



Village Manager's Report
Weeks ending Dec. 20 and Dec. 27, 2013

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- December 23:
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- December 24:
 - Village Hall Closed at noon
- December 25:
 - Village Hall Closed
- January 1:
 - Village Hall Closed

Holidays affect Village Hall hours – [Village Hall](#) will close at noon on Tues., Dec. 24 and remain closed all day Wed., Dec. 25. Village Hall also will be closed all day Wed., Jan. 1. Refuse and recycling services also will be delayed by one day.

Parking restrictions eased for holidays – As is typical for the season, the overnight parking ban will not be enforced on most residential streets during the upcoming holidays. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 21, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Fri., Jan. 3. Restrictions will remain in effect in overnight permit areas, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street overnight permit parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including all daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

SoHo development update – An application for a building permit has been submitted for the final phase of the SoHo development at South Boulevard and Home Avenue. The developer plans to build a row of townhomes that will front on Home Avenue. The townhomes will have alternating brick and stone intended to replicate the variety of row-house facades on the opposite side of Home. Construction is projected to begin in the first quarter of 2014. [Click here to see perspective drawing.](#)

Holiday traffic enforcement – Additional police officers will be on Oak Park streets from Dec. 20 through Jan. 3 looking for impaired and unbuckled drivers as part of the state-supported [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) and [Click It or Ticket](#) programs. Oak Park officers will focus on the 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. period when seat belt usage is lowest and a disproportionate number of traffic deaths occur. The program has been widely publicized, including on [the Village web site](#).

New state laws effective Jan. 1 – Several new state laws affecting citizens will go into effect on Jan. 1, including concealed carry, prohibition against using a hand-held cell phone while driving, limits to free metered parking for persons with disabilities and allowing 17 year olds to register to vote. More details on each of these new laws will be in the January issue of the [OP/FYI community newsletter](#). However, we are planning specific outreach to the business community concerning the concealed-carry law. The Village also will make state-approved signs available for those business owners who wish to prohibit concealed firearms on their premises.

Fire Department update – Firefighters responded Tuesday to a fire in a car parked inside the Avenue Garage. The fire started at about 12:30 p.m. on the fifth floor and firefighters were on the scene in about three minutes. The fire was extinguished in less than 15 minutes. No injuries were reported, but the garage did sustain some smoke damage that will need to be cleaned away. However, the car where the fire started and an adjacent car were heavily damaged. A third vehicle sustained minor damage. The fire is believed to have started in the engine compartment of one of the vehicles. While car fires of this type are considered routine, this is the first time the department had ever responded to a fire in the Avenue Garage.

Capital improvements update – With completion of the water and sewer main improvements on Lombard Avenue under I-290 substantially complete, streets are now open to traffic. The water main was lined and the piping replaced. In addition, all street resurfacing has ended for the year. Remaining related projects, including parkway restoration, will be scheduled for the spring.

Viaduct project update – Cold weather has delayed the enhancement work on the Marion Street and Ridgeland Avenue viaducts. Work is expected to resume as weather allows, with lighting under both viaducts anticipated to be completed in January as weather permits.

Sewer inspections and cleaning – Sewer televising is substantially complete, with only two locations remaining. Siphon inspections and cleaning of Ridgeland Avenue are underway and will continue as weather permits.

Public Works activities – The Street Lighting Division repaired a street light pole knocked down at Augusta and Harlem avenues, and repaired lights for the decorative Oak Park sign on the South Boulevard side of the Oak Park Avenue viaduct. The Water & Sewer Division continued the meter head change-out program, while the Streets Division continued routine maintenance work throughout the Village, while ensuring personnel and equipment were prepared for any possible snow events.

Retirements and hires – Village Forester Jim Semelka, who has worked here for the past 15 years, is retiring to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. Jim's last day will be Fri., Dec. 27. His extensive knowledge and experience will be missed. Keith Seat will join Public Works on Dec. 26 as a street lighting technician. Keith had worked in the Parking Department for five years before taking on this new role.

###