



Village Manager's Report
Weeks ending December 19, 2014 and December 26, 2014

Meetings scheduled for the next week:

- Monday, December 22:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201

- Tuesday, December 23:
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 215

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:

- Monday, January 5:
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
Preceded by an Employee Service Awards Reception and Ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Downtown project advances – The Planned Development Application was submitted Friday for a project on the Village-owned site between Lake Street and North Boulevard just east of Harlem Avenue. The redevelopment agreement with partners [Clark Street Development LLC](#) and [Lennar Multifamily Communities](#) required plans to be submitted to the Village by Jan. 1. Next steps will include an internal staff review and then referral by the Village Board to the Plan Commission, which could come as early as February. Plan Commission hearings then could occur in March. The project includes 26,000 square feet of ground floor retail, 248 luxury rental apartments and a 422-car, five-level public parking structure.

Parking restrictions eased –The overnight parking ban will not be enforced on most residential streets during the upcoming holidays. Overnight restrictions will be lifted at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Dec. 20, and resume at 2:30 a.m., Sat., Jan. 3. Restrictions will remain in effect in overnight permit-only areas, including on-street parking zones. All other parking regulations also remain in effect, including daytime posted restrictions and regulations related to traffic and public safety.

Village Hall holiday hours – Village Hall will close at noon on Wed., Dec. 24 and remain closed all day Thurs., Dec. 25. Village Hall also will be closed all day Thurs., Jan. 1. Whenever Village Hall will be closed, we urge residents to call the Police non-emergency telephone number for assistance with matters that don't quite rise to the level of a 9-1-1 emergency call. The non-emergency number is 708.386.3800.

Holiday tree fire – Firefighters responded to a structure fire shortly after 7 p.m., Tuesday, at 1426 N. Austin Blvd. that involved a natural holiday tree. The fire was brought under control within about a half hour, but not before significant damage was sustained in the second floor unit of the brick, two flat. Thanks to the quick action of the Police Department, firefighters learned upon arrival that all occupants had been safely evacuated, allowing responders to forgo rescue tasks and focus on fighting the fire. The origin of the fire is believed to have been an overloaded extension cord near a sofa and natural Christmas tree, which caused the very hot and intense flames. No injuries were sustained, but some residents complained of discomfort from the smoke and were treated at the scene. The shift commander had called for a box alarm upon his arrival as a precaution given the close proximity of neighboring buildings. Units from River Forest, Forest Park, Elmwood Park, Berwyn, North Riverside and Stickney responded, but since the fire was quickly suppressed and never extended beyond the floor of origin, they needed only provide backup support. Two families were displaced, but the Red Cross was on the scene to help with temporary housing.

Permit processing update – The volume of over-the-counter permit and plan review applications declined by about 50 percent in November from the previous month, as is typical as the construction slows for the winter. However, permit revenue increased more than \$1 million in November as fees from the Lake & Forest development were collected. Not counting these one-time major fee payments, year-to-date revenue through November was about 2 percent less than for the same period last year, as overall permit volume decreased about 11.5 percent. In addition to the permits issued for the Lake & Forest project, permits also were issued for Felony Franks, 6427 North Ave. Among the projects submitted for review in November were plans for the interior renovations of Pete's Fresh Market, 259 Lake St. and a first floor retail area expansion at 1010 Lake St. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

Garages option for vacation, guest parking – We have been reminding residents that the Holley Court Parking Garage and the Avenue Parking Garage can be convenient options for vacation or guest parking during the holidays. Maximum fee is \$15 per day.

Capital improvements – The Marion Street viaduct repair is complete, as the repaired signs were reinstalled this week. Lighting continues to be an issue on Marion Street, but the electrical subcontractor is working to make repairs. The lights for the green alley near the Lake & Forest project have been installed, but all remaining punch list items associated with other alley projects have been moved to spring 2015. Survey and design work continues for many of the capital improvement projects planned for the coming year.

Public Works Activities – Cleaning up after the fall leaf collection program now is complete, including sweeping in restricted parking spaces and problem areas. Crews power washed the bluestone sidewalks on Marion Street and under the Marion Street viaduct as part of their ongoing routine activities such as restoring street

openings where water main breaks had been repaired, fixing signs, removing graffiti and patching potholes. A broken fire hydrant valve was repaired at Madison Street and Scoville Avenue. In the coming week, a fire hydrant at Lexington Street and Clinton Avenue, and a water service leak at 230 N. Austin Blvd. are scheduled to be repaired. In addition to ongoing tree care tasks, Forestry crews had to clean up after a vandal who had poorly – and illegally – pruned trees in an area south of Madison Street, leaving debris on the parkway. Police are investigating. Forestry contractors also continued removing dead and diseased trees and grinding stumps.

Health Department transition – Deputy Village Manager Lisa Shelley will serve as the Interim Public Health Director upon the retirement of Margaret Provost-Fyfe at the end of the year. A competitive search for a new director will be initiated in the New Year. The recruitment process likely will take about 90 days.

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