



Village Manager's Report
Week ending January 10, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Jan. 13:
 - Personnel Committee of the Village Board Executive session, 6:30 p.m., room 124
 - Village Board Executive session, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, Jan. 14:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101

- Wednesday, Jan. 15:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, Jan. 16:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Friday, Jan. 17:
 - No meetings scheduled

Weather watch – Public Works crews are preparing for the possibility of measurable snow over the weekend even as forecasts vary widely on just how much of the precipitation will be rain, ice or snow. The possibility of ice and snow pose the greatest threat, but so far forecasters are predicting the highest amounts will accumulate in northern Cook County. High winds also are predicted, which could impact travel. Fleet Division personnel have made sure the trucks, plows and other equipment are in good operating condition should the weather have a significant impact on Oak Park. Public Works Director John Wielebnicki reports that sufficient quantities of salt are stockpiled at the Public Works Center for a proper weather response if needed.

Tree pruning begins – The winter tree pruning cycle got underway this week near South Boulevard and Humphrey Avenue. Contractors working under the watchful eyes of the Forestry Division, will be within the winter cycle's designated trim area between the north side of Madison Street and the south side of Chicago Avenue, from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Work likely will continue into April. Residents are urged to move their cars from the streets when temporary no-parking signs go up in advance to allow private contractors to prune parkway trees quickly and safely. Crews follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines for tree care to address the key issues of tree health, resident safety and protecting property from damage. Dead or dying limbs are removed and tree canopies are

raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and create appropriate clearances for adjacent structures and signs. The Village's pruning program is designed to ensure every tree on public property is trimmed at least once every three years. Parkway trees can grow up to two feet in a year – or six feet between pruning cycles. More information on the care of our urban forest is posted on the Village website at www.oak-park.us/trees.

Census forum set – The local chapter of the League of Women Voters will focus on the coming Census at its next monthly forum set for 9:30 a.m., Tues., Jan. 14 at the Nineteenth Century Club. Development Customer Services Director Tammie Grossman and Neighborhood Services Manager Jeff Prior will talk about Oak Park's efforts to ensure our population is counted completely when the 2020 Census launches on April 1. More information about the forum is posted at www.lwvoprf.org. In a related matter, the Mon., Jan. 13 Village Board meeting agenda includes a resolution to accept a \$15,000 grant from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The grant is part of \$1.3 million allocated by the Illinois Department of Human Services to help local governments reach hard-to-count categories such as renters and homeless persons. The Village will use the funds for posters, banners and other promotion materials and programs. The [Oak Park Complete Count Committee](#) is scheduled to meet at 8:30 a.m., Wed., Jan. 15 at Village Hall.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Construction activity is minimal as is typical during the winter months. The only activity is related to sewer inspections and safety infrastructure tweaks along Madison Street. A private contractor is using video cameras to inspect Village sewers in multiple locations throughout the Village, cleaning the pipes as needed. Minor punch-list work continued this week on Madison Street, with crews likely to be on site periodically through much of January, adjusting signs and other related items.

Employee news – The Development Customer Services Department has added two new staff members, while a veteran has taken on a new role. Deborah Meneses is a new Property Maintenance/Community Development Inspector in the Neighborhood Services Division and Amber McMorris is a new part-time Administrative Clerk in the Parking & Mobility Services Division. Deborah, an Oak Park resident, brings 25 years of real estate experience to the job, including 13 years of specialization in foreclosed housing stock and market analysis. Amber, who earned a business/accounting degree from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, has experience in marketing analytics and project management. Jennifer Jones, who has been with the Village since 2004, is the new Grants Coordinator in the Neighborhood Services Division. During her tenure with the Village, Jennifer has filled multiple roles in the Parking Division, including Senior Administrative Clerk, Permit Supervisor and, most recently, Restrictions Coordinator.

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