



**Village Manager's Report
Week ending January 23, 2015**

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, January 26:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 7 p.m., room 201 (preceded by Executive Session at 6 p.m. in room 130)
 - Village Board Special Meeting, Eisenhower Study Session, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- Tuesday, January 27:
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 pm., room 201
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, January 28:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 101
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - HPC Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, February 2 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, February 3 –Reinventing Government Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 130
- Monday, February 9 – Finance Committee of the Village Board, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, February 17 – Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. room 201
- Monday, February 23 – Village Board Special Meeting, tentative 7:00 p.m. room 101 regarding Economic Development

Eisenhower Expressway discussion – Interest likely be will high for Monday's board meeting with the latest information on the I-290 scheduled to be discussed. The [Citizens for Appropriate Transportation](#) distributed information about the meeting to its members and beyond even before the meeting appeared on the [Village website calendar](#). We also used our communications tools to let the community know of the meeting, providing links to the [Illinois Department of Transportation](#) and [Chicago Transit Authority](#) web pages where information related to the project is posted. The meeting will be [streamed live and archived on our website](#), as well as broadcast on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99.

I-Gov announcing next meeting of taxing bodies - The Village representatives to Intergovernmental Committee of the Village Board have announced that preparations are underway to organize a second joint assembly of all of Oak Park's elected government boards on Sat., May 2. More details on the time and location will be forthcoming.

Home, business security seminar – Emergency Preparedness Manager Murray Snow will be part of a free home and business safety seminar scheduled for 6 to 7:30 p.m., Tues., Jan 27 at Redeemer Church, 6740 W. North Ave. The event was organized and will be hosted by the [North Avenue Business Association](#) and also will include representatives from the Chicago Police Department, Cook County State's Attorney and ADT Security, who will offer tips on keeping one's home, business and family safe. The event is free, but participants are asked to register by Jan. 23 via email to info@northavenuebusinessassociation.com.

Advisory referenda deadlines – [Oak Park Township](#) has begun alerting the community that March 1 is the deadline to submit petitions for advisory referenda that will appear on the November ballot. The citizen-initiated process requires a supporting petition with exact ballot wording and the signatures of 15 registered Oak Park voters. The first three submissions meeting the criteria will be accepted at the April 14 Township annual meeting and submitted to the [Cook County Clerk](#) to place on the ballot for the next election. The Township only facilitates the process and does not determine which items are selected.

Crime-free housing seminar update – So far, 227 rental property owners have attended 11 [crime-free housing](#) seminars as required by the Village's Small Rental License Program. The Neighborhood Services Division had received 443 license applications through Jan. 15, with a response rate to the 1,593 notices mailed to property owners of about 28 percent. When considering the response rate, it is important to note that staff cast a broad net. A list provided by the Cook County Assessor based on property classification for assessment purposes was used for the mailings to two- and three-flat property owners. We know anecdotally that some people did not receive a mailing and found out about the program through their condo association, real estate agent or other means such as the [OP/FYI community newsletter](#). Several of the training seminars have been recorded and we are working to have the best one posted online along with the supporting materials to accommodate people who can't attend in person.

Public Works activities – Water and Sewer Division crews shut down the water main at Lake Street and Forest Avenue to allow a contractor to install a section of water main for the development project underway on the northeast corner. Crews continued exercising valves throughout the Village to identify possible candidates for replacement as part of this fiscal year's valve replacement project, while also checking for frozen fire hydrants south of Madison Street. Forestry Division crews focused on inspecting and identifying ash trees for removal throughout the Village, as well as pruning elm trees. Village contractor Davis Tree Care continued pruning as part of the winter cycle, progressing east from the southwest part of town.

Snow operations – Public Works crews salted streets and school crosswalks for Wednesday's snow event, which began as freezing rain, before turning to snow in the

early morning hours. Seven pieces of equipment were in operation and all areas were cleared by the morning rush.

Business licenses update – Since the Village Code governing business licenses was revised, 935 fee-based renewal notices have been mailed to proprietors. Each notice included a detailed summary of revisions to the code, including the new four-tier fee structure, prorated fees based on the new March 31, 2016 license expiration date, the inclusion of environmental fees and the elimination of various other fees. While the number of revisions to the business license renewal cycle was significant, no complaints and only a few requests for clarifications have been received. To date renewal payments have been received from 592 businesses or 65 percent of those who are assessed a license fee.

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