



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending November 9, 2018**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Nov. 12:
  - Finance Committee, 7 p.m., room 101 (*adoption of prior meeting minutes only*)
  - Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101 (*immediately following the Finance Committee*)
  
- Tuesday, Nov. 13:
  - Chief Ambrose retirement ceremony, 5:30 p.m., Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Ave.
  - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- Wednesday, Nov. 14:
  - Farmers' Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- Thursday, Nov. 15:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
  - Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
  
- Friday, Nov. 16:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Village to honor retired Police Chief** – The contributions of retired Police Chief Anthony Ambrose will be celebrated from 4 to 7 p.m., Tues., Nov. 13, at the [Nineteenth Century Club](#). The community is invited to stop by and say goodbye. A ceremony is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Parking is available at the public garage adjacent to the event site. Ambrose retired in August after serving more than 34 years with the Oak Park Police Department. More information on his tenure is [posted on the Village website](#).

**North Avenue visioning** – Residents and business owners interested in learning the results of a recent survey and helping improve North Avenue are invited to a public visioning workshop scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 15 at Redeemer Church, 6740 W. North Ave. in Chicago. The workshop is part of a Chicago-Oak Park traffic safety and mobility study. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the initiative and provide feedback. More information is posted on the project webpage [www.cmap.is/northave](http://www.cmap.is/northave).

**New zoning definition** – The [Plan Commission](#) voted last week to recommend adding a definition for a *Work and Play Lounge* to the [Zoning Ordinance](#). The Plan Commission also recommended approving a special use application under the new definition for the Halverson Group at 193 N. Marion St. Conditions for approval

included no windows opening onto or lounge use of the public way, restricted smoking per Village Code, required a 10 p.m. closing time and restricted public use of the rear exit to emergencies. The business owner also is pursuing a liquor license.

**Pay stations on Madison** – Crews will begin installing new parking pay stations next week along Madison Street between Oak Park and Harlem avenues. Part of the recently approved parking pilot program that will update parking regulations in this corridor, the stations will not be active until early 2019. Development Customer Services Department staff notified business owners by mail about the project.

**Development updates** – Crews began installing bluestone sidewalks along the Lake Street frontage of the [District House development](#) at Euclid Avenue. These final phases of the project remain well behind schedule, but both the Village and tenants are pushing the developer to finish up the important streetscape aspects of the projects. In other development news, Nicor and ComEd are tentatively scheduled to install services for the Albion development next week on Forest Avenue between Ontario and Lake streets.

**Madison Street demolition update** – Above-ground demolition of the former Car X Building at 700 Madison St. has been completed, with only the foundations yet to be removed. The perimeter of the site is enclosed with a security fence and adjacent sidewalks closed to pedestrians on both Euclid Avenue and Madison Street. An alternate pedestrian path is available in the adjacent parking lane on Madison Street, protected from traffic by barrier walls.

**Construction updates** – Improvements to the expressway overpass on Oak Park Avenue between Garfield and Harrison streets continued this week with removal and replacement of the concrete sidewalk and parapet on the west side of the bridge. The work could continue into early January. Only punch list items remain for the North and South boulevards project. Underground work continued this week for the sewer relief project on Berkshire Street between Grove and Linden avenues. Oak Park Avenue traffic will need to be detoured around the construction as it impacts the Berkshire intersection, with signs directing drivers to Ridgeland Avenue via North Avenue and Division Street. Crews are awaiting a permit from the Illinois Department of Transportation to replace a water main valve at Harlem Avenue and Augusta Street, the last remaining site for the annual valve repair and replacement program.

**Public Works Activities** –Streets Division crews made preparations for the first snow of the season last night (Thurs., Nov. 8), delivering salt to Village Hall and the parking garages just in case precipitation exceeded predictions. Crews also focused on the growing task of [leaf pushing](#), patched streets where water line repairs had been made and picked up litter in the business districts. Fall parkway tree planting started Monday (Nov. 5) and was scheduled to wrap up today (Fri., Nov. 9) with 205 new trees planted. Water & Sewer Division crews replaced damaged fire hydrants at East Avenue and Randolph Street and at Madison Street and Ridgeland Avenue, and repaired a sewer line at Erie Street and Euclid Avenue.

**Employee news** – Water Pumping Station Operator Ben Blankenship has earned a Class C Operator Certification from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Ben, who joined the Public Works Department in September, had to pass a rigorous test related to operating and maintaining safe drinking water.

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