



Village Manager's Report Weeks ending February 10, 2017

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, February 13:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 7:30 p.m., room 130
- Tuesday, February 14:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, February 15:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, February 16:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Friday, February 17:
 - No scheduled meetings

Dinner & Dialogue garners attention – The [Dinner & Dialogue](#) program created by the Community Relations Department will be featured in the Alliance for Innovation's new micro-learning series on citizen engagement. Cedric Melton will discuss how the program was developed and its impact during a webinar scheduled for Feb. 23. The webinar is part of a new series designed to provide a platform where representatives of municipalities across the country can observe, learn about and replicate innovative programs that promote positive citizen engagement and greater cultural understanding. Oak Park's Dinner & Dialogue program garnered attention after Cedric outlined the program as part of the Alliance's 2016 Innovation Lab E-Learning Program, whose participants voted the local initiative a top practice.

Lake Street open house – Wednesday night's open house for residents and business operators interested in learning more about major improvements being planned for Lake Street drew a steady stream of participants. Staff reports that 46 individuals signed in, with individuals on hand at various times throughout the two-plus-hour event that was purposely organized to offer the opportunity for participants to drop by as their schedules allowed. Attendees viewed exhibits, spoke with Village staff and consultants, and commented on the project. The exhibits illustrated various aspects of the proposed project that is intended to replace infrastructure that has reached the end of its life cycle, while also improving walkability, accessibility and traffic flow

along this important commercial corridor. More information on the proposed project is posted at www.oak-park.us/lakestreetimprovements.

Affirmative marketing for landlords – The Neighborhood Services Division is accepting applications for the Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program that makes grants available to owners of multi-family residential buildings with four or more units. Program participants must agree to allow the Oak Park Regional Housing Center to market vacant units in ways that encourage diversity in buildings and neighborhoods. While the deadline to apply for the program is March 3, applications for Marketing Service Agreements are accepted on an ongoing basis. Applications are evaluated by staff and the Housing Programs Advisory Committee, and then submitted to the Village Board for consideration. More information on the program is [posted on the Village website](#), available via email to housing@oak-park.us or by calling 708.358.5410.

Fire Department update – January saw a dip in overall incidents probably due in large part to the milder weather and lack of snow and ice. The 359 calls for emergency medical services represented 65 percent of the 555 total calls in January. Other calls in January included 68 for general service (12 percent), 50 each for alarm initiated and good intent (9 percent) and 28 for fires/hazardous conditions (5 percent). Crews responded to six structure fires in January, the most significant on Jan. 28 at 811 Lexington St. that resulted in significant heat and smoke damage, but was contained to one apartment. The Fire Department made contact with 370 patients in January, arriving on the site of these EMS calls in an average of three minutes and 56 seconds. The EMS calls resulted in 335 transports to a medical facility, with 135 requiring advanced life support services. Fire Prevention Bureau personnel worked with Edwards-Elmhurst Healthcare to ensure a smooth opening of the new facility in the Vantage development at 150 Forest Ave., and met with representatives of the Elevate development on Lake Street to discuss and plan fire protection issues, and inspect the construction site for life-safety and initial fire protection. Public education personnel have been busy presenting the [Adopt-a-Firefighter program](#) to first-graders in all Oak Park elementary schools. They also gave two talks to community groups on fire safety and redesigned a fire extinguisher training program that is available to any group requesting a presentation.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Fix-it stations were installed at the new bicycle parking facilities at Oak Park and Garfield avenues, with work also underway at North Boulevard and Forest Avenue. The North and Forest facilities include semi-vertical and half-arc racks that maximize available space as well as offer an interesting visual take on bicycle parking. Bicycle parking rings will be installed next week on Harrison Street at Euclid and East avenues, which will bring the bicycle parking expansion project to a close except for any remaining punch-list items. In other construction related news, requests for bids have been issued for 2017 alley projects, with the bid openings set for Thurs., Feb. 16. Requests for bids will be issued next week for 2017 street resurfacing projects.

Public Works activities – Street Division crews took advantage of the weather to continue sweeping streets, filling potholes, removing graffiti and picking up litter. Water & Sewer Division crews reset the b-box at 201 Harrison St. and cleaned sewer inlets to ensure proper drainage. Winter cycle tree trimming was ongoing this week from East Avenue to Kenilworth Avenue between Chicago Avenue and North Boulevard. Removal of trees damaged by the emerald ash borer also continued.

Employee news – Fleet Services’ Dave Brown is now certified as a Master Truck Technician by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Dave also is a Master Automotive Technician, making him the first Oak Park employee to hold both ASE certifications. Earning these ASE certifications required Dave to pass a number of tough exams that established his knowledge and abilities. Forestry Superintendent Rob Sproule is now a Certified Master Arborist, the highest level of certification offered by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Earning this certification places Rob among those the ISA says have reached the pinnacle of their profession, which is why only 2 percent of arborists have achieved the honor. In addition to passing an extensive scenario-based exam, Rob must abide by a code of ethics that ensures quality work in the care of our urban forest. Health Director Mike Charley was the featured speaker at Oak Park River Forest Rotary gathering at the Brookdale Senior Living Facility this week. Mike provided an overview of Health Department programs and information on the community needs assessment process that is part of the state certification program. In appreciation for his efforts, the Rotary [presented Mike with a certificate](#) for a contribution in his name to the organization’s national initiative *End Polio Now* that will mean 50 children will be immunized.

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