



Village Manager's Report
Week ending April 19, 2019

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Monday, April 22:
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., Council Chamber

- Tuesday, April 23:
 - Community Development Citizen Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Board of Health, 7 p.m., room 102

- Wednesday, April 24:
 - Disability Access Commission, Public Library, 834 Lake St.
 - Historic Preservation Commission special meeting, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
 - Historic Preservation Commission Architectural Review Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 215

- Thursday, April 25:
 - Community Development Citizen Advisory Commission, room 101

- Friday, April 26:
 - No meetings scheduled

South Boulevard reopens – South Boulevard was reopened to two-way traffic this week between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street after temporary pavement markings were installed. A permanent marking system will still need to be installed, but flaggers will be posted by the Harlem Avenue traffic signal to ensure safe vehicle flow during the work. Crews are installing street furniture along the frontage of the [Elevan33](#), as the block really begins to take on a finished look.

Village Hall parking lot update – The early stages of the Village Hall parking lot reconstruction project are set to begin next week. Police and Village pool cars will be affected first as the underground garage and back row of the lot are closed by mid-week. Most of the lot will remain available, however, with full closure not expected until the week of May 6. A sewer inlet in the parking lot collapsed this week, further highlighting the importance of this infrastructure work. An extensive parking management plan has been developed to guide visitors and employees to nearby parking options. Extensive signage has been installed as well and letters sent to nearby residents. More details, including a map of parking options, are [posted on the Village website](#). An internal communications plan for employees also has been implemented.

Madison Street work begins – Preliminary activities associated with the Madison Street improvement project got underway this week creating a few minor traffic disruptions east of Ridgeland Avenue. Crews began preliminary steps to remove the medians, including emptying planters. Actual median removal likely won't begin until the week of April 29. Work is scheduled to start at Austin Boulevard and progress to the west. Police have enhanced their presence on Madison Street and into the surrounding neighborhoods to address any potential traffic issues. Speed trailers have been strategically placed, targeted enforcement efforts are planned and School Resource Officers will address safety concerns near the schools. Business operators and residents likely to be most affected by the project have been contacted by letter with details about the project and its potential impacts. Targeted communications to the businesses along the corridor and neighborhood residents are ongoing and construction updates are being posted at www.madisonstreetconstruction.com.

Spring snow response – Sunday's late season snow brought five inches of heavy, wet precipitation and had crews on the roads into Monday morning. Temperatures stayed relatively high, limiting freezing, but salting was required – especially on overpasses. Special attention was given to school crossings and the Home Avenue pedestrian bridge. Forestry Division crews had to clear a parkway tree that fell at Ontario Street and Harvey Avenue and a large limb that failed at Division Street and Cuyler Avenue, both incidents attributed to the heavy snow and wind. Crews are optimistic this will be the last significant event of the season.

Dinner and dialogue – The last in a series of larger-scale *Dinner & Dialogue* sessions was held this month. The four-part series, organized through the collaboration of the Unity Temple Restoration Foundation, Community Relations Commission and Community Relations Department, brought 141 residents together over meals to discuss race, equity and other issues that tend to divide people. In addition to the four-part dinner series, the sponsors also partnered with Dominican University to co-host a special session in honor of the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Village's Human Rights Code. More dinners are being planned for the remainder the year. More information about the program is [posted on the Village website](#).

Celebrating Community Development Week – The Village will celebrate its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program successes during National Community Development Week, which begins on April 22. VOP-TV will air videos highlighting the non-profit recipients of local CDBG funds and add a slide about the celebration to the rotating video information billboard programming. Information about the program also will be shared on social media and other communications platforms.

On-street fundraising – The annual Misericordia Candy Days fundraising event will mean scores of volunteers throughout the community soliciting donations on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27. Estimates are that as many as 200 volunteers will be in Oak Park intersections, on pedestrian walkways and by businesses. The Development Customer Services Department processes Misericordia's annual solicitation permit, working closely with the Police Department to ensure traffic

disruptions are minimal and solicitors do not put themselves or others at risk from traffic.

Garage cleaning planned – The garage at Lake Street and Forest Avenue is scheduled to be power washed at night next week, with work not starting until 10 p.m. This annual cleaning is part of routine upkeep and should have minimal impact on garage use. Signs informing patrons of the work were posted well in advance and steps have been taken to reduce the noise impacts to residents.

Alley improvements – Storm sewers were installed from Pleasant to Randolph streets between Euclid and Wesley avenues as part of the alley improvements underway there. Pavement removal began on portions of the alley north of Madison Street and west of Lombard Avenue. Work also is occurring in the alley between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue, just south of LeMoyne Parkway. Fifteen alleys are scheduled for reconstruction this season.

Construction updates – The installation of new fiber optic cable on Randolph Street from Harlem Avenue was expected to reach Pennsylvania Way by the end of the week, as the project by broadband provider Wide Open West moves toward its Euclid Avenue destination. Contractors for Rush Oak Park Hospital had to reduce traffic on Maple Avenue to one lane and intermittently close the street to install a storm water retention system. The lane closure was needed for crane and truck parking.

Public Works activities –Water & Sewer Division crews began the first of the season's water service upgrades as part of our lead abatement program. Water services were upgraded at 150 N. Scoville Ave. and 831 S. Harvey Ave. Streets Division crews installed and repaired four bike racks, installed temporarily alley speed bumps and moved the Village Hall payment box in preparation for the parking lot reconstruction. Filling potholes continued as did litter cleanup. Crews also had to repair multiple garbage can lids damaged by recent high winds.

Employee news – The Public Works Department welcomed two new employees this week. Christopher Kim is a new Engineering Technician I and Ronald Przybylski is a new Equipment Operator. Christopher, who has a civil and material engineering degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, previously designed bike lanes for the City of Chicago. Ronald, who joined the Streets Division, brings a wide range of experience, including electrical repairs, concrete and masonry work, heavy equipment operation and crew management. Prior to joining the Village, he was a mechanical engineer for the Jewel-Osco distribution center in Melrose Park.

###