



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending December 4, 2015**

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

- Monday, December 7:
  - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, December 8:
  - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
- Wednesday, December 9:
  - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - HPC/CDC/EEC Joint Awards Ceremony, 7 p.m., 19<sup>th</sup> Century Club
- Thursday, December 10:
  - Plan Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 101

**Upcoming Committee Meetings and Special Meetings:**

- Saturday, December 12: Intergovernmental Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., Township Offices
- Monday, December 14:
  - ONLY IF NEEDED Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Budget Adoption

**Preservation, environmental awards ceremony** – The Historic Preservation, Environment & Energy and Community Design commissions will present their annual awards at 6:30 p.m., Wed., Dec. 9 at the [Nineteenth Century Club](#). The awards recognize those who have demonstrated a commitment to protecting the community's unique heritage and environment. [Click here to view the official invitation](#). While the event is open to the public, anyone wishing to attend is asked to [RSVP via email](#).

**Free tours at Wright Home and Studio** – Free tours of the [Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio](#) will be offered tomorrow (Sat., Dec. 5). The first tour will begin at 10 a.m., with the final tour leaving at 4 p.m. The Home will be decked for the holidays with poinsettias, fresh flowers, evergreens and wreaths in keeping with the Wright family tradition. The event also will feature a 15-percent discount on purchases from the

Home and Studio Museum shop and free gift wrapping. More information is posted at [flwright.org/programs/homefortheholidays](http://flwright.org/programs/homefortheholidays).

**Lake to screen A Christmas Story** – The early 1980's holiday classic film *A Christmas Story* will be screened at 10 a.m., tomorrow (Sat. Dec. 5), at the Lake Theater. Free tickets are available at Community Bank of Oak Park River Forest located just across the street from the theater.

**Downtown cookie walk** – Downtown Oak Park will host its annual cookie walk from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow (Sat. Dec. 5). A \$20 participation fee includes a souvenir cookie tin and a map of more than 45 shops and restaurants where participants go to collect cookies or candy at each stop. Saint Nicholas (aka Santa Claus) will be on Marion Street along with a variety of family friendly acts. A hospitality tent near Lake Street will provide warmth as well as free hot chocolate and coffee. [More details are included in this VOP-TV video.](#)

**Free weekend parking promotion** – Staff has continued to promote the free holiday season weekend parking in the business district garages, bagged meters and certain pay by space lots. With the decision to delay the closing of the Lake and Westgate area surface lots until after Christmas, the free parking should be a boon to the downtown businesses. The Holley Court and Avenue garages offer the biggest benefit, since the free parking essentially is unlimited on Saturdays, while free parking is limited to two hours by meters and in lots. We also are reminding residents and visitors that parking always is free on Sundays.

**Marion crosswalk repair** – Work on the Marion Street crosswalk at Lake Street is scheduled to begin on Monday (Dec. 7) and continue through the week. Work will begin on the west half of the crosswalk, which will require closing the southbound lane. Work then will move to the east side, closing the northbound lane. A flagger will be on hand to help direct traffic and ensure pedestrian safety. Work also will occur on the crosswalks at the entryways to the Village lots connected to Marion Street. Work then will move to the South Boulevard and Marion Street intersection, following a similar process of closing one lane as each side is completed. This work also is expected to take about a week.

**Nicor work update** – Nicor contractors continued replacing gas mains along Oak Park Avenue and adjacent side streets. While most of the work related to mains has been completed, Nicor expects to continue replacing individual services throughout the winter and into the spring. Village engineers have continued to maintain frequent contact with Nicor to ensure coordination with other projects and activities that might create conflicts or opportunities to reduce the impact on property owners. While significant restoration works remains to be completed, the Village will continue to monitor the status of Nicor's progress.

**Woodbine traffic diverter** – The permanent concrete traffic diverter has been installed on Woodbine Avenue south of North Avenue. Only landscaping work remains to be completed.

**Public Works activities** – Streets Division crews wrapped up the last of week of the annual leaf collection program. Final cleanup will occur next week in conjunction with ongoing street sweeping. Crews also salted streets for the Wednesday's snow event.

Installation of bicycle racks continued at various locations within the Village. Crews also repaired street openings where water leaks had been fixed and picked up litter in the business districts and Village parking lots. A broken water valve on the southeast corner of Erie and Linden avenues and a sewer lateral at 542 N. Ridgeland Ave. were repaired. Routine forestry tasks continued, including responding to resident requests and removing hazardous trees. Crews also raised the canopies of numerous trees along the curbside of many streets to provide clearance for leaf pushing and snow plowing. Pruning of young trees in the south part of the Village also continued.

**Employee news** – The relocation of several operations within Village Hall got underway in earnest this week, following a new coat of paint throughout most of the first floor. Carpet installation began Friday in what will be the new home of the Development Customer Services Department and new furniture is scheduled to be installed over the weekend. This is the first phase of a three-phase plan to give the first floor of Village Hall a much-needed facelift this fiscal year. Work is scheduled to move to other areas of the building in 2016. These improvements, the first in many years, are intended to improve working conditions, which should translate into an improved customer experience at Village Hall.

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