



Village Manager's Report Week ending Jan. 18, 2013

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- January 21:
 - o Village Hall Closed
- January 22:
 - o Avenue Business Association Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hemingway Museum, 200 N. Oak Park Ave.
 - o Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 201
 - o Board of Health, 6 p.m., Room 102
 - o First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., Room 101
 - o Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., Room 215
- January 23:
 - o Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake St.
 - o Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., Room 101
 - o Architectural review Committee, 7:30 p.m., Room 215
- January 24:
 - o Emergency Telephone System Board, 8:30 a.m., Room 215
 - o Visit Oak Park 2013 Annual Meeting, 6 p.m., Carleton Hotel

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

- January 26: Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St.
- February 6: OPDC Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., 19th Century Club
- February 7: Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130
- February 9: WCMC Legislative Breakfast, 9 a.m., Rosewood Restaurant, 9421 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont
- February 11: Village Board Finance Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., room 130

Village Hall closed Monday – [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Mon., Jan. 21 in observance of [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#). When Village Hall is closed for a holiday, residents are urged to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance should an incident occur that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency.

Health Department follows flu – Four Oak Park residents have required hospitalization in the intensive care unit after testing positive for Influenza A. More flu

cases in the community are likely, but only intensive care unit hospitalizations are reportable. The Health Department has been tracking clusters of flu-like illness at two senior living facilities. Both local hospitals have experienced increased demand in their emergency departments for flu-like illness, but neither facility is requesting bypass, which means they are handling the increased capacity. Neither District 97 nor District 200 has reported increased absentee rates above baseline related to flu-like illnesses. The health department has received a few more inquiries about where to get flu vaccine and has directed residents to local resources such as Walgreens or CVS, or to www.flu.gov.

Four affordable homes for sale – The West Cook County Housing Collaborative, a joint effort between the municipalities of Bellwood, Berwyn, Forest Park, Maywood, Oak Park and community development financial institution IFF, has coordinated efforts to put four new, affordable homes on the market in Bellwood. The homes will be marketed to buyers with incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income. The initiative also provides a down payment subsidy of up to \$10,000 to support the sale of each home. Formed four years ago to address the extremely high foreclosure rates affecting these five suburban communities, the Housing Collaborative has successfully acquired, rehabilitated and made affordable seven formerly foreclosed, vacant homes, all within one mile of transit stops.

SoHo Development Update – The owner of the SoHo project, Merit Bank, is selling the development. Bank officials have advised staff that five offers for the property are under consideration. They will be determining whether to secure the entitlements and reinstate the building permits themselves or have the selected developer do so. According to Village Planner Failor, all of the potential developers seeking the property have indicated they wish to complete the development as proposed with the potential for a minor exception of some façade tweaking or possibly changing owner-occupied to rental. A Plan Commission hearing may be necessary to reinstate and amend the ordinance updating the ownership information and developer's financing. It is possible that the developer could begin work in second quarter of this year.

Capital improvements update – Water and sewer main improvements continue on LeMoine Parkway. All water main work has been completed and new services will be installed as weather allows. Surveying continues on streets and alleys where projects are planned for this construction year.

Public Works Forestry activities – Forestry crews completed parkway stump removal and subsequent cleanup, backfill and restoration of 10 locations throughout the Village. The division also continued pruning trees on parkways in the area between South Boulevard and Chicago Avenue starting at Austin Boulevard and working west toward Harlem Avenue. Winkler Tree Service began pruning parkway trees in the same area, but starting at Harlem Avenue working east toward Austin.

Budrick wins award – Village Engineer Jim Budrick has received the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Community Service Award on behalf of the Park District of Oak Park. Jim was nominated in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding contributions towards the advancements of parks, recreation and leisure in the Village of Oak Park. He will be recognized at an awards ceremony on Feb. 21.

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