



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending February 15, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Feb. 18:
  - Presidents Day – Village Hall closed
- Tuesday, Feb. 19:
  - Reinventing Government Committee, 7 p.m., room 130
  - Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
  - Citizen Police Oversight Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, Feb. 20:
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, Feb. 21:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Feb. 22:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Village Hall closed Monday** – Village Hall will be closed on Mon., Feb. 18 in observance of [Presidents Day](#). 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 call the Police non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance.

**Madison Street open house** – The Village will host an open house Thurs., Feb. 21 for residents and business owners interested in about the [Madison Street improvement project](#) set to begin this spring. The open house will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 21 at Percy Julian Middle School. Attendees will be able to review project plans including renderings of how Madison Street will look once the project is finished in late fall. Representatives from the engineering firm managing the project and Village staff will be on hand to answer question about details of the project, including the many pedestrian-friendly updates and infrastructure improvements. More information on the project and construction updates will be posted at [www.madisonstreetconstruction.com](http://www.madisonstreetconstruction.com), a dedicated project website managed by the engineering consultant.

**Building code seminar** – The Development Customers Services Department will host a free informational session on the fundamentals of the [International Residential Code](#) that governs construction in Oak Park. The seminar, which will be led by Don

Plass, a Master Code Professional and Certified Building Official from HR Green, is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wed., Feb. 20 in the Council Chamber. Village staff will be on hand to answer questions about what the code means for construction in Oak Park. Sponsored by the [Building Codes Advisory Commission](#), architects, contractors, building professionals and the public are welcome to attend.

**Historic Preservation actions** – The Historic Preservation Commission determined last night that the former Hill Motor Sales Company at 640-644 Madison St. did meet the criteria to be considered for local landmark status under Village Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Commission reviewed related emails and letters, and heard testimony from the property owner, the two individuals seeking the designation and members of the public, including individuals both for and against the designation. The Commission will make its formal recommendation to the Village Board at a special meeting scheduled for Feb. 2. Subsequently, the recommendation will be scheduled for Village Board review and consideration in March. In a separate matter, the Historic Preservation Commission also voted to deny a certificate of appropriateness to demolish the buildings at 1014 and 1018 Pleasant St., which are designated as contributing buildings within the Ridgeland-Oak Park Historic District. The Commission will vote on a resolution at a follow-up meeting on Feb. 21, prior to final consideration by the Village Board.

**CDBG grant program** – Twenty-two individuals representing 20 local not-for-profit agencies attended last week's workshop to learn about the application process for the Village's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. Five agencies represented at the workshop were new to the local program, which is managed by the Development Customer Services Department. More than \$380,000 will be available for local non-profit organizations in Program Year 2019, which runs from Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020. March 1 is the deadline for applications for funding through the programs that help address local housing and community development needs, benefits low income persons and supports homelessness programs.

**Project updates** – Weather continues to be the last remaining obstacle to reopening South Boulevard to vehicle traffic between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue. Crews must wait for dry pavement before the required striping can be applied and the block reopened to two-way traffic. Weather also has slowed the installation of the remaining sidewalk east of the commercial driveway entrance at the [Eleven33](#) development site. As for other winter projects, annual cleaning and inspections of sewer mains continued this week at various locations throughout the Village.

**Weather events** – The week proved to be another busy one for Public Works Department personnel charged with keeping the streets clear for motorists and the crossings safe for pedestrians. Crews responded to precipitation on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday, working to keep the streets, school crossings and public transit access points free of snow and ice. Plow drivers had to contend with a mixed bag of precipitation, including snow and freezing rain, both sometimes intensified by high winds. Fluctuating temperatures also complicated the response when the snow and ice melted as temperatures rose, then refroze to create slippery conditions as

temperatures dropped. The response continued to rely on the strategy of focusing first on main arteries and school crossings, before moving onto neighborhood streets and alleys.

**Public Works Activities** – When not dealing with the snow events, Streets Division crews concentrated on filling the numerous pot holes caused by frequent freezing and thawing. Crews also assisted the Forestry Division with clearing debris from tree limbs that failed after ice build-up from recent freezing rain and subsequent high winds. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired water shut-off valve boxes at 1000 S. Grove Ave., 803 N. Kenilworth Ave. and 736 S. Harvey Ave. Winter cycle tree pruning continued this week with crews working on Maple Avenue between Madison and Harrison streets.

###