



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending February 8, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Feb. 11:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, Feb. 12:
  - Aging in Place Commission meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, Feb. 13:
  - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, Feb. 14:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Friday, Feb. 15:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Garage elevator issues** – Two of the three elevators at the Holley Court Parking Garage are back in service after the severe weather created operating issues for each. The southeast and south center elevators are operating normally, but the west elevator will remain out of service until repairs can be completed. Staff has temporarily relocated accessible parking to first floor of the garage until service was restored.

**Parking pilot updates** – After issuing warning notices for 10 days, Parking Enforcement Officers have begun writing citations for non-payment at the new meters on Madison Street. Signs are now posted in the downtown area to alert customers that meter hours will be extended to 8 p.m. starting Feb. 18. In conjunction with extending the meter hours, the three-hour time limits will be eliminated in areas with pay stations, which will offer a dynamic pricing structure that allows parkers to stay longer by paying higher rates. The goal of these changes is to simplify and streamline Village parking rules and regulations, create additional parking for customers of nearby businesses and provide more flexible parking options.

**Fenwick garage update** – The Plan Commission voted unanimously Thursday night (Feb. 7) to recommended approval of the planned development application for Fenwick's five-story, six-floor parking garage and alley vacation requests. The recommendation, which will come to the Village Board for consideration,

recommended that Fenwick adhere to recommendations within the traffic report related to any onsite, street and parking modifications. The commission also recommended that Fenwick provide four onsite overnight permit parking spaces abutting the south side of the proposed garage until the entire campus is redeveloped. This parking recommendation is based on the loss of on-street parking at the Washington Boulevard/East Avenue intersection as the *no parking from here to corner* signs are moved further from the intersection to allow better traffic flow around left-turning vehicles.

**Forest Avenue closure update** – Barring any weather-related issues, Forest Avenue from Lake Street north to the alley by Austin Gardens will reopen to traffic by the end of the day (Fri. Feb. 8). The section of roadway has been closed all week so that the large construction crane could be disassembled and removed from the Albion project site. Signage was posted to help direct traffic around the site. However, the closure meant that the Nineteenth Century Club and Lake and Forest garage could be accessed only from the north during the crane removal process. With the alley between the project site and Austin Gardens also closed at Forest Avenue, public parking spaces in the area were assigned temporarily to the Park District for activity drop-offs at the Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center.

**Snow response** – Public Works crews have been on the job steadily since last week responding to snow, challenges posed by cold temperatures and predictions of the region's first serious ice storm in nearly a decade. Crews followed a strategy that focuses first on plowing and salting main roads, bridges and school crosswalks before moving to residential side streets and alleys. With the forecast for Tues., Feb. 5 calling for extreme icing from sleet and freezing rain, crews salted all streets, public way sidewalks – including the Home Avenue pedestrian bridge – and the school crosswalks. An unexpected switch to heavy rain required a second application of salt as the forecast for icing continued. Although the predicted icing did not occur, some drivers remained on site as a precaution.

**South Boulevard update** – Crews must wait for the weather to improve before required pavement striping can be applied and South Boulevard opened to two-way traffic between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue. Weather also has slowed the installation of the remaining sidewalk east of the commercial driveway entrance at the [Eleven33](#) development site.

**Public Works Activities** – The recent freeze/thaw cycle has kept Streets Division crews busy patching potholes throughout the Village, focusing first on main streets before moving to the side streets. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired water main breaks at Elmwood Avenue and Lenox Street and at 617 N. Lombard Ave., fixed a broken sewer at 733 Clinton Ave. and inspected hydrants throughout the Village to ensure their proper operation in an emergency. Parkway tree pruning has continued as weather allows, with crews currently on Carpenter and Kenilworth avenues between Madison and Harrison streets.

**Food waste workshop** – Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Agnew will offer details on the [municipal composting program](#) at a free food waste workshop set for 7 p.m., Tues., Feb. 12 at the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. Sponsored by

the [Interfaith Green Network](#), the event also will feature professionals from the community who will share their insights into what can be done to help reduce the amount of food that is wasted and ending up in the landfill. Attendees are asked to [register online](#).

**Employee news** – Dennis Johnson has joined the Development Customer Services Department as an Inspector in the Neighborhood Services Division. Dennis’s role as a Village Inspector will include walking neighborhoods to identify property maintenance issues, inspecting multifamily buildings and responding to property maintenance complaints. Prior to joining the Oak Park team, Dennis was an inspector with a firm that performed housing inspections for the Chicago Housing Authority.

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