



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending December 11, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:**

- Monday, December 14:
  - No Scheduled Meetings
- Tuesday, December 15:
  - No Scheduled Meetings
- Wednesday, December 16:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, December 17:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
  - Oak Park Arts Council Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Plan Commission, 8 p.m., room 201

**Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:**

- Saturday, December 12: Intergovernmental Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., Township Offices

**Green Line improvements** – The CTA announced Wednesday that it had approved a \$13-million contract to improve the Green Line tracks between the Laramie and Harlem/Lake stations. Work to the track components is expected to make for smoother and more reliable commutes, while preventing slow zones. While the exact construction schedule has not been finalized, the CTA says work likely will begin in March and be limited mostly to weekends and nights when trains are not in use. The Village has provided the CTA with information about community events and activities that could be affected should service be interrupted by the work. [Click here to see the CTA news release.](#)

**Community meeting at OPRF** – A community meeting to discuss the future of the Oak Park River Forest High School campus is scheduled for Mon., Dec. 14. Tours of the facility are planned, as school officials say they are looking for ideas about the future of the two current swimming pools once a new pool is built. Officials say they also are seeking input on how to accommodate growing enrollment and improve the learning environment. The tours are scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Information is [posted on the school's website.](#)

**Marion Street crosswalk repair** – Repairs to the pedestrians crossing on Marion Street began this week. Crews are working on one side of the street at a time,

requiring the closing of one lane as each section is completed. The original bluestone in the crossing at Marion on the south side of Lake Street is being replaced with a more durable concrete that contains a coloring agent to make it resemble the original surface. The work should be completed next week.

**Chicago Avenue resurfacing** – Preliminary plans are under development for resurfacing Chicago Avenue from Harlem Avenue to Austin Boulevard. The project, planned for 2016, will be a joint effort with the Illinois Department of Transportation. In addition to resurfacing, plans also include streetscape improvements between Harlem and Belleforte avenues.

**Emergency rehab loans make big difference** – Single Family Rehabilitation Loans approved by the Village Board last month allowed a retired couple to replace an old furnace and a young family to remove mold from their home and air ducts. The program provides emergency, no-interest loans of up to \$5,000 to income-qualified households when conditions are urgent. The federal funds are administered by the Village's Neighborhood Services Division.

**Multifamily Incentives Program to relaunch** – A program that provides grants for improvements to owners of apartment buildings to encourage diversity and integration, is set to relaunch in early 2015. An extensive review of the Multifamily Incentives Program guidelines was conducted under the guidance of the [Housing Programs Advisory Committee](#) and approved by the Village Board in October. The revised guidelines require improvements to be made within the first year of the agreement, but owners may reapply annually. Guidelines also now prioritize the funding of first-time applicants and allow staff to consider accessibility improvements in the evaluation of proposals. Guidelines retained the requirement of a three-year marketing services agreement with the Oak Park Regional Housing Center. Multifamily building owners will be invited to submit proposals in February.

**Communications with parking permit holders** – The [Parking & Mobility Services Department](#) is working to make sure permit holders are aware of Village operational activities that could affect how they park. Vehicle owners who hold overnight parking permits for on-street zones and in Village lots have been notified by letter [about how snow could affect where they park](#). The letters included information on parking alternatives should their zones be on a snow route or in a lot that might need to be closed temporarily to allow equipment to operate. In addition, permit holders in the Holley Court Garage have been alerted to plans to install new equipment in January and the steps necessary to ensure they will have continued access. [Click here to review the letters.](#)

**Property maintenance code update** – Changes to the property maintenance code recently approved by the Village Board went into effect on Dec. 1. The new language gives code official authority to the Development Customer Services Director, identifies a process to appeal notices of violation through the Building Codes Advisory Commission and clarifies numerous aspects of the previous code to ensure standardized enforcement wherever possible. The [local amendments are posted on the Village website.](#)

**Fire Department update** – The Fire Department fielded 572 calls for service in November, bringing the annual total to 6,264. Twenty fewer calls were answered in

November than in October, but the annual total remains on track to exceed last year's 6,400 incidents. Calls for emergency medical service represented about 63 percent of the November total, followed by service calls (15 percent), good intent (9 percent), Alarm initiated (8 percent) and fire/hazardous conditions (4 percent). The Department had 417 patient contacts in November. Of the 222 patients requiring transport to a medical facility, 141 required advanced life support services. The Department also certified 28 CPR students in November and provided nine child safety seat installation inspections. Crews responded to three structure fires in November – a fire in an unoccupied unit in a three-flat undergoing renovation, a single-family fire contained to a basement boiler and a single-family fire contained to a bathroom ceiling.

**Nicor Gas main replacement** – Nicor crews continued replacing gas mains in the northwest part of the Village, the latest work occurring between Marion Street and Euclid Avenue. Engineering staff continues to monitor Nicor's progress, with particular focus on ensuring parkway and property restoration is completed as work moves ahead.

**Sewer cleaning begins** – The Village's contractor, National Power Rodding, began cleaning and videotaping sections of the municipal sewer system this week. The company's schedule includes 13 different sewer segments throughout the Village.

**Public Works activities** – With the annual leaf collection program now over, crews focused on pushing any remaining leaves into piles for a final collection by Waste Management. Street sweeping is underway to clean up any remaining residue. Other activities included restoring pavement where water line repairs were made and picking up litter in the business districts and Village parking areas. A water service leak was repaired at 1112 Linden Ave. and a two-inch water tap installed at 545 N. Humphrey Ave. Forestry crews focused on routine tasks such as responding to resident requests and pruning, as well as pruned young oaks that needed to be thinned and raised for safe vehicle and pedestrian travel.

**Employee news** – Forestry Superintendent Rob Sproule was honored at the Environment & Energy Commission's recent seventh annual Green Awards for his role in the Village's designation as the state's first and the nation's fourth [municipal arboretum](#). The Park District and residents Bill Sieck and Kathryn Jonas who also played key roles in the effort were honored as well. Water Superintendent Darrell King will be leaving the Village for a position with the City of Evanston. His last day with the Department was today (Fri., Dec. 11), after two years in the position here. Streets Superintendent Mike Fenwick will be interim Water & Sewer Division manager until a new superintendent can be found. Streets Supervisor Scott Brinkman will serve as the interim Streets Division superintendent.

###