



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending November 14, 2014**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Saturday, November 15:
 - Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9 a.m., room 101

- Monday, November 17:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m. room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Tuesday, November 18:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, November 19:
 - Early Childhood Tri-Board, 7 p.m., OPRFHS
 - Crime Free Housing Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, November 20:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - OPAAC Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 102

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Monday, December 1:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. FY15 Budget Review

- Thursday, December 4:
 - TENTATIVE Village Board Special Meeting 7:00 p.m. FY15 Budget Review

- Monday, December 8:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. FY15 Budget Adoption

- Monday, December 15:
 - ONLY IF NEEDED Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Budget Adoption

Structure fire brings attention to Oak Park – The fire that destroyed a Turano Bakery vehicle maintenance facility Wednesday in the 6500 block of Roosevelt Road led to a

precautionary neighborhood evacuation and garnered significant attention from the news media. The blaze, which began at about 2:15 p.m. was extinguished by about 7 p.m., but not before it had sent four Turano workers to the hospital, one with serious injuries, caused the evacuation of a nearby condominium building and several homes, and blocked the busy east-west corridor during rush hour. Thanks to the efforts of our Fire Department and firefighters from several neighboring communities who answered the three-alarm call, the fire was contained and only one home – the house directly across the alley behind the fire site – was damaged, but not significantly. ComEd turned off power to about 1,000 residents at the height of the blaze anticipating damage to their equipment in the alley behind the scene, but power was restored to everyone before midnight. While the investigation is still ongoing, workers told police the fire started when a propane tank thought to be empty released fuel, sparking an explosion and fire.

Preservation, environmental awards ceremony set – The Historic Preservation and Environment & Energy commissions will present their annual awards Thurs., Nov. 20 at the Nineteenth Century Club. The awards recognize those whose commitment to protecting our unique heritage and environment helps keep Oak Park such a vibrant and wonderful place for residents and visitors alike. The event will include the 2014 Preservation Award, Green Award and Cavalcade of Pride. [Click here to see the official invitation](#). While the event is open to the public, anyone wishing to attend is asked to RSVP to aschell@oak-park.us.

Open enrollment begins – Open enrollment for the Village's 2015 insurance programs began this week and will continue through Nov. 22. Human Resources organized information sessions for both employees and retirees that included representatives of each of the service providers who were able to answer specific questions that an individual might have. Sessions were held at the Main Fire Station, Public Works Center and Village Hall, including a special session for the Police Department. The most significant change for 2015 is the addition of a new vision service plan. Enrollment is mostly all online this year through [the ADP portal](#), a step that should significantly ease the process for employees and HR staff.

Early voting tally – Some 4,409 voters cast early ballots at Village Hall from Oct. 20 through Nov. 2. Voting booths were located in Room 101 this year to minimize disruption to regular Village operations. However, the use of Room 101 meant many meetings had to be relocated since the room was secured each evening when the polls closed. The Clerk's office is continuing to explore alternate locations for early voting in the Village for the 2015 municipal elections and 2016 presidential elections.

Capital improvements status – All resurfacing projects are substantially complete for the season, including Ridgeland Avenue. Pavement markings and punch list work on local street and parking lot resurfacing projects should be finished over next two weeks. Concrete pavement work and aprons are being completed in the last two green alleys and brickwork is underway in the last five alley segments. Three green alley segments are scheduled to be opened early next week with the last two alleys to be opened by Thanksgiving. Street lights for the east-west green alley north of Lake Street and west of Forest Avenue should be installed in early December. Seven of the 10 alleys rebuilt using the standard materials have been opened, with an eighth alley to be opened by Monday. The contractor will be completing remaining concrete work

and punch list items including asphalt areas next to alleys, street patching and landscaping in the coming weeks. Concrete has been poured for the remaining segments in the sidewalk replacement program, with punch list work and restorations set for next week.

Public Works Activities – With the winter season upon us, crews are focusing on preparing for the coming snow, including getting salting equipment ready for service and participating in the annual plowing and removal training program. Work also began to remove temporary alley speed bumps for the winter season. ComEd services were repaired at Greenfield Street and Grove Avenue and at Harrison Street and Home Avenue, which included rebuilding the induction lighting fixtures. Ongoing routine activities continued, with crews restoring street openings where water main breaks had been repaired, sign repair, graffiti removal and pothole patching. Crews also continued the annual ritual of pushing leaves into piles for pickup, which will continue through the first week of December. A water service was upgraded at 1141 S. Euclid Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Water meter head change outs continued, with 656 appointments completed to date. Forestry crews focused on service requests, including pruning for roof clearances and tree removal. Crews also continued picking up brush remaining from the high winds on Halloween. Contractors are removing large diseased and dead trees, grinding stumps and maintaining Village-owned landscape sites throughout the community. The parkway tree inventory is moving toward conclusion, with about 80 percent of the data collected to date.

Employee news – Two new employees have joined the municipal staff. Allison von Ebers, an Oak Park resident, is a new Parking Services Specialist in the Parking & Mobility Services Department, and Georgiana Szymczak is a new Urban Forestry Technician II in the Forestry Division of the Public Works Department. Georgiana, who is a certified arborist with more than eight years of experience in horticulture and arboriculture, comes to Oak Park from the Plainfield Park District. Water & Sewer Division staff attended trenching, shoring and OSHA safety training sponsored by [American Public Works Association \(APWA\)](#) and sewer collection system training sponsored by [Illinois Water Environment Association \(IWEA\)](#).

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