



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending February 20, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, February 23:
  - Village Board Special Meeting regarding Economic Development, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Tuesday, February 24:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
  
- Wednesday, February 25:
  - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 101
  - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Thursday, February 26:
  - No scheduled meetings

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Monday, March 2 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- Monday, March 9 – Village Board Special Meeting regarding Intergovernmental Collaboration Sustainability, 7 p.m. room 101

**Forest Avenue lane closure** – The dedicated eastbound turn lane on southbound Forest Avenue by Lake Street closed this week in advance of expanding the construction space to a portion of the street as allowed under the redevelopment agreement. Temporary barricades with a direction arrow for the southbound traffic went up Wednesday, but should be replaced with pavement markings by Monday. Southbound vehicles will continue to be able to turn east at Lake Street, but will share the lane with vehicles turning west, which will allow a northbound lane on Forest from Lake to be retained.

**Metra station repairs delayed** – Repairs to the exterior of the Marion Street Metra station have been delayed by the weather. The work, which will require temporarily closing the stairway access from Marion, was originally scheduled to begin in January and take about three weeks. Staff is working with the railway to determine the new

schedule. In addition to repairing the brick on the stairway and the exterior of the warming center, the platform also will be resurfaced, but is not expected to impede train boarding.

**Whooping cough case reported** – An Oak Park River Forest High School student was diagnosed recently with pertussis, a highly contagious illness most commonly referred to as whooping cough. The medical consultant to the Oak Park Health Department and the department’s communicable disease coordinator prepared a letter that was sent to the parents of all students who may have come into contact with the infected student. The letter offered details on how to recognize the illness and steps to take should they suspect infection. In addition, parents were given a letter to take to their child’s physician should they suspect an exposure to pertussis. [Click here to read the letters.](#)

**Cold weather communications** – Staff continued to promote the hours and locations of local warming centers as temperatures dropped to record lows this week. Since those most likely to need this information may not be the best connected to modern communications tools, the goal was to encourage individuals and organizations such as the Oak Park Public Library to spread the word to anyone they might know who could use a place to warm up. By encouraging one-on-one communications, hopefully the message reached many of those in need. Here in Oak Park, [West Suburban PADS](#) is well known among the at-risk population who most likely rely on support information spread by word-of-mouth.

**Monitoring rising concrete costs** – The Engineering Division continues monitoring the rising cost of concrete to calculate the impact on scheduled capital improvement projects. With prices up about 25 percent from 2014, scopes of work may need to be adjusted to keep planned capital projects within budgeted amounts. More information will be provided as the impact on specific projects is determined and presented to the Village Board as part of budget discussions.

**Narcotics seized at rented house** – Oak Park Police officers recently assisted Riverside Police in executing a search warrant at a rented house on south Euclid Avenue that resulted in three arrests and seizures of cannabis, cocaine, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and tools for processing, preparing and cutting narcotics for resale. The raid, which occurred at about 6 a.m., Fri., Feb. 13, was the result of an investigation by the West Suburban Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement Task Force (WEDGE), a regional task force of west suburban Cook County police agencies. [More details on the operation are posted online.](#)

**Public Works activities** – Pothole patching continued, as did the use of temporary pavement repairs where water main breaks had occurred at various locations in the Village. Crews also continued clearing snow from fire hydrants where needed. A water main break at Chicago and Euclid avenues and a broken sewer lateral at 1000 N. Harvey Ave. were repaired. The water meter head change-out program has been completed for the winter and will resume in mid-summer. Forestry crews focused on pruning between North Avenue, Division Street, Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard, while the private contractor began pruning trees north of I-290 and south of Madison Street, working east to west. The contractor also continued removing problem trees and those affected by emerald ash borer south of I-290 at the rate of

about seven trees each day. Sunday's relatively minor snow event still required a crew to come in to salt Village streets.

**Advisory referendum deadline** – The Oak Park Township has asked the Village to remind everyone that March 1 is the deadline to submit petitions to get an advisory referendum on the local November ballot. The citizen-initiated process requires a supporting petition with exact ballot wording and the signatures of only 15 registered Oak Park voters be submitted to the [Township](#), although its board is just the County Clerk's gathering mechanism and does not determine which questions make the ballot. The first three submissions meeting the criteria and approved by registered Oak Park voters who actually attend the April 14 Township annual meeting are submitted to the [Cook County Clerk](#) to place on the ballot for the next election.

**Conservatory offers antidote to winter blues** – The Park District has asked us to remind anyone suffering from cabin fever or the winter blues that a visit to the Conservatory might be just what they need. Visitors enjoy oxygen-rich air, the sounds of birds and waterfalls, and the scents of Azalea, orange blossoms and orchids. Chicagoland Gardening magazine once described the Conservatory as small but mighty, a fitting description of this community gem. The Conservatory is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, and 2 to 4 p.m., Mondays. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. [More information is posted on the Park District website.](#)

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