



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending February 6, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, February 9:
  - Finance Committee of the Village Board, 7 p.m., room 130
- Tuesday, February 10:
  - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, February 11:
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, February 12:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Tuesday, February 17 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. room 201
- Monday, February 23 – Village Board Special Meeting regarding Economic Development, tentative 7 p.m. room 101
- Monday, March 2 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Monday, March 9 – Village Board Special Meeting regarding Intergovernmental Collaboration Sustainability, 7 p.m. room 101

**Snow operations update** – Public Works crews worked around the clock from Saturday night through Wednesday evening salting and plowing Village streets and alleys, as we battled the fifth highest snowfall on record – 19-plus inches. As many as 15 plow-equipped trucks were operating continuously day and night to keep roads passable. The rate of snow falling Sunday and Monday meant plows first focused on the travel lanes, with two plows working in tandem teams on the main streets. The snow emergency parking regulations went into effect first thing Monday morning and remained in place through Friday, as crews worked to clean streets to the curb when parked cars were no longer an obstacle. Deep snow and drifts in the alleys caused Waste Management to suspend refuse collection on Monday, pushing pick up one day, with Friday's regular collection now set for Saturday. Crews were in the alleys on Monday and Tuesday. Equipment such as front end loaders had to be used in many of the alleys, which could not accommodate heavy plows and where the pick-up trucks with plows traditionally used in these areas didn't have the power to push so

much snow. Street cleanup was compounded as owners whose cars were buried dug more snow into the street as they pulled away from alleys and on-street locations. In addition, many vehicle owners shoveled snow from around their cars into the street, requiring crews to continuously return to plow again. Another 1.8 inches of snow fell Tuesday night, furthering complicating removal efforts. Crews also cleared sidewalks by the public transit areas and other sites where the Village has assumed responsibility for safe pedestrian travel. With warming temperatures predicted for Friday and Saturday, road conditions should continue to improve.

**Snow leads to garage demolitions** – Development Customer Services Department staff aided two property owners who needed to demolish garages that had collapsed under the heavy snow load. In the first instance, the Neighborhood Services Division worked with the Permit Processing Division to expedite a demolition permit to allow a car to be freed. In the second case, demolishing the garage prevented further collapse into the neighbors' yard and potential disturbance of a utility pole in the alley.

**State approves environmental inspection programs** – Following a required inspection of the Village's environmental services programs, the Illinois Department of Public Health determined that our local Health Department is in compliance with the standards of the Local Health Protection Grant rules as related to food protection, potable water supply and private sewage disposal programs. This detailed program review is completed every three years as part of the grant requirements. The state review covers policies, procedures and a random sample of inspection activity.

**Helping residents save water** -- The low-flow toilet rebate program has been a hit with residents again this year. The Neighborhood Services Division provided 50 residents with \$100 rebates in January alone. The division also is offering free water-saver kits, each of which contains a low-flow shower head, low-flow kitchen and bath faucet aerators, and a toilet tank water displacement device, that reduces the amount of water per flush. Each kit can save up to 57 gallons of water per person per day. Approximately 110 kits still are available.

**Fire Department report** – The Fire Department responded to 517 calls for service in January, 297 of the calls (57 percent) for emergency medical services. January saw two significant fires – the new Pete's Fresh Market on Lake Street on Jan. 13 and a single family home in the 900 block of Forest Avenue. Quick action by the construction crew at Pete's limited damage and likely precluded any delay in the renovation schedule. The residential fire required crews to use a ladder to rescue the homeowner and his dogs from a second floor porch. Public education efforts in January continued the *Adopt-a Firefighter* program, with a firefighter/paramedic making a risk prevention presentation to 270 elementary school students.

**Earth Fest seeking sponsors** – Sponsors are now being sought for the Village's sixth annual celebration of green living – *Earth Fest* – scheduled for Sat., April 25, in the LEED® Gold-certified Public Works Center. Sponsors not only receive special recognition in event promotional materials, they also help move the community forward toward the important goal of living sustainably. Sponsors earn the opportunity to not only educate but also to engage and empower people to make healthier choices for themselves, their families and the planet. Sponsorships range from \$125 to \$1,000. This year's event will again feature booths for recycling

eyeglasses, sun glasses, hearing aids, rechargeable batteries and cell phones. A sponsorship form is posted at [www.oak-park.us/earthfest](http://www.oak-park.us/earthfest).

**District 97 superintendent search survey** – As part of its efforts to identify potential candidates for superintendent, School District 97 is asking residents to complete an online survey – [click here for a link](#). The survey, which is scheduled to close on Feb. 18, is intended to gather feedback regarding the qualities and characteristics the next superintendent should possess. The district also will hold two public forums – 7 p.m., Mon., Feb. 9 at Julian Middle School, and 7 p.m., Wed., Feb. 11 at Brooks Middle School.

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