



Village Manager's Report Week ending November 7, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, November 10:
 - o Village Board Study Session, 7 p.m., room 101
 - o Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, November 11:
 - o Grant Writing Workshop, 6:30 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, November 12:
 - o Fair Housing Task Force, 7 p.m., room 101
 - o Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Thursday, November 13:
 - o Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - o Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - o Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 101
- Saturday, November 15:
 - o Intergovernmental Committee of the Board, 9 a.m., room 101

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Wednesday, November 19, Early Childhood Tri-Board, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

GIS Consortium collaboration – A GIS specialist has begun working with the Information Technology Department as part of the Village's recent entry into the local government [GIS Consortium](#). Oak Park is the 26th community to join the organization, which offers members access to shared resources such as GIS experts, standards, applications, training and procurement. This initiative will help the Village move toward providing a wide range of information-based services to staff, businesses and residents. More information on the GIS Consortium and other participating communities is available at www.gisconsortium.org.

Fire prevention contest winners feted – The [39th Annual Fire Prevention Week](#) poster contest meant pizza, cake and deluxe tours of the Main Fire Station for the 16 Oak Park elementary school student winners and their families in October. More than 500 entries were submitted based on this year's theme that working smoke alarms save lives.

Lake & Forest neighborhood meeting update – About 30 residents and business owners turned out Friday morning to hear an overview of the construction schedule

and ask questions of representatives from the development and construction companies. Village staff also was on hand to answer any questions related to areas under municipal jurisdiction. The gathering at the Nineteenth Century Club was cordial and questions focused primarily on impacts such as working hours, noise and traffic. A construction contact telephone number was provided. Parking & Mobility Services Director Jill Velan will be the Village's official point of contact for inquiries related to the project. [Click here to see the materials provided to the meeting attendees.](#)

Police activity update – High-priority calls for service declined in October, marking the fourth month in a row for a drop in calls. Police responded to 751 high-priority calls in October, down from 888 in September, 992 in August and 1,007 in July. June and July have been the only months so far this year where high-priority calls exceeded 1,000. Medium-priority calls, such as accidents with no injuries, continued to be the largest percentage of all calls in October, a trend that holds constant from month to month. Police were on the scene of high-priority calls in an average of three minutes and 14 seconds. Average high-priority call response time for the year is three minutes and 32 seconds. The majority of October calls to the [West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center](#) were from Oak Park, reflecting the relative populations of the participating communities. The November report will reflect calls handled by the dispatch center for Park Ridge, which has about 38,000 residents, making it second to Oak Park. [Click here to see the data.](#)

Fire Department report – Oak Park firefighters/paramedics responded to 531 calls for service in October, bringing the year-to-date total to 5,338. The 338 emergency medical services calls represented 64 percent of all calls for the month, followed by alarm initiated (18 percent), general service (13 percent) and fire/hazardous conditions (5 percent). Crews were on the scene in an average of five minutes and 29 seconds, well below the six minute industry standard. No significant fire losses occurred in October, but incidents did include a bag of burning trash in an apartment entrance lobby and a car fire. Department training focused on the Ebola issue as new guidelines emerged from the Centers for Disease Control, Illinois Department of Public Health and Loyola Medical Center. Protective equipment was fit-tested, as it is annually, to ensure responders are prepared for any type of infectious incident. The department's EMC Coordinator has been meeting weekly with health and emergency care providers to keep abreast of the latest information and guidelines. In addition, the dispatch center began asking travel questions of 911 callers when their symptoms met CDC risk guidelines.

Capital improvement projects update – The federally funded Ridgeland Avenue resurfacing project is complete, except for a few punch list items scheduled for next week. Some pavement markings and punch list items are all that remain of the season's local street and parking lot resurfacing projects. The two remaining alley segments being rebuilt under the Green Alley Program should be completed within the next two weeks. Lighting is scheduled to be installed in December in the recently complete east-west green alley north of Lake Street and west of Forest Avenue. Six of the 10 alley segments being rebuilt under the standard program now are open, with two alleys still under construction. Residents of alleys that were scheduled to be completed this year, but will be postponed until early spring, are being notified by mail of the delay, which is due to the continued concrete shortage and forecasted cold temperatures. These include the east-west alley south of North Avenue at Austin

Boulevard, and the north-south alley north of Berkshire Street between Woodbine and Kenilworth Avenues. The sidewalk replacement program finished for the season this week, about 20 percent short of the season goal due to the lack of concrete. Those segments not completed this season will be first on the list for next year's projects.

Public Works activities report – Fire hydrants were replaced at 723 N. Ridgeland Ave. and 851 Colombian Ave., and a water service upgraded at 1016 S. Scoville Ave. as part of the lead abatement program. Water meters have been upgraded at 647 locations so far this year, and another 745 property owners were notified by mail this week of their need to schedule an appointment. Last Friday's high winds caused minimal damage to trees, primarily on the north side of town, but a parkway tree did damage a private fence in the 700 block of North Kenilworth Avenue and crews responded to several requests to pick up brush. Ongoing removals of dead and diseased trees continued, as did stump grinding. Ongoing routine activities continued as well, including restoring street openings where water main breaks had been repaired, sign repair, graffiti removal and pothole patching. Crews also continued the annual ritual of [pushing leaves](#) into piles for pickup, which will continue through Dec. 4, with the final pickup scheduled for the northeast quadrant of the Village.

Mental health board volunteers needed – Fri., Nov. 14 is the deadline to apply to serve as a volunteer on the Community Mental Health Board. The board's eight members decide how Oak Park Township funds will be allocated to local agencies to address mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse. Professionals, as well as citizens with an interest in mental health issues, are encouraged to apply. If you know of anyone who might like to apply, please refer them to www.oakparktownship.org or encourage them to call 708.383.8005.

One more week to take CDBG survey – Midnight, Sun., Nov. 16 is the deadline to [take the online survey](#) that is part of the community outreach effort to create the five-year consolidated plan for Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant fund allocations. Questions are being directed to 708.358.5416 and grants@oak-park.us.

Employee news – Bill McKenna has been named the new Village Engineer after filling the post as the interim since the retirement of Jim Budrick. Bill has been with the Village for 17 years including as a civil engineer and assistant village engineer. He earned his civil engineering degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a state-licensed professional engineer. Byron N. Weiss joined the Information Technology Department as a systems analyst. An Oak Park resident, Byron has experience as a data analyst in the healthcare industry and systems administration in the manufacturing industry working on databases. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology and an information systems master's in business administration.

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