



**Village Manager's Report  
Week ending Aug. 2, 2019**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Aug. 5:
  - No meetings scheduled
- Tuesday, Aug. 6:
  - Environment & Energy Commission, 7 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, Aug. 7:
  - Citizen Involvement Commission, 7 p.m., room 101
  - Community Relations Commission, 7 p.m., room 215
- Thursday, Aug. 8:
  - Civic Information Systems Commission, 7 p.m., room 102
  - Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- Friday, Aug. 9:
  - No meetings scheduled

**Grant for Lake Street** – The Lake Street improvement plan has earned a \$310,000 grant from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH). The project, which also includes pedestrian safety improvements, ADA accessibility improvements and landscaping, was among 34 transportation-related projects selected as part of Cook County's [2019 Invest in Cook grant program](#). In the meantime, staff is moving ahead with plans to introduce the community to the project set to begin next spring that not only will improve the look, safety and accessibility of Lake Street, but also replace aging infrastructure critical to the businesses and properties along this vital commercial corridor. Project representatives had a tent at this week's Thursday Night Out event downtown where they promoted the project website [www.betterlakestreet.com](http://www.betterlakestreet.com), talked with passersby and handed out replica hard hats to the many children attracted by sandboxes with toy construction equipment set up nearby.

**Annual pie baking contest** – Registration is open through Aug. 24 for the third annual Oak Park Farmers' Market Pie Bake-Off. Open to professional and amateur bakers age 16 and older, the contest is limited to 12 entries. Contest rules and the registration form are posted at [www.oak-park.us/2019piebakeoff](http://www.oak-park.us/2019piebakeoff). Entry forms may be dropped off at the Farmers' Market information tent on market day or sent by email to [farmersmarket@oak-park.us](mailto:farmersmarket@oak-park.us). Judging is set for Sat., Sept. 7 at the market.

**Online wait list success** – The second test of the online parking permit wait list system proved very effective this week as only 68 residents came in person to Village Hall to purchase a space in a previously sold out zone. For this renewal period last year about 180 residents stood in line in hopes of purchasing an on-street permit that became available on the first day of the new quarter. Residents now can join an online waiting list rather than come to Village Hall, stand in line and hope a space in their desired location still would be available when they reached the counter. Individuals who joined the waiting list online were notified automatically by email if a space became available in their desired location and given three days to make the purchase or the offer would go to the next person in the virtual line. The system was first tested last month.

**Plan Commission actions** – At its regular meeting this week, the Plan Commission moved to designate a recreational marijuana sales establishment as a *special use* in all business and commercial districts. Staff had recommended amending the zoning ordinance to establish the same regulatory approach to recreational marijuana sales as is applied currently to medical marijuana establishments, which are *permitted uses* in all business and commercial districts consistent with state law. Plan Commission members expressed concern that given the unknown future impact of recreational marijuana sales, these outlets should be considered a special use at this time to allow public input into any proposed future locations. In other action, the Plan Commission supported requiring a nonconforming use to be reestablished within a six-month period, rather than the current one year timeframe. These recommendations are expected to come to the board for consideration in September.

**Downtown construction update** – Traffic on Lake Street by Forest Avenue will be controlled by flaggers on Monday and early Tuesday next week as AT&T contractors wrap up their telecommunications project, which will include work in the intersection. Pavement restoration will follow and also need to rely on flaggers to maintain two-way travel during temporary lane closures. The alley adjacent to the Forsyth Building at 1001 Lake Street just west of Forest Avenue will be restored as well, the work coordinated with the building owner. Contractors for the Albion development project are restoring the sidewalk along Lake Street and Forest Avenue adjacent to the building. Work also is progressing on the pedestrian walkway between Lake Street and the alley by Austin Gardens on the west edge of the new building. The walkway is open to pedestrians, but detail finishing work remains. In a final note, an understated “Albion” sign has been added to the Lake Street façade.

**Village Hall parking lot update** – Little change was noticeable this week in the Village Hall parking lot while the waterproofing membrane over the underground garage properly cures per the manufacturer’s specifications. At last report, the lot is expected to be returned to full service by the end of the month.

**Madison Street update** – Milling of the Madison Street pavement between East Avenue and Austin Boulevard is set to begin Mon., Aug. 12, with the final roadway surface currently scheduled to be restored by early September. In the meantime remaining concrete work west of Oak Park Avenue is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 20 and parkway restoration already is underway along sections of the road where concrete curb and gutter work has been completed. Construction updates

continue to be distributed weekly via email and posted on the dedicated project website [www.madisonstreetconstruction.com](http://www.madisonstreetconstruction.com).

**Street resurfacing projects** – The reconstruction of Wisconsin Avenue between Harrison and Adams streets is in full swing with removals of the existing curb and roadway continuing into next week. Work on the Wisconsin Avenue storm sewer has been completed and the reconstruction of Marion Street between Ontario Street and Chicago Avenue will follow in the coming weeks. Replacement work continues on various sidewalk, garage aprons and crossing ramps on Randolph and Iowa streets. The final phase will include resurfacing portions of Clarence Avenue, Randolph Street and Iowa Street, all of which should be completed in September.

**Miscellaneous construction update** – The annual sidewalk replacement program began this week, with the focus on eliminating trip hazards along main streets throughout the Village.

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