



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending January 15, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, January 18:
 - Village Offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Tuesday, January 19:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., preceded by a 7:00 p.m. Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony
- Wednesday, January 20:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, January 21:
 - No Scheduled Meetings
- Friday, January 22:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Saturday, January 23:
 - Intergovernmental Joint Assembly, 9:00 a.m., Julian Middle School, 516 S. Ridgeland Ave.
- Tuesday, January 26:
 - Contract Review Committee, 8:00 a.m., room 130

Village Hall closed Monday – Village Hall will be closed on Mon., Jan. 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As always, we urge citizens to call the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800 should an issue come up that does not quite rise to the level of a 911 call.

Valparaiso looks to Oak Park – Community Relations Director Cedric Melton and Community Relations Commission Chair Tom Zapler will be travelling to Valparaiso, Indiana next week to discuss Oak Park's philosophy of inclusion and programs to support it. Cedric was invited to address the recently created [All Together Valparaiso task force](#), which includes municipal officials, Valparaiso University staff and the public. Cedric invited Tom to come along and discuss how resident volunteers

contribute to setting and nurturing human relations goals. Cedric and Tom will spend two days in Valparaiso helping the group explore creating a community relations mechanism to facilitate improved human and cultural relations. They also will meet with local community groups and organizations that are working to create an inclusionary atmosphere in the city, which endured several racially charged incidents during the latter portion of 2015. [Valparaiso law professor emeritus Bruce Berner](#), who chairs the task force, contacted Cedric after researching best practices in other cities. Berner expressed a keen interest in the department's unique outreach and conciliation activities.

Snow update – Public Works Department crews worked three separate snow events over the past week. Crews plowed and salted on Saturday (Jan. 9) from about 3 to 10:30 p.m. Snowfall on Monday (Jan. 11) kept crews on the street from about 3:30 to 11:30 p.m. Crews continued salting and plowing through the day Tuesday (Jan. 12), as flurries brought total accumulation to about 2.5 inches. Beginning at about 10 a.m., Wednesday (Jan. 13), crews were back on the street until noon, ensuring all streets had sufficient residual salt to ensure safe travel. The contractor for the Senior Public Sidewalk Shoveling Program also was called in to help clear sidewalks for 51 households that requested assistance.

Volunteer recruitment – While the Village Clerk continues to report great success filling vacancies on the various citizen volunteer boards, commissions and committees, current needs include a structural engineer or fire safety professional for the Building Codes Advisory Commission and high school juniors or seniors to serve on the Community Relations and Public Art Advisory commissions. Positions also are available on the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, Civic Information Systems Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. If you know of a good candidate for any of these or other positions, please urge them to call 708.358.5670, email clerk@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/volunteer.

Block party application cycle begins – Applications for block parties are now being accepted by the Public Works Department. Some weekends fill quickly so residents are urged to plan early to ensure preferred dates. Block party information and an application packet are [posted on the Village website](#).

Day in Our Village planning – June may seem like a long way from January, but planning already is well underway for the 2016 *A Day in Our Village* festival, scheduled for Sun., June 5. A variety of volunteers are needed to help promote and staff the event, which includes activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations, as well as demonstrations, entertainment and food provided by local restaurants. If you know of anyone who may be interested in volunteering, please urge them to call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Multi-Family grant application deadline set – Owners of buildings with four or more rental units have until Feb. 29 to apply for grants of \$10,000 or \$1,000 per unit, whichever is less. These grants can be used for improvements to common areas, security or individual units. Funds must be expended within 12 months from the execution of the agreement, but funded buildings are eligible to re-apply for grants every 12 months. As in past years, grants must be matched two-to-one by the property building. Application materials will be mailed out to building owners or their

agents, as well as be available at www.oak-park.us/housing. Please urge anyone with questions to email housing@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5410.

Holiday light recycling continues – The Public Works Department will continue to recycle unwanted, damaged and outdated holiday lights through January. Residents may drop them off from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays at the Public Works Center. Mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope and LED lights, as well as extension cords are acceptable.

Miscellaneous construction updates – Repairs to the remaining mid-block pedestrian crosswalks on Marion Street south of Lake Street have been delayed until temperatures are more favorable to the work. Nicor crews are installing gas services north of Division Street between Woodbine and Euclid Avenues. The Rush Oak Park Hospital fiber optic construction project began this week on Home Avenue between Randolph and Monroe streets. Conduit will be directionally bored and traffic lanes are expected to remain open during work. However, intermittent lane closures may occur as existing utilities are located during boring operations. The work is expected to be completed in about three weeks.

Public Works activities – Streets Division crews continued patching water line repair openings and filling potholes at various locations throughout the Village. The coldest temperatures of the season also had crews busy thawing frozen hydrants at various locations. Forestry Division crews focused on various resident requests. Winter-cycle pruning has moved to the section bounded by Harrison and Madison streets and East and Harlem avenues.

Employee news – The employee appreciation ceremony scheduled for Tuesday will honor more than 50 workers who have achieved career milestones of five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of services to the citizens of Oak Park. Plans also are underway to host a thank-you breakfast for employees, both at Village Hall and the Public Works Center. The Fire Department lost veteran firefighter/paramedic Ken Harris, who died unexpectedly Monday night at his home in Berwyn. A 28-year veteran of the department who was known to many throughout the Village, Ken will be greatly missed. Services are scheduled for tomorrow (Sat., Jan. 16) in Norridge – [click here for details](#).

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