



## Village Manager's Report Weeks ending January 6, 2017

### Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Tuesday, January 10:
  - Commission Chair Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, January 11:
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, January 12:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Friday, January 13:
  - No scheduled meetings
- Monday, January 16:
  - Village Hall Closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Holiday tree collection starts Monday** – The Village's refuse hauler will begin collecting holiday trees Monday (Jan. 9) as part of the regular collection schedule. Trees will be picked up through the week of Jan. 16. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker be attached. Residents are asked to remove all decorations and stands, and place their trees in the regular collection area by 7 a.m. on their standard refuse collection date.

**Late leaf pick-up service extended** – Since leaves fell later this year, many residents were unable to get theirs to the curb before the Village's annual leaf collection program closed for the season. So the Public Works Department has worked out an arrangement with the contract hauler to pick up bagged leaves as part of the composting collection cycle. Residents need to place the leaves into yard waste bags and call 708.358.5700 to arrange a pickup. The good news for residents is that a green yard waste sticker is not required.

**Holiday light recycling underway** – The Public Works Department will be recycling old, non-working or unwanted holiday lights through January. Residents may drop them off from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Public Works Center. Mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope and LED lights, as well as extension cords, are accepted for recycling.

**Overnight parking automation update** – The first step in creating a simplified, unified parking system begins Monday (Jan. 9) as upgrades to the Passport Parking application add overnight parking passes to the system now used to pay for parking

at meters and in various parking lots. The new feature will appear automatically for those who already use the app to pay for parking or the website to get an overnight pass. However, the declining number of residents who still rely on the old Village telephone number will be introduced to the new system by staff operators who will explain its features and provide the telephone number for the automated system, which does not require a smart phone or access to a computer. Parking Services staff is working with the Communications Department to help educate the public about the new service and how to use it, since the goal is to have the Passport Parking system manage the overnight pass line after Jan. 30.

**TV production underway** – Hollywood returned to Oak Park this week with the new television series [Chicago Justice](#) filming scenes for an upcoming episode at two locations here beginning today (Fri., Jan. 6). Scenes are being shot in Saint Catherine-St. Lucy Church at Austin and Washington boulevards, and in a private home on the 300 block of South Humphrey Avenue. Staffs from the Community Relations and Parking Services departments are working with the NBC production company to ensure a smooth production process with minimal impact on the neighborhoods. Production executives continue to cite the Village's seamless film production process and staff collaboration as among the main reasons they choose the Village for their film projects.

**Miscellaneous construction projects** – Bicycle parking shelters and fix-it stations are set to be installed next week at various locations, with the actual bicycle racks to be installed later in the winter. Sewer cleaning and inspections are tentatively scheduled to resume next week, after being put on hold due to cold weather. Work on other projects, including punch-list items on the Harrison Street lights and repairs to Marion Street crosswalks and historic sidewalks remain suspended due to weather. Minor punch-list items related to the new hybrid pedestrian crossing signal now fully operational at Chicago and Harvey avenues remain before maintenance is transferred to the Village.

**Public Works Activities** – With no snow events in the past week, Street Division crews focused on extra litter collection as the melting snow exposed hidden trash, especially in the business districts. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at 124 S. Euclid Ave. and a water service leak at 1172 S. Ridgeland Ave. Division crews also continued checking for frozen hydrants as necessary throughout the Village. Street Lighting Division crews replaced a traffic signal pole knocked down in a vehicle accident at Oak Park and Madison avenues and a street light down at Ridgeland and Chicago avenues. The [2017 winter tree pruning cycle](#) has begun. Parkway trees are scheduled to be pruned between Chicago Avenue and South Boulevard from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue, and between Division Street and Chicago Avenue from East Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Pruning began around schools while they were closed for winter break to reduce the impact on these busy areas when students return.

**Voter turnout highest in county** – For the fifth presidential election in a row, the Village had the highest voter turnout in Cook County, according to the County Clerk David Orr. More than 83 percent of registered Oak Park voters cast ballots in the 2016 presidential election, edging out Evanston, which had a about an 80 percent turnout. Oak Park has nearly 38,000 registered voters.

**Employee news** – Mike Charley has been named permanent Director of the Oak Park Department of Public Health, after serving as interim director. As Health Director, Mike is charged with managing one of only four municipal health departments in suburban Cook County certified by the state to provide public health programming. Having worked in the Health Department since 2003, Mike is uniquely qualified to permanently assume the role of director. In other employee news, Allison Von Ebers has been named Parking Restrictions Coordinator, a new position in the Parking and Mobility Services Department. Allison joined the Village in 2014 as a Parking Services Specialist. In her new role, she will assist citizens with requests related to handicap parking, loading zones and residential parking restrictions.

###