



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending February 14, 2020**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Feb. 17:
  - Village Hall closed for Presidents' Day – no meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Feb. 18:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Wednesday, Feb. 19:
  - Housing Programs Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., room 215
  - IGA Administrative Governing Board for Early Childhood Collaboration, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, Feb. 20:
  - Building Codes Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m., room 215
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Friday, Feb. 21:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Village Hall closed Monday** – Village Hall will be closed on Mon., Feb. 17 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. [More information on Village Hall is posted online.](#)

**Warming center information** – Village staff ramped up information about warming centers as a blast of the coldest weather of the season swept across the region as the week came to an end. The message is routinely distributed via all official public information channels during the winter season, with special emphasis given when forecasts call for extreme temperatures. Fortunately, the extremely cold temperatures were expected to be of limited duration. Details about the centers are [posted on the Village website.](#)

**Lake Street meetings** – Two open-house style public meetings held this week to discuss the upcoming Lake Street restoration project attracted some 55 participants, representing both residents and businesses. Input was varied, with most of the concern related to the logistics of parking, traffic flow and pedestrian safety during the construction. 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](http://www.betterlakestreet.com). About 45 of the meeting attendees signed up for email updates during the sessions. The first phase of the project – water and sewer

work between Grove and Euclid avenues – is tentatively scheduled to begin the last week of February, weather permitting.

**Dementia-friendly staff training** – Training to give Oak Park’s first responders the skills to deal effectively and compassionately with persons suffering from dementia is underway. Police Department staff recently began training and Fire Department personnel will begin next week. The training, which is part of Oak Park’s focus on becoming a designated dementia-friendly community, uses materials created specifically for Oak Park by the volunteers leading the [local effort](#). The training provides not only an overview of the impact of dementia and the signs to help recognize it, but also teaches the skills to help assist those individuals living with the disease.

**Rush Hospital update** – The Plan Commission has continued until Feb. 20 consideration of a special use amendment and street vacation request from Rush Oak Park Hospital for a new parking garage. The request is related to the proposed construction of a 713-space parking garage that would be built on the northwest corner of Wenonah Avenue and Monroe Street.

**Census preparation** – Staff is working to enlist the help of building owners and property managers to make sure their tenants are counted in the upcoming 2020 Census. They have been asked to display posters in common areas and seek opportunities to encourage participation among renters who are considered among the historically under counted populations. Building managers and owners also have been asked to post contact information Census workers can use to gain access for the door-to-door canvassing that likely will occur from May through July. Plans to reach renters also include stenciling call-to-action messages on sidewalks adjacent to larger multi-family buildings as part of the boarder communication activities. In addition, dedicated computers are being set up in Village Hall, all public library branches, the Housing Center and Township where anyone without internet access can conveniently complete the Census online.

**Snow response** – Public Works crews were back on the streets this week responding to a series of events that left measurable snowfall on Sunday (Feb. 9), Wednesday (Feb. 12) and Thursday (Feb. 13). Bridges and main streets were treated with anti-icing solution, then later salted and plowed. Special attention also was given to areas such as school crossings to ensure safe pedestrian travel. Above-freezing ground and air temperatures improved the effectiveness of the response through mid-week, but temperatures fell quickly Thursday into Friday (Feb. 14), with air temperatures in the single digits and wind chills below zero. Temperatures were expected to move back above freezing Saturday (Feb. 15). Crews remain on standby if needed and salt supplies are holding up well.

**Tree trimming update** – The winter tree pruning cycle is continuing to progress across this season’s designated area. Pruning wrapped in the section from Madison Street to South Boulevard, except the downtown areas. Crews currently are working in the area from North Boulevard to Chicago Avenue, near Euclid Avenue. When winter pruning wraps up in about April, one-third of the Village’s 18,000 trees on public property will have been trimmed, with the focus on tree health, resident safety and protecting property from damage. Crews follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines for tree care, but residents with questions or concerns

about the type or quality of work being performed are urged to contact the Public Works Department at 708.358.5700 or [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

**Heart month** – The Health Department is encouraging residents to learn about the leading cause of death for both men and women as part of American Heart Month this February. According to the CDC, [one out of every four deaths](#) in the United States is the result of heart disease. And the disease is happening to younger adults more and more often. Residents who would like to learn more about the risks and what can be done to reduce them, are urged to visit [www.oak-park.us/americanheartmonth](http://www.oak-park.us/americanheartmonth).

**Employee news** – Ginger Hedrich has joined the Fire Department as Office Coordinator. Ginger had formerly been with the Office of Administrative Adjudication, which she joined in 2017. In her new role with Fire, Ginger will provide a wide range of administrative support as well as have financial responsibilities. In other employee news, Grants Coordinator Jennifer Jones has received a Certificate of Completion from the National Community Development Association's Community Development Block Grant basics course. Jennifer recently moved to the Neighborhood Services Division from the Parking Division. In Public Works employee news, James Olson has been promoted to Engineering Tech II. Since joining the Engineering Division in June 2018, he has been a part of several important projects including alleys, micro-paving, water main replacement, bicycle parking and restoration deposit refunds. The Public Works Department also welcomed Giovanni Rossi to the Water & Sewer Division. Giovanni – or John as prefers to go by – previously worked for the City of DesPlaines as a seasonal maintenance worker.

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