

Village of Orland Park

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Annual Report FY2015



Development Services Department

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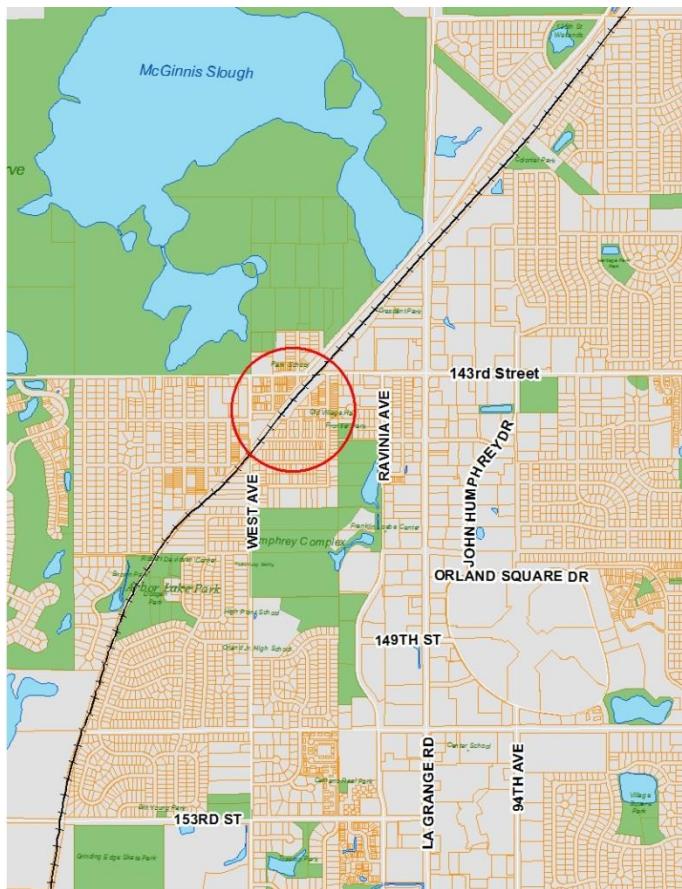
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Section One: Introduction

The purpose of this report to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) is to document the activities of the Orland Park Historic Preservation Program and demonstrate that it has met various CLG program requirements. The following is a synopsis of the activities of the Village of Orland Park during FY2015. FY2015 was from January 2015 to December 2015, a twelve month calendar fiscal cycle.

Section Two: Old Orland Historic District

The Old Orland Historic District is a collection of small shops, historic churches and charming houses of the late 19th and early 20th centuries tucked in an area south of 143rd Street and west of La Grange Road in the Village of Orland Park. Within the historic district boundaries lie the highest concentration of historic structures and streetscapes in Orland Park. Although more modern development has surrounded it, Old Orland retains its unique character, scale and special sense of place. It remains a tangible artifact of Orland Park's history and an active link to its past.



Location Map

Old Orland is nestled between the McGinnis Slough Forest Preserve and Orland Park's Humphrey Woods, west of the La Grange Road corridor, and south of the new downtown, among other old and vibrant neighborhoods.

Section Three: Orland Park's Historic Preservation Program

In 1986, the Village of Orland Park designated Old Orland as a historic district and adopted regulations to help preserve and protect its character. The Historic Preservation Review Commission, whose seven members were appointed by the Mayor and Board of Trustees, was simultaneously established by Village ordinance. The Commission's primary responsibility was to implement the historic preservation program's Historic Preservation Strategy. The Strategy is a statement of the Village's goals for Old Orland. The Village has been a "Certified Local Government" since 1987. The Commission was staffed by the Development Services Department.



The Village completed a new Comprehensive Plan that replaced the existing 1991 plan in 2013. Pursuant to the new Comprehensive Plan, the Village will undertake sub-area plans for the various parts of the Village. The Old Orland Historic District now comprises one quarter of the new downtown and along with the other downtown areas, in the Village Center District, will be included in new sub-area downtown plans.

2015 Program Update

Implementation of the 2014 Land Development Code Changes

Beginning January 1, 2015, the powers, duties, qualifications, memberships, and procedures of the Historic Preservation Review Commission (HPRC) were consolidated with the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission now stewards the Village's historic preservation policies, goals, and objectives and oversees all projects in the Village, the Old Orland Historic District, and for landmark properties.

In addition to the consolidation of the HPRC, the Village's historic preservation ordinances were updated to reflect a new review processes. The process streamlines changes for contributing and non-contributing structures, new construction and landmarks. The review process is summarized below.

New Review Process via the Plan Commission

For Contributing Structures & Landmarks

- Major Change: Requires a public hearing at the Plan Commission, Committee and Board Approval
- Minor Change for Landmarks: Requires Plan Commission, Committee, and Board Approval
- Minor Change for Contributing Structures: Administrative Review
- Routine Maintenance: Administrative Review
- COA for Demolition: Requires a public hearing at the Plan Commission, Committee and Board Approval

For Non-Contributing Structures & New Construction

- Major Change: Administrative Review
- Minor Change: Administrative Review
- Routine Maintenance: Administrative Review
- COA for Demolition: Not Required
- New Construction: Administrative Review

For the past year, the Development Services Department has been monitoring this new review process, which has proved to be a success. Additionally, the following information provides a brief overview of additional activities undertaken by the Department to continue to improve the Village's historic preservation program and review process.

Historic Preservation Plan Commission Handbook

The *Historic Preservation Plan Commission Handbook* was prepared by the Development Services Department to assist Commissioners with reviewing the appropriate repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of properties within the Old Orland District as well as for designated historic landmarks. The manual provides an overview of the Village's historic preservation program, Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) review process, ordinances, and code requirements. Additionally, it includes background information on Orland Park's Historic Preservation Strategy, CLG Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office, National Park Service Preservation Briefs, as well as Orland Park's Historic Marker Program and Awards Program.

Historic Preservation Resident Handbook

An additional training manual, the *Historic Preservation Resident Handbook*, was also created to assist property owners, residents, business owners, architects, and developers in planning the appropriate repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of historic properties. It provides an overview of the Plan Commission, pertinent ordinances, a step-by-step of the COA review process, a brief history of Old Orland, Land Development Code sections applicable to the historic district, historic terms, assistance programs, as well as National Park Service preservation briefs and technical notes. As discussed below, the *Resident Handbook* also provides one credit hour of training to petitioners as part of the COA Training Process.

Together, the information provided in both the *Resident Handbook* and the *Plan Commission Handbook* will help guide sensible and compatible changes within the Old Orland area and to landmarks to support future economic, educational, and cultural vitality. Providing an overview of the development review process, historic preservation policies, and programs

will help to strengthen Orland Park's historic district. Copies of each of the handbooks are also available for review on the Village's website.

Certificate of Appropriateness Training Process

The Certificate of Appropriateness Training process, as described in Section 6-209 "Old Orland Historic District" of the Land Development Code, was updated to reflect a more streamlined approach. In 2014, the Village established a training and certification program for property owners to educate the public and avoid issues related to inappropriate or historically insensitive changes for projects in the historic district. The initial ordinance language did not take into consideration the type of review material or how the Development Services Department would conduct training sessions. As a result, the ordinance was updated in June 2015 to streamline the process for petitioners.

Instead of requiring a one hour training session, a one credit hour of training can be earned by reading the *Resident Handbook*. As discussed above, the *Resident Handbook* covers the Village's historic preservation codes as well as requirements and policies related to the Old Orland Historic District, Landmark buildings, and historic preservation programs. Additionally, petitioners must sign a Certificate of Appropriateness Training affidavit that was added to the COA petition form such that all petitioners in the Historic District and for Landmark buildings understand requirements prior to a project even beginning. The affidavit serves as a binding acknowledgment by the petitioner to faithfully execute the proposed project according to applicable codes and policies of Orland Park's historic preservation program and to abide by the decisions of the Village Board of Trustees.

The one credit hour of COA training places a petitioner in good-standing with the Village's historic preservation program for one calendar year, in which time any number of approved projects, improvements etc. may be undertaken by the petitioner using the one credit hour. The Certificate Maintenance was eliminated since testing would demand too much time for staff to sit, train and test all petitioners considering the average petition volume. It was considered more appropriate to update petitioners each year on ordinance changes through the *Resident Handbook* than to test them on material that is over a year old.

Eleven (11) COA trainings were completed in 2015. Training will be continued in 2016 and the program will be monitored to evaluate its effectiveness.

Stellwagen Family Farm

Master Plan RFP

In February 2015, the Village and the Stellwagen Family Farm Foundation issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Stellwagen Family Farm Master Plan. The Stellwagen Family Farm is a 60 acre heritage farm and Orland Park landmark. The property was continuously farmed by several generations of Stellwagens for more than 150 years. The property was purchased by the Village in 2002 with the goal of creating a living history farm that offers public educational and recreational opportunities. While the property is owned by the Village, the Stellwagen Family Farm Foundation is the caretaker of the vision

and mission of the Farm. The property currently enhances the quality of life for Orland Park residents, continues to function as a working landscape, and provides limited educational opportunities. However, a plan is needed to determine the highest and best use of the property, and to provide a framework for future investment and management.

The RFP project budget was set at \$10,000 in order for a consultant to provide direction via a market feasibility study to ensure successful recreational and educational programming for the Farm. The RFP specifically requested the following goals, objectives and deliverables:

Goal

- Provide a high quality, fiscally sound and successful agricultural management and educational program for the Farm.

Objectives

- Increase opportunities for residents to learn about farming practice and community history.
- Build support for the farm within the business community.
- Structure the Project to contribute positively to a new municipal agricultural program and benefit the Village from an open space and transportation network perspective.

Anticipated Deliverables

The Master Plan and Curator's Program will include the following deliverables:

Marketing & Outreach

- Identify programs of activities that work for municipally operated farms and can be successfully implemented to earn revenue for the Farm's educational and community programming.
- Conduct a market analysis and demonstrate market feasibility for identified programs and activities.
- Develop a marketing strategy for the proposed activities and programs.
- Craft a strategy for corporate and local sponsorship.

Operations & Budget

- Develop an operating budget to manage the agricultural and curatorial aspects of the Farm's educational and community programming.
- Include a five year financial strategy covering farm lease management, husbandry management, crop selection and revenue, expected production yields (e.g. various produce, eggs etc.) and a pricing strategy for admission, activities, sales etc.
- Develop an annual schedule around which programs and agricultural practices are organized and coordinated.
- Identify opportunities for cross-municipal collaboration.
- Make recommendations on visitor flow (some site planning).
- Make recommendations for membership and volunteer management.

After the issue and review period, Village approved a Market Feasibility Study to be conducted by Ratio Architects, Inc. in June 2015. Ratio Architects completed and submitted the *Stellwagen Family Farm Foundation Market Analysis and Feasibility Study* in October 2015. The report provides an analysis of the regional market and trends, case studies and comparisons, costs and revenues, implementation, and phasing plans. The final report will be reviewed by the Plan Commission and Board in 2016.

Restoration Work and Bids

In July 2015, the Village of Orland Park issued a bid to solicit responses and proposals from contractors to historically restore the Stellwagen Farm farmhouse building foundation according to the US Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Restoration. The *Stellwagen Family Farm Exterior Restoration Recommendation Report*, prepared by McGuire Igleski and Associates, Inc. and completed in 2014, was provided to assist bids with evaluating restoration work.

The bid response(s) were not responsive to the bid criteria. All non-responsive bids are rejected by the Village. The Village intends to issue a new bid in early 2016, with the goal of implementing restoration work on the foundation in summer of 2016.

Boley Farm

In 2001, the Village purchased the Boley Farm, a historic farmstead on approximately 6 acres of land. The farmstead includes a farmhouse, a century-old barn, and outbuildings, is the only remaining farm in Orland Park east of LaGrange Road. The property is intended to continue to be used as farmland and serve as an educational facility for children.

Recently, a structural inventory assessment of farmstead was completed by the Village in order to evaluate the conditions of buildings on site in preparation for future restoration work. In the coming year, the long-term preservation strategy for the Boley Farm will be identified.

Orland Park History Museum

The Village has been working to open the Orland Park History Museum, which will capture and preserve the historic, culture, and heritage of the community. In February 2015, the Orland Park History Museum Development and Advisory Board was appointed to oversee the project. The museum, expected to open in April 2016, will be located in the Old Village Hall building in the historic district. Plans are underway to renovate the Old Village Hall, collect donated items, interview residents about their memories of life in Orland Park and investigate grants to fund the project.

Section Four: Certificates of Appropriateness

The Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) process is designed to protect historic properties from insensitive alterations and demolition, and to ensure new buildings are compatible in design with older buildings in the Old Orland Historic District. A COA is required before the construction, alteration, demolition or removal of any structure or structural element is undertaken. With the Landmarks Designation code, COA's are also required for Orland Park Landmarks outside of the Old Orland Historic District. The COA requirements for Orland Park Landmarks are the same as those required for the district.

Between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 the Village considered thirteen (13) applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness, of which three (3) were new construction and eleven (11) were administrative reviews. Two (2) demolitions occurred in 2015. In 2015, there were more COA projects compared to 2014. With the implementation of recent amendments to the Village's historic preservation program and the streamlining of the COA review process, there has been an increase in administrative reviews. It is anticipated that additional administrative reviews will occur in the following years. No Appearance Improvement Grant projects were located in the Historic District and no historic markers were installed.

In 2015, two demolitions of historic non-contributing homes occurred. A 115 year old Bungalow style house at 9865 W. 144th Street (D-5 in the 2008 Residential Area Intensive Survey) was demolished as the structure had fallen into significant disrepair due to multiple years without maintenance during the Recession. A new single family home in a similar architectural style was constructed on the lot. Additionally, a 125 year old National Gable-Front style house with Victorian elements was demolished in order to consolidate two lots on a single property at 9915 W. 144th Place (C16 in the 2008 Residential Area Intensive Survey) and to construct a single family home with detached garage in a similar architectural style. Both of these homes were lost due to a lack of maintenance over time and to redevelopment pressures. The state of disrepair and the economic investment needed to rehabilitate and restore to modern standards precluded their revitalization. They were not contributing structures per the Land Development Code.

The COA projects are described briefly below:

Certificate of Appropriateness Summary Table

Location	Project Name: Summary and Outcome
9915 144 th Place (9911 144 th Place)	<u>New Residence (Whittingham House)</u> : Project to consolidate two lots into a single lot and to construct a new single family house in the Queen Anne Style. A 125 year old National Gable-Front style house with Victorian elements was demolished as the house exhibited significant disrepair and new construction was considered more financially feasible. Board Approved March 2015.

9915 144 th Place	<u>New Fence:</u> Project to install a rear yard fence for the Whittingham House, a newly constructed single family home. Approved September 2015.
9865 144 th Street	<u>Re-subdivision and New Residence:</u> The Kelly Grove subdivision, previously approved in 2013 as a three lot subdivision, was re-subdivided to increase the number of lots from three to four. Because the previously approved lots were deemed too narrow for development, an additional lot was acquired and the lot lines were relocated. A new single family home was also approved as part of the project. In order to re-subdivide the lots and construct the new home, a 115 year old Bungalow style home in significant disrepair was demolished. The new home was constructed in a similar style as the home it replaced. Board Approved April 2015.
14410 Third Avenue	<u>New Residence:</u> Project to construct a new single family home with a detached garage in the National architectural style. The new home is located on a vacant lot (Lot 3) of the Kelly Grove subdivision. Approved October 2015.
14407 Beacon Avenue	<u>New Detached Garage:</u> Project to demolish an existing one car garage and construct a new two car garage for a non-contributing single family home. Approved May 2015.
14404 West Avenue / 9967 144 th Street	<u>New Green Space and Dumpster Enclosure:</u> Project to construct a new green space and dumpster enclosure in the parking lot of Hope Covenant Church, a non-contributing structure to the Old Orland Historic District. The parking lot is shared with and adjacent to the Twin Towers Church, which a contributing structure to the Old Orland Historic District and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Approved September 2015 and Approved with Amendments November 2015.
9964 144 th Street	<u>Window Improvement:</u> Project to replace the windows on a non-contributing single family home in Old Orland. Approved February 2015.
9999 143 rd Street	<u>Roof Improvement:</u> Project to install a new roof on a contributing and local landmark building and its accessory structures. The building was originally constructed as a church and was previously converted to real estate offices. Approved April 2015.

9952 144 th Street	<u>Roof Improvement:</u> Project to install a new roof on the detached garage of the Loebe House, an Orland Park Landmark and contributing structure to the Old Orland Historic District. Approved April 2015.
9925 143 rd Street	<u>Roof Improvement:</u> Project to install a new roof on the front porch and partially repaint the exterior of an Italianate style building, which was originally constructed as a residence, but is now used for commercial retail. The building is a contributing structure to the Old Orland Historic District. Approved September 2015.
14306-14310 Union Avenue	<u>Roof Improvement:</u> Project to install a new roof on the north addition to a contributing building and local landmark. Approved November 2015.
9924-9926 143rd Place	<u>Roof Improvement:</u> Project to install a new roof on the rear of a non-contributing mixed-use building. Approved November 2015.
9967 144 th Street	<u>Exterior Maintenance:</u> Project to re-paint the front doors, porch and steps of the Twin Towers Sanctuary, an Orland Park Landmark and National Register building. Minor caulking and repair work on the stairwells and foundation was also approved as part of the project. Approved October 2015.

Section Five: Summary of Activities on Local Landmarks

No landmarks were designated in 2015.

In 2007, the Village began planning and implementing a Historic Marker Program. The Historic Marker Program seeks to educate the general public about the contributing structures and landmarks in Orland Park and raise overall awareness for them and the historic district.

The Historic Marker Program is aided by the Local Register of Significant Places, wherein are listed the sixteen (16) historically and/or architecturally significant buildings in the Old Orland Historic District and nine (9) other buildings and sites around the community, including two historic farmsteads.

In 2015, no historic markers were installed. However, in total, the Historic Marker Program has placed ten (10) markers at various Orland Park Landmarks around town. The program will be continued and aims to locate additional Historic Markers at the Village's historic buildings and sites.

Section Six: Historic Resources Survey

In 2014, the Historic Resources Survey known as the 2008 Residential Area Intensive Survey, by McGuire Igleski and Associates, was consulted on numerous occasions to determine appropriate historic preservation strategies for a number of properties. The survey was completed in 2008 through a grant from the IHPA. The survey has proved valuable in the analysis of buildings and for appropriate decision-making concerning their contributions to the historic district.

The last historic resources survey was conducted in 2008, six years ago, for the area in and around the Old Orland Historic District. A new survey is needed to not only update the inventory of historic buildings within the study area, but also assess the integrity and condition of them. Likewise, any new survey should also consider the Orland Park landmark buildings and sites outside of the Historic District for a complete survey.

Since 2012, seven buildings were lost in the Historic District. These buildings were labeled according to the 2008 survey as B-5, C-3, C-16, D-1, D-3, D-5, and I-2. Five of the seven were lost due to poor structural health, although I-2 was not an architectural loss to the District. Four of the seven were lost due to lack of investment as noted above. It is anticipated that a number of additional structures in the Historic District are in danger of a similar fate as the last two (e.g. D-2). A new historic resources survey will help in the evaluation of threatened buildings. The Village would like to update the survey within the next two years.

Section Seven: National Register of Historic Places

Orland Park is home to two buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places. The John Humphrey House, depicted below and located at 9830 W. 144th Place, and the Twin Towers Sanctuary, located at 9967 W. 144th Street.



In 2015, exterior maintenance was conducted on the Twin Towers Sanctuary. The improvements included re-painting the front doors, porch and steps as well as minor caulking and repair work on the stairwells and foundation. The John Humphrey House and Twin Towers Sanctuary buildings continue to be used as museums and community centers, hosting numerous events including tours for school children and historical societies.

Section Eight: Monitoring Activity

In 2015, eleven (11) Certificate of Appropriateness Trainings were completed. As discussed in Section Three, the Certificate of Appropriateness Training process was updated in 2015 to reflect a more streamlined approach. In an effort to educate the public and avoid inappropriate or historically insensitive changes, petitioners of projects located in the Historic District and for Landmark buildings are required to understand codes and requirements prior to a project beginning. The one credit hour of training can be earned by reading the *Historic Preservation Resident Handbook*. Additionally, petitioners must sign an affidavit located on the COA petition form, which serves as a binding acknowledgment to faithfully execute the proposed project according to the codes, requirements and policies of Orland Park's historic preservation program and to abide by the decisions of the Village Board of Trustees. Training will be continued in 2016. The program will be monitored to evaluate its progress and effectiveness.

Section Nine: Summary of Historic Preservation Activities

During FY2015, the Development Services Department worked on projects and initiatives intended to enhance and promote historic preservation in the Village. A summary of activities is listed below:

- Updated the Certificate of Appropriateness Training Process to educate the public about historic preservation, streamline the review process, and strengthen existing codes.
- Completed and distributed the *Historic Preservation Plan Commission Handbook* to assist Plan Commissioners with reviewing the appropriate repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of properties within the Old Orland District and designated historic landmarks.
- Completed and distributed the *Historic Preservation Plan Commission Handbook* to assist property owners, residents, business owners, architects, and developers in planning the appropriate repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of historic properties.
- Evaluated regulations to reinforce the historic preservation program.
- Continued to process and review numerous COA applications, totaling thirteen (13) applications this year.
- Assisted with the completion of eleven (11) COA Trainings by project petitioners.

- Issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and selected a consultant to complete a Market Feasibility Study for the Stellwagen Family Farm Master Plan. The *Stellwagen Family Farm Foundation Market Analysis and Feasibility Study* by Ratio Architects was completed in October 2015.
- Issued a bid to solicit responses and proposals from contractors to historically restore the Stellwagen Farm farmhouse building foundation.
- Completed a structural inventory assessment of the Boley Farm to evaluate building conditions.
- Initiated planning for minor site improvements for "Beacon Park", including landscaping and public access.
- The Mayor's Office continued to work with the Orland Historical Society to preserve both the history and the building that is the Humphrey House.
- The Village has been working to open the Orland Park History Museum, which will capture and preserve the history, culture, and heritage of the community. The following activities occurred over the year: a Museum Development and Advisory Board was appointed, a part-time curator was hired, plans renovate the Old Village Hall are underway, and donated items were collected, and interviews / oral histories with residents about their memories of life in Orland Park were conducted.
- An updated history sign was installed at Lake Sedgwick, one of the Village's main recreation areas. A ribbon cutting ceremony with family members of the original property owners took place when the sign was unveiled.
- Completed an annual report of preservation activities to the State and maintained CLG status.
- Hosted a presentation for the "Recent Past" Architecture of Suburban Cook County by the graduate students in the Historic Preservation Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, in partnership with Landmarks Illinois.
- Hosted a Walk and Talk Event about local archeological finds in Orland Park with speaker Lester Marszalek.

Section Ten: Goals for FY2016

The following are upcoming major preservation related projects and tasks for FY2016:

- Commence Phase IV of the Historic Marker Program with the possibility of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Village Hall's architecture.
- Evaluate revised regulations to ensure they reflect the unique needs and characteristics of this historic district and landmarks.
- Investigate tax relief opportunities and other supportive economic programs that apply to local landmark building owners.
- Preserve 14299 S. Wolf Road, Yunker School House and landmark it.
- Preserve 9875 143rd Street, Irish Patriot, and landmark it.
- Maintain the Local Register of Significant Places and promote the historic district.
- Investigate preservation strategies and study the structural integrity of the Humphrey House.
- Conduct three (3) Historic Preservation Training Sessions with the Plan Commission.
- Assist project petitioners with the completion of Certificate of Appropriateness Training credit hours.
- Update the *Historic Preservation Plan Commission Handbook* and the *Historic Preservation Resident Handbook* according to any changes made to the Land Development Code, COA review process, or historic preservation programs
- Schedule the review of the Stellwagen Family Farm Market Feasibility Study by the Plan Commission / Village Board.
- Issue a bid to solicit responses and proposals from contractors to historically restore the Stellwagen Farm farmhouse building foundation in early 2016, with the goal of implementing restoration work on the foundation in summer of 2016.
- Identify the long-term preservation strategy for Boley Farm.
- The Orland Park History Museum is expected to open in April 2016. The Village plans to host luncheon for seniors born in Orland Park as part of the museum's grand opening.

Section Eleven: Commission Members and Meetings

Members of the Plan Commission in 2015 were:

Commission Members	Served
Lou Stephens (Chair)	Appointed: August 2001
Paul Aubin	Appointed: April 2003
Steve Dzierwa	Appointed: June 2003
Judie Jacobs	Appointed: April 2006
Nick Parisi	Appointed: January 2007
John Paul	Appointed: October 2009
Laura Murphy	Appointed: March 2011

The Plan Commission customarily meets twice per month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. The below table summarizes meeting attendance in 2015.

Date	Stephens, Chair	Aubin	Dzierwa	Murphy	Jacobs	Paul	Parisi
Jan. 13	-	x	x	x	-	x	x
Jan. 27	-	x	x	x	-	x	x
Feb. 10	-	x	x	x	-	x	x
Feb. 24	-	x	x	x	-	x	x
Mar. 10	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mar. 24	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Apr. 14	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Apr. 28	Canceled						
May 12	Canceled						
May 26	Canceled						
Jun. 9	x	x	x	x	x	-	x
Jun. 23	Canceled						
Jul. 14	x	x	-	-	-	x	x
Jul. 28	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Aug. 11	x	x	-	x	x	-	x
Aug. 25	Canceled						
Sep. 9	-	x	x	-	x	-	x
Sep. 22	Canceled						
Oct. 13	x	x	-	-	x	x	x
Oct. 27	Canceled						
Nov. 10	x	x	-	x	x	x	x
Nov. 24	Canceled						
Dec. 8	x	x	-	x	x	x	x
Dec. 22	Canceled						
Total		10	15	10	12	10	12
							15

(x) Present; (-) Absent

Please note that the Plan Commission did not consider many historic preservation cases this year due to planning, formulating and implementing the consolidation process. The attendance schedule above is provided to demonstrate the frequency of attendance of the group that has assumed the duties, responsibilities and obligations of the Village's Historic Preservation Program.

Section Twelve: The Upcoming Year

In 2015, the Plan Commission has been the expert commission in charge of implementing the Village's Historic Preservation Program. Throughout 2016, a series of trainings will take place to train the Plan Commission members with the goals and objectives of the Program as well as the practice of historic preservation.

The Village will continue to work to amend current Land Development Codes and design guidelines to ensure the new regulations reflect the needs of the Historic District in the context of greater downtown revitalization and development. This will include a review of the newly streamlined development review process for COA petitions. The Village will also continue to implement the Historic Marker Program, investigate economic development opportunities for area businesses, investigate tax relief opportunities for landmark owners and explore ways to improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings without compromising their historic character.

This is an exciting time for the Village's Historic Preservation Program. Codes and commissions have been reenergized and reinforced to improve the Certificate of Appropriateness process and the petitioner experience. The past year has shown the development review process to be more transparent and streamlined. In 2015, the implementation of the discussed changes to Orland Park's historic program and process has been a success. Moving forward, it is anticipated similar improvements will be seen in 2016. The Village will continue to evaluate these new codes and policies to gauge their performance and efficiency. Additionally, necessary changes will be pursued to work out any loose ends and further improve the program.

Finally, with the restructuring of the Historic Preservation Program there are opportunities to create new partnerships to advance historic preservation in the Village and to look for synergies between energy efficiency and historic preservation with sustainability as the common goal. Completing these projects will require teamwork, dedication and commitment.