



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending November 6, 2015**

**Meetings scheduled for the next week:**

- Monday, November 9:
  - Village Board Budget Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Tuesday, November 10:
  - Chair Person Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Wednesday, November 11:
  - Crime Free Housing Seminar, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, November 12:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Wednesday, November 18 – Village Tri-Board Meeting, 7 p.m., OPRFHS

**I-290 noise wall open house** – More than 130 people signed an attendance log at Thursday's Village Hall open house on the role of noise walls in the I-290 reconstruction project. The 3-D model depicting the Harlem Avenue and Austin Boulevard intersections was on display, along with aerial maps marked to show which properties would have a vote on sound walls. The Village website was brought up on the white board, allowing residents to see the [extensive archive of related information](#) they could view and the Illinois Department of Transportation's [with-and-without a wall renderings](#). A representative from IDOT joined Village staff in answering a wide range of questions about the project, many wanting more information on how the properties that will get to vote were selected. Clearly, opinions are divided on whether or not walls would be beneficial or further separate the community, which led to quite a bit of discussion among the attendees as they closely examined the maps and other information. The purpose of the open house was not to promote one view, but to provide information residents could use to make an informed decision. IDOT is expected to distribute ballots within about a week.

**Lake & Westgate update** – ComEd has received approval from the Village to begin the relocation of utility services from the Oak Park Station redevelopment site. Work is expected to begin early next week. Activities will begin at the Marion Street/South Boulevard intersection, which will close Marion to southbound traffic under the viaduct. All work on Marion Street should be completed by Thanksgiving. Two-way traffic should be maintained on North Boulevard during the work. However, the utility

relocates eventually will encroach on some public parking in the adjacent lots to make room for staging and moving garbage containers from the alley. Area businesses likely to be affected by the work will be notified and kept informed about schedules and any possible power outages.

**Zoning revisions public meeting** – A public meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., Nov. 10, in the auditorium of Gwendolyn Books Middle School for residents, business operators and property owners to learn more about [the effort underway to revise the Village's zoning rules and regulations](#). A presentation by [Camiros Ltd.](#), a Chicago-based planning and zoning firm leading the zoning project, will highlight key elements and issues of the process to date, and gather public input. A copy of the technical review report prepared for the Village will be available for download at [oakparkzoning](#) prior to the meeting. A presentation of the draft regulations for Madison Street is planned for the Plan Commission meeting Thurs., Nov. 12.

**Electronics recycling ends** – The season's final recycling event Sat., Oct. 31 set a new participation record. During four hours, 595 vehicles representing 634 households dropped off items at the Public Works Center. With the state no longer allowing electronic items in landfills, the Village has helped residents safely recycle them with a special collection event each Saturday from May through October. A tally of this season's collections will be available soon.

**Salt dome update** – The first phase of construction on a reserve road salt storage facility in Maywood is expected to be completed next week. The facility is located at the Cook County Forest Preserve Central Maintenance Facility near First Avenue and Roosevelt Road in Maywood. The facility will hold about 1,000 tons of road salt, supplementing the storage capacity inside the Public Works Center. The first phase of construction involves pouring a concrete pad to hold the salt, which will be covered with a tarp this year. By next season, walls and a cover will be added to protect the salt from the elements.

**Fire Department activity report** – October continued the trend of higher-than-normal demand for emergency medical services, as the department remains on pace to exceed last year's record total. Through October of this year, the department had responded to 5,630 calls for service, compared to the 6,418 calls fielded in all of 2014. Of the 592 calls for service received in October, 366 – or 62 percent – were for emergency medical services. October's 33 fire/hazardous conditions calls represented about 3 percent of all calls. The most significant October incident was the four-alarm fire at Washington Boulevard and Cuyler Avenue that destroyed a 22-unit apartment building. No residents were injured, but one firefighter/paramedic was treated for heat exhaustion. Extensive debris in the area of origin prevented fire investigators from determining a definitive cause. Other calls for service received in October included 79 for general service (13 percent), 60 *good intent* (10 percent), 51 alarm initiated (9 percent) and two other (2 percent). Good intent calls are a new category for calls that begin as an emergency but are determined while in route or upon arrival not to be.

**Construction activities** – With pavement markings expected to be completed this week, parkway sod restoration and punch-list items are all that remain of the season's local street paving projects. Nicor crews are continuing to replace gas

mains along Harlem Avenue. The Engineering Division has maintained communication with Nicor to ensure coordination of activities.

**Public Works Activities** –Streets Division crews completed excavation, framing and concrete work for bike pads at various locations in the community, restored roadways where water service repairs were completed and continued pushing leaves as part of the annual leaf collection program. Water & Sewer Division staff installed a 1.5-inch water service at 1426 N. Austin Blvd. as part of the lead abatement program. The Forestry Division responded to a wide range of resident trimming requests, removed hazardous trees and continued removing stumps.

**Employee news** – Communications & Social Media Coordinator Patrick Rollens has accepted a position as public information officer with the [City of Corvallis, Oregon](#). His last day with the Village will be Nov. 24. Since joining staff in August 2012, Patrick has become an important member of the Communications Department team, combining his formal journalism training and experience with an infectious enthusiasm that has helped the Village fine tune its approach to citizen engagement as messaging tools have evolved. He credited his experience here as being essential to preparing him for a new leadership role. Preliminary efforts have begun to find a suitable successor with the right mix of writing, graphic design and internet skills required for the position. Permit Supervisor John Hidalgo has become a Certified Building Official, a major achievement for building professionals. To earn the prestigious accreditation, John passed three of the program's 30-plus modules, including Building Codes & Standards, Legal and Management. Certifications by the International Code Council involve strenuous timed tests that often include multiple reference books. His self-motivated pursuit of these certifications reflects a dedication to the industry and portrays credibility and professionalism for both himself and the Development Customer Services Department.

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