



Village Manager's Report
Week ending December 7, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Dec. 10:
 - Special Meeting, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, Dec. 11:
 - Aging in Place Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, Dec. 12:
 - Stewardship awards ceremony, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Thursday, Dec. 13:
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Dec. 14:
 - No meetings scheduled

Stewardship awards ceremony – Winners of the 2018 Preservation Awards, Green Awards, Cavalcade of Pride Awards and Disability Access Awards will be honored at a ceremony and reception scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., Dec. 12 at Village Hall. The ceremony will be held in the Council Chamber and a reception will follow in room 101. This year's event will recognize property owners, businesses and organizations for their efforts to preserve and enhance Oak Park's character. Members of the Historic Preservation, Environment & Energy, Community Design and Disability Access commissions facilitate the awards each year.

Fire safety awareness – The Oak Park Fire Department is working to raise holiday safety awareness with a new twist on an annual program to remind residents of the elevated dangers of fire. During the holiday season, fire departments across Illinois hang a multi-light holiday wreath in a station window easily seen by the public. Typically, a red bulb is replaced with a white one whenever a fire is caused by holiday decorations such as trees, faulty lights or cords, candles or burning wrapping paper in fireplaces. In Oak Park, the wreath at the Central Fire Station has green bulbs that will be replaced by red ones should a fire occur, a color choice Fire Chief Tom Ebsen thought better illustrated the concept of just how dangerous the season can be. The wreath will remain on around the clock through Jan. 6 to serve as a visual reminder to practice fire safety during the holiday season. A video about the local program is [posted on our YouTube channel](#).

Miscellaneous project updates – Thanks to the heated tents and insulation blankets, work is moving steadily toward a mid-December opening of South Boulevard between

Harlem Avenue and Marion Street along the [Eleven33](#) development site. Remaining streetscape tasks related to the [District House Development](#) on Lake Street at Euclid Avenue include installing lighting, bike racks, planter boxes, a plant watering system and benches as well as paving. Restoration tasks for the alley and Forest Avenue by the Albion Development on Lake Street are set to begin now that utility connections have been substantially completed. Underground electric work is underway on the west side of Maple Avenue for the Rush Oak Park Hospital emergency room expansion, as crews tap into the existing ComEd vault just north of the hospital's maintenance building.

Construction updates – The drainage issues along the pedestrian pathway at the Holley Court Garage have been addressed and the pedestrian walkway will be reopened as soon as the concrete has properly cured. The foundations remaining from the demolition of the former CarX building at 700 Madison St. were expected to be removed by the end of this week. Oak Park Avenue was closed intermittently this week at Berkshire Street for temporary repairs to the intersection following the sewer project that has now been suspended for the season. Final pavement restoration is scheduled for early spring. Restoration is expected to wrap up next week on the season's last remaining site for the annual water valve repair and replacement program at Harlem Avenue and Augusta Street.

Public Works activities – Some 200 tons of salt is now stockpiled at the Public Works Center in preparation for the next snow event. Leaf pushing has continued each night as the annual collection program moved into its last official week. Final sweeps through the Village are planned to clean up any remaining debris. Crews from various divisions worked together this week to remove watering bags from young trees for the season and mulch landscaped public areas. Crews also cleared a street light pole damaged in an accident at 104 North Oak Park Ave., repaired outlets for holiday lights in the business districts and responded to various street light outages reported across the Village. Water & Sewer Division crews replaced a water main valve at Madison Street and Elmwood Avenue, and inspected and repaired fire hydrants at multiple locations in the Village. The Public Works Center roof has been cleaned and repaired, and options are being investigated for repairing or replacing the unreliable incline platform lift at the south entrance of Village Hall.

Employee news – Members of Oak Park Police Department did their part to help raise awareness about men's health issues as part of [Movember](#) movement launched in 2004. In addition to relaxing the Department's facial hair standards for male officers during November, female officers also were permitted to wear nail polish, photos and pins honoring the men in their lives. Interim Police Chief LaDon Reynolds has extended the temporary appearance privilege through December as part of the Department's effort to generate support for the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots and Chicago Coat Drive for which the Department is serving as a drop-off site.

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