



Village Manager's Report
Week ending February 1, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 4:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber and Annual Employee Years-of-Service Awards Recognition Ceremony
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Room 101

- Tuesday, Feb. 5:
 - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
 - Joint Aging in Place and Disability Commission meeting, 7 p.m., room 101

- Wednesday, Feb. 6:
 - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Thursday, Feb. 7:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Friday, Feb. 8:
 - No meetings scheduled

Forest Avenue closure update – Barring any additional weather delays, Forest Avenue is scheduled to be closed next week from Lake Street north to the alley by Austin Gardens to remove a tower crane from the Albion construction site. The work was originally scheduled for this week, but postponed due to the dangerously cold working conditions. Removing the crane will require closing this section of roadway around the clock and vehicles will only be able to access the Nineteenth Century Club and Lake and Forest garage from the north. The alley between the project site and Austin Gardens also will be closed at Forest Avenue. Public parking spaces in the area have been assigned temporarily to the Park District for activity drop-offs at the Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center. Extensive signage is in place to redirect traffic during this time.

Cold weather response – All but essential public safety services were suspended at close of business Tues., Jan. 29, with facilities remaining closed to the public until noon Thurs., Jan 31. The Police and Village Hall lobbies remained opened to provide temporary relief from the cold for anyone in need. Even though the Public Works Center was closed to the public, crews were on the job to respond to emergencies, ready equipment for the next round of snow and monitor traffic signal systems for

any malfunctions. [Public information messaging](#) was ramped up Tuesday on the website and across social media to advise the community on the Village Hall closing. Information also was disseminated about the standing warming centers as well as multiple [warming centers](#) activated through [Housing Forward](#) for this specific weather situation. By noon Thurs., Jan 31, Village Hall and the Public Works Center were back in full operation. The goal of closing Village facilities to the public was to discourage residents from venturing out into the dangerous cold. The National Weather Services reported the area survived 52 straight hours of below-zero temperatures.

Fire Department calls – The week’s snow and extreme cold nearly doubled the Fire Department’s typical number of calls for service. Firefighter/paramedics responded to numerous reports of pipes breaking, as the prolonged sub-zero temperatures affected both domestic water and sprinkler supply systems. Other calls included malfunctioning fire alarm systems, furnace-related carbon monoxide reports and residents who had locked themselves out of their cars while warming them up. Emergency medical calls also increased as people slipped and fell on icy stairs and sidewalks.

Snow response – The snow that fell intermittently from Fri., Jan. 25 through Mon., Jan. 28 kept crews on the streets plowing and salting to keep ahead of the frigid weather that descended on the region the night of Tues., Jan. 29. By Monday evening, snow had accumulated more than 6.5 inches, challenging crews to work diligently to clear streets before the deep freeze arrived in earnest. All streets and alleys were plowed and curb cuts cleared to improve pedestrian travel. All sidewalks on the public ways were plowed and salted as were school crosswalks. Crews were back on the streets Thursday night into Friday morning (Jan. 31 and Feb. 1) when light snow fell once again. As temperatures rose today (Fri., Feb. 1), crews focused on alleys and side streets. The predicted weekend thaw also includes the possibility of freezing rain, so crews will remain on alert to respond as needed.

Miscellaneous project updates – Once the cold weather subsides, crews will work to complete installation of the remaining sidewalk east of the commercial driveway entrance at the Eleven33 development on South Boulevard east of Harlem Avenue. The westbound traffic lane remains open and the eastbound lane will be opened once the weather warms up enough to allow pavement markings to be applied. Bike racks have been installed at the District House development on Lake Street at Euclid Avenue, with new light poles and planters to be installed as weather permits.

Public Works activities –Street Lighting Division crews removed a 30-foot-tall light pole from the Village Hall parking lot that was damaged during snow removal. In addition to helping with snow plowing and related activities, Water & Sewer Division crews focused on making sure fire hydrants throughout the Village were not frozen and ready should they be needed. Winter tree pruning was suspended this week due to the weather, but crews have worked up to Euclid Avenue between Madison and Harrison streets.

Employee news – Longtime Village employees will be recognized by the Village board for their years of service at a ceremony at the beginning of the Mon., Feb. 4 regular meeting. Village employees will be recognized for work anniversaries of either five,

10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years in 2017. In addition, Police Sgt. Donicio Silva will be recognized for his active-duty service with the Illinois National Guard in Afghanistan. Each honoree will receive a certificate and pin.

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