



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Weeks ending November 21, 2014 and November 28, 2014**

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

- Monday, November 24:
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Tuesday, November 25:
  - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215
  
- Wednesday, November 26:
  - No scheduled meetings
  
- Thursday, November 27:
  - Village Hall Closed
  
- Friday, November 28:
  - Village Hall Closed
  
- Monday, December 1:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m. room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
  
- Tuesday, December 2:
  - Environmental & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 130
  
- Wednesday, December 3:
  - 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
  
- Thursday, December 4:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - TENTATIVE Village Board Special Meeting 7:00 p.m. FY15 Budget Review

**Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:**

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- Monday, December 8:
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. FY15 Budget Adoption

- Monday, December 15:
  - ONLY IF NEEDED Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Budget Adoption

**Parking restrictions eased** – As in past years, the on-street overnight parking ban will not be enforced on most residential streets during the Thanksgiving holiday. Overnight restrictions will be lifted from 2:30 a.m., Wed., Nov. 26 until 2:30 a.m., Mon. Dec. 1. 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.

**Free weekend parking begins** – Parking Services once again will bag the meters and pay by space machines in downtown Oak Park and near South Oak Park Avenue to offer free Saturday parking beginning after Thanksgiving. Parking will be free for two hours at a bagged meter, in a pay by space lot or a municipal garage on Saturdays before Dec. 25. Since parking always is free on Sunday, shoppers will be able to park for free each weekend during the promotion period.

**Village Hall closed for Thanksgiving** – Village Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28, for Thanksgiving. Residents are urged to call the Police Department non-emergency number 708.386.3800 for assistance should an incident that doesn't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency. Information on Village Hall hours is [posted on the Village website](#).

**Holiday waste collection schedule** – Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed by the Thanksgiving holiday. If your regular pick-up is on Thursday, your collection will be delayed until Friday, and Friday's collection delayed until Saturday.

**Rebate coming for garage LED lighting** – The Village has been awarded a \$285,968 [Public Sector Energy Efficiency Rebate](#) from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for the installation of LED lighting in the Avenue and Holley Court parking garages. Combined with the \$40,000 [Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant](#) received last year, the cost to the Village for the [\\$346,628 project](#) will be less than \$21,000. These lights will increase the energy efficiency in the Avenue and Holley Court Parking garages, as well as decrease electricity and maintenance costs by an estimated \$81,991 per year. In addition, the project will help to further our energy efficiency goals in both the [PlanItGreen](#) and the regional [GoTo 2040](#) plans.

**Valet parking changes** -- The Village is working with the private contractor managing the valet parking service near Lake Street and Forest Avenue to increase use. [Laz Parking](#) plans to test the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., rather than the current 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., beginning after Thanksgiving. They also intend to drop to one attendant on Monday and Tuesday, and add Saturday service. None of these changes will increase the contract amount. We supported testing these changes since only one or two cars are using the service on Mondays and Tuesdays, and usage does not start on all days until around 9 a.m. because of the available on-street parking in the morning. Laz also believes there is a market for the service on Saturdays. We will continue to track

performance to determine the effectiveness of the changes and provide periodic updates.

**Grant to help fund crossing signals** – The Village will receive a \$137,280 [Safe Routes to School Grant](#) from the state to upgrade pedestrian crossing signals to LED countdown devices and upgrade traffic controllers at 26 Village intersections. The necessary 20 percent local funding match is included in the FY2015 capital budget request. As plans continue to restore the pedestrian-activated crossing signals in the downtown business district, the Engineering Division has worked with the Disability Access Commission to ensure concerns of persons with disabilities are addressed. Based on the commission's input the new devices will feature audible tones and messages to assist people with visual disabilities. Bids for the work will be solicited and a recommendation brought to the Village Board for consideration early next year.

**Consolidated Plan public meetings** – As part of the effort to update the Village's Five Year Consolidated Plan for allocating grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, two public meetings have been scheduled for December. The first meeting will be held at 10 a.m., Thurs., Dec. 4 and the second at 7 p.m., Tues., Dec. 9. Both meetings will be in Room 101 at Village Hall. Input from these meetings, along with information gathered through more than 400 survey responses, will help determine strategies for meeting housing, community development and economic development needs for program years 2015 through 2019. Interested persons need only attend one meeting and are asked to RSVP to 708.358.5419.

**Police collecting toys for tots** – Our Police Department is an official collection point for the annual [Toys for Tots program](#). Toys may be dropped off through Dec. 21. Donated toys must be new and sealed in their original packages, but not gift wrapped. Stuffed animals cannot be accepted.

**Permit/inspection activity** – Over-the-counter permit/plan review application activity remained strong in October, but the number of applications that passed the initial plan review declined from September as more correspondence was required to document plan deficiencies. Through October, 37 cases were in the review queue with 17 cases overdue an average of nine days. Requests for construction inspections increased by 18 percent in October compared to September. Customers continued to be scheduled on the requested day as third-party inspection services supported in-house staff. The overall pass rate for inspections exceeded October target goals. Notable projects for which building or plan review applications were made or permits issued included a residential kitchen remodeling for the DIY Network; a foundation for the Oak Park Oasis; Chicago Cardiology expansion at 7039-7041 North Avenue; building shell modification for Pete's Fresh Market; and the Park District's administration building renovations. [Click here to read the full October report.](#)

**Capital improvements update** – Only punch list items remain of the season's local street and parking lot resurfacing projects. Due to the cold temperatures, temporary pavement markings will be installed on Jackson Boulevard, and replaced in the spring with permanent ones. All of the new green alleys should be opened by Thanksgiving, with remaining minor restorations completed by the end of the week. Street lights for the east-west green alley north of Lake Street and east of Forest

Avenue likely will be installed in early December. Eight of the 10 alley segments being rebuilt in the traditional program are open, with some pavement restoration work still occurring at the entrances. With the sidewalk replacement program ended for the season, residents whose alleys had to be postponed until the spring were notified of the delay. Repair is underway on the damaged Marion Street viaduct sign, but should be completed prior to Thanksgiving.

**Public Works activities** – Streets Division crews faced their first snow event of the season Saturday, as the cold temperatures made salting necessary even though the snowfall was minor. The fall leaf collection program is moving toward the final week of December 1, and crews have had to supplement their regular overnight pushing with daytime activity in a few neighborhoods to keep up with the large quantity of leaves. Ongoing routine activities also continued, with crews restoring street openings where water main breaks had been repaired, fixing signs, removing graffiti, patching potholes and replacing water meter heads. A broken valve was repaired at 1046 Grove Ave. and fire hydrants repaired at 52 N. Austin Blvd., 102 S. Elmwood Ave, 231 N. Harvey Ave., 717 Wenonah Ave. and 1423 N. Harlem Ave. A fire hydrant at 617 N. Kenilworth Ave. and a sewer lateral at 609 N. Linden Ave. are scheduled for repair next week. Routine forestry tasks also continued, including trimming, removals and stump grinding. In addition, 106 trees were scheduled to be planted this week, as crews also are removing the summer watering bags from the past plantings. The tree inventory is nearly complete, with only about 10 percent of the trees yet to be geo-located, assessed and measured. Crews continue to prep for future snow events and attended live electrical line safety demonstrations in Schaumburg and at the Cicero Fire Department.

**Recycle cooking oil** – The Village of River Forest has partnered with [SCARCE](#) and [Chicago Biofuels](#) to recycle used cooking oil. Used cooking oil can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to noon, Sat., Nov. 29 at River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. [Click here for more information.](#)

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