



Village Manager's Report
Week ending February 21, 2020

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 24:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, Feb. 25:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Review Control Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124

- Wednesday, Feb. 26:
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Disability Access Commission, Main Library, 834 Lake Street
 - Historic Preservation Architectural Review Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, Feb. 27:
 - No meeting scheduled

- Friday, Feb. 28:
 - No meetings scheduled

Police crime data – The annual crime data report for 2019 was released this week by the Police Department. The data is compiled by law enforcement agencies across the country for the FBI's [Uniform Crime Reporting Program](#) that studies patterns and trends over time. Oak Park Police investigated 78 more crimes in 2019 than in 2018, which pushed overall crime rate up about 5 percent. Burglaries and thefts, which historically represent the vast majority of crime in the Village, remained the biggest categories at nearly 87 percent of all crimes committed in the community in 2019. More details are [posted on the Village website...](#)

Hospital garage vote fails – A four-to-two vote by the Plan Commission last night (Thurs., Feb. 20) on Rush Oak Park Hospital's special use application for a new garage means the item failed since five affirmative votes are required for a favorable recommendation to the Village Board. However, the rules governing the Plan Commission provide for voting to be held open until the next meeting of the Commission to allow voting by any absent members. Three commissioners were absent for the Feb. 20 vote. The two commissioners who voted against the application said they were concerned that the surface parking area along Harlem Avenue had not been considered for the garage location. The height of the proposed garage also was questioned. The applicant indicated support for lowering the garage height by either removing a level or constructing a level underground, but resisted

the option of the Harlem Avenue location. Depending on action by the commission at its March 5 meeting, the Plan Commission recommendations could come to the board in April.

Lake Street update – A meeting specifically for the business operators likely to be most affected by the upcoming Lake Street renewal project attracted an estimated 40 merchants to the Lake Street theater on Thursday (Feb. 20). In addition to providing an overview of the project and answering questions, Village staff encouraged attendees to sign up for updates via the project website www.betterlakestreet.com. More than half of the attendees signed up on the spot for the updates. As with the public meetings last week, discussion focused on the logistics of parking, traffic flow and pedestrian safety during construction. How customer and delivery access will be managed also was discussed. Several merchants expressed a willingness to display project signage as well. On-site signs for the first phase of the project – water and sewer work between Grove and Euclid avenues – are tentatively scheduled to be installed next week, with construction to quickly follow weather permitting.

Composting pilot – The Public Works Department is preparing to roll out a pilot program to allow residents not served by the Village hauler to adopt composting. Bins will be set up at the water pumping station, 102 N. Lombard Ave., so organic waste can be dropped off for composting. Participants will be able to store food scraps in ASTM 6400 standard compostable bags or wrapped in newspaper. The biggest challenge likely will be contamination by items that cannot be composted, such as plastic bags used to transport scraps. Signage and public education will focus on minimizing this potential issue. Given the effort and personal dedication required to participate in composting, staff is optimistic that providing this option to our many residents who live in multi-family properties that do not have composting services will increase the amount of residential waste diverted from landfills.

Dementia-friendly effort update – Staff and volunteers have been ramping up efforts to have Oak Park designated a *Dementia Friendly Community* by the non-profit organization [Dementia Friendly America](http://DementiaFriendlyAmerica.com). One-on-one interviews are being conducted with individuals affected by dementia to ensure the initiative is guided by the voices of those directly impacted; training videos are being produced for specific types of businesses like banks and restaurants; and training for emergency first responders is underway. The focus of these efforts is to help each group recognize and respond appropriately during encounters with individuals suffering from dementia. In addition to these targeted communication efforts, programs to increase awareness Village wide are being planned. The Oak Park Library will have informational displays in March and a dedicated booth is being planned for [A Day in Our Village](http://ADayinOurVillage.com). Momentum for the dementia-friendly initiative has steadily grown since its launch, with current support coming from more than 20 organizations and an action team of some 50 volunteers. More information about the local effort is posted at www.oak-park.us/dementiafriendly.

A Day is recruiting – The Community Relations Department has opened the exhibition registration process for the next [A Day in Our Village](http://ADayinOurVillage.com) festival. Groups wishing to participate in the event set for Sun., June 7, are being urged to register online at www.oak-park.us/diovreregistration. Groups that use the online form to register are then linked to www.oak-park.us/payment, the portal for paying other Village bills,

including for water and FOIA requests. They only have to choose the *A Day in Our Village* button to complete the \$50 registration payment. Paper registration forms and checks are still being accepted at Village Hall. The deadline to register is Fri., May 15. Volunteers also are being recruited to help distribute promotional literature prior to the event and work at the event. Anyone interested in volunteering can call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.

Employee news – Village Attorney Paul Stephanides was recently elected president of the [Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association](#), a professional organization that includes 283 practicing local government attorneys across the state. Paul had previously served as vice president and treasurer of the association, which has been providing access to professional education, as well as facilitating the exchange of information and professional interaction among municipal attorneys in Illinois since 1992. Paul joined the Village senior staff team in September 2013.

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