

tower Topics

V I L L A G E *of* W E S T E R N S P R I N G S



2017 Presidential Address

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Village staff, I would like to wish each of you a happy holiday season and best wishes for a prosperous, healthy, and happy New Year. As we enjoy the holiday season in celebration with family and friends, let us not forget those who have forsaken the comforts we so easily enjoy through their service to our country in the armed forces. We owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who currently serve us in the uniform of our country, especially overseas and in hostile environments. Neither should we forget the sacrifices of our veterans who likewise have served their country, oftentimes far from home and in war. Because of their devotion to duty, we enjoy the comforts and joys of the holiday season in freedom. No less important is the contribution of our public safety employees, both fire and police, whose dedication and professionalism provide us the safe surroundings that we have come to relish and expect.

This is the eighth time I report to you on the major events of the past year and the upcoming plans for the new year.

- Over the last 13 years, the most common question asked of public officials was likely: "What's going on at Tischler's?" As is now evident, the former Tischler-Breen site has been leveled. The contractor will work on underground infrastructure over the winter, and construction of Foxford Station will commence in the spring.
- The Board received the Ridgewood Subdivision Infrastructure Study Report, which identified infrastructure repair and improvement needs of that subdivision. The Infrastructure Commission and the Board continue to develop a plan prioritizing the recommended projects and explore methods of financing the costs.
- It is painful to recall that the Village's water-production system suffered a temporary setback last spring when a deep well had to be taken out of service to repair a pump and sleeve. Owing to an increase in water demand, an

emergency shallow well was put in service temporarily, resulting in rather poor quality water being delivered to our residents. While the water was always safe, it was not of the quality we have come to expect. That unfortunate situation was eventually remedied when the pump was rebuilt and the deep well was placed back in service. With input from our Infrastructure Commission, the Board is currently reviewing solutions so that any future disruptions to our water delivery service will be minimized.

- 2016 also marked the end of the Western Springs Community Center Association. For those of us who have been around for some time, we remember when the Grand Avenue School building was threatened with demolition. Residents banded together to establish the WSCCA, which saved the building that houses so many programs for our residents, both young and old. Continuing its civic-minded purpose, the association commissioned and donated to the Village a sculpture entitled "Community," now located at the corner of Lawn and Chestnut.
- Progress is finally being made on the reconstruction of the east platforms of the railroad station. Construction is expected to commence in March and may take 10 months to complete.
- Our efforts to consolidate dispatch services with our neighbors in LaGrange and LaGrange Park continue. The three municipalities formed the Lyons Township Area Communications Center (LTACC), and we expect the dispatch center, which is centrally located in LaGrange, to be operational in mid-2017.
- Our residents overwhelmingly approved a \$12-million road repair and reconstruction referendum at the last election. As a result, the Village will have funds available to continue our street- and road-maintenance programs. In conjunction with those programs, the Village will make other infrastructure improvements and repairs as needed.
- At the end of 2016, after 33 years of law enforcement service, Chief Pamela Church retired as the Village's Director of Law Enforcement Services (Police Chief). Chief

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Church's contributions to the Village over a period of 11 years are immeasurable, and her leadership resulted in our Police Department on five consecutive occasions receiving the highest accreditation achievable by a department—accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Chief Church's service will be missed. The Board concurred in Village Manager Patrick Higgins's appointment of Deputy Director Brian Budds as the new Police Chief.

- The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority will begin the reconstruction of the Tri-State Tollway in 2020. The plan calls for the removal and reconstruction of the BNSF railroad bridge over the Tri-State. That part of the project will require the Tollway to construct a temporary railroad bridge connecting Hinsdale and Western Springs. The Village has had preliminary discussions with the Tollway Authority to address the issues and minimize the significant impact such a project will have on the Village. Those discussions will be ongoing.
- In 2015, our residents participated in a survey conducted by the National Citizen Survey. This year the Village received two 'Voice of the People' awards as a result of that survey: 'Excellence in Education' and 'Enrichment and Excellence in Safety.' The Village received the highest marks ever recorded for safety.

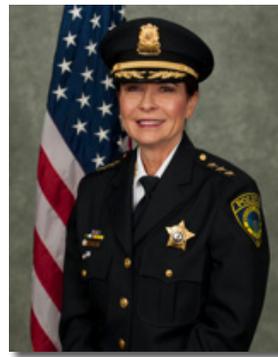
As I write this report, the Board is poised to vote on a tax levy and an annual budget for the upcoming year. As in past years, the operating budget will be in excess of \$20 million and will be voted upon collectively with a number of routine ordinances and resolutions. That vote, which almost appears perfunctory, is the culmination of many hours of work and public discussion at the Committee and Board level. Having experienced this process for a number of years, I am confident in saying the Village is well managed, operates within its means, and provides great value to our residents.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year to all,
William T. Rodeghier

Village President

Local Elections

Local elections will take place this year on April 4. Don't forget to register to vote by February 12! Registering to vote has never been easier or more convenient. Residents with an Illinois driver's license or state ID may register online at <https://ova.elections.il.gov>, or visit Village Hall and register in person. Voter registration is available at Village Hall any day between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. All that is necessary to register is a residency of 30 days and two pieces of identification. One piece of identification must show a current Western Springs address and the other must have a photo. Residents that have moved or changed their names must re-register. See you at the polls!



Police Chief Retires after 11 Years

On December 31, 2016, Chief Pamela Church officially retired from the Western Springs Police Department after 11 years of distinguished service. Chief Church originally began her law enforcement career in 1983 as a patrol officer for the Downers Grove Police Department, working her way up through the ranks to Deputy Chief, and retiring in 2005. Chief Church then began her tenure with the Village of Western Springs in November of 2005.

During her 11 years with the Western Springs Police Department, Chief Church served in many leadership positions within many professional law enforcement associations, including the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the West Suburban Chiefs of Police, the Greater Cook County Council of Police Chiefs, and Northeast Multi-Regional Training, Inc. Chief Church was also named 'Police Chief of the Year' in 2011 by the Illinois Crime Prevention Association.

The Village and the members of the Police Department would like to thank Chief Church for her dedicated service and wish her all the best in her retirement.



Officer Ashmore Retires

Officer James Ashmore officially retired from the Police Department on December 2, 2016, after proudly serving the Village for over 20 years. Throughout the course of Officer Ashmore's career in Western Springs he served in several roles, which included patrol and field training officer, detective, D.A.R.E officer, and defensive tactics instructor. During his tenure with the Police Department, Officer Ashmore served the Village with pride, dedication, and integrity. The Village and members of the Police Department wish him all the best in his retirement and thank him for his service.

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Become Involved with Your Village

Are you interested in serving on one of the Village's advisory boards or commissions? There are ten such groups made up of residents who volunteer their time to review and investigate a variety of civic matters. Some boards or commissions meet on a regular basis, and others meet only as needed. At the present time there are openings and the Village needs applicants.

Learn more about the Village's boards and commissions at www.wsprings.com and, if interested, fill out and submit the online resume form.

Senior Services

Senior Center

It's that time of year again...sign up for your Senior Center membership today! Membership is open to the general public and is administered on a calendar year basis. Senior Center members can participate in a variety of exclusive special events and activities geared specifically toward the interests of older adults.

- Gold level membership is \$40/residents, \$50/nonresidents, and includes all activities including unlimited exercise and other classes. Taxi coupons are also available at this level.
- Silver level membership is \$30/residents, \$40/nonresidents, and includes all activities except exercise and other classes. Taxi coupons are also available at this level.
- Bronze level membership is \$10/residents, \$20/nonresidents, and includes library events, movie rentals, and movies only. No taxi coupons are available at this level.
- Spouses are half-price at any membership level.

For more information, to download a membership form, or to view the activities/calendars, stop by the Senior Center or visit www.wsprings.com/seniors.

Exercise and Stay in Shape this Winter!

SeniorCise: This is an exercise class designed to meet the needs of actual participants. Active and physically challenged/handicapped participants alike will benefit from this program. Regular exercise is free with Gold level membership. This class will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30–11:15 a.m.

Tai Chi: Frequently referred to as “walking meditation,” Tai Chi is excellent for the mind and body. Regular Tai Chi classes and exercise are free with Gold level membership. This class will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1–2:15 p.m.

Classes and Events to Exercise the Mind!

Join us for classes covering various topics including, but not limited to, the brain, genealogy, and a DVD series covering “This Emotional Life,” hosted by the author of *Stumbling on Happiness*. A schedule of these classes will be posted at www.wsprings.com/seniors. Classes are free with Gold level membership.

Live and Learns: Seniors with unique experiences share those experiences in an informal setting with refreshments. Information on both senior living and life experiences will be shared.

Lunch and Learns: Join Senior Center members for lunch and an educational program given by a variety of service providers seeking to share information about senior living.

Bridge, Mahjonn, Canasta, Knitting, Library: These classes/activities are ongoing. Schedules will be posted at www.wsprings.com/seniors. These classes/activities and use of

the library are free with Gold and Silver level memberships.

Movies: The Senior Center will host movie afternoons on Thursday, January 19 and Thursday, February 16 from 1–3 p.m. Popcorn and beverages will be provided.

Holiday Closings: The Senior Center will be closed for Martin Luther King Day (January 16) and President's Day (February 20).

Seniors Club

Anniversary Lunch: On Monday, February 13 at noon, the Senior Club will host its 37th anniversary catered luncheon at the Recreation Center. Entertainment by Kym Frankovelia will be provided. The cost is \$12 and reservations are required.

Day Trip: On Wednesday, February 22, the Club will attend a theatre production of *My Way* in Munster, IN. The bus will leave from the Recreation Center at 10 a.m. and will return at 5 p.m.

Residents interested in membership may pick up an application at the January 9 meeting. Membership is \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents.

Hearing Support Group

Attention all individuals that wear hearing aids, are beginning to explore hearing aids, or know someone who wears or needs hearing aids, please join us on the first Wednesday of every month for a hearing aid support group, “Help Us Hear (HUH)”! The next meeting will take place on February 1 at 7 p.m. in the Neal Room (also known as the Senior Center) of the Grand Avenue Community Center. Participants will share ideas and discuss various topics related to hearing issues and devices. Topics will include hearing aid brands, specific devices, device batteries, the importance of self-advocacy, and other topics as decided upon by the members. Additionally, members will become up-to-date on current related research, the impact of poor hearing, and the potential benefits of therapy. For questions, please contact Carol Johnson at 708-369-9320 or CarolJnsn@aol.com. We hope to see you there!



Yellow Pages Opt-Out Feature

The Yellow Pages industry is supporting holistic environmental practices and taking measures to reduce paper waste. Residents interested in controlling the number of Yellow Pages directories that they receive, including canceling delivery altogether, may opt out via a new website. Visit www.yellowpagesoptout.com for more information or to change delivery preferences.

Holiday Closings

Village services will be closed on Monday, January 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Day, and on Monday, February 20, in observance of President's Day. Refuse/recycling pickup is not affected by these holidays.

Park District Happenings



Upcoming Park Board meetings will be held on January 10, February 14, and March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of Village Hall (740 Hillgrove Avenue).

Reserve a Facility

The Park District is pleased to host organized group activities at many of the local parks. Permits are required for groups of 25 or more people for all activities including picnics, family gatherings, and sporting events. Permit fees begin at \$60. The permit form can be submitted online at www.wsparks.org. **A permit form can also be mailed to the Park District; however, please contact bkartzmark@wsprings.com or call 708-246-4225, ext. 1 to confirm availability of date.**

Birthday Parties in the Park

Western Springs Parks are available for birthday parties! Upon request, staff will organize 90 minutes of games for kids ages 4–12. Specific games may also be requested. The cost is \$50 plus \$3 per child. This fee includes two Park District staff members, organized games, prizes, and drinks for the children. Party sites are available at the following parks: Spring Rock, Timber Trails, Springdale, Ridgewood, and Ridge Acres. For more information or to book a party, contact Barb Kartzmark (Program Coordinator) at 708-246-4225, ext. 1 or bkartzmark@wsprings.com.

2017 Approved Budget

The Park Board of Commissioners recently approved the 2017 Western Springs Park District budget at the Board meeting on December 13. Staff and Board are excited to announce several capital projects planned for 2017:

- Playground renovations for Spring Rock and Laidlaw Parks
- Permanent pickle ball courts at Northeast Park
- Outdoor fitness stations at Ridgewood and Spring Rock Parks
- Skinned baseball/softball field at Springdale Park (northeast field)

For questions regarding the 2017 budget, contact John Robinson (Executive Director) at 708-246-4225, ext. 2 or jrobinson@wsprings.com.

2017 Program/Events Scheduled

There are many exciting programs and events to look forward to in 2017. Visit www.wsparks.org and www.facebook.com/wsparkdistrict for updates and specific information, or contact Barb Kartzmark (Program Coordinator) at 708-246-4225, ext. 1 or bkartzmark@wsprings.com with questions.

Friendly Winter Reminders



Residents Encouraged to Shovel Sidewalks

Please take time to shovel public sidewalks for the benefit of students, mail carriers, and other pedestrians. It is courteous and the right thing to do.



Parking

Residents should make every effort to remove their vehicles from the street as soon as possible during any snow-fall. The more cars off of the street, the more effective snow removal procedures are. Parking is prohibited on all streets for 12 hours after a snowfall of four or more inches. Cars parked illegally may be subject to tow.



Slow Down

Please use extreme caution while driving this winter. Streets in Western Springs, as well as the surrounding communities, will have patches of snow/ice. Motorists are advised to slow down and adjust to these winter conditions. Give yourself additional time to get where you are going and allow time to brake in order to stop safely.



Refuse Collection

Residents and building owners are reminded to clear snow away from refuse containers and recycling bags to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible, it will not be emptied or picked up. Call Allied Waste directly at 708-345-7050 to report a missed collection.

Help Wanted: Police Department

The Village of Western Springs Police Pension Board is looking for a part-time note taker for quarterly meetings. This position entails taking notes and producing meeting minutes for the pension board. The board is scheduled to meet four times annually on the third Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. Occasionally the board will also meet outside of those dates for emergency purposes. The position pays \$25 hourly for time spent in meetings and producing the required meeting minutes. Audiotapes of all meetings are made available to facilitate ease in producing the minutes. Suitable candidates should be available for all four scheduled annual meetings and have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office products.



Applications can be picked up at Village Hall (740 Hillgrove Avenue) during regular business hours or at the Police Department (same address) 24/7. Deadline for applications is January 31, 2017.

For additional information, please contact Sergeant John Piest at 708-246-8540, ext. 156 or jpiest@wsprings.com.



Happy Anniversary, Thomas Ford Memorial Library!

The Thomas Ford Library (800 Chestnut Street) celebrates its 85th anniversary this January. Because of its beautiful and majestic exterior, patrons often ask if the building used to be a church. The answer is no! The building was constructed as a library in memory of Thomas Ford, a Western Springs resident, and has a long and fascinating history. Visit <http://fordlibrary.org/about/history> or pick up a special Thomas Ford Library history bookmark for more information.

Although the Library is over eight decades old, it is also 85 years young. To keep up with the ever-evolving needs of members, the Library will debut its first media-capable study/meeting room this January.



Located on the first floor next to the Board Room, this state-of-the-art space will allow Library members to use laptops and other devices for collaborative group sessions. Plug-in jacks on an 8-foot conference table will allow teens and adults to project content related to business, schoolwork, and movies from their laptops to a screen on the wall. This room will comfortably seat between six and eight individuals and will be lit with adjustable LED fixtures. The room and its features have been fully funded by the Library Foundation. Comments are welcome; please enjoy this new space!

Municipal Roundup

The President and Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of November and December:

Awarded

- A contract to Winkler’s Tree Service for the 2017 tree trimming contract, in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.

Awarded

- The purchase of a new Internet router from CDW Government in the amount of \$12,040.90.
- The issuance of a Class “G” liquor license to Solstice Restaurant to sell package items.
- A series of resolutions and ordinances to approve the 2016 property tax levies for the Village and library and approve the Village’s 2017 operating budget. The total property tax levy of \$7,416,688 includes the Village’s levy of \$6,100,871 and the library’s levy of \$1,315,817. The 2016 levy, which is collected in 2017, represents a 2.79% increase over last year’s levy.
- The appointment of Brian Budds as Director of Law Enforcement effective December 31, 2016.

Commuter Platform Beautification Begins in Early 2017



The Western Springs Commuter Platform Beautification project is scheduled to begin in early 2017. This project is part of an ongoing downtown revitalization effort designed to enhance the commuter experience through improvements in both safety and aesthetics.

Lower level platforms adjacent to the Burlington Northern tracks on both the north and south sides will be upgraded with a combination of paver bricks and new concrete, improved lighting, plantings, and improved seating. The new materials being used combine the requisites of function, maintenance, aesthetics, and cost consistent with recent upgrades to the Tower Green.

“Western Springs is undergoing an exciting time of commercial revitalization and growth,” said Patrick Higgins, Village Manager. “The commuter platform beautification will augment public improvements to the downtown that include consistent signage, planters, benches, and other enhancements that make the character of the area consistent with the high quality of our residential neighborhoods.”

The geographic scope of work includes the train platforms located between Lawn Avenue and Wolf Road, as well as the adjacent (upper) walkways abutting the platforms. In addition to safety and beautification, another important objective is updating ADA accessibility requirements. While the project is underway, every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to shoppers, residents, and commuters.

The platform beautification project, which is funded in large part by a federal grant, is a continuation of the Downtown Revitalization Plan designed to enhance the business district, encourage new private investment, and replace aging infrastructure. The plan, which was last updated in 2016, involved extensive public participation including a community survey, public workshops, direct interviews, and meetings with property owners, developers, civic leaders, and residents in concert with landscape architects and engineers.

For more information about this and other community development projects, contact Martin Scott at 708-246-1800, ext. 175 or mScott@wsprings.com.

Holiday Tree



The Village would like to extend a warm holiday thanks to Mrs. Claudette Kazak for donating her evergreen tree as this year’s official Christmas tree. Thank you, Mrs. Kazak!

Recreation Department

“Lean and Mean in 2017” is the theme of the Recreation Department this year. Keep warm by staying active during these winter months! The 2017 winter/spring brochure is available at www.wsprings.com/recreation. Residents can also pick up hard copies at the Recreation Center, Grand Avenue Center, or Village Hall. Please call the office with any questions at 708-246-9070.

Little Hoppers: This basketball skills and development program is for participants 3–5 years old and will take place on Saturdays, January 14–February 18 from 11:15 a.m.–noon in the Grand Avenue Center gym.

LTSC Mini Winter Soccer Academy: This program is for Pre–K/K and first/second-grade participants and will take place Saturdays, January 14–February 11 or February 18–March 18, at 9 a.m. (Pre–K/K) and 10 a.m. (first/second-grade) in the Grand Avenue Center gym.

Boys’ and Girls’ Lacrosse: This program teaches skills, teamwork, dedication, and accomplishment. Registration is open for first–eighth grade participants. Volunteer coaches are needed and training is provided.

Adult Morning Exercise Classes: Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, 9–10 a.m.

Adult Pickle Ball: Open courts are available Wednesday and Friday, 1:15–3:15 p.m.

Women’s Open Basketball: Wednesdays at 8:15 p.m., located in the Western Springs Recreation Center gym.

Men’s Open Basketball: Thursdays at 8:15 p.m., located in the Western Springs Recreation Center gym.

Little Sweetheart Dance: This dance for little sweethearts and their dates will take place on Sunday, February 12 from 2–3:30 p.m. at the Grand Avenue Gym.

All About Italian: This program is designed for children ages 4–6 years old (from 2:15–3:15 p.m.) and 7–10 years old (from 4–5 p.m.) on Fridays at the Western Springs Recreation Center.

Parent/Child Princess and Pirates Hidden Treasure: This program is designed for children ages 3–9 years old and will take place on Wednesday, February 1 from 6–7:30 p.m. at the Western Springs Recreation Center.

Engineering-Spectacular Sports: This program is designed for children ages 5–9 years old and will take place on Tuesdays between February 14 and March 7 from 6–7 p.m. at the Western Springs Recreation Center.

Do you know someone who is looking for summer work? The Recreation Department is accepting applications for summer employment between January and March. Visit www.wsprings.com/jobs to apply.

Home Heating and Carbon Monoxide Safety

Home heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires and home fire deaths, and January is one of the leading months for home heating fires.

Improperly used or malfunctioning heating equipment can create carbon monoxide (CO), a poisonous and potentially fatal gas, to spread in the home. Unattended heating equipment is the number one cause of home heating fires. The Western Springs Fire Department urges residents to monitor all heating equipment carefully, particularly space heaters. Whether portable or stationary, space heaters account for one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) home heating fire deaths on average per year. The NFPA offers the following safety precautions to greatly reduce the risk of home heating fires and carbon monoxide poisoning:

Heating

- Keep all flammable items at least three feet away from heating equipment. This includes furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, and portable space heaters.
- If there are children in your home, create a three-foot “kid-free zone” around space heaters and open fires.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- For fuel-burning space heaters, always use the right kind of fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Remember to turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.

Carbon Monoxide

- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away from your home as possible.
- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside of your home.
- If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call 9-1-1.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a storm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Test your carbon monoxide alarms to make sure they’re working properly.
- If you begin to feel sick or dizzy while your generator is running, you may be breathing in carbon monoxide. Get to fresh air quickly.

9-1-1

A Reminder from the Police Department Regarding 9-1-1 and Cellular Phones

The number of 9-1-1 calls placed by people using wireless phones has significantly increased in recent years. It is estimated that about 70% of 9-1-1 calls are placed from wireless phones, and that percentage is growing. For many Americans, the ability to call 9-1-1 for help in an emergency is one of their main reasons for owning a wireless phone.

Although wireless phones can be an important public safety tool, they also create unique challenges for emergency response personnel and wireless service providers. Because wireless phones are mobile, they are not associated with one fixed location or address. While the location of the cell site closest to the 9-1-1 caller may provide a general indication of the caller's location, that information is not always specific enough for rescue personnel to deliver assistance to the caller quickly. It is also important to remember that callers in one town may reach a cell tower in another town altogether.

Tips for Calling 9-1-1

Individuals calling 9-1-1 from a wireless phone should remember the following items:

- Report your location/the location of the emergency to the dispatcher immediately.
- Provide the dispatcher with your wireless phone number so that, if the call gets disconnected, the dispatcher can call you back.
- Most 9-1-1 centers currently lack the technical capability to receive texts, photos, and videos.
- If your wireless phone is not "initialized" (meaning you do not have a contract for service with a wireless service provider) and your emergency call gets disconnected, you must call the dispatcher back because the dispatcher does not have your telephone number and cannot contact you.
- To help public safety personnel allocate emergency resources, learn and use the designated number in your state for highway accidents and other non-life-threatening incidents.
- Do not program your phone to automatically dial 9-1-1 when one button, such as the "9" key, is pressed. Many unintentional wireless 9-1-1 calls, which often occur when auto-dial keys are inadvertently pressed, cause problems for emergency call centers.
- If your wireless phone came preprogrammed with the auto-dial 9-1-1 feature already turned on, turn this feature off (consult your user manual for instructions).

- Lock your keypad when you are not using your wireless phone to help prevent accidental calls to 9-1-1.
- Consider creating a contact in your wireless phone's memory with the name "ICE" ("In Case of Emergency"), which should list the phone numbers of the people you would like to have notified in case of an emergency.



Firefighter Training Academy 2017

The Department of Fire & EMS is conducting a Firefighter Training Academy in cooperation with the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal. The training program will include candidates from the Villages of Western Springs, LaGrange Park, and Clarendon Hills. As the host agency, the department is looking forward to training the next generation of local firefighters.

Candidates will begin their basic training in the Fire Academy beginning in early January 2017, with completion scheduled for mid-June 2017. Training for these candidates takes place each Tuesday and Thursday evening along with a practical skills training each Saturday.

During the training academy, candidates will have the opportunity to learn from experienced instructors and review a wide variety of information and skills related to the fire service including proper use of personal protective gear, use of self-contained breathing apparatuses, fire scene evaluation, building construction and fire behavior, use of advancing fire hose, use of ground ladders, search and rescue procedures, vehicle extrication/rescue, and First Aid/CPR. Candidates will also be required to train in several live fire training scenarios to ensure competency with their basic skills.

This will be the Departments' second Fire Training Academy. The Department would like to offer its sincere thanks to all firefighters and officers who have provided necessary support for this program, thus ensuring the success of these forthcoming candidates.



WSHS Winter Adult Education Lecture

Have you ever wondered about your family's history? Are you interested in learning more, but are unsure where to start or what resources are readily available to the amateur genealogist? If so, please join us on Thursday, January 26 at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church (Siem Room) for the Historical Society's winter Adult Education lecture. A presenter from the Naperville Family History Center will walk participants through the basics of how to research family roots, strategies for overcoming dead ends, and a few of the many resources available to the public in the western suburbs. This talk is free and open to all. Please join us for an interesting and informative evening!

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Scooper Regulations

Dog owners are reminded that, when venturing off of their property with their four-legged companions, consideration must be observed for the property of their neighbors, churches, schools, and public areas.

Whenever a dog is away from its own yard, its owner must carry a device for removing any excrement. The device may be as simple as a paper towel or plastic bag. Without a removal device, owners are in violation of a Village Ordinance and may be subject to a fine.

Join Us for NEAT Cleanup Day 2017!

The Neighborhood Environmental Appearance Team (NEAT) is an organization that was created in 1986 as a subcommittee of the Western Springs Architectural and Appearance Commission in preparation for the Village's Centennial celebration. NEAT organized its first workday on April 19, 1986, and continues to plan an annual one-day event in which community groups and families join together to clean litter and debris from public areas and parks of the Village.

NEAT Cleanup Day 2016 will be held on Saturday, April 8 with a rain date of Sunday, April 9. All residents and youth groups are invited to help rid the Village of winter debris and litter. This is a great service project! Groups should preregister so that appropriate work sites can be assigned. Check-in and registration will take place on April 8 at the Recreation Center (1500 Walker) between 8 a.m. and noon. Please bring rakes, brooms, and gloves to your group's assigned site for the cleanup. For further information, please contact Sarah Derr at 708-246-1638 or sarahderr73@gmail.com, or call the Recreation Center at 708-246-9070.



The Fire Department Needs Your Help!

In the event of a fire, the Western Springs Fire Department depends on access to fire hydrants throughout the town. This can become especially problematic during the winter months when large amounts of snow pile up and bury hydrants. The department has attached flags to fire hydrants to assist in identification of these hydrants when snow accumulates. However, we are asking that Village residents help by adopting a hydrant located in front of or near each home and clearing out any snow that may have buried it. After large snow events, the department will attempt to clear as many hydrants as possible in target hazard areas. Any assistance from residents is greatly appreciated.