



Village Manager's Report
Week ending Feb. 16, 2018

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, Feb. 19:
 - No meetings scheduled – Village Hall closed in observance of Presidents' Day
- Tuesday, Feb. 20:
 - Regular Meeting of the Village Board, 7:30 p.m., room 201 (Council Chamber, Executive Session at 6 p.m. in Room 130
 - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, Feb. 21:
 - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, Feb. 22:
 - No meetings scheduled
- Friday, Feb. 23:
 - No meetings scheduled

Village Hall closed Monday – Village Hall will be closed on Mon., Feb. 19 in observance of [Presidents' Day](#). The refuse and recycling collection schedule will not be affected. Should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 911 call occur when Village Hall is closed, residents are urged to seek assistance by calling the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800.

Snow response – The season's heaviest snowfall to date kept Public Works crews from all divisions busy through the past weekend and well into this week after accumulations reached 14 inches across Oak Park. The first wave of snow Thursday night (Feb. 8) through Friday afternoon (Feb. 9) dumped nine inches of snow, with additional waves continuing well into Sunday (Feb. 11) and adding another five inches to the total. Crews worked around the clock through the weekend plowing and salting to keep roadways open and equipment in good working condition. Alleys were plowed four separate times. The emergency snow parking rules were implemented in advance of the initial storm and remained in effect until Sunday evening (Feb. 11).

Re-energizing Fleet Watch – The Police Department hosted presentations this week to re-energize the *Fleet Watch* program, which enlists Village employees as an additional resource for reporting suspicious persons and activities. The program, which has been in place in Oak Park since at least the early 1990s, trains staff whose daily duties require them to use municipal vehicles about when and how to report anything they see that is suspicious, dangerous or criminal so that Police

officers can be dispatched to the scene as necessary. Community Policing Sergeant Dave Jacobson gave separate presentations on the program to Public Works crews and to Village Hall employees who frequently use municipal vehicles. An added feature of the Fleet Watch program is that anyone walking, biking or driving in Oak Park can stop a municipal vehicle anywhere, anytime to report an incident or issue, as the Village workers driving these vehicles will have a direct line to the Police either by two-way radio, cell phone or both. This feature will be communicated Village wide in the coming weeks and months, including via social media and in the OP/FYI newsletter. The Fleet Division of the Public Works Department has updated a decal that will be applied to municipal vehicles to link them to the Police Department program.

Earth Fest is recruiting – Recruitment for both sponsors and vendors is now underway for the ninth annual Earth Fest set for April 21 at the Public Works Center. Sponsors not only receive special recognition in event promotional materials, they also help spread awareness about environmental issues, support environmental initiatives, highlight Oak Park’s dedication to sustainability and build momentum for the environmental movement. Sponsorships range from \$125 to \$1,000. Vendors can rent a booth for just \$50. Sponsorship and vendor application forms are posted online at www.oak-park.us/earthfest.

South Boulevard/Harlem Avenue redevelopment – Both lanes of South Boulevard between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street were closed this week to make room for a large construction crane. The street is expected to remain closed for about 10 days and then reopen to westbound traffic as it had been since the project began. Pedestrian access to the CTA station is available on the north side of South Boulevard from Marion Street, but not accessible from Harlem Avenue. Delivery access to the businesses east of the development remains available during the complete street closure. Engineering staff continues to monitor the project site and the overall construction project to minimize impacts on adjacent properties.

Miscellaneous construction projects – Annual cleaning and inspections of sewer mains was completed this week after being hampered by the weather. However, the cold and snowy weather continued to slow data collection surveys for next construction season’s road and utility projects. Site cleanup continued this week following the demolition of the former District 97 administrative building and Robinson’s Ribs Restaurant on Madison Street at Home Avenue. With the sidewalks and driving lane by the site now open, Engineering staff is taking steps to ensure no issues were overlooked that could create unsafe conditions primarily for pedestrians walking along the outermost perimeter of the site.

Public Works activities – In addition to snow plowing and salting, Street Division crews have been dealing with requests for additional cleaning and salting from the freeze-thaw cycle that followed the main event. Crews also are filling potholes that have appeared on plowed and salted streets throughout the community. Street Lighting Division crews repaired damaged cables that were affecting the lights on the 800 blocks of Clinton and Oak Park avenues as well as on Harrison Street. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at 736 N. Elmwood Ave., while also thawing frozen fire hydrants digging out those buried in the snow. Winter cycle parkway tree pruning continued, with contractors working in the area bounded by East and Ridgeland avenues, Division Street and North Avenue.

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