

WEEKLY REPORT FEBRUARY 6, 2026



VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT (2/6/2026)

New flash: Dateline Villa Park! "We have a rat problem!"

On January 26th, 2026, we had Villa Park residents come to the Village Board Meeting and state during public comments that there is a serious rat infestation on the north side of the Village. I have had others come forward to talk about the same issue. We were given pictures and videos of numerous rats. The only thing I could think about was the 70's horror movies: "Willard" and "Ben". We will have to be aggressive and swift with our public information and actions to make sure the problem does not become greater than we can handle.

This week, Village Staff held a meeting to go over everyone's role in combating the rat problem. First, our Communications Specialist posted on social media, and on our Village Website, very informative, detailed information on how we could all do our part to combat the rat infestation problem. The Villa Park Fire Department will correspond with the County Health Department and the County Emergency Management agencies for any additional resources or information. The Public Works Department will reach out to all multi-unit buildings with dumpsters to make sure they are all using our garbage vendor LRS so we can have better responsiveness and accountability. We will also make sure that if additional garbage pick-ups are necessary, we will hold the building owners accountable. Our Code Enforcement Officers in the Community and Economic Development Department will enforce all health and sanitary violations for excess, overflowing garbage and abandoned vehicles. The Police Department will handle all abandon or inoperable vehicles that become a breeding ground for rat infestation. Our Village Engineers will create a "heat map" to show locations of garbage bins with and overlay of rat infestation reports. The Village Parks Department will ensure the public areas around the train station will be kept clean and tidy. Parks will also look at possible environmentally safe substances to combat the rats. We are also bringing in a local pest control service to consult with us on our approach.

Why go to all this trouble you may ask? Rat infestations is a serious problem that poses health risks and impacts community well-being. Rats are attracted to areas with abundant food sources, water, and shelter. Common contributing factors include overflowing garbage bins, improper disposal of food waste, and neglected properties with overgrown vegetation or clutter. Construction projects and sewer system disturbances can also displace rodents, pushing them into residential neighborhoods.

Rats are carriers of diseases such as leptospirosis, salmonella, and hantavirus. Their presence can contaminate food supplies and damage property by gnawing on wires, insulation, and structural components, creating fire hazards and costly repairs.

By combining proactive community engagement, strict sanitation practices, and professional intervention, Villa Park can significantly reduce rat populations and prevent future outbreaks. We sincerely hope all will join us in our fight against this community problem.

Respectfully,

Mike Rivas
Village Manager



Upcoming Meetings & Events

**Village Hall, 2nd Floor
20 S. Ardmore Avenue
Villa Park, IL**

Coffee with the Board 9:00am

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026

Village Hall, 2nd fl.
20 S. Ardmore
Villa Park, IL 60181

February 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Village Board of Trustees Committee
of the Whole Meeting
Village Hall, 2nd fl.

- GEMT and Ambulance Billing
- PW – Parks - Status of Project
- CED/Engineering Project Maps

February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Village Board of Trustees Meeting
Village Hall, 2nd fl.

- Proclamation Recognizing February 2026 as Black History Month
- Resolution Authorizing Financing from Hinsdale Bank & trust for the purchase of 4 vehicles
- Ordinances Approving purchase of 4 vehicles.
- Sugar Creek Dewberry Architect Presentation
- Ordinance Amending Section 14-207(c), No Parking Zones of the Villa Park Municipal Code

Fourth Annual Cocoa Crawl
tickets on sale now at the
Villa Park Library!

Administration:

Village Manager

- Village Manager met with Department Heads for one on one meeting.
- Village Manager hosted a meeting with all Department Heads.
- Village Manager hosted a meeting with relevant Staff Members to address the reports of Rats in a concentrated area.
- Village Manager met with Trustee Kumar to go over updates on several items.
- Village Manager attended the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Union Project.
- Village Manager met with key staff members to discuss a personnel issue.
- Village Manager was out of the office on Friday, February 6, 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

- Attended Department Heads meeting.
- Attended various other meetings.
- Handled Personnel issues.
- Continued end-of-year processes

Police Department

January 28, 2026 – February 3, 2026

- Deputy Chief Svara has been coordinating the relocation of the IT closet.
- Deputy Chief Pagan met with Val to discuss continued coordination of the BFPC police testing process.
- Chief Kubish, Deputy Chief Pagan, and Deputy Chief Svara held a meeting to review and discuss resolutions concerning the purchase of new police cars.

Fire Department

January 28, 2026 – February 3, 2026

- Fire Department crews responded to 75 EMS and fire calls this week and completed training focused on adverse driving conditions and PALS recertification.
- Fire Department personnel took part in external training opportunities, including attendance at the Inspector I course in Romeoville, and participation in the MABAS Division XII Hazardous Materials drill held in Hanover Park.
- Fire Department Training Committee met to review current operational procedures and discuss ongoing and future training initiatives.
- Fire Department Administration actively engaged in several key meetings, including Good Samaritan Emergency Medical Services System (GSEMSS) Fire Chiefs, Area Chiefs, DU-COMM Board of Directors, GSEMSS/Vector startup, and Station 81 project discussions.
- Fire Department members enjoyed an Employee Appreciation Lunch generously provided by the Village.
- Engine 81 and Medic 81 proudly led the Willowbrook High School Dance Team in a community send-off to the IHSA State Finals! Congratulations to the team on their achievement!

Parks and Recreation

Administration

- Staff met with Critter Control on 2/6 to discuss a potential issue.
- Staff attended the NEDSRA board meeting on 2/4.
- Staff attended IPRA Conference on 1/30.
- Staff are working with Robe Inc. on an HVAC improvement project at PD for the IT rooms.

Parks, Buildings & Grounds Division

- Staff work/repairs continue with facility renovations, routine maintenance, maintenance and repairs of Park facilities, HVAC repairs, plumbing repairs, electrical repairs, inspections, and daily/weekly disinfecting cleanings and organizing of equipment, vehicles, and facilities.

Communications Specialist

- Continued work on Parks & Rec sponsorship and advertising program.
- Began reaching out to local businesses for Bike Safety Rodeo sponsorships.
- Discussed expansion of 'Golden Times' Senior Newsletter to other local organizations.
- Discussed various program apparel orders with staff.
- Cleaned up in-house marketing materials/signage.
- Attended the Union Project Groundbreaking.
- Attended Valentine's Day Social for pictures.

Social Media Posts

- Valentine's Day Baking
- Gymnastics – Session 2
- Cooper's Hawk National Drink Wine Day
- CanDo Academy – Session 2
- One80Sports – Session 2
- D88 Foundation's Paddle Battle Pickleball Tournament

Recreation Division

- Rec staff is finalizing first draft of Summer Program Guide this week.
- 59 participants in Little Learners Club week of 2/3.
- Ceramics @Nadine ran a Valentine's theme class on 2/3 with 8 participants
- Early Childhood class Little Artists starts 1/30 with 14 participants.
- Early Childhood class Little Chefs started 2/2 with 11 participants.
- Staff are preparing for Preschool Registration which opens on 2/11 for residents and 2/18 for non-residents.
- Adult/Senior Programs-(18 participants)
 - National Chocolate Cake Day 1/27: Note the Villa Park Portillo's donated 2 chocolate cakes to the event
- Staff setting up and holding interviews for summer pool positions.
- Staff meeting with Tivity Health recruiter to answer questions about Silver Sneakers on Friday, February 6.

Information Technology

Hardware-

- Configuring new timeclocks on network.
- Pulled two new wires at PD for WiFi and printer relocation.
- Configuring new switch for PD.
- Installed new switch at VH and PD.

Software-

- Updated Laserfiche with new certificate.

Miscellaneous-

- Working with phone vendor to resolve backup line issue at FD82.

Communications

Social Media:

- Police Activity
- D88 Pickleball Paddle Battle
- Rat Sightings and DuPage Co. Health Dept. Info
- DuPage County Sheriff Office Senior Frozen Meal Program
- February programs & events

Website:

- [Village Addressing Increased Rodent Activity Near Train Tracks](#)
- New website organization draft
- Beginning website Document Center clean up
- Continuing adding keywords to webpages to improve search function
- Continuing to replace PDF forms with online forms
 - [Historic Preservation Award Application](#)
 - <https://www.invillapark.com/973/Rain-Barrel-Program>

Other:

- Attended Employee Appreciation Committee meeting
 - Planning Windy City Curling Service Recognition event
- Attended The Union Groundbreaking
- Working on updating job applications and process with IT and HR
- Prepping Launch of Recycle Coach app, now available for Villa Park

Library

Meetings and More

- Department Heads meeting
- Outreach Staff meetings
- Village Department Heads meeting
- Rotary meeting
- Kiwanis meeting
- Library Board meeting
- Versiti Blood Drive
- Windows Fundamentals (Peoples Resource Center)
- Cocoa Crawl: Ticket Sales
- Educator Bags created
- Little Free Libraries replenished in Villa Park and Oakbrook Terrace

Programs and Services

- Babies & Books (2 sessions)
- Toddler Time (4 sessions)
- Preschool Storytime
- Ready for Reading
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Party
- Storytime @ Elm Tree Christian Child Care Center
- Pokemon Club
- Anime & Manga Club
- Tween & Teen Book Bag Pick-Up
- Dungeons & Dragons for Teens
- Movie Matinee
- VPPL @ Outreach Day at Christ Covenant Church
- VPPL @ North School ~ Books and Hot Chocolate
- Card Making Class
- Resume Workshop
- Grim Readers
- Cozy Comfort Cuisine
- Windows Fundamentals (Peoples Resource Center)

Finance Department

Finance Director Mika accomplished the following:

- Continued compilation and production of the official 2026 budget book
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable invoices
- Reviewed and approved the 2.9.26 Bill List
- Continued conducting interviews for the vacant Finance Specialist position
- Attended the weekly department head meeting
- Met with Trustee Kumar to give her an update on the FY 2026 budget book progression (it's almost complete!)

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 2.2.26

- Responded to all residents' requests
- Mailed out water termination letters
- Processed meter change outs
- Worked on PW bond spreadsheet
- Worked on pension fund spreadsheets

ENG/Public Works

- Public Works hosted the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) this week for the agency's periodic Water Supply System visit and inspection.
- Public Works has been assisting with the response to complaints of rodent infestation, including attending multiple meetings; mapping and documenting issues with garbage in the areas where complaints were received; and coordinating with waste haulers to address issues.
- Public Works staff attended the groundbreaking of The Union development this week. Staff also continues to participate in regular coordination efforts pertaining to construction of the development. Abandonment of the former water and sewer services for the property was completed this week.
- Staff held a design engineering progress meeting this week for the Biermann and Myrtle Improvement Project. The project will be seeking IEPA loan funding for the water system improvements that are proposed as a part of the project.
- Public Works staff coordinated with the DuPage Water Commission (DWC) and its contractor this week for permitting of proposed DWC improvements at Ardmore and the Great Western Trail.
- Public Works crews responded to a snow and ice event at the beginning of last weekend. Crews ran plow trucks through routine checks and maintenance by Fleet Maintenance staff following the completion of the event.
- Staff is in the process of enrolling employees in classroom training for Commercial Drivers' Licenses (CDL).
- Monitoring of equipment at the village's Wet Weather Flow Treatment Facility (WWFTF) was completed this week, following selected repairs that were performed several weeks ago. A report of the monitoring efforts is forthcoming.
- Utilities Division staff repaired three water main breaks this week, with the recent cold weather having an adverse impact on the system.
- Staff received revised civil engineering drawings this week for proposed improvements at Albright Middle School. Staff is now in the process of reviewing the drawings.
- Staff met to review procedures for issuing and managing Scavenger Licenses in the BS&A system.
- Permanent repairs to the aviation warning light on the Princeton Avenue Elevated Water Storage Tank are on hold due to weather. Installation of new electrical conduit will proceed when weather permits.
- Streets Division staff continued pothole patching operations this week. These operations will be weather dependent for the foreseeable future.
- Forestry Division staff continues to perform 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.
- New Police Vehicle #188 setup is ongoing.
- Public Works backhoe had hydraulic repairs made in the field.
- Public Works Truck #14 had a spray nozzle replaced for deicing boom.
- Public Works Truck #16 had a service call for not starting, and the alternator was replaced.

- Fire Engine E81 was in the shop to replace a leaking ball valve housing. An oil change was done, and new mounts were installed to hold tools inside the cab of the truck.
- Fire Ambulance M81 was in the shop and had an oil change, new front tires, new rear brakes installed, and had a transmission service.
- Fire Ambulance M82 was in the shop to fabricate a bump out to accommodate new stair chairs in a compartment in the box.
- Fleet Maintenance performed other routine maintenance on vehicles as needed.

Weekly dated 1-30-2026

Parks and Recreation

Administration

- Staff attended the Employee Appreciation Lunch on Thursday, January 29.
- Staff met to discuss the Silver Sneakers program which is offered through Medicare.
- Staff met with the developer of the Union project to discuss the groundbreaking event being hosted at the VPRC.
- Staff met with finance to discuss GL codes
- Staff met the HR department to discuss pay rates for part-time/seasonal staff.
- Staff met to discuss construction updates on the Village website.
- Staff attended the FUN Commission meeting on January 27.
- Staff met at the Police Department to review the upcoming IT closet a/c project.
- Staff met to discuss the upcoming IPRA Conference schedule.
- Staff met to discuss updating documents and processes for rentals.
- Staff met with BEAR Construction at Village Hall to review the facility for a forced heating and cooling system.
- Staff attended IPRA Conference on Friday, January 30.

Parks, Buildings & Grounds Division

- Staff coordinated the moving of furniture and offices at Village Hall.
- Staff work/repairs continue with facility renovations, routine maintenance, maintenance and repairs of Park facilities, HVAC repairs, plumbing repairs, electrical repairs, inspections, and daily/weekly disinfecting cleanings and organizing of equipment, vehicles, and facilities.

Communications Specialist

- Met with staff to discuss input of sponsorship and advertising rates into CivicRec Programming
- Met with staff to further discuss implementing VPRC rentals into CivicRec Programming.
- Helped implement new standardized email signatures for all Village staff.
- Attended National Chocolate Cake Day & Pasta 101 to take program pictures.

Social Media Posts:

- Preschool cancellation 1/23 & 1/26
- Free Fitness Week
- Pickleball Tournament Winners
- Youth Volleyball Open Gym
- Open Gym Schedule Change
- Breakfast Club
- National Chocolate Cake Day – Sponsored by Portillos
- Beef Wellington Class
- Valentine's Day Bouquets
- iCook: Tasty Travels
- Secret Agent Academy

Recreation Division

- Rec Staff met for the weekly staff meeting on 1/28/2026.
- Rec staff is working on submitting first draft of Summer Program Guide next week.
- 61 participants in Little Learners Club week of 1/27.
- Chef Tara ran youth culinary class Pasta 101 with 10 participants on 12/27.
- Early Childhood class Little Artists starts 1/30 with 12 participants.
- Free Fitness Week at the VPRC is taking place from 1/26 through 2/1 in an effort to bring in new potential members to try out all aspects of the facility.
- Adult/Senior Programs-(43 participants)
 - NEW-Chick-fil-A Bingo at Elmhurst location 1/19
 - Dining Destinations-Tony Spavone's, Roselle, 1/20
 - Let's Do Lunch Carryout-Charley's Cheesesteaks, 1/22
- Front desk ambassador's schedule of February 16-22 was published.
- Staff received several applications for summer positions.