



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Jan. 17, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- January 20:
 - Village Hall Closed

- January 21:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board rescheduled Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102

- January 22:
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake Street
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - OPAAC Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- January 23:
 - No Scheduled Meetings

Village Hall closed Monday –Village Hall will be closed on Mon., Jan. 20 in observance of [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#). Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

Holiday tree pick-ups extended – Holiday trees will continue to be collected through next week, as the Village's waste hauler works to catch up from delays caused by recent heavy snow and extreme temperatures. The week of Jan. 16 was to be the final week. Trees must be placed in the regular collection area next to the refuse cart. Only residents with no alley should put trees at the curb. To avoid a missed pickup, residents are urged to make sure holiday trees and carts are accessible.

Weather-related activities update – The [Public Works Department](#) completed cleaning up the snow from last week. In addition, streets were salted Village wide for the snow event on Tuesday, which ended up being less than an inch. During the past week, the Water & Sewer Division continued responding to calls of frozen pipes due to extreme cold temperatures. In addition, the division also repaired service leaks, a sewer lateral collapse and continued checking for frozen hydrants between Austin Boulevard and Harlem Avenue, and Lake Street and Roosevelt Road.

Cross-community collaboration continues – As a partner with the [Community of Congregations](#) (COC), the [Community Relations Department](#) is continuing its efforts to

help promote stronger collaboration and dialogue with our neighbors to the east in the Austin and West Garfield Park communities. The department will be participating at the COC's annual meeting scheduled for 7 p.m., Jan. 30 at [St. Catherine-St. Lucy](#). The evening will focus on empowering youth, radical hospitality and economic justice. Attendees will select one of the topics and work as a group with a facilitator and stakeholders to identify opportunities for residents to get involved and continue the momentum that has developed in this important area.

Emergency preparedness training for childcare staff – The Health Department's [Emergency Preparedness](#) and Maternal Child Health staff, in partnership with the [Collaboration for Early Childhood](#), delivered presentations on preparedness to child care facility directors on January 11 and 16. Murray Snow, Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, and Pam Rumoro, Family Case Manager, helped the directors identify and plan for the most probable threats – such as severe weather and temperature extremes – and identify how those could impact daily operations. Emergency supply kits and evacuation bags, training staff on emergency procedures and conducting exercises and drills to test response plans also were discussed. Future training sessions will be held for individual facilities as requested. The presentations were created by [Health Department](#) staff and, with the assistance of the Collaboration, were submitted and approved for continuing education contact hours required of all early childhood education employees in [DCFS](#) licensed facilities.

Dinner & Dialogue initiative update – The Community Relations Department's [Dinner & Dialogue](#) initiative came to Village Hall on Dec. 18. Residents of various ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds shared food and observations as they discussed their widely varying experiences living in Oak Park. The goal of the program is to promote understanding and acceptance of differences in ways that will help to further improve cultural and human relations among the citizens of Oak Park.

Compost program wins award – The Village's food scrap collection program [Compostable](#) received the American Public Works Association (APWA), Suburban Branch, Management Innovation Award for 2013. Each year, local branches of the APWA recognize excellence in public works programs that represent the best in the profession. The award will be forwarded to the Chicago Chapter of APWA for consideration. Karen Rozmus, Environmental Services Manager, and John Wielebnicki, Director of Public Works, accepted the award on behalf of the Village at a luncheon on Jan. 16.

Police activities update – Preliminary analysis of data compiled under the state's Uniform Crime Reporting index indicates that our overall crime rate for what are considered the most serious offenses remained at historic lows in 2013. More details on 2013 crime rates will be provided when the analysis is complete. In the meantime, the [Police Department](#) is reporting that calls for service in 2013 were down from 2012. Through December 2013, police had responded to 33,140 calls, compared to 33,512 in 2012. High-priority calls also were down slightly in 2013. Some 10,848 high-priority calls were received through December 2013 as compared to 10,936 calls for the same period in 2012. High-priority calls historically have represented about a third of all calls for service. Police fielded 13,370 medium-priority calls and 8,922 low-priority calls in 2013, compared to 13,447 and 9,129 respectively in 2012. Response times remained high, with officers responding to high

priority calls in an average of three minutes and 39 seconds. [Click here to review](#) the data.

Fire Department 2013 activities report – The [Fire Department](#) provided service on 6,016 incidents in 2013, down 160 calls from 2012. The 3,570 emergency medical services calls answered in 2013 represented about 59 percent of all calls, followed by fire alarm calls (1,073), non-emergency service calls (1,042), hazardous conditions (193) and fires (126). Some 41 percent of the EMS calls in 2013 required advanced life support. The most frequent types of EMS calls are falls, motor vehicle accidents, respiratory problems and cardiac related. Average turnout time in 2013 was 68 seconds and average travel time was three minutes, 47 seconds. While the times have remained relatively stable over the years, they are trending slightly faster – 12 seconds in three years. The Department had 14,760 direct contacts with citizens in 2013 through a wide range of public education programs, including CPR classes, child car seat safety inspections, fire safety trailer visits, block parties, station tours and school fire and evacuation drills.

Community Relations 2013 activities –2013 proved to be a very brisk year for the [Community Relations Department](#), which had 2,188 contacts citizens covering a wide range of diversity and quality of life concerns. Landlord/tenant intervention was the largest single category with 497 contacts, followed by special events (321), general information requests (230), graffiti hits removed (212), referrals to community resources (181), community complaints (159), new resident orientation(115), human relations concerns (115), fair housing/diversity issues (105), diversity counseling sessions (99), film permits (40), neighbor conflict (51), sign complaints addressed (32), VOP-TV promos (20) and mediations conducted (11). [Click here to see the full report.](#)

Tree trimming underway – The Forestry Division began the winter parkway tree-pruning cycle, working on East Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Division Street. Trimming is expected to continue through April as weather permits.

Streetlight patrols continue – The Street Lighting Division is continuing its early morning patrols to identify and repair street light outages. The division also began rebuilding and installing energy efficient induction lights on the 1100 block of South Lombard Avenue.

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