



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending December 6, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Dec. 9:
  - Environment and Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
- Tuesday, Dec. 10:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Wednesday, Dec. 11:
  - Stewardship Awards, 7 p.m., Council Chamber (reception to follow in room 101)
- Thursday, Dec. 12:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Dec. 13:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Whooping cough response** -- With six cases of whooping cough confirmed in Oak Park, the Health Department has actively spread the word about steps to take to help prevent further spread of the contagious respiratory illness. Staff used social media to raise awareness and direct followers to a [story on the Village website](#) with more details and links to state and federal information resources. In addition, the Health Department has been in touch with all licensed day care centers in the Village as well as the school districts to ensure they have the most accurate information available.

**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. The wreath at the Central Fire Station on Euclid Avenue at North Boulevard has green bulbs that will be replaced by red ones should fires occur. The wreath will remain on around the clock as a visual reminder to practice fire safety during the holiday season. A video about the local program is [posted on the Village YouTube channel](#).

**Stewardship awards ceremony** – A new award presented by the Aging in Place Commission will be part of the ceremony honoring winners of the 2019 Preservation Awards, Green Awards, Cavalcade of Pride Awards and Disability Access Awards. The ceremony is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed., Dec. 11 in the Council Chamber and will be followed by a reception in room 101. Representatives of each of the commissions will participate in the ceremony. More information on the nomination and selection process is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Holiday traffic enforcement update** – Oak Park Police stopped 27 vehicles and issued 27 citations as part of a statewide *Click It or Ticket/Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* Thanksgiving traffic safety campaign. Law enforcement agencies across the state participated in the effort to save lives by getting impaired drivers off the roads and more people buckled up. More information about the campaign, which ran from Nov. 22 through Dec. 2, [posted on the Village website](#).

**Season of giving at Village Hall** – The [Oak Park Police Department](#) is a donation site for the annual [Toys for Tots](#) campaign and a winter coat drive sponsored by [Chance The Rapper](#) and his humanitarian organization [SocialWorks](#). While the Toys for Tot program collects new, unwrapped toys, the [Warmest Winter initiative](#) seeks new or gently used winter gear for children and adults, including coats, gloves and boots. Donations for both holiday drives can be dropped off in boxes located in the Village Hall lobby during regular business hours and in the lower-level Police Department lobby, which is open 24 hours.

**Plan Commission action** – The Plan Commission has continued the hearing for the proposed Senior Living Community on Madison Street to a special meeting set for Thurs., Dec. 19 in order to discuss further multiple aspects of the project, including height, massing, refuse pickup and rear property setbacks.

**January bidding for Lake Street project** – Bidding for the various construction projects related to upcoming streetscape project on Lake Street is set for January via the standard Illinois Department of Transportation process. Staff is working with the project consultants to ramp up public outreach about the work, which remains on schedule to begin in early spring. The Village likely will host open houses for the public and businesses in the first quarter of 2020. In addition, the Village's communication tools will be used to help spread the word about the project and promote the [dedicated project website](#) where a wide range of information will be posted and updated regularly as the work gets underway.

**Hollywood in Oak Park** – Filming is underway in Oak Park for the fourth season of the popular [FX television network series Fargo](#). This season's series, which is set in the 1950s and stars comedian Chris Rock, is using a home on the northeast corner of Euclid Avenue at Randolph Street. Crews are expected to be at the home for as many as 15 film shoots through March. Scenes also are being filmed in Riverside and Elgin. Several Village departments are involved in managing potential impacts on the neighborhood, including traffic and parking. Community Relations Director Cedric Melton, who manages filming permits for the Village, is the liaison with the show's producers.

**Madison Street wrapping up** – Crews were back on Madison Street this week applying the remaining specialty bicycle lane symbols and installing parking signs. Push-button-activated pedestrian beacons now are working at Kenilworth, Grove, Scoville and Humphrey avenues to alert drivers when pedestrians are about to enter the crosswalk area. Barring any additional weather delays, all work should be completed before Christmas.

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – A new button-activated pedestrian beacon was installed this week at the intersection of Chicago and Woodbine avenues.

Preparation work for next spring's scheduled water main replacement project on Austin Boulevard between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street is complete. City of Chicago contractors are striping and restoring parkways on Austin Boulevard between Iowa Street and North Avenue as their resurfacing project nears completion.

**Dementia-friendly training update** – Thirty-three individuals attended a special business-focused dementia-friendly training session held recently at Village Hall. The training offered a basic understanding of how to identify customers dealing with dementia and provide them with appropriate assistance. Leaders from several Oak Park business district associations participated in the training along with the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. The training session was part of Oak Park's effort to be designated a *Dementia Friendly Community* by the non-profit organization [Dementia Friendly America](http://www.dementiafriendly.org). More information about the effort is posted at [www.oak-park.us/dementiafriendly](http://www.oak-park.us/dementiafriendly).

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