WEEKLY REPORT JANUARY 23, 2026

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT (1/23/2026)

Happy 2026 Village People!

In the book, "A Tale of Paraguay" there is the line: "A lively tale, fraught with food for thought." We know the phrase: "Food for thought" is an idiom that translates to when you come across an idea that intrigues you, you need to give it some serious thought.

Villa Park Fire Station 81 is about to begin some serious renovations to:

1) Repair the severely deteriorated apparatus bay floor,

2) Improve and increase inadequate restrooms and shower facilities, and

3) Overhaul the current HVAC system to improve heating and ventilation systems, mold remediation, and better fresh air circulation.

This does not sound like a lot, but the renovations are expected to last 4-5 months. During this time, the firefighters and their administration moved into the Iowa Recreation Center (ICC). The ICC was vacated and everyone there moved to the new Villa Park Recreation Center (VPRC). The ICC gymnasium and stage were converted to house the big red firetrucks and ambulance. The ICC classrooms and offices were converted to make the place accommodate a functioning fire department 24-7. I toured the facility with Villa Park Fire Chief Steve Stapleton on Monday, January 19, 2026. I was thoroughly impressed with the conversion of the facility. One thing I know about firefighters, (from an old cop's perspective), is they know how to make a house a home. Meaning, they figure out the best way to use the space to make the ICC not just livable, but a place they can be proud to work and sleep out of.

What does an idiom have to do with the ICC-Firehouse conversion? Chief Stapleton threw out the idea of what if instead of renovating Station 82 (On Plymouth) we make Station 82's permanent home at ICC. Also, he said they could repurpose the land where Station 82 currently is into green space? That is not just some food for thought that is enough food to feed an army. We as a Village are struggling to find affordable options to create workspace to deliver Village services.

One of the primary benefits of converting a park district building into a firehouse is cost efficiency. New construction projects often involve significant expenses related to land acquisition, infrastructure development, and extended construction timelines. By contrast, reusing an existing building reduces demolition costs and takes advantage of established utilities, and road access. Funds saved through adaptive reuse can instead be invested in updated firefighting equipment, increasing staffing levels and improved training resources, all of which directly enhance emergency response capabilities.

Renovating an existing structure reduces construction waste and limits the environmental impact associated with new materials and land disturbance. Incorporating energy-efficient upgrades—such as modern insulation, solar panels, and efficient heating and cooling systems—can further reduce long-term operational costs and align the firehouse with modern environmental standards. This demonstrates a commitment to responsible development while serving essential public needs.

Lastly, the thought of putting a park where Station 82 was on Plymouth could be just the developmental spark that area needed. Do we add a pocket park, splash pad, dog park or inclusive park.

Sincerely,

Mike Rivas

Village Manager

All Commission Meetings and Board Meetings have resumed at Village Hall, 20 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park, IL

<u>Upcoming Meetings & Events</u>
<u>January 26, 2026 7:00 p.m.</u>

Village Board of Trustees Meeting
Village Hall, Board Room
20 S. Ardmore Avenue
Villa Park, IL

- Pledge of Allegiance led by the VFW #2801.
- Swearing in of Firefighter Paramedics Evan Swanson, William Schermer, and Steve Schimanski.
- Appointment of Michelle McDonald as Chairperson of F.U.N. Commission
- Resolution approving an Engineering agreement with Edwin Hancock Engineering Company for the Phase I and Phase II Engineering for the Adams and Frank Street Resurfacing Project

The village's Jackson Pond Improvement Project was recognized this week with an award from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Suburban Branch.

Department Reports

Administration:

Village Manager

- Village Manager met with Department Heads for one on one meetings.
- Village Manager hosted a Village wide Department Head meeting to review upcoming Agenda for January 26, 2026 Board Meeting.
- Village Manager and Village staff met with a Records Management specialist on a possible proposal for records retention.
- Village Manager took an extensive tour of the Iowa Recreation Center and the work done to house the Fire Department.
- Village Manager held a meeting with some Parks Department Staff to go over the punch list to prepare the Village Board Meetings for public use.
- Village Manager was out of the office on Friday, January 23, 2026.

Manager's Note: We will not include notes from the weekly Department Head meetings in the Weekly Report. Issues and items discussed are often of a sensitive nature and not for public consumption. If a Department Head should mention something beneficial for public consumption, we will add the item to the Weekly Report.

HR Manager

- Handled several confidential Personnel matters
- Payroll meetings
- Continue updating all payroll adjustments for 2026
- Prepare report for upcoming Agenda.
- Attend Dept Head meeting.

Assistant Village Manager

- Attended and coordinate the Plan Commission Meeting.
- Attended the APWA Suburban Branch awards banquet for the presentation of the 2025 Project of the Year in the category of Environmental Projects between $5 million and $25 million
- Attended meetings with Engineering to discuss the final scope and budget for the Washington Sewer Separation Section II project for submission for IEPA project plan approval.
- Attended the first coordination meeting with representatives for the Union Development
- Working AFSCME to get the approved union contract signed.
- Reviewed proposed request for qualifications for Engineering Consultants for Phase II engineering services.
- Reviewed the initial draft of the Kluber's Space Needs Analysis of the Village Buildings along Home Ave.
- Worked on submitting requested information for the implementation of AquaHawk software.
- Worked on updating the 5 year capital plans

Police Department

January 14, 2026 – January 20, 2026

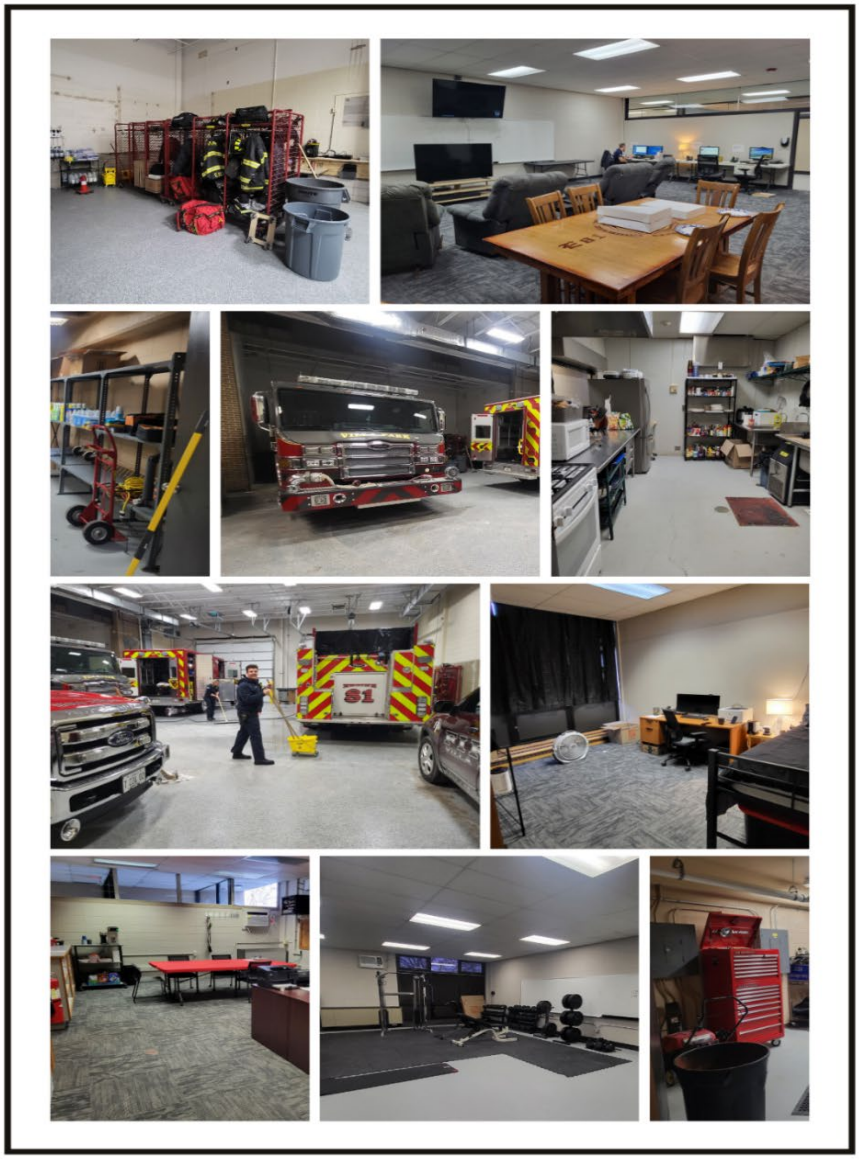
- January 14, 2026, Chief Kubish, Village Manager Rivas and the Village of Lombard met to discuss traffic issues on Highridge & Westmore-Meyers.
- January 16, 2026, Chief Kubish, Deputy Chief Svara, Deputy Chief Pagan & Christina attended the graduation ceremony for Sergeant Jesus Landa from Northwestern Staff and Command School.
- January 19th, 2026, Deputy Chief Pagan has officially begun his week-long class at FBI LEEDA.
- January 19th, 2026, ETSB conducted radio encryption of police radios.
- Sergeant Bryan Hruby has begun his 4-month long class at Northwestern Staff and Command School.

Fire Department

January 14, 2026 – January 20, 2026

- Fire Department crews responded to 60 EMS and fire calls, continued EMS CPR recertification, and participated in Stryker Xpedition Stair Chair in-service training to support ongoing operational readiness.
- Fire Department personnel continued professional development by attending the Company Fire Officer course in Romeoville, IL, and Chief Fire Officer Phase II course in Orland Park, IL.
- Fire Department Administration participated in several key meetings, including the MABAS Division XII Deputy Chiefs, DU-COMM Fire Operations, Ambulance Billing/GEMT Review with Paramedic Billing Services, Station 81 pre-Construction asbestos discussions, and ETSB podcast updates.
- On Sunday, January 18, 2026, at approximately 7:53 a.m., the Villa Park Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 109 N. Yale. Villa Park Engine 82 and Engine 81 were the first units to arrive on scene and found a single-story, detached garage heavily involved in fire. Firefighters from Villa Park quickly deployed a hose line and initiated an aggressive fire attack, knocking down the bulk of the fire within the first few minutes of the incident. Mutual aid companies assisted by checking the interior of the residence for fire extension caused by radiant heat from the garage fire. The fire was brought under control and remained confined to the garage, with minor damage to a small portion of the home's exterior siding. At the time of the incident, multiple family members were inside the residence but were able to safely self-evacuate prior to the fire department's arrival. All occupants and pets were accounted for, and no injuries were reported. The Villa Park Fire Department was assisted by the Lombard, Elmhurst, Addison, and York Center Fire Departments, as well as the Villa Park Police Department. The department's Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) conducted the origin and cause investigation.
- Please join us on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall for our Swearing-In Ceremony honoring Evan Swanson, William Schermer, and Steve Schimanski, who have successfully completed their probationary year and earned their roles as full-time Firefighter Paramedics. A reception will take place at 5:30 p.m. at Temporary Fire Station 81, located at 338 N. Iowa Ave.

- On Monday, January 19, 2026, Fire Station 81, located at 1440 S. Ardmore Ave. successfully completed its move to Temporary Fire Station 81 located at 338 N. Iowa Ave. Sincere thanks to IT, Parks, Public Works, and the Fire Department team for their hard work and dedication in ensuring a smooth and successful transition. The Fire Department appreciates the continued support of the Village Manager and Board of Trustees, whose leadership made this transition possible.



Information Technology

Hardware-

- Four new cameras were installed at village hall and two at public works.
- Jefferson pool switch has been replaced.
- Pots line at the pool has been replaced with cellular device.
- Hooked up communications specialist in new office.
- Hooked up payroll/HR in new office.
- Helped configure new forensic computer at PD.

Miscellaneous-

- Working with the copier vendor to negotiate a renewed lease agreement.

Communications

Social Media:

- Fire Station 81 moved to ICC
- Structure Fire Notice
- AAUW Returning Student Scholarship
- Sgt. Landa graduating Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command
- Det. Giammarino and Dete. Banaszewski receiving the 2026 Reclaiming Pathway Awards
- Cold weather warnings

Website:

- Posted FY 2026 budget to Finance page
- Updated Community Events page
- Continuing adding keywords to webpages to improve search function
- Continuing to replace PDF forms with online forms

Other:

- Updated Reach TV in VH
- Added images to the Village Hall elevator screen
- Continuing website reorganization draft
- Continuing updating keywords to website to improve search
- Finished email signature templates for staff

Community and Economic Development

- Met to discuss court processes with Police Department for coordination with programs utilized for notifications
- Reviewed personnel software being implemented by the Village
- Reviewed with staff recent property complaints
- Met with a prospective business owner
- Holding first coordination meeting with the Union
- Coordinated with SHPO on documentation of 110 S. Villa building prior to demolition

Library

Meetings and More

- Department Heads meeting
- Village Department Heads meeting
- Rotary meeting
- Kiwanis meeting
- Displays: Book to Movie Adaptations in 2026
- Friends of the VPPL meeting
- Chamber of Commerce meeting

Programs and Services

- Toddler Time (4 sessions)
- Crafternoons
- Book Discussions: Books Worth Talking About, Nothing but the Facts, Mystery Readers
- Babies & Books (2 sessions)
- Life Skills: Sewing Basics
- Moana's Beach Party
- Marvelous Mornings
- Bring History to Life
- Windows Fundamentals
- Nature Storytime with Morton Arboretum
- Ready for Reading
- Lego Builders Club
- Steam for Tweens & Teens
- WOW: Worlds of Wonder
- Essentrics with Lisa
- Spice Club

Parks and Recreation

Administration

- Staff met to discuss updating documents and processes for rentals.
- Staff met to discuss moving offices around at Village Hall.
- Staff met with Midwest Environmental and Valor at Station 81 for a pre-construction meeting prior to abatement.
- Staff coordinated with Next Day Access to remove the temporary ramp at Village Hall.
- Staff met with BEAR Construction at Village Hall to review the facility for a forced heating and cooling system.
- Staff met at Police to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects at the facility.

Parks, Buildings & Grounds Division

- Staff met with owners of Villa Perk at the Metra building to review the facility.
- Staff reinstalled railings at the east exterior entrance of Village Hall, railings were removed to allow for the temporary ramp.
- Staff worked with contractors to perform fire alarm inspections at the Police Department and Station 82.
- Staff work/repairs continue with facility renovations, routine maintenance, maintenance and repairs of Park facilities, HVAC repairs, pluming repairs, electrical repairs, inspections, and daily/weekly disinfecting cleanings and organizing of equipment, vehicles, and facilities.

Communication's Specialist

- Updated internal documents/handbooks to meet communications policy standards
- Drafted Sponsorship/Advertising Terms & Conditions
- Met with staff to further discuss the creation of a Corporate Membership
- Met with Director to discuss finalizing prices for Sponsorship/Advertising
- Met with Parks to discuss implementation of ongoing construction projects to website
- Attended 'Lexington in the Kitchen' trip for program pictures

Social Media Posts:

- Free Fitness Week (1/26-2/1) Promotions
- Chick-Fil-A Breakfast Bingo Pictures
- Lexington in the Kitchen Pictures
- Valentine's Day Social
- Valentine's Day Ceramics Class
- Riot Cookies Valentine's Decorating Class
- Glitzy Girlz Winter White Glam Night Class
- Pickleball – Session 2

Recreation Division

- Rec Staff met for the weekly staff meeting on 1/14/2026.
- 42 participants in Little Learners Club week of 1/19.
- Discover Dance Picture Day is scheduled for Saturday 1/24.
- Hired new adult volleyball referee to finish out winter/spring session.
- Adult/Senior Programs-(59 participants)
    - Casino trip 1/12, Hollywood, Aurora
    - Lunch and Learn w/Steuerle/Knollcrest 1/13
    - Fun with Watercolors 1/15
    - Let's do Lunch Carryout 1/15
- Front desk ambassador's draft schedule of Feb 2-8 was released.
- Staff were represented at the January 20 Villa Park Mariners Parent board meeting.
- Family Bingo 1/16, 25 participants

Finance Department

Finance Director Mika accomplished the following:

- Continued compilation and production of the official 2026 budget book
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable invoices
- Attended the weekly department head meeting
- Reviewed and approved the 1.26.26 Bill List
- Responded to questions from auditor L&A regarding the draft of the 2024 audit
- Attended training on Frontline with HR Manager
- Completed the statistics portion of the 2024 audit and forwarded
- Conference call with Wintrust Bank regarding financing for Village vehicles
- Began conducting interviews for the vacant Finance Specialist position
- Compiled monthly financial report for December 2025 for the Board
- Compiled memo for Revenue and Expense Report for January 2026 for the Board
- Reviewed transfers needed for 2025 as well as any budget amendments and emailed department heads

The Finance staff accomplished the following:

- Balanced daily cash drawer, prepared bank deposits and posted to General Ledger
- Processed and approved A/P invoices
- Processed various over the counter payments
- Processed the check run and mailed out all checks for 1.19.26
- Responded to all residents' requests.
- Working on compensated absences spreadsheet
- Began working on water meter reads for bills being mailed out January 30
- Worked on paperwork necessary for upcoming Liquor Commission meeting
- Continued journal entries for 2025

ENG/Public Works

The village's Jackson Pond Improvement Project was recognized this week with an award from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Suburban Branch. The Jackson Pond Project won the branch award for 2025 Project of the Year in the category of Environmental Projects between $5 million and $25 million. The project will now move on for consideration in the same category by the APWA Chicago Metro Chapter.

ENG/Public Works continued…

- Public Works staff has submitted an application to DuPage County for a highway permit for the relocation of Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin Railroad Car #321 to a site next to the Ardmore Avenue historic train depot (the current Villa Park Chamber of Commerce).
- Public Works crews responded to a snow and ice event last weekend that extended from Sunday into Monday. Crews ran plow trucks through routine checks and maintenance by Fleet Maintenance staff following the completion of the event.
- A contractor is currently performing necessary repairs at the village's Wet Weather Flow Treatment Facility (WWFTF).
- Utilities Division staff repaired a water main break in the 1200 block of South Ardmore Avenue.
- Public Works staff continues to participate in regular coordination efforts pertaining to construction of The Union development.
- Staff attended training with Human Resources this week on the new Frontline employee evaluation system.
- Permanent repairs to the aviation warning light on the Princeton Avenue Elevated Water Storage Tank are ongoing. A new electrical panel has been installed. Installation of new electrical conduit is tentatively scheduled for next week.
- Staff held a design engineering progress meeting with the engineering consultant for the Washington Area Sewer Separation Project this week. The project is close to obtaining IEPA loan planning approval. Following the receipt of loan planning approval, the village will need to consider an ordinance authorizing the borrowing of IEPA loan funds for the project.
- Streets Division staff continued pothole patching operations this week. These operations will be weather dependent for the foreseeable future.
- Forestry Division staff is in the process of completing area tree trimming.
- Utilities Division staff conducted routine sewer flushing and structure cleaning.
- Public Works plow trucks were brought through the garage and checked over and greased after salting and plowing.
- Public Works forestry truck 9 had rebuilt hydraulic cylinders installed back onto truck.
- Public Works car 8 was in the shop for an oil change, to replace a leaking water pump, and to replace HVAC mode motor.
- Police car 151 was in the shop and had a new battery installed, several wires in the grill area also had to be repaired due to mice chewing on wires.
- Police car 189 was taken to the dealer for rough running engine car is under warranty.
- Police cars 189 and 195 were in the shop and had new tires installed.
- Set up of new police vehicle 188 is ongoing.
- Police car 193 has had police accessories removed to be recycled into another car, stickers were removed and car will now be used for District 45 SRO officer.
- Surplus items auction ended last week, and items are being picked up.