



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending Jan. 11, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- January 14:
 - Village Board Personnel Committee, 6 p.m., room 130
 - Comprehensive Planning meeting with all members of Advisory Board and Commissions, 7 – 9 p.m., Council Chamber
- January 15:
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- January 16:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., Room 101
 - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board, 7 p.m., Room 102
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., Room 215
- January 17:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., Room 215
 - Special HPC Guidelines Focus Group, 7 p.m., Room 102
 - Pleasant District Association 2013 Annual Meeting, 5:30 – 7 p.m., Carleton Hotel, 1110 Pleasant St.

Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):

- January 21: Village Hall closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day
- January 22: Avenue Business Association Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hemingway Museum, 200 N. Oak Park
- January 22: Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- January 24: Visit Oak Park 2013 Annual Meeting, 6 p.m., Carleton Hotel
- January 26: Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St.
- February 7: Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
- February 9: WCMC Legislative Breakfast, 9 a.m., Rosewood Restaurant, 9421 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont
- February 11: Village Board Candidate Night with Department Heads, 6 p.m., room 101
- February 11: Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130

Comprehensive Plan workshop for civic volunteers – Comprehensive Plan consultants [Houseal Lavigne Associates](#) will hold a workshop specifically for members of boards, committees and commissions from 7 to 9 p.m., Mon., Jan. 14, in

Village Hall Council Chamber. Several community, neighborhood and business workshops were held in October and November. We now would like to reach out to the many board and commission members who give their time to the Village. If you have any questions about the workshop or process, contact Craig Failor (failor@oak-park.us). Information also is posted at envisionoakpark.com.

Last chance to have holiday tree picked up – The week of January 14 is the last opportunity to have holiday trees picked up by the Village’s waste hauler. Trees will be picked up on regular trash and recycling collection days, but only through next week. Trees should be placed in the regular collection area next to the refuse cart. Only residents with no alley should put trees at the curb. Since the trees are mulched, all tinsel, decorations and stands should be removed, and trees should not be in plastic disposal bags. Wreaths and garland are held together with wire and are not recyclable, so place them in the refuse cart.

Recruitment begins for A Day in our Village volunteers – While June may seem like a long way from January, planning already is well underway for the 40th annual *A Day in Our Village*. This year’s event is scheduled for Sun., June 2. A variety of volunteers are needed to help promote and staff the event. Anyone interested in volunteering – or more information – is urged to call 708.358.5407 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

Capital improvements update – Water and sewer main improvements continue on LeMoyne Parkway. All water main work is scheduled to be completed next week, and new water services will be installed as weather allows. Surveying work continues on streets and alleys planned for improvement projects this year.

Public Works activities – Forestry crews completed parkway stump removal and subsequent clean up, backfill and restoration at 17 locations throughout the Village. The division also began in-house tree pruning of trees on the parkways between South Boulevard and Chicago Avenue beginning at Austin Boulevard and working west toward Harlem Avenue. The Water & Sewer Division repaired a water main break at 644 Madison St. and leaking valves at 122 Lemoyne Parkway and at Harvey Avenue and Van Buren Street. The division also repaired sewer laterals at 224 N. Harvey and 1107 S. Euclid Ave. The Street Lighting Division wrapped up a focused effort to find and repair outages. The effort, completed over five mornings before sunrise, identified and repaired 46 lighting outages.

Police calls for service up slightly – Calls to police increased slightly in December after four consecutive months of decline. Police responded to 2,613 calls in December, up from the November total of 2,485. Medium-priority calls such as accidents with no injuries, continued to be the largest category of calls in December, representing nearly 39 percent of total calls. The number of high-priority calls, which represented nearly 34 percent of all calls in December, also was up from the November total. Police fielded 895 high-priority calls in December, compared to 827 in November. Response times remained low in December, with officers responding to high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 35 seconds. Oak Park Police responded to more than 33,500 calls for service in 2012, with an average response time for high-priority calls of three minutes and 35 seconds.

Fire Department update – The Fire Department responded to 6,176 incidents in 2012, down 72 incidents from last year. The unusually mild start to the winter likely reduced service calls in November and December, with fewer reports of weather-related accidents, falls and downed power lines. The majority of the calls – some 60 percent – were for emergency medical services, with 3,724 calls, 42 percent of which required advanced life support procedures. The 1,078 non-emergency service and 1,031 fire alarm calls each represented about 17 percent of total incidents. The department also responded to 192 hazardous conditions and 148 fires. Firefighters responded to 47 building fires, or about four per month. Some 35 of the building fires were significant or suspicious requiring full investigations by the department’s state-certified investigators, with five fires being ruled arson. In addition, Oak Park firefighters responded to eight box alarms for major fires in neighboring towns as part of our role in the [Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System \(MABAS\)](#). In addition, the department conducted 634 CPR classes and 319 child safety seat inspections, in addition to visiting block parties, hosting station tours and teaching second graders important lessons in the fire safety trailer.

Foreclosure update – Oak Park ended 2012 with a slight decrease in the number of foreclosure filings as compared to 2011, posting 303 and 308 filings respectively. Condominium and single family filings remain the highest categories of new cases. The Housing Division attributes the overall decrease to a reduction in filings in the apartment buildings and commercial properties categories. We remain optimistic that the number of foreclosures will further decrease in 2013, but it may take several years to reach the historic low foreclosures of the 1980s. The number of foreclosure sales in 2012 increased significantly as compared to 2011. Some 229 properties sold in 2012, compared to 131 in 2011. The vast majority of completed sales involved REO or bank-owned properties. The increase is consistent with data throughout the region. The increase in sales is attributable to the time it takes a foreclosure to work its way through the court system. Several banks had slowed down the foreclosure process due to a court case filed by several attorneys general. That case has since been resolved and the banks now are working to process the backlog of foreclosures. A report prepared by the Housing Division shows a foreclosure comparison chart over the last five years – [click here to review](#).

Aggregation savings – Village electricity provider [Integrus](#) reports Oak Parkers saved an estimated \$3.4 million in the first year of our Community Choice Aggregation program. By bundling residential and small commercial electric accounts, the Village worked with Integrus to obtain a supply rate of 5.79 cents per kilowatt hour, which is an average savings of 20 percent from ComEd’s default supply rate. The new rate began appearing on January 2012 bills and since ComEd's default remains higher than the aggregation rate, savings are expected to continue throughout 2013.

Police retirements – The Oak Park Police Department will be saying farewell this month to three long-term officers who will be retiring after 30 years on the force. Sergeant Arthur Borchers, who was hired on Dec. 6, 1982, will retire on Jan. 19. Patrol Officer Debra Ann Sakosky and Patrol Officer Edward Hadac, both of whom joined the force on Sept. 27, 1982, will retire on Jan. 31. While this level of experience will be missed, the Department continually plans for such transitions, striving to supplement experience with new hires.

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