



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending January 25, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Jan. 28:
  - Village Board Personnel Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m., room 130
  - Village Board Special Meeting, 7:30p.m., Council Chamber
  - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Room 101
  
- Tuesday, Jan. 29:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Wednesday, Jan. 30:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Thursday, Jan. 31:
  - No meetings scheduled
  
- Friday, Feb. 1:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Warming centers open** – [Warming centers](#) are open 24 hours a day at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 500 S. Maple Ave. and from 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. at West Suburban Medical Center, Erie Street at Austin Boulevard. Oak Park Township, 130 S. Oak Park Ave., is a warming center for seniors age 60 and over from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays. [Housing Forward](#) also can help find overnight shelters in various locations - just call 888.338.1744. If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800. Village Hall, 123 Madison St., also is a warming center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays. This information is posted on the Village website and has been disseminated multiple times this season via the Village's communications tools, including on social media.

**Parking pilot update** – Approximately 90 new metered parking spaces on Madison Street between Harlem and Oak Park avenues began accepting payment this week, as the first component of the 2019 Parking Pilot Program was implemented. About a 100 parking transactions were logged in the first two days of operation. Parking Enforcement Officers will continue to issue warnings through this month to allow parkers to adjust to the new metered spaces.

**Temporary Forest Avenue closure** – Forest Avenue is scheduled to be closed the week of Feb. 4 from Lake Street north to the alley by Austin Gardens to allow removal of a tower crane from the Albion construction site. The work originally was scheduled for next week, but postponed due to the prediction of extreme cold. The crane removal will require closing this section of roadway around the clock and mean that vehicles will only be able to access the Nineteenth Century Club and Lake and Forest

garage from the north. The alley between the project site and Austin Gardens also will be closed to vehicles at Forest Avenue. Public parking spaces in the area will be assigned temporarily to the Park District for activity drop-offs at the Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center. Extensive signage will be in place to redirect traffic during this time.

**Lake Street construction update** –Due to delays in acquiring the required easements for streetscape improvements, work planned for Lake Street generally referred to as the Lake Street Streetscape Project will be rescheduled for 2020. Staff met with representatives of the downtown business districts who voiced support for pushing all of the work into 2020, rather than separating projects across 2019 and 2020. Lake Street improvements include work that is being bid by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Village water and sewer improvements and the resurfacing of Lake Street from Euclid Avenue to Austin Boulevard. Work under the public sidewalk associated with installing underground traffic signal equipment for the Lake and Forest intersection will be bid and presented to the Village Board for completion in 2019 so that it can be completed in conjunction with the current construction at Albion site to minimize future pedestrian disruption of the area.

**Snow response** – The snow that began to fall last Friday (Jan. 18) kept crews on the streets all weekend plowing and salting. The snow ultimately accumulated 7.5 inches. The [snow emergency parking plan was activated in advance](#), and parking remained restricted until 7 a.m., Monday (Jan. 21), which helped the plows clear the snow routes and residential streets. Crews were back on the streets Tuesday (Jan. 22) as freezing rain and mixed precipitation created hazardous travel conditions into Wednesday (Jan. 23). In addition to keeping the streets clear, crews also focused on salting school crossings and overpasses by the public transit stations to ensure safe pedestrian travel.

**Miscellaneous project updates** – Crews finished the driveway entrance to the [Eleven33](#) development on South Boulevard east of Harlem Avenue, while installation of the sidewalk along the development's frontage continued. Bike racks have been installed at the [District House development](#) on Lake Street at Euclid Avenue. Light poles and planters will be installed as weather permits. Sewer main inspections and cleaning continued this week at various locations throughout the Village with minimal disruption to traffic flow.

**Public Works activities** –Staff activities across all divisions including Forestry have been focused on responding to the winter weather that has kept crews on the job and on call around the clock. Streets Division crews filled 150 potholes and cut a pavement opening for a sewer repair at Ontario Street and Taylor Avenue. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a water main break at Oak Park Avenue and LeMoyné Street, and continued the annual fire hydrant inspections and maintenance at various locations. Winter parkway tree pruning has continued as weather allows, with crews currently working in the vicinity of East Avenue between Madison and Harrison streets.

**Employee news** – Gaurav Gaonkar has joined the Public Health Department as the Emergency Preparedness & Response Coordinator. Prior to joining the Health Department team, he led the City of Evanston's public health emergency preparedness program. Gaurav duties with the Village will include coordinating

disaster response, crisis management, disaster preparedness training and maintaining emergency plans and procedures for potential local disasters. He also will manage our local [volunteer Medical Reserve Corps](#) and all emergency preparedness grant deliverables. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a Master of Public Health degree from Benedictine University.

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