



Village Manager's Report Week ending Feb. 2, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 5:
 - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)

- Tuesday, Feb. 6:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Historic Preservation Commission Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Wednesday, Feb. 7:
 - Citizens Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)

- Thursday, Feb. 8:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)

- Friday, Feb. 9:
 - No meetings scheduled

Police neighborhood forums – The Police Department hosted four neighborhood forums this week, attracting an engaged cross section of the community to each. Police Chief Anthony Ambrose and his [command staff](#) presented a wide range of information, including updates on the vehicle hijacking investigations, lighting, cameras and social media. Resident Beat Officers also participated, offering crime prevention tips and urging residents to establish direct contact with their [respective zone officers](#). While the long-term goal is to re-establish the RBOs as the primary non-emergency contact between residents and the Police, neighborhood meetings similar to the ones held this week may be scheduled periodically in the future to maintain the spirit of support and cooperation voiced by forum attendees this week.

2017 crime data released – The Police Department has officially released the crime data report for 2017 compiled for the [FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program](#) that studies patterns and trends over time. The data was discussed at each of the neighborhood forums. The report shows that the overall crime rate increased a modest 2 percent in 2017 as compared to 2016, driven in part by the uptick in robberies, the category that includes the vehicle hijackings that have spiked not only in Oak Park but throughout the region. Burglaries and robberies continued to dominate the crime count, together representing about eight out of 10 crimes

committed in Oak Park. While the 1,635 crimes reported in 2017 did exceed the number of crimes reported in 2016 and 2015, the rate was lower than in 2014. A news release that includes a link to the actual Police report is posted on the Village website – [click here to review](#).

Composting incentive impact – The new cost-saving incentive offered for joining the Village’s residential composting program attracted an additional 48 households in January. With these new subscribers, the program is now serving 1,330 households. The incentive gives new members three months of service free with a 12-month commitment. The incentive program was promoted in the [January/February OP/FYI newsletter](#), and has been featured on the Village social media platforms.

Police social media update – The Police Department’s new [Facebook](#) page and [twitter](#) feed are proving popular, attracting nearly 1,800 fans and 350 followers in the first week. The public response has been overwhelmingly positive and the initiatives were well received when discussed at the [neighborhood forums](#) this week. Communications staff has provided initial launch and management support, as the Police Department selects and trains staff to assume more active roles. The resident beat officer email system also has been updated to make it easier for residents to subscribe and for improved management by the officers. As staff began to drive residents to the [online sign up form](#), demand triggered the vendor’s automatic [captcha](#) security measure that added an additional step in the process. Staff is working with the vendor to eliminate this unnecessary element.

New traffic signal activated – The new traffic signal at Washington Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue was activated this week and is fully operational. The new light provides protected left turns for traffic on both Washington and Wisconsin.

Parking pilot program presented – A public meeting to present the details of a proposed parking pilot program attracted near 70 residents to Brooks Middle School, Mon., Jan. 29. The proposal presented at the meeting incorporated feedback gathered since the concept of a pilot area test was first presented to the public on Nov. 9. A video and PDF file of the presentation is online at www.oak-park.us/parkingpilot where comments also can be posted. This meeting was the last dedicated public forum before final recommendations for a pilot program are developed by the Transportation Commission, Parking Division staff and consultant Dixon Resources Unlimited and then presented to the Village Board consideration.

Miscellaneous construction projects –The former Robinson’s Ribs building on Madison Street was expected to be down this week, ending demolition activities on the redevelopment site. Annual cleaning and inspections of sewer mains throughout the Village is expected to wrap up by the end of the week. After-hours work by ComEd in the alley behind 1128 Lake Street was to be completed by the end of this week. Data-collection surveys for next construction season’s road and utility projects are continuing.

Public Works activities – Street Division crews removed the red valet booths, swept streets in the downtown area and picked up litter in all business districts and as needed throughout the Village. Crews also applied temporary patches on streets where water main breaks have been repaired had been made. Permanent repairs will be made in the spring. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sewer frame at 1046

Linden Ave., while also inspecting and repairing fire hydrants as needed. Parkway tree pruning continued this week between Division Street and North Avenue. Trimming has been completed between Harlem and Kenilworth avenues, as crews continue moving east. Public Works crews are preparing for what could be an active period of snow beginning Saturday and continuing into Monday, with additional activity predicted over the next two weeks.

###