



**Village Manager's Report
Weeks ending November 20 and 27, 2015**

Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:

- Monday, November 23:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Tuesday, November 24:
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 101
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, November 25:
 - No scheduled meetings

- Thursday, November 26:
 - Village Hall Closed

- Friday, November 27:
 - Village Hall Closed

- Monday, November 30:
 - No scheduled meetings

- Tuesday, December 1:
 - No scheduled meetings

- Wednesday, December 2:
 - 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, December 3:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Monday, December 7:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. FY15 Budget Adoption preceded by a 6:30 p.m. executive session

- Wednesday, December 9: HPC/CDC/EEC Joint Awards Ceremony, 7 p.m., 19th Century Club

- Monday, December 14:
 - ONLY IF NEEDED Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Budget Adoption

Prepared for snow – With forecasters calling for measurable snowfall tonight into Saturday, the Public Works Department is prepared to respond if necessary. The latest forecasts are predicting varying amounts of accumulation, but the result could be four or more inches, according to some reports. All salt trucks are ready to go and plows have been installed on the trucks. Crews will be standing by to report as necessary. The community has been reminded that the snow emergency parking plan will go into effect if the snow measures two or more inches. The first snow operation last year was Nov. 15.

Mock I-290 sound walls – Sections of fencing have been installed at two locations to give area residents a sense of the visual impact of sound walls that could be installed as part of the I-290 reconstruction project. The mock walls, constructed of chain-link fence with a wind screen to make them opaque, were installed at Wenonah Avenue and Harrison Street, and Taylor Avenue and Garfield Street. Each section is approximately 15 feet high by about 20 feet wide. The actual wall at Taylor could be as high as 17 feet, but a mock wall of that height could not be erected safely at that location under the high-wind conditions. A sign on this section alerts passersby to the height discrepancy. Property owners eligible to vote on walls reportedly have received ballots from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Parking restrictions eased – As in past years, the [overnight on-street parking ban](#) will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during the Thanksgiving holiday. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 25 and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Nov. 30. Restrictions will remain in effect in paid overnight permit areas, including on-street zones. Other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

Free weekend parking begins – On the Friday after Thanksgiving, shoppers can park for free in a public garage and for two hours by a bagged meter or pay by space station downtown and in the vicinity of South Oak Park Avenue. Parking then will be free in the garages every Saturday and for two hours at bagged meters and pay by space lots. The free parking will continue through Dec. 25.

Village Hall closed for holiday – [Village Hall](#) will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 and 27, for Thanksgiving. Residents are urged to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed.

Holiday to affect waste collection schedule – Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed by the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday's [regular pick-up](#) will be delayed until Friday, and Friday's collection delayed until Saturday.

Regular yard waste collection ends – After Sat., Nov. 28, yard waste will be collected only by appointment. Property owners can call Waste Management at 888.656.5350 to arrange a special pick-up. Information on refuse disposal and recycling is posted at www.oak-park.us/refuse.

Oak Park makes the Times – By now you may have heard that Oak Park was featured prominently in the *New York Times* this week in a story about Frank Lloyd Wright. This isn't the first time one of the community's famous former residents has garnered favorable publicity for Oak Park in the Times and other major national publications. However, it is always interesting and exciting to see how different writers view the sites that are part of everyday life in our community. [Click here to read the article...](#)

Farmers' Market update – The venerable [Oak Park Farmers' Market](#) ended its 40th season with an estimated 125,000 visitors and an increase in vendor sales of nearly \$5,000. Commissioners credited increased use of the supplemental food support program's [Link card](#) with producing much of the growth in vendor sales. Link sales grew to nearly \$15,000 from about \$10,000 last year. The use of the Market's double coupons grew by more than a third over the previous season, with a 95-percent redemption rate that generated more than \$8,900 in sales. In addition to its long-running go-green days, corn roast and stone soup, the Market also hosted seven events just for children, including a pollution prevention session by a master gardener with the University of Illinois Extension. Six Village organizations, including the Village Board, set up booths at the market to meet their constituents face to face. Another 32 not-for-profit organizations participated in the bake sale program, and two local restaurants gave on-site food preparation demonstrations. Planning already is underway for the 41st season set to open on May 21, 2016.

Holiday light recycling offered – A holiday light drop-off box will be available from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays at the Public Works Center during December and January. Mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope and LED lights, as well as extension cords, will be accepted.

Public Works Activities – Crews removed temporary speed bumps from alleys in preparation for winter snow plowing, painted curbs by fire hydrants to indicate no-parking zones and added thermoplastic markings to crosswalks at various locations in the community. Routine tasks also continued, including litter clean up in the business districts, filling potholes, repairing signs and fixing street openings where water line work had occurred. Crews also continued overnight leaf pushing as the annual program enters its final weeks. Broken fire hydrants were repaired on the northeast corner of East and Harvey avenues, 443 Lenox Ave., 824 S. East Ave., 321 S. Ridgeland Ave., 621 S. Kenilworth Ave., 544 N. Grove Ave. and 541 S. Elmwood Ave. Water services were upgraded as part of the lead abatement program at 815 N. Taylor Ave., 930 N. East Ave. and 1122 Wisconsin Ave. In addition to routine forestry tasks, crews have begun to concentrate the winter pruning cycle on young trees in south section of the Village. Fall tree planting was completed this week with 220 new trees planted on parkways across the community.

Gas main update – Nicor crews continued gas main replacement on Oak Park Avenue and adjacent streets. Engineering staff is maintaining frequent contact with Nicor to monitor progress and ensure coordination.

Employee News – Jill Juliano has earned her Professional Engineer license, a significant professional career accomplishment that represents a high level of training, testing and experience. Jill works in the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department. After more than a decade as a Business License Officer with the Village, Sunny Choi resigned to pursue a new opportunity. His last day was Nov. 6. Efforts are underway to hire a successor for this important business support position.

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