



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending October 31, 2014**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, November 3:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- Tuesday, November 4:
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
  
- Wednesday, November 5:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
  
- Thursday, November 6:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

**Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:**

- Monday, November 10, Village Board Special meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, November 12, Fair Housing Task Force, 7 p.m., room 130
- Wednesday, November 19, Early Childhood Tri-Board, 7 p.m., OPRFHS
- Thursday, November 20, Village Board Special Meeting (tentative), 7 p.m., room 101

**Final Farmers' Market is Saturday** – The final [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#) of the season is Sat., Nov. 1. Traditional stone soup made from Farmers' Market vegetables will be ladled up from about 9 a.m. until the pot is empty. Patrons are urged to help make the event earth-friendly by bringing their own mugs. Miss Genevieve from the Oak Park Public Library will offer a special Stone Soup story time, with songs and plenty of fun for all ages. Plans already are underway for next year and residents are urged to help make it even better by taking a brief online survey at [www.oak-park.us/marketsurvey](http://www.oak-park.us/marketsurvey).

**Pumpkin pitch is Saturday** – The Village is offering residents an alternative to sending more organic waste to the landfill – a composting bin for Halloween pumpkins. Residents have been invited to pitch their pumpkins into a special bin set up in the parking lot of the swimming pool at [Rehm Park](#) from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Nov. 1. Pumpkins must be free of plastic adornments and candles or lights.

**Standard time returns this weekend** – Standard time officially returns at 2 a.m., Sun., Nov. 2, when we fall back one hour. The Fire Department always uses the time change as a reminder to residents to replace batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Working detectors can double the chances of survival by providing critical extra time for safe escape.

**CAFR earns achievement award** – The Village’s most recent Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has earned a *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the [Government Finance Officers Association \(GFOA\)](#). In the letter notifying the Village of the honor, the GFOA called the award the “highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.” The Village budget has been similarly recognized for the past two years by the GFOA, a nonprofit professional association that serves more than 17,500 government finance professionals across North America. The CAFR for which the award was given is [posted on the Village website](#) along with a range of other important financial reports.

**Lake & Forest neighborhood meeting** – The developer of the Lake & Forest project has scheduled a neighborhood meeting for 7:30 a.m., Fri., Nov. 7 at the Nineteenth Century Club. [Invitations](#) were mailed to all nearby properties and distributed to business operators through the [Downtown Oak Park](#) business association. The early morning was chosen to accommodate both residents and businesses. Representatives of the development partnership and construction company will provide a brief overview of the project, with an emphasis on how the work will progress and may affect the neighborhood and business district. A question-and-answer period will follow. Village staff also will be on hand to answer any questions related to activities within municipal control.

**Electronics recycling statistics are in** – The final electronics recycling event of the year was held on Oct. 25. Some 528 households dropped off items for recycling that are no longer accepted by Illinois landfills. The six events held this year on the last Saturday of the month from May through October collected about 120,000 pounds of old electronics from 2,415 households. Internal discussions already are underway on how best to manage the popular service next year.

**Capital improvements update** – The federally funded Ridgeland Avenue resurfacing project was expected to wrap up this week with striping. Final parkway restoration, sign replacement and punch list items will be completed over the next two weeks along the project route from about South Boulevard to Roosevelt Road. With only pavement markings remaining, all of the season’s local street and parking lot resurfacing projects should be completed by the end of next week. Five of the alley segments in the Green Alley project are substantially completed and open, with work on three other alleys expected to continue over the next couple of weeks. The concrete shortage has limited work on both alleys and sidewalks. Depending on the weather, scheduled work on the alley north of Berkshire Street between Woodbine and Kenilworth avenues and the alley south of North Avenue between Humphrey Avenue and Austin Boulevard may be delayed until spring. About 80 percent of the scheduled sidewalk work has been completed, but the remainder likely will be delayed until early spring when concrete supplies are expected to improve.

**Public Works report** – Restoration of street openings to repair water main breaks continued throughout the Village, as did pothole patching, sign repair, graffiti removal and seasonal leaf pushing. Water service leaks were repaired at 320 N. Marion St. and 639 Madison St., an old water service disconnected at 334 Harrison St. and a broken fire hydrant repaired at Lemoyne Boulevard and Marion Street. Utility locates are being coordinated through the [Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators \(JULIE\)](#) process in preparation for fall tree planting. The meter change-out program continued, with 623 appointments completed to date. Forestry crews focused on request pruning and roof clearances, as well as removals of smaller trees and stumps, while private contractors removed larger dead and diseased trees and stumps. The parkway tree inventory continues.

**Employee news** – Aaron Fitch is the Forestry Division’s new maintenance crew chief. Aaron is a certified arborist who brings more than 10 years of experience to the job. His most recent position was with the Chicago Park District. He also has worked as an arborist in Portland, Oregon and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

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