



Village Manager's Report
Week ending December 5, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, December 8:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m. room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, December 9:
 - No scheduled meetings

- Wednesday, December 10:
 - Crime Free Housing Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102

- Thursday, December 11:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215

Safe routes to school grants – We just learned this week that the Village will receive more than \$167,000 in grants through the federal [Safe Routes to School Program](#). The largest of the grants -- \$137,280 – is to upgrade traffic controllers at 26 intersections with LED countdown signals to enhance pedestrian safety. The Police Department also was awarded two grants to purchase portable speed and message trailers. Police will use \$12,319 to replace an older trailer for which repair parts are no longer manufactured. A \$17,596 grant will be used to purchase a second, more versatile speed trailer that will add the ability to post safe driving messages. The trailers can be placed around town to show drivers their speed and to encourage them to observe the posted speed limit. In addition to the grants coming to the Village, a \$12,000 grant from the same program will go to [Kids on Wheels](#), an Active Transportation Alliance pilot program launched in May in cooperation with School District 97 – [click here to read more](#).

Marion Street viaduct sign repair – Crews will be repairing the sign on the south side of the Marion Street viaduct on Monday. The work will require closing the north bound lane at South Boulevard much of the work day. The sign was damaged in July when it was struck by a truck. Two of the metal letters had to be specially fabricated. The repair, which [cost nearly \\$29,000](#), is being covered by the truck driver's insurance company.

Police activity report – Oak Park Police officers responded to 2,367 calls for service in November, the third consecutive month of declining calls. Medium priority calls such as accidents without injuries accounted for about 45 percent of all calls, which is typical. About 27 percent of the November calls were high priority, but the 649 calls were the fewest monthly total for the year. Police were on the scene of high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 14 seconds. So far this year, Police have responded to 30,401 calls for service. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

Fire activity report – Our firefighter/paramedics responded to 523 calls for service in November, bringing the year's total to 5,861. Emergency medical services calls continued to be the greatest share of all calls, with November's 319 EMS calls representing 61 percent of the total. The 92 general service calls represented the second largest share of calls, or about 18 percent, followed by 78 alarm initiated calls (14 percent) and 34 fire/hazardous conditions calls (7 percent). Average response times remained low, with crews arriving on scene in about five minutes and 38 seconds, well below the six minute industry average. The fire in the Turano service garage on Roosevelt Road was the only major fire loss in November. The blaze, believed to have been caused by the accidental release of propane that was ignited by an overhead heater, required support from nine fire departments, including covering our stations as Oak Park crews were on the scene. Four Turano employees were injured, one seriously, and a single-family residence just north of the site was damaged. EMS training in November focused on emerging infectious diseases – or EID – which is now the medically preferred acronym when referencing Ebola. We are working closely with Loyola University Medical Center to gather and interpret the large quantities of information disseminated to first responders concerning this disease. In addition, the department is working to secure the proper equipment to ensure the best care for patients and the best protection and safety for our personnel should we encounter a case.

Capital improvements status – The 2014 construction season is winding down. Street lights for the green east-west alley north of Lake Street and west of Forest Avenue should be installed next week, and only punch list work remains on a few other alley projects. Meanwhile, survey and design work is underway for many of the capital improvement projects planned for the 2015 construction season.

Public Works activities – A broken sewer lateral was repaired at 609 N. Linden Avenue. The sewer line at 700 N. Linden Ave. was video traced in response to a citizen report of issues, but no problems were found. The sewer line at the Village Hall garage also was video traced in preparation for work planned for the underground structure. The water meter head change out program continues, with nearly 900 appointments of the current round completed. The Forestry Division focused on service requests for pruning and ensuring roof clearances, as well as tree removals, stump grinding and moving extra planters to off-site storage. Forestry contractors continued removing large dead and diseased trees and grinding stumps.

With the tree inventory now complete, the vendor is reviewing and finalizing the data. The annual fall leaf collection program ended this week, but some cleanup may remain. Ongoing routine activities also continued, with crews restoring street openings where water main breaks had been repaired, fixing signs, removing graffiti and patching potholes.

Innovative ideas sought – The [Oak Park Education Foundation \(OPEF\)](#) is soliciting ideas for its next big program for District 97's 10 schools. The last time the not-for-profit organization solicited input from the community in 2008 more than 40 ideas were submitted, leading to the [Geared Up program](#), which uses motorized LEGO sets to teach students working in teams of two to test their own ideas. If you or anyone you know would like to offer ideas, just [click here to share them](#) via an online form. Jan. 9 is the deadline to participate.

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