



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Jan. 15, 2021

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Jan. 18:
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Jan. 19:
 - Municipal Electoral Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
 - Village Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., via Go-to-Meeting
- Wednesday, Jan. 20:
 - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom
- Thursday, Jan. 21:
 - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Jan. 22:
 - No meetings scheduled

Village offices closed – Village Offices will be closed on Monday (Jan. 18) in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to call the [Police Department](#) non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

Winter tree pruning – Contractors are pruning trees between Chicago and North avenues as part of the winter cycle. These trees represent about one-third of the 18,000-plus parkway trees on Village property. As crews near each neighborhood, temporary no-parking signs go up notifying residents to move their cars from the streets. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines for tree care are closely followed to address three key issues – tree health, resident safety and protecting property from damage. Dead or dying limbs are removed, tree canopies raised to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and appropriate clearances created for adjacent structures and signs. While the pruning may initially appear excessive when no leaves are on the limbs, crews work to ensure that pruning is just right as foliage returns in the spring. Residents are urged to call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us with questions or concerns about the type or quality of work being performed by contractors. More information on the care of trees on public property is posted at www.oak-park.us/trees.

Police lobby for in-person transactions – With many residents finalizing transactions or conducting exchanges that may have been arranged online, Police are reminding everyone that the lobby of the Police Station is available to the public for in-person

meetings and face-to-face transactions. Police say the lobby is a safe venue because it is open, well-lit and staffed 24 hours a day. The lobby has been used for parental custody exchanges for years. Anyone participating in an exchange in the lobby is reminded to practice social distancing and wear a mask.

Heat required – Colder weather always means the Village fields calls from tenants asking about landlords' responsibilities to provide heat. Village ordinance requires landlords to furnish heat to all Oak Park rental dwelling units from September 15 through May 15. An average minimum temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit must be maintained inside the apartment from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., and 65 degrees Fahrenheit from 11 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Complaints may be made by calling 708.358.5410 or email to housing@oak-park.us.

Car theft warning – Colder weather also tends to cause an uptick in autos being reported stolen after being left unattended, unlocked and running with the keys in the ignition as a way to warm up the vehicle. Police say leaving a running vehicle unattended not only increases its risk of being stolen, it also is a violation of state law. A VOP-TV video is being used to help residents better understand the issue and the consequences – [click here to view](#).

Construction updates – Infrastructure relocation activities continue near the intersection of Madison Street and Euclid Avenue. The AT&T and ComEd work is necessary to allow the new senior living facility to be built there. In the meantime, demolition is underway on the existing structure at the site to make way for the new construction. Nicor soon will begin routine infrastructure inspections on Gunderson Avenue between Van Buren Street and Jackson Boulevard.

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