



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Weeks ending December 23 and December 30, 2016**

**Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:**

- Monday, December 26:
  - Village Hall Closed
  
- Tuesday, December 27:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 101
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
  
- Wednesday, December 28:
  - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Thursday, December 29:
  - No scheduled meetings
  
- Friday, December 30:
  - No scheduled meetings
  
- Monday, January 2:
  - Village Hall Closed
  
- Tuesday, January 3:
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
  
- Wednesday, January 4:
  - Madison Street Coalition, 2 p.m., room 101
  - Fire & Police Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 123
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
  
- Thursday, January 5:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  
- Friday, January 6:
  - No scheduled meetings

**Save the Date:** A special meeting of the Village Board is tentatively scheduled for 7 p.m., Monday, January 9, 2017.

**Village Hall hours** – Village Hall will close at noon today (Fri., Dec. 23) and remain closed all day Mon., Dec. 26. Village Hall also will be closed all day Mon., Jan. 2. When incidents that don't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency call occur when Village Hall is closed, residents can call the Police Department non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance. Always call 911 in an emergency.

**On-street parking restrictions eased** – As is tradition, overnight on-street parking restrictions are not being enforced on most residential streets through the New Year holiday. Restrictions will resume at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Jan. 4. Citizens have been reminded that restrictions are not lifted in paid overnight permit areas, including on-street zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety. More information on parking rules and regulations is posted at [www.oak-park.us/parking](http://www.oak-park.us/parking).

**Garages an option for vacation, guest parking** – With many residents planning holiday vacations and hosting guests, we are reminding them that overnight parking is available in the public garages, including Holley Court, the public garage at Forest Avenue and Lake Street, and The Avenue Parking Garage. Maximum fee is \$16 per day.

**Free public transit rides for revelers** – The Chicago Transit Authority is encouraging people heading out to celebrate the New Year to take advantage of free rides on all buses and trains from 10 p.m. Sat., Dec. 31 until 4 a.m., Sun., Jan. 1. Customers should not touch their fare or personal bankcards at rail station turnstiles or pay to board buses during the free-ride period. More information is [posted on the CTA website](#).

**Holiday tree collection schedule** – Holiday trees will be collected the weeks of Jan. 9 and 16. All decorations and stands should be removed, and trees placed in the regular collection area. Since the trees are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment, they should not be left in plastic disposal bags. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker be attached. Stickers are available at most local grocery and hardware stores, as well as at Village Hall for \$2.25 each. Wreaths and garlands cannot be collected for recycling because they contain wire, so they should be placed in the trash container. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Recycle lights and cords** – Unwanted holiday lights and extension cords can be recycled from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. through January at the Public Works Center. Mini, rope, LED, C7 and C9 lights and extension cords are accepted.

**Snow response update** – Public Works crews worked from Friday through Saturday morning (Dec. 16 and 17) responding to a storm that began with snow and ended with freezing rain and sleet, leaving about an inch of accumulation. Crews returned early that Saturday evening for a second wave of snow that left another two-plus inches by early Sunday morning. All main streets and school crossing were cleared long before the Monday morning rush.

**Downtown construction updates** – Temporary repairs to ensure accessibility have been made to the crosswalks on Marion Street downtown, with permanent repairs to follow in early spring when temperatures are more favorable. Work was expected to be completed this week on the pedestrian light poles by the outdoor dining area on South Boulevard west of Marion Street, the final activity of the season on the streetscape project.

**Elevate update** – The installation of the steel bridge structure between the two buildings of the Elevate Oak Park project downtown was delayed until next week, most likely Thursday and Friday, Dec. 29 and 30. The work will require closing Westgate Street, but traffic flaggers will be on site to ensure access to the offices between the Westgate cul de sac and Marion Street. Waste haulers were notified to service the area the morning prior to start of the fabrication work. The developer also notified the affected businesses of the work and the schedule change so they could plan accordingly. Similar closures and traffic management will be necessary in the coming weeks as bridge exterior is built out.

**Chicago Avenue resurfacing** – The pavement striping subcontractor will be back in the Village next week completing the temporary markings, which should last through the winter. Permanent pavement markings will be applied in the spring as part of the resurfacing and streetscape projects planned for between Harlem and Belleforte avenues.

**Miscellaneous Construction Projects** – The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, also known as the HAWK signal, was [activated this week at Chicago and Harvey avenues](#). Temporary electronic message signs are in place to inform drivers of this new device, which has a different look from typical traffic signals. Installations of bicycle shelters, parking rings and fix-it stations continues as weather permits, but should be completed later this winter. About 1.5 miles of sewers were inspected and cleaned this week at locations throughout the Village. Cleaning and inspections on Lake Street downtown is occurring during nighttime hours to minimize impact on traffic and businesses. Landscaping is all that remains to be completed on the Harrison Street lighting project. The work will be will be completed in the spring.

**Public Works activities** – Street Division crews are cold patching pavement openings where water main break were repaired. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired water main breaks at Chicago and Kenilworth avenues and 936 N. East Ave. and a leaking water service valve at Chicago and Oak Park avenues. Crews also continued checking and repairing frozen hydrants as necessary. Street Lighting Division crews replaced a traffic signal pole knocked down in a vehicle accident at Oak Park and Pleasant avenues. Routine maintenance work also continues throughout the Village.

**Federal business loan funds approved** – The Village has been approved for \$3 million in federal funds to help local for-profit businesses rehabilitate existing commercial spaces while providing jobs for those most in need. The Section 108 loan fund allows the Village to provide financing secured by future federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds. Every \$35,000 loaned by the Village must add or retain one low- or moderate-income job. Loan applications are expected to be available mid-February, but the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation already is actively courting potential applicants. Each application will be vetted by staff, an

underwriting consultant and a loan review committee before coming before the Village Board for final approval.

**Art directory is online** – The Oak Park Area Arts Council has launched a comprehensive online arts directory that lists available classes, camps, lessons and events in Oak Park and River Forest. The goal, officials say, is to engage youth in the arts through easily accessible opportunities. The project was funded by a grant from the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation’s Women Leaders in Philanthropy. View the directory at [www.artopedia.org](http://www.artopedia.org).

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