



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending December 8, 2017**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, December 11:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)
- Tuesday, December 12:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, December 13:
  - Property Stewardship Awards – preservation, environment and design, 7 p.m., Nineteenth Century Club – [click here to view the invitation](#)
- Thursday, December 14:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)
- Friday, December 15:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Police community meetings** – A near-capacity crowd filled the Council Chamber Thursday night and again Friday morning, Dec. 7 and 8, as Police Chief Anthony Ambrose and members of his command staff hosted community meetings to discuss citizen concerns about recent crimes in Oak Park. Questions ranged from wanting to know more about the Police strategy to prevent future crimes to increased use of social media to alert residents of criminal activity as soon as it occurs in their neighborhoods. Residents also voiced concerns about street lighting, some calling for additional lights and improved lighting technology. Other topics raised by participants included adding video cameras near entryways on the Village's east side and eliminating the overnight, on-street parking ban so people did not have to use alleys for parking at night. Many attendees expressed their support of the Police Department, applauded their responsiveness and said they appreciated the opportunity for the face-to-face discussion. Both meetings were streamed live and archived for on-demand viewing via a link at [www.oak-park.us/commissiontv](http://www.oak-park.us/commissiontv). In addition, the meetings were cablecast for Comcast and AT&T Uverse subscribers and will be replayed at 7 and 10 p.m. tonight, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. tomorrow (Dec. 8) and 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. Staff will provide a report in January of any changes in services that are recommended in response to the meeting. In addition, the Chief is planning a follow-up meeting with community members at the end of January.

**Climate Summit** – Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb, Trustee Jim Taglia and our new Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Agnew joined mayors and officials from the United States, Canada and Mexico at this week’s inaugural North American Climate Summit in Chicago. The event, hosted by Mayor Rahm Emanuel in partnership with [C40](#) and the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#), invited mayors to commit to exceeding the U.S. emissions reduction target under the Paris Agreement and advance at least one specific climate action in their communities in areas such as sustainable mobility, renewable energy and green infrastructure. In addition to attending the event, Mayor Abu-Taleb also joined the more than 25 mayors who are part of the [We Are Still In](#) coalition in signing the [Chicago Climate Charter](#). The Village’s participation in the summit grew from the resolution approved by the Board in June in support of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**Fire damages home** – Oak Park Fire Department crews responded Thursday to a fire in the 600 block of North Humphrey Avenue that left the two-story home temporarily uninhabitable. The fire was the third on the block in past three years, including one that completely destroyed a home and another in a multi-unit building. The residents of the home that burned Thursday were evacuated without injury and the fire quickly extinguished. However, heavy water and smoke damage occurred, requiring the residents to seek shelter elsewhere while the investigation continues and the damage is assessed by Village inspectors.

**Leave collection wrap up** – Streets Division crews assisted Waste Management with a final cleanup of leaves remaining from the annual removal program. Property owners who continue to put leaves in the streets will be advised via a post card that they must bag their leaves, attach a green yard sticker to each bag and call the Public Works Department for a pickup at their regular collection point. These bags will be collected as part of the ongoing composting program. Pick up will not be immediate because the composting winter schedule alternates collections each week between properties north and south of the Green Line. Waste Management also will be sweeping streets throughout the Village through next week.

**Downtown construction update** – Work on the failing roof of an underground AT&T equipment vault has required closing the alley just north of Lake Street at Harlem Avenue. While efforts have been made to limit construction downtown during the holiday season, the situation posed a safety issue that inspectors deemed needed immediate attention. Work is expected to be completed and the alley reopened to traffic by the end of next week. Meanwhile, only punch list items remain by the Emerson Development project.

**South Boulevard/Harlem Avenue redevelopment update** – The 100 block of South Maple Avenue will be closed late next week as the contractor erects a tower crane at the south side of the development site. Work is expected to take two days and parking permit holders on the block will have passes for alternative options. Installation of sewer and water mains in the alley east of the site also are scheduled to start next week. Staff is coordinating the work and the alley closure to minimize impacts on adjacent properties.

**Madison Street demolition** – Asbestos removal is complete at the former District 97 administrative building and Robinson’s Ribs restaurant on Madison Street, east of

Home Avenue. Disconnection of utility lines is scheduled to begin next week with actual building demolition expected to start in January.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Equipment for the new traffic signal planned for the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue has been delivered. Signal installation will resume next week and should be completed by the holiday. Repairs to the historic sandstone sidewalks also were completed this week. Surveys at numerous locations throughout the Village continued this week, as consultants collect information needed to prepare construction plans for next year's road and utility projects.

**Lake Michigan pipeline project** – Reconstruction of Fillmore Street has ended for the season along the route of the new pipe line that will carry Lake Michigan water to the villages of Brookfield and North Riverside. Sod installation was completed this week, along with punch list items. The section Fillmore between Highland and Lyman avenues will have the final asphalt layer placed next year as weather conditions allow.

**Public Works Activities** – Streets Division crews repaired and reattached trash can lids and signage damaged by the recent high winds and picked up litter pickup in Village parking lots and business districts. The high winds brought down a large limb from a parkway tree Monday (Dec. 4), temporarily closing the street overnight. Street Lighting Division crews concentrated on repairing outages and troubleshooting power issues with holiday lights in the business districts. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired water service leaks at 1009 N. Lombard Ave. and 1339 N. Harlem Ave. Forestry Division crews continued removing watering bags from young trees, offering the bags to residents to encourage them to continue watering trees on their parkways.

**Employee news** – Asad Zaidi of the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department has been certified as a *Public Infrastructure Inspector* by the [American Public Works Association \(APWA\)](#). To earn certification, he had to pass a rigorous test and meet on-the-job experience criteria. Asad, who has been with the Village for about two years, helps design and manage construction for our annual resurfacing program and is the primary restoration inspector for private permit work in parkways. The Public Works Department also welcomed Jeffrey Karlovitz as a new Water & Sewer Division worker. A native of Elmwood Park, Jeffrey's prior experience included doing seasonal work with the Hanover Park Public Works Department. Ginger Hedrich has joined the Office of Administrative Adjudication as the Hearing Clerk. A graduate of Illinois State University, Ginger formerly was a crime analyst with Decatur Police Department, where she worked for 18 years.

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