



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending November 4, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, November 7:
 - Village Board Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., room 130
 - Village Board Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, November 8:
 - No scheduled meetings
- Wednesday, November 9:
 - Community Relations Commission, 6 p.m., room 201
 - Farmers Market Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
- Thursday, November 10:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m., room 101
 - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
 - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., room 201
- Friday, November 11:
 - No scheduled meetings

Save the Date

- Monday, Nov. 14, Village Board Special meeting FY17 Recommended Budget, 6:30 p.m., Room 101
- Thursday, Nov. 17, Village Board Special meeting FY17 Recommended Budget, 6:30 p.m., Room 101

Early voting continues thru Monday – Early voting for the 2016 Presidential Election will continue through Monday (Nov. 7) at Village Hall. Polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. today (Friday), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday. The Village also is a grace period-site that allows individuals to register and then vote immediately. Voter activity remained somewhat slow, but steady throughout the week. However, the Cook County workers managing the polls in Village Hall say they expect a lot of activity through the weekend as the early voting deadline approaches. A security guard will be on hand to help ensure order if necessary.

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday – Standard time officially returns at 2 a.m., Sunday (Nov. 6), and clocks should be set back one hour. Each year at this time, our Fire Department urges residents to use the time change as a reminder to replace batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Working detectors can double the chances of

survival by providing critical extra time for safe escape, they say. More information on fire safety is posted on our website www.oak-park.us/fire.

Electricity aggregation program enrollment begins – Oak Park's electricity aggregation vendor began the enrollment process this week with mailings to those customers who already participate as well as those who might want to join in the community program for the first time. Electricity customers who receive a letter from Constellation Energy Services, but already participate in the Village's aggregation program will be enrolled automatically on Dec. 1, unless they choose to opt out by following the instructions in the letter. The deadline to opt out or enroll is Nov. 30. [Click here to read more](#).

Public invited to evening with Police Chief – [Police Chief Anthony Ambrose](#) will participate in a public forum next week sponsored by the Community Relations Commission. The forum is set for 6 to 8 p.m., Wed., Nov. 9 in the Council Chamber. The event will focus on Chief Ambrose's vision of policing, and include a discussion of what to do if stopped by the police, department training processes and certifications, and nurturing positive community collaboration. Community Relations Director Cedric Melton will moderate the forum, which will include a question- and-answer session.

Fire Department report – October saw a continued increase in calls for emergency medical services. The Department remains on pace to field about 6,600 calls for service in 2016, which would be just below last year's record number. The 375 EMS calls in October represented about 63 percent of the monthly total, followed by 95 general service calls (16 percent), 49 good-intent calls (8 percent), 41 alarm-initiated calls (7 percent) and 32 fire/hazardous conditions calls (5 percent). Firefighter/paramedics made contact with 370 patients in October, transporting 347 to a medical facility. Of those transported 124 required advanced life support services. The department also responded to five structure fires in October, including one in the storage area of a residential contractor's building on Madison Street that caused considerable loss of materials from smoke and water damage. On a lighter note, the department hosted a community open house in October, attracting an estimated 225 visitors for equipment demonstrations, safety information and hotdogs. The department is considering making the open house an annual event as a forum for educating the community on the importance fire safety.

Downtown construction updates – Concrete was poured this week for the alley and adjacent areas being reconstructed just north of Westgate Street and west of Marion Street as part of the Elevate Oak Park redevelopment project. The alley is scheduled to reopen next week. Crews installed granite for the integrated sidewalk planters and bluestone pavers in the sidewalk areas for the new outdoor dining area on South Boulevard, west of Marion Street. Work to prepare for the installation of new tree grates and light poles will continue through the end of next week, keeping the project on target to be suspended later this month for the winter and coming redevelopment of the site on the south side of South Boulevard. Crosswalk repairs are scheduled to resume next week on Marion Street between Lake and Pleasant streets. Work will be staged to minimize impact and flaggers will be on site to ensure safe traffic flow.

Water/sewer main replacement – The water main replacement on the 500 and 600 blocks of Highland Avenue was completed this week. Chlorination of the main was scheduled for this week, with the goal of switching individual property water services to the new main beginning Monday (Nov. 7). Catch basins also were replaced this week.

Miscellaneous construction projects – Re-installation of the electro-magnetic vehicle detector loops for the traffic signals and restoration of the parkways continued this week on Chicago Avenue as part of the repaving project. A final walk through is scheduled next week on Harrison Street where new lighting was recently installed. The season’s final round of local resurfacing projects wrapped up this week with parkway restoration and remaining punch-list items. Pavement markings were installed this week at various bicycle-parking facilities around the Village, in anticipation of delivery of new shelters and racks within a month. Pavement markings also were completed this week on streets that were microsurfaced. Nicor has begun replacing parkway sod in northwest Oak Park where new gas mains and services had been installed. Surveying started this week to collect data points for next year’s roadway and utility projects.

Village Hall Garage Repairs – Concrete was poured this week for the final surface of the roadway deck by the south entrance to Village Hall over the underground Police garage that is undergoing extensive structural repairs. The pedestrian bridge remains in place, but the end of the project appears in sight – at least for employees and visitors who rely on the south entrance for access. The concrete will be tested next week to gauge if it has cured sufficiently to carry traffic. The drive could be open by the end of next week.

Public Works Activities – Street Division crews continued their annual task of pushing leaves overnight as part of the leaf collection program. Temporary no-parking signs are being posted in areas where collection is challenging for the equipment needed to pick up the growing mounds of leaves. A water main valve had to be replaced this week at Jackson Boulevard and Oak Park Avenue, but impact on traffic was minimal. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water service leak at Harvard and Kenilworth avenues, leaking water valves on Chicago Avenue at Ridgeland and Harvey avenues, and broken fire hydrants at 820 and 841 S. Oak Park Ave. The Forestry Division is preparing to plant 194 trees next week as part of the regular fall planting schedule.

Employee news – The Public Works Department held its annual snow removal training session this week in preparation for the coming winter. Training included classroom review of the snow response plan, snow routes and safety guidelines, as well as hands-on exercises preparing and operating the equipment. Interim Public Health Director Mike Charley joined Illinois Regional Public Health Director Joseph Harrington as featured speakers at a recent Oak Park Public Library *More than a Month* discussion series. Mike’s session was addressed African American health and wellness. Focusing on the social determinants of health, Mike also spoke about the work underway in the community to protect the public’s health.

###