



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending January 9, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, January 12:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, January 13:
  - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, January 14:
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, January 15:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
  - Oak Park Area Arts Council Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Tuesday, January 20 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- 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
- Monday, February 9 – Finance Committee of the Village Board, 7 p.m., room 101

**Work to temporarily close northbound Forest at Lake** – The northbound lane of Forest Avenue at Lake Street will be closed during working hours next week as the contractor installs the water and sewer utilities for the redevelopment project underway there. Flaggers will be used to maintain two-way traffic through the work zone. Steel plates will be placed over the trenches at the end of each work day so that the northbound traffic on Forest can resume at the end of each day. Should snow be forecast, workers will leave the northbound lane of Forest closed overnight because snow plows cannot safely navigate the steel plates over an open excavation. The tentative schedule calls for cutting the pavement and excavating the trenches on Monday, then completing the installations in time to complete the project by the end of the workday Fri., Jan. 16. The contractor is responsible for installing all required traffic control and advanced warning signage for the lane closure.

**Madison TIF news report errors** – The Wednesday Journal’s misreporting on Madison Street TIF dollars allocated to the proposed new School District 97 administrative facility created much consternation within both district headquarters and Village Hall. It is unclear how the reporter judged the Village Board had authorized \$41 million for the new school administrative headquarters – especially since previous stories had published the \$7 million estimate and the agenda documents spelled out the TIF allocations in detail. In consultation with the Village, D97 staff contacted the reporter and the online story was quickly updated. However, the print version contained the errors. Given the push back the reporter and publisher received, we also hope to see a corrected story in next week’s print edition.

**Consolidated Plan status update** – Public participation has been high, as Customer Services Department staff prepares a new five-year Consolidated Plan for the Department of Housing & Urban Development. In addition to creating and promoting a needs survey that garnered 383 responses, Mark Dwyer and Carianne Carallis of the Neighborhood Service Division also conducted six workshops in November, December and January that attracted 60 participants eager to help determine housing and community development needs, and create strategies to address them. Specific workshops were geared toward the general public and Village stakeholders, including partner agency leaders, executive directors of human service provider organizations, local business leaders and directors and managers of Village departments and divisions. Following planned interviews with targeted stakeholders and information analyses, CDBG Division staff will begin writing with the goal of having a draft *2015-2019 Consolidated Plan* available in June for review prior to submission to HUD in August.

**North Avenue planning grant announced** – State Sen. Don Harmon this week announced a \$225,000 state grant to plan roadway enhancements along North Avenue between Oak Park and Central avenues. The majority of the grant will come from state planning and research funds, supplemented by local matching dollars, according to a [news release from Sen. Harmon's office](#). All of the details have not yet been worked out, but we expect to work with the City of Chicago to help determine how the project will be managed and the Village’s role.

**Snow operations** –Public Works Department crews salted and plowed for four snow events over the past week. The most significant event was a two-inch-plus snowfall the evening and overnight hours of Monday and Tuesday. Eleven pieces of equipment were on the street beginning at about 4 a.m., but the effect of their efforts was hampered by wind, extremely low temperatures and limited traffic. As morning came, increased vehicle traffic and sunlight enhanced the effect of the salt, with all main streets clear and most secondary roads in good shape. Crews continued salting and cleaning to battle refreezing each night, but snow returned in time to affect the evening commute Thursday. Crews faced the same obstacles with this event as earlier in the week – winds creating blowing and drifting and low temperatures inhibiting the effectiveness of the salt. Eleven equipment operators stayed on duty for this latest event to ensure roads were plowed and treated by Friday morning when traffic and sun improved the effectiveness of their efforts.

**Holiday tree recycling** – Residents who didn't get their holiday trees out for pickup on the regular collection day this week will get one more opportunity. The Village’s waste hauler will collect trees placed by the refuse cart on regularly scheduled pick-up days

through next week. Trees must be free of plastic bags, decorations and stands. Since all trees collected are mulched at a licensed composting facility, wreaths and garlands cannot be collected for recycling because they contain wire, so should be placed in the trash container. The Village hauler only services residential properties with up to five units, but the Village often works with multifamily building owners and operators who ask for help disposing of holiday trees.

**Public Works activities** – In addition to plowing and salting, crews strung temporary lights on Lake Street after construction at Lake and Forest damaged cables that powered the streetlights near the construction site. A traffic signal pole was repaired at Oak Park Avenue and Augusta Street after being damaged in a vehicle accident, a leaking fire hydrant valve was repaired at 1022 N. Marion St. and hydrants south of I-290 were inspected to ensure they were not frozen. The water meter head change out program continues with 1,164 appointments completed to date. While the cold temperatures limited some outdoor activities, Forestry crews focused on resident request pruning, marking ash trees for removal and performing equipment and vehicle maintenance.

**Employee news** – Four individuals were promoted to leadership positions at the Fire Department during a ceremony Monday. Friends and family were on hand to congratulate new Deputy Chief Peter Pilafas, Battalion Chief Mike Bush, Lieutenant Gregory Badger and Lieutenant Jacob Gloodt. In other employee news, Heather Perry has joined the Adjudication Office as the Administrative Appeals Clerk. Heather comes to Adjudication from Parking Services where she worked as a Parking Services Specialist.

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