



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending January 29, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, February 1:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, February 2:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, February 3:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, February 4:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Friday, February 5:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Monday, February 8:
 - Special Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, February 16:
 - Regular Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Monday, February 22:
 - Special Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101

2015 crime data report – Police Chief Rick Tanksley is reporting that crime in 2015 continued its overall downward trend, with 6 percent fewer crimes reported in 2015 than in 2014. The vast majority of crimes reported in 2015 were burglaries and thefts. These two categories alone represented nearly 90 percent of all crimes committed in 2015. Arrests were up in 2015, with nearly 80 percent of the arrests related to burglaries and thefts. [Click here to read a memo from the Chief](#) with more details on the numbers.

Business investment report – The Development Customer Services Department has created a new report to highlight business investment in the community. Staff anticipates generating the report on a bi-monthly basis with an annual review in December of each year. The first quarter of 2016 looks to be a very exciting time for Oak Park with five new restaurants set to open, including our first microbrewery and

tasting room, and a new national retailer on Madison Street. [Click here to review the inaugural Business Investment Update.](#)

Winterfest is Saturday – The Park District's annual celebration of winter is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., tomorrow (Sat., Jan. 30) in Taylor Park. The event will feature free outdoor activities, ice skating, music and food. Ice skates may be rented for \$1, but availability will be limited. More details are [posted on the Park District website.](#)

Chicago Avenue resurfacing/streetscape project – The Engineering Division is working long hours to wrap up the final plans for resurfacing the entire length of Chicago Avenue from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard during the upcoming construction season. The project also will include sewer work from near the Home & Studio to Grove Avenue and from Scoville Avenue to Ridgeland Avenue. Federally funded streetscape improvements also are planned for the Harlem/Chicago business district. Based on the [2008 neighborhood plan](#), the project will include lighting and crosswalks with artistic treatments. The current approach was reviewed by the Community Design Commission and district business operators. The project is scheduled to be bid by the state in April.

Private sector projects update – Nicor crews continued transferring gas services to new mains north of Division Street between Woodbine and Euclid avenues. All gas services are scheduled to be transferred by late January, with asphalt and sod restoration in the spring. Installation of new fiber optic conduit for Rush Oak Park Hospital continued on Home Avenue from Randolph Street to Monroe Street, and west to the hospital. Streets have remained open to traffic, with only intermittent lane closures needed to locate existing utilities during boring operations.

Public Works activities –Streets Division crews salted streets and bridges last Friday, after light snow showers created the potential for slippery conditions. Other tasks included closing the surface parking lots between Lake Street and North Boulevard west of Marion Street in preparation for handing the property over for the new Oak Park Station development. Crews also patched street openings where leaks had been repaired and filled potholes at various locations throughout the Village. Asphalt patches are temporary because of temperatures, but will be repaired permanently in the spring. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sinkhole at Division Street and Harvey Avenue, a catch basin at 411 N. Elmwood Ave. and a leaking water valve at Lombard Avenue and Harrison Street. Forestry Division crews continued with winter pruning, working between Harrison and Madison streets and East and Harlem avenues. Operations are now shifting to between Lake and Madison streets, moving westward from Austin Boulevard.

Employee news – Village Planner Craig Failor has been invited to participate on a panel at the [2016 American Planning Association's National Planning Conference](#) in Phoenix, Arizona in April. He will join John Houseal and Doug Hammel of [Houseal Lavigne Associates](#), and a planner from the city of Flint, Michigan on the panel. Their presentation, entitled *Achieving the Community-Authored Plan*, will be based on processes and outcomes of the community driven comprehensive plans of Oak Park and Flint.

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