

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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For this month's Executive Director's Report, I am pleased to present and place on file Main Street America's announcement naming the Village of Lake Orion DDA one of eight semifinalists for the 2027 Great American Main Street Award (GAMSA). Announced September 29, 2026, this national recognition honors the sustained work of a community committed to its downtown. This memorandum and the linked official announcement constitute my entire report for the month.

GAMSA recognizes excellence in preservation-based downtown revitalization through the Main Street Approach, considering the overall program, partnerships, and community transformation. Three award recipients will be announced May 3, 2027, at the Main Street Now Conference in Detroit. Main Street America's profile tells a story we know well: Lake Orion renewed its historic identity as a destination, encouraged private investment and volunteer involvement, and persevered after the devastating 2004 fire. Oakland County's October economic development newsletter also celebrated our semifinalist selection and downtown's recovery.

The transformation we see today reflects years of decisions and effort: preserving the character of our buildings, improving the public spaces that connect them, supporting independent businesses, and creating reasons for people to gather downtown. Our work at the Lumber Yard at Paint Creek represents the next chapter in that commitment, carrying our history forward while creating new opportunities for community life and economic activity.

As we anticipate filming associated with our semifinalist recognition, we have an opportunity to show the people and places behind that transformation. I want the story to include our business and property owners, the Illuminators and other volunteers, Board and committee members, Village leadership and staff, and our Main Street Oakland County partners. Their work makes downtown welcoming, active, and resilient. Historic images, present-day streetscapes, public spaces, and the Lumber Yard's progress can help show how that shared commitment has changed our community.

I am grateful to everyone who has helped bring Lake Orion to this point, including those whose contributions began long before the current Board and staff. Being named a semifinalist is a moment to celebrate their work and to recognize our responsibility to continue it. We will approach the anticipated filming with that same sense of pride, gratitude, and care for the community we serve.

Motion: Receive and file the Executive Director's Report and the official GAMSA semifinalist announcement.