



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending Jan. 4, 2013**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- January 7:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201

- January 8:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Medical Reserve Corps, 7 p.m., room 102

- January 9:
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., Room 101

- January 10:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., Room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 201

Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):

- January 14: Comprehensive Planning meeting with all members of Advisory Boards & Commissions, 7 – 9 p.m., Council Chamber
- January 17: Pleasant District Association 2013 Annual Meeting, 5:30 – 7 p.m., The Carleton
- January 22: Avenue Business Assn Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hemingway Museum, 200 N. Oak Park
- January 22: Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 201
- January 24: Visit Oak Park 2013 Annual Meeting, 6 p.m., The Carleton
- January 26: Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., Oak Park Library, 834 Lake Street

Oak Park Medical Reserve Corps recognized – The Oak Park Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is among the top units in Region V, which includes Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. The recognition, given to only nine of the region's 262 Medical Reserve/Citizen Corps, was based on the number of activities in 2012. Local MRC activities, managed by the Oak Park Health Department's Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator Murray Snow, included monthly meetings, drills, volunteering at community events, promoting preparedness at the Farmer's Market and A Day In Our Village, and collaborating on training initiatives with other local MRC's including River Forest, Forest Park, Elmwood Park and Palatine.

Housing market data available – Year-end data from the Housing Programs Division indicates that Oak Park's single family market is recovering faster than the condominium/townhome market. In 2012, total sales were 726, compared to 479 sales in 2011, representing a 51.57 percent increase. While the Chicago area saw a 36 percent increase in sales in November compared to November 2011, Oak Park saw a 93 percent increase during that time period. Additionally, total Oak Park sales increased to \$221,095,600 in 2012 from \$139,191,933 in 2011. The report, prepared by the Housing Division using the Village's Real Estate Transfer tax data, is posted online – [just click here to review](#). Only data for the single-family market for both attached and detached homes was used in the analysis. The months during which the federal First Time Homebuyer Incentive program was in effect have been shaded on the corresponding page of the report.

Community Relations activities update – The fourth quarter of 2012 proved to be a brisk one for the Community Relations Department, which had 454 contacts covering a wide range of community and quality of life issues. Landlord/tenant disputes was the largest single category with 123 contacts, followed by referrals to community resources (56), general information requests (54), fair housing inquiries (53), general complaints (41), neighbor disputes (29), diversity counseling sessions (27), community concerns (18), new resident information (18), film permits processed (11), graffiti hits removed (10), VOP-TV promos (7), mediations conducted (5) and sign complaints (2). The fourth quarter data made 2012 a busy year, as the one-person Department provided important, high-quality services to more than 2,000 current and prospective residents. [Click here to see the contacts by quarter](#).

Capital improvements update – Work continues on water and sewer main improvements on LeMoyné Parkway and will proceed as weather permits. Bids will be sought in late January to replace the water main under Ridgeland Commons, with scheduling coordinated with the Park District, which is making major improvements to the facility.

Public Works activities – Forestry crews removed 15 parkway trees affected with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) or in general decline at various locations throughout the Village. Six of the trees affected with EAB were removed from Oak Park and River Forest High School on Scoville Avenue during winter break to avoid disturbing normal school operations. The Water & Sewer Division repaired water main breaks at 930 N. Grove Avenue and at the intersection of Harvey Avenue and Van Buren Street. The Street Lighting Division continued early morning patrols for outages and repairs.

Holiday tree pickups begin Monday – The Village's waste hauler will begin picking up holiday trees on regular trash and recycling collection days beginning Mon., Jan. 7 and continuing through Fri., Jan. 18. Residents are asked to place trees in the regular collection area next to the refuse cart. Only residents with no alley should put trees at the curb. Since the trees are mulched, all tinsel, decorations and stands should be removed, and trees should not be in plastic disposal bags. Wreaths and garlands are held together with wire and are not recyclable, so should be placed in the refuse cart.

Holiday light recycling offered – Residents can recycle their holiday lights through January by dropping them off from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope and LED lights, as well as extension cords, are acceptable.