



Village Manager's Report
Week ending January 31, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 3:
 - Village Board Personnel Committee Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Executive session, 7:15 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, Feb. 4:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Wednesday, Feb. 5:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Thursday, Feb. 6:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Feb. 7:
 - No meetings scheduled

Lake Street communications – The campaign to inform residents about the upcoming Lake Street restoration project gets underway in earnest with two open-house-style meetings in February. Meetings are scheduled for Tues., Feb. 11 at the [Oak Park River Forest Museum](#) and Feb. 13 at the [Nineteenth Century Club](#). Both meetings are set for 6 to 8 p.m. Representatives from the Village and the engineering contractor will be on hand to provide an overview of the project, discuss details and answer questions. In addition to spreading the word about the upcoming meetings via Village communication tools, advertising is planned for both the Wednesday Journal's print and [digital editions](#). Advertising in the Oak Leaves also is being explored. Messages disseminated to the public will drive people to the dedicated website, betterlakestreet.com, where visitors can learn the latest information and sign up for project alerts. The first phase of the project – water and sewer work between Grove and Euclid avenues – could begin as early as late February.

Zoning Board hearing – The Zoning Board of Appeals has scheduled a review of a petition from Centunum, LLC for a variance to allow a medical/clinic use on the ground floor at 1110 North Blvd. Current zoning prohibits such uses within 50 feet of the street lot line at grade level or on the ground floor of any building within the downtown sub districts. This long-vacant space had previously served as the office for the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce. The ZBA meeting is set for 7 p.m., Wed., Feb. 5.

Weather updates – Long-duration events with a wide variety of precipitation have kept Public Works crews busy ensuring safe travel for motorists and pedestrians. Streets, select public sidewalks, school crosswalks and the Home Avenue pedestrian bridge have been kept well salted to combat a changing mix of rain, sleet and snow. The Streets Division is closely monitoring major roadways and overpasses as forecasters continue to warn of the possibility of a mixed bag of precipitation that may continue into early Saturday (Feb. 1).

Public Works activities – Repair of a large sinkhole at 720 Chicago Avenue disrupted westbound traffic Monday and Tuesday (Jan. 27 and 28) near Oak Park Avenue. A leaking water service had created a huge void near a broken six-inch sewer line about nine feet underground. The water service and sewer were repaired and the street reopened to traffic by Tuesday afternoon. In other Public Works news, a new after-hours security gate has been installed on the south entrance of Village Hall. The new gate replaces one believed to be original to the building that had malfunctioned and was too old to find for repair parts.

Employee news – The Development Customer Services Department has welcomed several new team members. Karen Crowe is a new Customer Service Representative in the Permit Processing Division and Amber McMorris is a new part-time Administrative Clerk III. Karen brings extensive customer service experience to this new position. Amber studied business accounting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and has work experience in marketing analytics and project management. In other department news, Deborah Meneses is now a Certified Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector. Deborah is the sixth staff member to earn certification through the International Code Council. Also, this week, Daniel Lassiter joined the Village as the new Parking & Mobility Services Manager. Daniel brings more 30 years of experience in organizational optimization, strategic marketing, financial analysis, budget administration, contract negotiations and project management. He also has spent 25 years in the parking industry.

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