



Village Manager's Report Week ending Feb. 7, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- February 10:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
- February 11:
 - Environmental & Energy Commission, 6:30 p.m., room 130
- February 12:
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- February 13:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7pm, room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

Snow removal update – Public Works Department crews completed cleaning up after a four-inch snowfall over the past weekend and another seven-inch storm midweek. This latest storm, the 26th of the season, included high winds which caused blowing and drifting, and was followed by single-digit temperatures. Since the first measurable snowfall on Nov. 11, Oak Park has received more than 60 inches of snow, making this winter season the third snowiest on record. Crews are preparing for a predicted snow event over the weekend that could add another two inches to our total. Plow crews will continue to follow the [salt usage strategy](#) recently adopted to help manage supplies. We still have salt on hand and are expecting more deliveries. However, with several weeks of winter still ahead, we will continue to use salt conservatively, while striving to ensure public safety and access by emergency services vehicles.

Fire Department activities – January was a busy month for firefighters who responded to 20 incidents. Two of the fires – both caused by unattended cooking – resulted in significant damage to units in separate apartment buildings on Austin Boulevard. Firefighters also responded to two multi-unit building fires in Cicero under the Division XI [Mutual Aid Box Alarm System \(MABAS\)](#). Our Quint and command van spent a long and bitterly cold night at a fire in a vacant Cicero warehouse, and our south station engine responded to a fully involved residential building the same day. This was the second time in as many months that the interior design of our command van proved valuable in inclement weather conditions. In addition to these fire responses, the Fire Department made contact with 326 patients in January, including 261 transports to a medical facility, 149 of which required advanced life support services. Response times – including call processing, turnout and travel – remained below the national average of six minutes. With the goal of reducing staff injuries, the department's emergency medical services coordinator is researching a redesigned

first-in bag, which medics use to carry equipment to calls. Recent national studies indicated that a new backpack-style bag may help reduce lifting injuries from the heavy bags.

Police activities – Police responded to 2,398 calls for service in January, down from 2,580 in January 2013. The 804 high-priority calls received in January 2014 represented about 34 percent of all calls. Medium-priority calls, such as accidents with no injuries, represented the bulk of all calls – 42 percent. Response times remained low, with officers arriving on the scene of a high-priority call in an average of three minutes and 31 seconds.

Housing report – The housing market In Oak Park continues to rebound. Single-family and condominium home sales increased 37.19 percent in 2013 as compared to 2012. Total sales volume increased 31.29 percent to more than \$290 million. However, foreclosure sales and short sales dragged the median sale price down 11.55 percent to \$279,500 in 2013 from \$316,000 in 2012. The median sale price for single family homes in 2013 was \$367,500, and for condominiums and townhomes \$110,500 – [click here to see the home sales data](#). Foreclosure filings fell nearly 30 percent in 2013 from 2012, with 303 and 203 filings respectively. Condominium foreclosures exceeded single-family home foreclosures throughout the year. Foreclosure sales in 2013 were 10 percent lower than in 2012 – [click here to see the foreclosure data](#).

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