



Village Manager's Report
Week ending December 9, 2016

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, December 12:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, December 13:
 - No scheduled meetings

- Wednesday, December 14:
 - Fire and Police Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 123
 - Public Arts Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 102

- Thursday, December 15:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

- Friday, December 16:
 - No scheduled meetings

Police step up presence – Oak Park Police are stepping up patrols in cars, on foot and on bicycles through New Year’s Day to combat crimes that traditionally rise during the holiday season. The high-visibility initiative is intended to deter robberies, shoplifting, thefts and other crimes that tend to increase between Thanksgiving and the New Year – especially in shopping districts and on major streets. Police also are encouraging residents to be vigilant as they shop this holiday season and providing tips to help shoppers not become victims. More details on the effort are [posted on the Village website](#).

Wayfinding concepts under review – The development team at [Sasaki Associates Inc.](#) recently presented three wayfinding sign design concepts to the Community Design Commission and now they want the public to provide their views as well. Residents are invited to [review the presentation online](#) or stop by Village Hall where mock-ups of the three concepts are on display. Written comments may be left by the display at Village Hall or via email to business@oak-park.us. More information on the effort also is posted at www.oak-park.us/wayfinding.

Community awards event – More than 70 individuals, organizations and businesses were recognized at the annual community awards ceremony Wednesday (Dec. 7) at the Nineteenth Century Club. The awards, which were presented by the Historic Preservation Commission, Environment & Energy Commission, Community Design

Commission and Disability Access Commission, recognized recipients for their commitment to protecting Oak Park's heritage and making the Village a vibrant place for residents and visitors alike. A complete list of award winners is posted on the Village website – [just click here](#).

Police initiative results – The Oak Park Police Department recently joined other state and local law enforcement agencies across Illinois in working to reduce highway fatalities by cracking down on unbuckled motorists and impaired drivers. As part of the statewide *Click It or Ticket* and *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* mobilizations from Nov. 14 – 27, Oak Park police stopped 69 motorists, making one DUI and one suspended/revoked license arrest, while also issuing 35 seat belt, four uninsured motorist and eight traffic citations. This law enforcement mobilization was funded by federal traffic safety funds through the Illinois Department of Transportation. More information on this national effort is posted at www.idot.illinois.gov.

Fire Department report – The Fire Department responded to 543 calls for service in November. The 6,094 calls responded to so far in 2016 are on track to be just below last's year record 6,600 incident responses. November's 338 calls for emergency medical services represented 62 percent of monthly activity, followed by 87 general service (16 percent), 49 good intent (9 percent), 45 alarm initiated (8 percent) and 24 fires/hazardous conditions (5 percent). Firefighter/paramedics had contact with 371 patients in November, transporting 340 to a medical facility. Of those transported 126 required advanced life support services. The Department responded to two structure fires in November, the most significant on a wooden back porch where a cigarette butt snuffed in a pot of planting mix later erupted into a fire. Fire Prevention Bureau personnel wrapped up on-site inspections of Vantage Oak Park. Personnel also have been meeting with staff at Elevate Oak Park to discuss fire protection needs and inspect the construction site for fire safety.

Early voting tally – The Village Clerk reports that 13,151 individuals voted early at Village Hall for the presidential election, an average of more than 875 per day. The first day was had the biggest turnout, with some 1,135 early votes cast at Village Hall. This year's tally compared to 8,767 early votes cast at Village Hall in 2012, the first day attracting only 324 voters. County-wide more than 375,000 voters cast early ballots, some 125,000 more than 2012. Voter registration is now open at Village Hall for the April 4 election.

Downtown construction updates – Installation began this week of the bicycle shelter, concrete was poured for remaining temporary sidewalks and pavement, and bluestone-related tasks wrapped up as work winds down for the season on the South Boulevard streetscape project. Minor repairs to crosswalks on Marion Street will continue next week, but all traffic lanes should remain open.

Chicago Avenue resurfacing – No parking signs were removed this week as the Chicago Avenue resurfacing project winds down for the season. While critical pavement markings are being installed, striping for parking lanes and spaces will be postponed to the spring and completed as part of the streetscape projects planned for between Harlem and Belleforte avenues. The planter in front of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio is complete and should be filled with planting soil by the end

of next week, pending IDOT approval of the soil mix. All barricades then will be removed.

Highland Avenue water/sewer main project – This year’s work is substantially complete on the water and sewer main improvements along the 500 and 600 blocks of Highland Avenue. With last week’s completion of related concrete work, the first two layers of the asphalt pavement were installed. However, the final asphalt layer and parkway sod restorations will be postponed until early spring. The street will be open to traffic and can be plowed as needed.

Repairs to historic sidewalks – Work began this week repairing about two dozen segments of sandstone sidewalk on the 400 blocks of north Euclid, Linden and East avenues. Workers are focusing on eliminating trip hazards in these historic sidewalks, which date back to the early days of the Village. If the repairs are deemed successful, maintaining, rather than replacing these historic elements will become a regular annual project.

Miscellaneous construction projects – Bicycle shelter and fixit station installations continued this week. This project should wrap up by the end of next week with the completion of punch-list items, including needed correction to the concrete at the corner of East Avenue and Harrison Street. Repairs to the sunken and broken bricks on Wenonah Avenue between Harvard Avenue and Garfield Street, and Humphrey Avenue from Harrison Street to Jackson Boulevard were completed this week. Sewer cleaning and inspections began this week at various locations throughout the Village. Sewer cleaning and inspection on Lake Street downtown will be completed during nighttime hours to minimize impacts on traffic and businesses.

Public Works Activities – Public Works crews salted and plowed all streets and cleared school crosswalks Sunday, as the first snowfall of the season dropped about five inches of heavy, wet frozen precipitation on the community. Street Division crews didn’t let the snow interfere with tasks related to the final week of the annual leaf collection program, including cleaning up problem areas where the leaf pushers and street sweepers couldn’t reach. The Water & Sewer Division crews repaired fire hydrants on the 400 block of Clinton Avenue and at 820 S. Oak Park Ave., water main breaks at Harrison Street and Lombard Avenue and 1018 S. Maple, a leaking water valve at Chicago and East avenues and a broken catch basin at 1106 N. Austin Blvd. Street Lighting Division crews began early morning patrols to check for and repair street light outages and repaired a light pole knocked down in a traffic accident at 938 Chicago Ave.

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