



**Village Manager's Report  
Weeks ending November 17 and 24, 2017**

**Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:**

- Monday, November 20:
  - Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, November 21:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, November 22:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Thursday, November 23:
  - No meetings scheduled – Village Hall closed
- Friday, November 24:
  - No meetings scheduled – Village Hall closed
- Monday, November 27:
  - Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, Nov. 28:
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
  - Tri-Board Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, D97 Board of Education and D200 Board of Education pursuant to the intergovernmental agreement for Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., Oak Park and River Forest High School
- Wednesday, Nov. 29:
  - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, Nov. 30:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, Dec. 1:
  - No meetings scheduled

***Upcoming events:***

- Wednesday, Dec. 13:
  - Stewardship Awards – preservation, environment and design, 7 p.m., Nineteenth Century Club – [click here to view the invitation](#)

**Parking restrictions eased** – [Overnight on-street parking restrictions](#) will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during the Thanksgiving holiday. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 22 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Nov. 27. Restrictions will remain in effect in paid overnight permit areas, including on-street zones. Posted daytime restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety also remain in effect.

**Free weekend parking begins** – On the Friday after Thanksgiving, shoppers can park for free in a public garage and for two hours by a marked meter or pay-by-space station downtown and in the vicinity of South Oak Park Avenue. Parking then will be free in the garages every Saturday and for two hours at marked meters and pay-by-space lots. The free parking will continue through Dec. 25. A wide range of parking information is posted at [www.oak-park.us/parking](http://www.oak-park.us/parking).

**Village Hall closed for Thanksgiving** – [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for Thanksgiving. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

**Holiday to affect refuse collection** – Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed by the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday's [regular pick-up](#) will be delayed until Friday, and Friday's collection delayed until Saturday.

**High School garage repair** – Repairs to the parking garage at Oak Park and River Forest High School are on track to be completed before Thanksgiving. Representatives of Contractor [J. Gill and Company](#) say they expect to return most of the parking spaces by Wed., Nov. 22, with the garage ready for use the following Monday when teachers and staff return from the Thanksgiving break. The eight-week project created some challenges for parking, but a cooperative effort between the high school, neighborhood residents and the Village led to minimal distributions and complaints. In addition to temporarily lifting of on-street parking restrictions on surrounding neighborhood streets, faculty and staff were allowed to share nearby underused spaces designated for students and given barcoded passes for free parking in the Avenue Garage. The project was extensive and included repairing the concrete floors, walls, columns and beams, re-building a section of the brick façade, sealing floors, adding new drains, replacing stair tower roofs and painting all rails, covers, frames and the north wall.

**Panel to explore housing options for aging** – Development Customer Services Director Tammie Grossman will participate in a panel where housing options to allow citizens to remain in the community as they get older will be discussed. The forum, which is sponsored by the grassroots, inter-generational organization [Arbor West Neighbors](#), is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sat., Nov. 18, in the Veterans Room of the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. Panelists will share their personal and professional experience with alternatives such as shared housing, co-

housing, cooperative housing, tiny houses and accessory dwellings. Admission is free, but registration is requested – [just click here](#).

**Financial reporting approach honored** – The Village’s 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has once again earned a *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the [Government Finance Officers Association](#), which represents public finance officials throughout the United States and Canada. According to the association, the certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting. CAFRs are [posted on the Village website](#) along with a wide range of financial documents and reports. The Village has won the award 22 times since 1985, including consecutively since 2012. [Click here to read the award letter](#).

**Downtown construction update** – Landscaping has been completed on the north side of North Boulevard, while work on the decorative crosswalk continued at the Westgate Street cul-de-sac near Marion Street. The one-way portion of Westgate Street between the cul-de-sac and Marion Street is closed to all vehicle traffic until early next week, but access to businesses is available from the west. Street lights were installed and landscaping removed for sidewalk placement along Maple Avenue between North Boulevard and Lake Street, with work to continue through next week. Work on punch list items also has begun, including sidewalk and road paver adjustment and concrete repairs to sidewalks, curbs and utility manholes.

**South Boulevard/Harlem Avenue project update** – South Boulevard is expected to reopen to westbound traffic Tuesday (Nov. 21), as ComEd crews complete bringing electrical service to the Lincoln Properties development from the west side of Harlem Avenue. Engineering Division staff is diligently monitoring the site and signage to ensure potential restaurant customers are not confused or impeded by the construction.

**Madison Street demolition** – Asbestos removal began this week at 970 Madison Street in preparation for demolition. The asbestos is being removed in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations and is expected to take several weeks. Actual demolition of the buildings likely will occur in January. With all work occurring inside the building, the adjacent sidewalks are safe, but misperceptions about this type of work can sometimes create concerns. With this in mind, the Home Avenue and Madison Street frontages are closed and a Police Community Service Officer is stationed at the intersection to direct pedestrians around the site during hours when students typically walk to and from nearby schools.

**Street resurfacing and surveying** – The season’s paving projects wrapped this week with landscaping and sod placement completed on Humphrey Avenue between Division and Greenfield streets, Taylor Avenue between Greenfield and Berkshire streets, Wisconsin Avenue between Madison and Randolph streets, Superior Street between Elmwood and East avenues, and Pleasant Street between Ridgeland and Harvey avenues. Surveyors began gathering information this week for next year’s road and utility construction projects.

**Historic sidewalks repairs** – Work will continue next week at various locations to repair segments of historic sandstone sidewalk. For areas where the sandstone has shattered, colored concrete that closely resembles the color of the sandstone will be

tested during the winter. The repairs focus on eliminating trip hazards by resetting the squares to help maintain historical character rather than replacing them with modern concrete. These sidewalk segments date back to the earliest days of the Village and preserving them has been a long-standing priority.

**Lake Michigan pipeline project** – Street reconstruction tasks are underway along Fillmore Street between Highland and Lyman avenues now that the pipeline project has been shut down for the season. Work includes new curbs, sidewalks, alley entrances and driveway aprons. Paving between Highland and Lyman avenues is scheduled to begin the week after Thanksgiving.

**Public Works Activities** – Leaf removal continued this week as the annual program wrapped up its fifth of seven consecutive weeks. In addition to pushing leaves into piles for collection, Streets Division crews patched openings where utility lines were repaired and removed speed bumps in alleys for the season. The Division's sign technician also is working on new signs for changes in restrictions and for valet parking areas. In addition, Streets Division veterans are training new Water & Sewer Division workers on the winter snow removal process and preparing equipment for the winter season. Street Lighting Division technicians repaired lights at Lake and Marion streets and upgraded the lights in the Oak Park sign on the north side of the Oak Park Avenue viaduct to energy-efficient LED. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water leak at 333 Harrison St. and fire hydrants at 1123 S. Ridgeland Ave. and at Austin Boulevard and Lake Street, and completed a water service upgrade at 633 S. Oak Park Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Forestry Division crews and contractors continued tree maintenance and removals, while Building Maintenance staff continued work on various repair projects.

**Employee news** – Dawn Stockmo has been named manager of the Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Customer Services Department, where she will manage Housing, Community Development Block Grants and property inspections. She previously worked for the [National Community Stabilization Trust](#), which facilitates the transfer of foreclosed and abandoned residential properties to nonprofit developers and municipalities for rehabilitation. Prior to her role with the Trust, she helped develop and preserve affordable housing as director of the Fannie Mae Foundation and served as executive director of a community development corporation that worked on housing, economic development and brownfield redevelopment in St Paul, Minn. She earned her MBA from the [University of St. Thomas](#) in St. Paul and has been an Oak Park resident since 2013. Also joining the Village was Marynda “Mindy” Agnew, who is our new Sustainability Coordinator. Her first task will be implementation of the [single-use bag ban](#) set to begin in Oak Park on January 1. Her duties also will include overseeing the Community Choice Aggregation program, identifying project funding opportunities, executing strategies that help achieve the Village's sustainability objectives and working closely with the citizen volunteers on the [Environment & Energy Commission](#). You can read more about Mindy in the [news release announcing her hiring](#).

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