



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Weeks ending November 22 & November 29, 2013**

**Meetings scheduled for the next two weeks:**

- November 25:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- November 26:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 101
- November 27:
  - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake Street
- November 28:
  - Village Offices Closed
- November 29:
  - Village Offices Closed
- December 2:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., room 130
  - Employee Recognition Awards, 7:00 p.m., room 201
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  - Oak Park Arts Council, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- December 3:
  - CDCAC, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
- December 4:
  - CDCAC, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Public Art Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., room 201
- December 5:
  - Comprehensive Plan Trends and Metrics Workshop, 7 p.m., Whittier School

**Save the date reminders (see calendar for all future meetings):**

- December 9: Village Board Special Meeting (budget adoption) 7:00 p.m. room 201
- December 10: Village Board Reinventing Government, 7 p.m., room 130

**Free holiday parking Downtown and in Southtown begins next week** – Beginning with the Friday after Thanksgiving, shoppers can park for free in the business district garages on weekends through December 21 as well as meters in designated business districts. Free parking is available in the Holley Court and Lake & Forest garages downtown, and the Avenue Garage. Parking will be free for two hours at *bagged* meters and pay by space lots downtown and in the vicinity of South Oak Park Avenue. Of course, parking always is free on Sundays.

**Holiday to affect waste collection schedule** – Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed by the Thanksgiving holiday. If one's [regular pick-up](#) is on Thursday, collection will be delayed until Friday, and Friday's collection delayed until Saturday.

**Parking restrictions eased for holiday** – The on-street, overnight parking ban will not be enforced on most Oak Park residential streets during the Thanksgiving holiday. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Thurs., Nov. 28, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Mon., Dec. 2. Restrictions will remain in effect in overnight permit areas, such as Village-owned lots, on-street enclaves and on-street overnight parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including all daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

**Village Offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Village Hall along with other offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29, for Thanksgiving. Residents are urged to call the Police nonemergency number 708.386.3800 should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency occur when Village Hall is closed.

**Village joins tornado response** – Two Forestry technicians and one mechanic from the Fleet Division traveled to [Washington, Illinois](#), to aid in the cleanup from Sunday's devastating tornados. Ron Schwab and Dan Bartle drove the Village's *grapple* log loader truck to the central Illinois community as part of our role in the [Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network](#) (IPWMAN). Ron and Dan met up with other crews from the Chicago area in Villa Park Wednesday and caravanned to Washington, which is just east of Peoria. Mechanic Charles "Rusty" Miller left for Washington Thursday to assist the Oak Park crew. The IPWMAN agreement requires the Village to provide staff and equipment for five operational periods. Meals, lodging and fuel are provided at no expense to the Village. However, if additional support is required, the requesting agency will be responsible for all costs. We will investigate opportunities to recoup our costs through pending FEMA federal assistance. Should our employees or the truck be needed in Oak Park, we can recall them. We are very proud of Ron, Dan and

Rusty for their willingness to represent Oak Park in such an important emergency response effort.

**Holiday open house and craft fair set** – The Oak Park Conservatory will host a holiday open house and craft fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun., Dec. 1. Visitors can shop for unique gifts, including forced paper white narcissus and door swags, visit Santa or just enjoy the Conservatory. The Conservatory will be decorated in its holiday finest, making it a great backdrop for holiday pictures. For more information, call 708.386.4700 or visit [www.oakparkconservatory.org](http://www.oakparkconservatory.org).

**Comments sought on statewide bicycle plan** – The bike planning team at the Illinois Department of Transportation is seeking public feedback on a statewide bicycle plan that is set to be published in January. The plan will address five issues for non-motorized transportation in Illinois – safety, access, choices, connectivity and collaboration. To learn more about the plan and review completed work to date, visit [www.illinoisbikeplan.com](http://www.illinoisbikeplan.com). Comments may be submitted via email to [IllinoisBikePlan@altaplanning.com](mailto:IllinoisBikePlan@altaplanning.com) or [Gabriel.Sulkes@illinois.gov](mailto:Gabriel.Sulkes@illinois.gov).

**Construction update** – Highland Avenue between Van Buren and Harrison streets was scheduled to open by the end of the week now that water and sewer main improvements are complete. The underground portion of the project to line the water main on Lombard under I-290 was set to begin Friday, with the actual lining to occur next week. Concrete work and painting of the Marion Street and Ridgeland Avenue viaducts is complete. Tasks associated with the lighting and decorative metalwork is underway on the Marion viaduct and will start on the Ridgeland viaduct next week. The bicycle shelters and racks by the viaducts have been installed. Asphalt work is scheduled to begin on Belleforte Street, Cuyler Avenue, Taylor Avenue and Greenfield Street. Weather could delay some of the work until spring. Parkway restoration is underway on Cuyler Avenue and work on Harvard Avenue is scheduled for the week of the Nov. 25, unless weather delays work until spring.

**New pedestrian crossing signals to be tested** – Two new pedestrian crossing detectors will be tested on the traffic signals at Lake Street and Kenilworth Avenue. These devices, which should be in by Friday by the Post Office and installed next week on the north side, will automatically detect pedestrians, eliminating the need for a push button. The devices on each side of the street are from different manufacturers so that the Engineering Division can determine which works best for our needs. More information will be provided as the test progresses.

**Public Works Activities** – The Water & Sewer Division began replacing 375 analog meter heads with new digital heads. Batteries in the old meters were nearing the end of their service lives. The Street Lighting Division met with CTA, Union Pacific and the contractor working on the Marion Street viaduct relamping project to ensure all parties are up to date with the project status. Streets workers also continued making early morning repairs to burned-out streetlights throughout the Village. The Streets Division installed refurbished decorative signs in the Hemingway District and removed the East Avenue speed tables for the winter season. The annual fall leaf collection continues. The amount of leaves falling in such a short time still has Waste

Management crews working to catch up. The Forestry Division removed six parkway trees due to Sunday's severe weather.

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