



Village Manager's Report
Week ending January 5, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, January 8:
 - Personnel Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)
- Tuesday, January 9:
 - Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, January 10:
 - Madison Street Coalition, 2 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)
 - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, January 11:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber)
- Friday, January 12:
 - No meetings scheduled

Warming centers open – [Warming centers](#) are open 24 hours a day at Rush Oak Park Hospital and from 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. at West Suburban Medical Center. The Oak Park Township Senior Center also is a warming center for seniors age 60 and older from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays and Village Hall is a warming center during business hours. Information on overnight shelters is being maintained by [Housing Forward](#), which can be reached by calling 888.383.1744. Any resident needing transportation can call the Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800.

Online portal upgrades – The *VillageView* online information processing system is undergoing upgrades to add a new online local tax payment feature for businesses, offer online alarm registration and add Health Department inspection information to data base. The site was taken down temporarily at 5 p.m., Thurs., Jan 4, but is scheduled to be back online by Mon., Jan. 8. Users who may attempt to access the portal during the upgrades will see a message about the system upgrades.

Holiday tree collection starts Monday – The Village's refuse hauler will begin collecting holiday trees Mon., Jan 8 as part of the regular refuse collection schedule. Trees will be picked up through the week of Jan. 15. Residents are asked to remove all decorations and stands, and place trees in the regular collection area by 7 a.m. on their standard refuse collection date. Since the trees are mulched and used for soil

enrichment, trees should not be in plastic disposal bags. Trees set out after the collection program ends will require a pink bulk refuse sticker be attached. Since wreaths and garlands cannot be collected for recycling because they contain wire, they should be placed in the trash container.

Snow and cold response – Public works crews have responded to three separate snow events since December 28. Although the accumulation was less than an inch the first evening, the cold required plowing and salting overnight. Crews were back out the afternoon of December 29 when another 1.4 inches of snow fell. Main streets were salted again on January 3 as light snow created potentially hazardous conditions. Crews wrapped up this week making sure all school crossings are safe when students return from holiday next week. The consistent sub-zero temperatures also have required Water & Sewer Division crews to check and thaw frozen fire hydrants as necessary throughout the Village.

Single-use bag fee in effect – With Oak Park's larger retail stores scheduled to begin charging 10 cents for every single-use bag distributed, the Village ramped up its efforts to provide reusable bags. Reusable bags have been available to all residents free of charge in the lobby at Village Hall and the second-floor lobby at the Public Works Center since late December. Local not-for-profit organizations also have begun providing reusable bags to individuals who may not be able to afford to buy them. Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Agnew has met with representatives of all merchants required to participate in the program. She reports encountering more support than opposition. The Communications Department also reports lively debates on social media, with proponents quick to offer bags to those who take issue with the new program.

A Day in Our Village volunteer recruitment – While June may seem like a long way from January, planning already is well underway for Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement, [A Day in Our Village](#). This year's event is scheduled for Sun., June 3. A variety of volunteers is needed to help promote and staff the event, which includes activity booths, demonstrations, entertainment and food. Anyone interested in volunteering - or more information - is urged to call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us. The online space registration system also is operation for the 2018 event at www.oak-park.us/diovrregistration.

Washington/Wisconsin traffic signal – Staff is coordinating with the Illinois Department of Transportation on an activation date for the new traffic signal at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue. Installation is complete, but the signal heads will remain bagged until activated, possibly by the end of next week. Digital message signs alerting drivers of the new signal will be placed prior to the activation.

South & Harlem Avenue redevelopment – The new sewer and water mains have been installed in the alley east of the project site, but the alley remains closed awaiting warmer weather for restoration. Engineering staff continued to monitor the alley closure and overall construction project to minimize impacts on adjacent properties.

Madison Street demolition – In preparation for demolition, disconnection of water and sewer lines is expected to begin next week at the former District 97 administrative building and Robinson's Ribs restaurant on Madison Street, east of

Home Avenue. Both properties will be fenced prior to the start of demolition. During the work, the Home Avenue sidewalk adjacent to the site will be closed to pedestrians, with crossing guards stationed at the Madison Street signal to direct students to and from school. The adjacent Madison Street sidewalk will be closed due to the proximity to the demolition site, but an alternate path will be available in the adjacent parking lane protected by a barricade along the driving lane. Access to the alley between Home and Clinton avenues will be closed only by the demolition sites.

Miscellaneous construction projects – Surveys to collect data for construction plans for next year’s road and utility projects were suspended this week, but will resume next week. Annual cleaning and inspections of sewer mains also was suspended this week due to weather. Work on the salt storage building at the Cook County Forest Preserve facility in Maywood was expected to be completed by end of the week.

Public Works activities – Street Division crews installed a temporary pavement patch at Washington Boulevard and Scoville Avenue after a broken water main was repaired. Division crews also filled potholes, cleaned up debris clean and helped remove valet parking signs. Street Lighting Division crews replaced a street light pole knocked down in a New Year’s Eve vehicle accident at Austin Boulevard and North Avenue. Division crews also worked on cable issues causing street light outages on Harrison Street at Home Avenue. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired water main breaks at Austin Boulevard and Iowa Street and at Washington Boulevard and Scoville Avenue. Forestry Division crews began seasonal pruning of parkway trees on East Avenue between Division Street and Chicago Avenue, with work proceeding to the west.

Employee news – Veteran Oak Park Police Sergeant Joseph Moran was promoted to Police Commander this week. Commander Moran joined the Oak Park Police Department in September of 1992 as a police officer. He was promoted to Sergeant in September 2004.

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