



Village Manager's Report
Week ending February 22, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 25:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special meeting, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 101

- Tuesday, Feb. 26:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124

- Wednesday, Feb. 27:
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, Feb. 28:
 - No meetings scheduled

- Friday, March 1:
 - No meetings scheduled

Police release 2018 crime stats – The Police Department this week released the 2018 crime data compiled for the [FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program](#), a national program that studies patterns and trends over time. The overall crime rate in Oak Park was essentially unchanged in 2018 as compared to the prior year, but the two largest categories of crimes against individuals – robbery, which includes vehicle hijackings and assault/battery – declined. Police investigated 1,650 crimes in 2018, compared to 1,635 in 2017. Burglaries and thefts, which historically represent the vast majority of crime in the Village, remained the biggest categories at nearly 87 percent of all crimes committed here in 2018. More details on the data are [posted in a news story on the Village website](#) along with a link to the UCRP report and a video about our approach to policing.

Fire Department activity – The Fire Department also shared its 2018 data, which underscored the focus on providing emergency medical services. Oak Park's firefighter/paramedics responded to 7,268 total calls in 2018, compared to 6,822 in 2017, an increase of about 6.5 percent. Calls for rescue and emergency medical services represented more than 63 percent of all calls, a share of activity similar to 2017. Fire-related calls represented only 1.4 percent of responses in 2018, but

remain a critical service, according to the Chief Ebsen, given the number of older buildings in our community. You can [read more about the department's activity on the Village website](#), including the chief's take on why newer buildings are less susceptible to fire.

Eleven33 sign application – The Community Design Commission is scheduled to consider an application from [Lincoln Property Co.](#) for a variance to allow new signs on the [Elevent33](#) development under construction on South Boulevard at Harlem Avenue. The developer wants to install two projecting signs, each 85.25 square feet. One sign would be on the west elevation and one on the north elevation of the building at about 40 feet above grade. The applicant also wants to install two wall signs above the second story window sill, one on the north elevation and one on the south elevation of the building where there is no street frontage. The CDC meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., Feb. 27. [Click here to see examples](#) of the proposed signs.

Madison Street open house – Last night's open house (Thurs., Feb. 21) at Julian Middle School for the [Madison Street improvement project](#) drew dozens of individuals who wanted to learn more about the project. Some 67 individuals signed the attendance sheet, which also offered the opportunity to join an email list for project updates, while many other attendees just came to learn more about the project. The event showcased project plans including renderings of how Madison Street will look once the project is finished in late fall. Representatives from the engineering firm managing the project and Village staff were on hand to discuss the project, including the many planned pedestrian-friendly updates and infrastructure improvements. More information on the project and construction updates will be posted at www.madisonstreetconstruction.com, a dedicated project website managed by the engineering consultant.

New civic brand launched – After a multi-year effort, a new civic brand for marketing Oak Park is now complete. Staff from the Development Customer Services Department, local partner agencies and community focus groups worked with marketing and design consultants to create the new branding program, which can be seen at opwhereelse.com. The new civic brand uses a bold, contemporary color palette and a slightly whimsical tone to showcase Oak Park's unique offerings using taglines like *Where the City Begins*, *The Best of Both Worlds* and *Where Historic Meets Contemporary*. The Village's partner agencies will be using the brand, in addition to their own logos, to create continuity as they market Oak Park's unique identity.

Parking milestone – Residents and visitors clearly have been taking advantage of mobile parking technology that has made it quicker and easier to pay at meters and obtain overnight passes. In September, the Village conducted its one-millionth mobile transaction since the Passport Parking technology was introduced in 2013. More than 225,000 mobile transactions were logged in 2018. Over the coming months, the parking technology will be expanded to all passes, permits and citation payments through a custom mobile parking app that will eventually consolidate all vehicle services activities within a single portal.

Comprehensive Plan Review – Students in the University of Illinois Chicago’s [College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs](#) will work with Development Customer Services Department staff to track the status of goals and objectives in the Village’s comprehensive plan [Envision Oak Park](#) at its five-year mark. Students will help gather information, interview key staff from the Village and other governmental agencies, and compare findings since the plan’s one-year assessment. This information will help the Village determine the need for any modifications to the plan. Village Planner Craig Failor will supervise the students.

Building Code seminar proves popular – More than 100 participants attended the [free informational session](#) on the fundamentals of the *International Residential Code* held this week at Village Hall. A master code professional and certified building officer from HR Green led the discussion on these critical rules and regulations that govern construction in Oak Park. Staff from the Development Customer Services Department was on hand to answer questions as well. The seminar was sponsored by the Building Codes Advisory Commission and attendees included architects, contractors, building professionals and the general public.

Weather response – Winter weather continued to keep Public Works crews on the streets making sure roadways, overpasses and school crossings were safe for vehicle and pedestrian travel. The week’s response began Sunday (Feb. 17) and was repeated Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (Feb. 18, 19 and 20) as a mixed bag of snow, freezing rain and fluctuating temperatures kept crew busy at all hours. Semi-truck loads of salt have been flowing almost continuously to replenish the supply in the Public Works Center storage silo. As the weather improved toward the end of this week, crews focused on inspecting and prepping the plow trucks and other equipment for what are sure to be more snow events until the weather pattern shifts.

Project updates – Even as weather continued to delay right-of-way work by the development sites downtown, crews were able to install two new decorative streetlights at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Lake Street by [District House](#). Crews are still waiting for dry pavement to apply the striping required to open South Boulevard to two-way traffic between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street. Weather also continued to slow the installation of the remaining sidewalk east of the commercial driveway entrance at the [Eleven33](#) development site.

General Public Works activities – Crews from all Public Works divisions joined forces this week to fill the increasing number of potholes appearing in streets across the Village, concentrating mostly on the main streets. Crews also picked up brush created by the ice buildup that has been breaking small limbs from parkway trees. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sewer at 1124 Hayes Ave. and water service line leaks at 912 and 914 Thomas St., as well as inspected fire hydrants for proper operation at various locations across the Village. Street Division crews repaired lighting outages at various locations in the community and repaired a traffic light that was damaged in a vehicle accident at Lake Street and East Avenue.

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