold weather arriving later than usual, crews expect to continue collecting leaves through next week, one week beyond the seasonal program's scheduled end date. Street Division crews will continue to push leaves overnight and monitor problem areas as necessary to facilitate Waste Management's daytime collection efforts. Street Division personnel also assisted the Forestry Division with stump removals at various locations in the Village. Training continued for personnel who will be involved in street and sidewalk snow clearing operations. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired fire hydrants at various locations throughout the Village and cleared blocked sewer inlets to relieve flooded streets at several locations following the heavy rain.

Employee news – Fernando "Fern" Moran has joined the Finance Department as Records Coordinator. Fern was most recently employed in the private sector, but also has several years of municipal finance experience with the Town of Cicero, including

performing bank account reconciliations, processing real estate transfer stamp transactions, processing payroll and handling general bookkeeping tasks. He is an Oak Park resident who also coaches his daughter's little league team.

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