



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending November 1, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Nov. 4:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Tuesday, Nov. 5
  - Environment and Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, Nov. 6:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Thursday, Nov. 7:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Nov. 8:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Standard time returns** – Standard time officially returns at 2 a.m., this Sunday (Nov. 3). Clocks should be set back one hour. The [Oak Park Fire Department](#) urges residents to use the time change as a reminder to replace batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Working detectors can double the chances of survival by providing critical extra time for safe escape, they say. More information on fire safety is posted at [www.oak-park.us/fire](http://www.oak-park.us/fire).

**Landlord training** – Rental property owners or their agents will have two opportunities to complete the required crime-free housing training seminars. Seminars will be offered from 1 to 4 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 6 and 9 a.m., to noon, Sat. Dec. 9. Both sessions will be held at Village Hall. All rental unit owners or their designated agents are required to complete the training each year regardless of the number of units owned. Training this year will incorporate a discussion of how legal recreational marijuana may impact rental properties and offer suggestions for how property owners can help maximize the Oak Park count in the 2020 Census.

**Dementia-friendly meeting** – The team leading Oak Park's efforts to become designated as a [Dementia Friendly Community](#) is inviting the public to attend its first *Action Team* meeting set for 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 6 in room 101 at Village Hall. The meeting will include a dementia experiential training demonstration. Future efforts may include offering dementia experiential training to first responders and Village employees who regularly engage with the public. Information about Oak Park's efforts to earn the designation from the non-profit organization [Dementia Friendly America](#) is posted on the Village website at [www.oak-park.us/dementiafriendly](http://www.oak-park.us/dementiafriendly).

**Food waste workshop** – The Village will be spreading the word about the local composting program at a workshop set for 7 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 7 at the main branch of the Oak Park Public Library. The workshop is part of *Food Waste Awareness Week* Nov. 3 – 9 that also includes a screening of the film [Just Eat It](#) at 3 p.m. Sun., Nov. 3 at the Library. In addition to promoting our [local composting program](#), Sustainability Coordinator Mindy Agnew will have her iPad there to sign up new participants on the spot.

**Storm response** – The unexpected early arrival of winter weather this week left a layer of heavy wet snow and slush that proved especially hard on our trees, most of which still had not dropped their leaves. The two inches of snow that fell Wednesday damaged more than 250 trees to varying degrees. Tree debris affected travel on more than a dozen streets and several alleys. Most of the damage was to limbs, but eight trees actually came down completely. It will take some time to assess the health of the damaged trees to determine if any will ultimately need to be removed to alleviate any public safety concerns. While all affected streets and alleys were quickly cleared, both in-house crews and private contractors have been on the street since the storm pulling down broken hanging limbs, clearing debris from sidewalks and chipping fallen branches. Crews also salted streets and bridge decks, tasks that continued through early Thursday evening after an additional inch of snow fell.

**Madison Street update** – Weather slowed the effort to install remaining pavement markings on Madison Street. While installation of the thermoplastic paint lines is mostly complete, work on the specialty bicycle lane symbols is now likely to not be completed until mid-November. Traffic signal heads have been relocated to match the new lane configurations and signage replacement is underway. Informational materials to help motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians better understand the new traffic and parking configuration of the street have been created and posted on the dedicated project website [www.madisonstreetconstruction.com](http://www.madisonstreetconstruction.com). Communications efforts will expand as the project nears completion.

**Austin Boulevard projects update** –A few weeks of preparation work is scheduled to begin Monday (Nov. 4) for next spring's water main replacement project on Austin Boulevard between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street. This initial work entails installing new valves and should have minimal impact on the neighborhood. In the meantime, City of Chicago contractors are facing weather delays in their efforts to replace curb and sidewalk on the east side of Austin Boulevard as part of a resurfacing project underway between Iowa Street and North Avenue.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – The contractor is scheduled to connect the new [Turano Baking Co.](#) corporate headquarters building on Roosevelt Road to the new sewer recently installed on Scoville Avenue. The work is expected to take only one day. Crews will be stenciling the Lake Street 2020 open-for-business message on sidewalks at various locations next week as part of the communications program to prepare the community for the work. The message includes the project website [betterlakestreet.com](http://betterlakestreet.com) where details about the project are posted. The sections of sidewalk where the stencils will be painted are set to be replaced as part of the project.

**Employee News** – A new program to cross train certain employees to have the skills and knowledge to work in multiple customer service positions is underway. Certain job titles in the Public Works and Development Customer Services departments were recently reclassified to a customer service designation to allow the departments to support each other when needed. These employees are learning how to fill in when vacations, sickness or other factors may mean one department is temporarily understaffed. An added benefit of the cross training is that these employees acquire new job skills that could open future opportunities for advancement within the overall organization.

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