



Village Manager's Report
Week ending January 16, 2015

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Saturday, January 17:
 - Village Board Intergovernmental Meeting, 9 a.m., Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park

- Monday, January 19:
 - Village Hall Closed

- Tuesday, January 20:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, January 21:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, January 22:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, January 26 – Village Board Special Meeting on the Eisenhower, 7 p.m., room 101

- Monday, February 2 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 2011

- Tuesday, February 3 – Reinventing Government Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 130

- Monday, February 9 – Finance Committee of the Village Board, 7 p.m., room 101

Village Hall closed Monday – Village Hall will be closed on Mon., Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As always, we urge citizens to call the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800 should an issue come up that does not quite rise to the level of a 911 call.

Forest Avenue lane closure pushed to next week – Construction scheduled to close the northbound lane of Forest Avenue at Lake Street this week was delayed by the

weather. The lane now is scheduled to be closed during working hours the week of Jan. 19 as crews install water and sewer utilities for the redevelopment project underway there. Steel plates will be placed over the trenches at the end of each work day so that northbound traffic on Forest can resume in the evening. But since snowplows can't safely cross plates over an open excavation, the lane will remain closed overnight if snow is predicted. Barring any further weather delays, the work should be completed by the end of the workday Fri., Jan. 23, and the lane opened to northbound traffic. We have continued to update information on major construction projects in the area at www.oak-park.us/projects.

Record low crime rate – Oak Park's crime rate in 2014 was the lowest in the 42 years since comparable information has been collected. The news garnered considerable attention in the news media and on social media. Police Chief Rick Tanksley gave much of the credit to citizens who keep an eye on their neighborhoods and don't hesitate to call when they see a suspicious character or activity. [More details on the crime data are posted on the Village website](#) and will be featured prominently in the February OP/FYI community newsletter.

Ribbon cutting – Members of the Development Customer Services team will be attending an Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting event at 11:30 a.m., Fri., Jan. 23, at [The Mama Tribe](#), 715 Lake St. Team members also are scheduled to attend an event on Fri., Feb. 6 for [Ovation Academy](#), 126 N Oak Park Ave.

Snow operations update – Snow events on Jan 11 and 12 had crews out in force salting and plowing. While cold temperatures and light overnight traffic continued to reduce the effectiveness of the melting agents, warming temperatures later in the week have all streets fairly clear. Crews have been able to plow most streets from curb to curb, although on-street parking can make this challenging on some streets. The weekends warming weather should eliminate much of the remaining on-street problems. So far this winter, Oak Park has registered 10 inches of snow, which the experts tell us is about average for the area.

Preparing for alley improvements – Letters will be going out next week to businesses and residents whose properties are adjacent to alleys scheduled for replacement beginning in late May. In addition to describing the upcoming project, the letter also will describe the process for requesting a green alley, which would allow residents to pay the additional cost through a Special Service Area tax.

Capital improvements update –The Engineering Division has issued a request for proposals to demolish the building at 260 Madison St. in preparation for the new Elementary School District administration building scheduled to be built on the site. The construction contract is scheduled to be presented to the Village Board at the Feb. 17 meeting.

Public Works activities – A damaged street light pole was removed and a fire hydrant was rebuilt at the corner of Lake Street and Oak Park Avenue after a vehicle struck the pole, the hydrant and U.S. mailboxes near Winberie's Restaurant early Wednesday morning. No injuries were sustained. Staff is working with Lake and Forest redevelopment representatives to come up with the best traffic signal configuration during construction of the new building. Crews continued inspecting the

area south of I-290 for frozen fire hydrants. Valves were exercised at Lake and Forest in preparation for the partial water main replacement and valve installation as part of the re-development project there. Water main valves throughout the Village also were exercised to help identify those that may be in most need of replacement this year. The water meter head change out program continues, with 1,231 appointments completed to date. The Forestry Division focused on resident request pruning and marking ash trees identified for winter removal, while a private contractor began [pruning in the south and west part](#) of town, a project that is expected to continue through April.

Holiday light recycling continues – The Public Works Department will continue to recycle unwanted, damaged and outdated holiday lights through January. Residents may drop them off from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays at the Public Works Center. Mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope and LED lights, as well as extension cords are acceptable.

Employee News – Byron Kutz has accepted the position of Assistant Village Engineer. A licensed professional engineer with state LEED accreditation, Byron has been with the Village for a little more than a year. He steps into the former role of Bill McKenna, who was recently promoted to Village Engineer. Prior to joining the Village, Byron spent eight years as an engineer for a consulting firm. He earned his engineering degree from Valparaiso University.

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