

tower Topics

VILLAGE *of* WESTERN SPRINGS

President's Perspective



Welcome to 2014!! On behalf of the Village staff and the Board of Trustees, I wish you a Happy New Year. It is my hope that all our residents enjoy a 2014 filled with the blessings of good health, prosperity, and happiness. At this time of the year our thoughts turn to the many things for which we are grateful. Chief among

them are the men and women in uniform who have forsaken the comforts of home to serve our country, as well as our veterans, whose sacrifices in response to the call of duty have kept us free.

This is the fifth year I am writing to you on the status of the Village. Despite a slow economic recovery, the Village's accomplishments were considerable in 2013, including the following:

- With a few minor details to address, the construction of the reverse osmosis water treatment plant has been completed. It has been a long project, and the patience of our residents is to be commended. The plant will serve the Village well for generations to come.
- Woodland Avenue was reconstructed from Chestnut to Hillgrove, as well as the Village Hall parking lot.
- We continued to deal with the scourge of the emerald ash borer, following the 2012 comprehensive plan.
- The Department of Law Enforcement Services received its third reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies—the highest certification of professionalism a law enforcement agency can attain.

- 16 of our recent firefighter recruits obtained their Firefighter II certification, and 9 of our firefighters passed their EMT exam through Loyola Hospital.
- The Village sold excess real estate and acquired the property adjacent to the Recreation Center and Theater of Western Springs parking lot. Future plans for the property will be the new site for Safety Village.
- The Board approved and adopted an Economic Development Policy following extensive meetings and consideration by the Economic Development Commission.
- Grand Avenue Community Center received upgrades to windows and plumbing.

Plans and goals for 2014 include:

- Reconstruction of the east platforms of the train station which will establish the prototypical elements for the downtown streetscape.
- Reconstruction of Howard Avenue in the south part of Field Park, including the replacement of the water main and sections of the sewer system.
- Consolidation of the emergency dispatch system with LaGrange Park and LaGrange.
- Engineer and gain approvals for the construction of the west underpass.
- Modernize the 40+ year old locker rooms, squad room, and the report writing and interview areas of the Police Department.
- Continue the multiyear renovations to the Tower Green in anticipation of the 125th anniversary of the historic tower in 2017.
- Refurbish—as opposed to replace—fire engine 1719 (the ladder truck) for less than \$250,000. Replacement would have cost in excess of \$1 million.

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- Enhance emergency response capabilities with refinements to the school security and crisis management plans.
- Lead a regional emergency management table top exercise for the distribution of pharmaceuticals in the event of a biological attack.
- Expand opportunities to **SHOP LOCALLY** with the arrival of Mariano’s Supermarket in a few months.
- Welcome new residents with the opening of Phase II of the Timber Trails development.
- Hopefully, some long-awaited downtown redevelopment will transpire.

In my messages over the last several years, I reported the need for the Village to rein in expenses in light of the economic downturn. As in your households, when revenue decreases or stays stagnant and expenses increase, the belt has to be tightened to avoid overspending. Over the last couple of years, the Board of Trustees and Village staff made difficult and painful decisions to reduce spending, while at the same time maintaining the level of excellent service our residents deserve. That course of action has served the Village well. I am happy to report that the Village weathered the economic storm and it now appears that the economy is improving, albeit slowly. We will continue to live within our means, and have adopted a 2014 budget consistent with that sense of fiscal responsibility.

We are a Village governed by volunteers. Residents who are appointed to serve on the various Boards and Commissions, and our elected Village Trustees, serve without compensation. I am deeply grateful to all who give their time and considerable talents to the task of stewarding our great Village.



William T. Rodeghier
Village President

Stay Informed on Village Updates

Register for alerts, news and more on the Village’s web site and via social media. To sign up for Village alerts and news, go to **www.wsprings.com**, click on “Notify Me” and submit your preferences.

Also, find us on Facebook, where Village alerts and news are also posted.

Questions?

Contact Communications & Web
Coordinator Peggy Schuenke at
mschuenke@wsprings.com.

Municipal Roundup

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

Appointed

- Peter Glimco to the Plan Commission
- William Swanson, Amy Avakian and Erica Lord to the Transportation & Safety Committee

Approved

- A raffle license to the Lyons Township High School Parent Teacher Council (LTHS PTC) for their Post Prom 2014 event.
- The purchase of 21 lockers in the amount of \$26,000 for the Police Department locker room renovation from Century Construction of Bedford Park, IL.
- The Village of Western Springs Economic Development Incentive Policy.
- A series of resolutions and ordinances to approve the 2013 property tax levies for the Village and library and approve the Village’s 2014 operating budget. The Village’s total levy of \$6,996,837 includes the Village’s component of \$5,767,177 and the levy for Thomas Ford Memorial Library of \$1,229,660. The 2013 levy, which is collected in 2014, represents a 5% increase over last year’s levy.
- A contract with Pierce Fire Apparatus, Weyauwega, WI, in the amount of \$219,000 for the repair and refurbishment of the ladder apparatus on the 1993 Pierce fire extension ladder truck.
- The purchase of five Argus Thermal imaging cameras from W.S. Darley & Company of Itasca, IL, in the amount of \$23,750 plus the purchase of two sets of speciality washers and dryers for firefighter turn-out gear from Haiges Machinery Inc., Huntley, IL, in the amount of \$27,899. Both purchases were made possible with a grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

The President and the Board of Trustees meet monthly on the second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall, 740 Hillgrove Avenue. The meetings are televised live on Comcast Channel 6 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Village services will be closed on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Day, and on Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents Day. Garbage service is not affected by these holidays.



Western Springs Park District Community Satisfaction Survey Results

The results in this article are a high-level summary of the survey. The Park Board will publish a more comprehensive analysis later in 2014.

The Park District Board of Commissioners would like to thank everyone who responded to the community satisfaction survey. The opinions gathered in the survey will help establish priorities for future improvements.

A total of 1,253 responses were received, 95% of which were from residents. Congratulations to the following respondents who won the drawing for a gift card from the Western Springs Business Association: Filma Cody, Edward Edens, Ileene Giering, Bob Hiatt, Joel Kowalski, Mary Kucik, Mary Jo McKeag, Michael Myers, Laura Skrip and Cheryl Welsh.

Existing Resources

38% of the responders were satisfied with the overall quality of all Western Springs parks. For those that were not satisfied, there was consensus that Park District resources should be allocated to improving restroom facilities, water fountains, picnic areas, benches, lighting and grass playing fields.

As a result of this feedback, the 2014 budget will include:

- Improvements to permanent restrooms at Spring Rock and Springdale and more frequent cleaning of portable restrooms.
- Upgrades to existing water fountains, picnic facilities and additional park benches.
- Refurbishment of the grass fields at Spring Rock Park. This is a top

priority due to the fields' high usage and the importance of maintaining quality and safety.

The board will investigate the feasibility of adding more lighting in the parks.

New Resources

Respondents offered many suggestions for new resources that would add to the enjoyment of the parks. There was widespread support for the following enhancements:

- higher quality pedestrian paths with fitness equipment and distance markers
- a sledding hill
- an ice skating rink
- community gardens
- community bulletin boards
- rubber surface playgrounds
- security cameras
- additional parking

The Park Board will review the feasibility of adding each of these resources to the parks. Some would require the involvement and leadership of volunteers, and others would require new funding sources.

With respect to funding, respondents supported new funding coming first from athletic and other user groups (75%), second from a temporary per-household annual assessment collected for a specified number of years (23%), and third from an increase in the tax levy (19%). 11% of the respondents would not support any of the funding options

presented in the survey. The Park Board looks forward to working with residents to explore how to implement the improvements that are most important to you.

Other Feedback

Strong opinions were expressed on the following topics.

Community Events—A majority would like to see more community events in the parks. Suggestions included more movies and concerts and community-wide picnics. The Park Board will explore opportunities to increase the number of community events in 2014 and beyond.

Dogs in the Parks—A slight majority affirmed that they do not want dogs in the existing parks, while a significant number supported the creation of a dedicated dog park. The Park Board will look for ways to balance the desire for dogs to recreate in the parks with the present demand for park resources from pedestrians, children, and athletic groups.

Although the survey has been closed, the Park Board always welcomes resident feedback and ideas to improve the parks that help to make Western Springs such a great place to live. Please contact Craig Himmelmann, Director of Parks, at chimmelmann@wsprings.com with your comments and questions.

Park Use Permits are required for groups of 25 or more people for all activities including picnics, family gatherings and sporting events. Village residents may apply for a permit beginning January 1st of each year; nonresidents may apply beginning April 1st. Please call 708-334-8213 for a permit.

Congratulations to Jennifer Dunleavy, Park District Board Commissioner. Jennifer is the recipient of the district's 1st quarterly "Make A Difference" award. Jennifer was recognized for her contribution and accomplished excellence for her work in executing the Resident Satisfaction Survey.



Police Department Awards, Promotion and Retirement



31 Years of Dedicated Service—Congratulations to Sergeant John Murray, who retired from the Police Department, after serving for 31 years with 14 years as a sergeant. During Sgt. Murray’s career, he proudly served in the Patrol Division and held various titles including Mobile Field Force Team, TASER instructor, Field Training Program Coordinator and was a 2007 graduate of Northwestern University’s Center for Public Safety School of Police Staff and Command. We wish John all the best in his retirement and thank him for the many years of dedicated service to the Village of Western Springs and its citizens.



Fourteen year veteran, Officer Daniel Albrecht, was recently promoted to sergeant. He has served in many areas of the department including patrol officer, investigator, member of the Attorney General’s Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and his most recent assignment, Battle Auto Task Force. Congratulations to Sgt. Albrecht on his promotion.



On December 10, 2013, Sergeant John Piest was presented with the Cook County Sheriff’s Award of Merit by Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart. This prestigious award is given to select law enforcement officers throughout Cook County who have consistently performed beyond the call of duty by demonstrating an outstanding attitude, public service and professionalism. Congratulating Sergeant Piest are Sheriff Dart and Chief Pamela Church.



The Police Department has successfully completed a 36 month process designed to attain international law enforcement recognition by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). The reaccreditation process involves the examination of the department’s policies, procedures, management, operations and support services. The department was officially awarded a third reaccreditation on November 16, 2013 at CALEA’s fall conference in Winston-Salem, NC, and has been nationally accredited since 2004. In the above photo are l-r: Sylvester Daughtery, Jr., CALEA Executive Director; Cindy Gonzalez, Western Springs PD Accreditation Manager; Chief Pamela Church and Louis M. Dekmar, CALEA Chairman.

Friendly Winter Reminders

Residents Encouraged to Shovel Sidewalks

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

Help Your Neighborhood by Clearing Snow Away from the Fire Hydrants on Your Property

In case of an emergency, seconds count! There are over 450 fire hydrants in Western Springs. Is one on or near your property? Please assign someone in your household the responsibility of keeping fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow for easy access.

Parking

Residents should make every effort to remove their vehicles from the street as soon as possible during any snowfall. The more cars off of the street, the better the snow removal. 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 to 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.



THANK YOU
to the Shalupus Family
for the beautiful
evergreen which lit up
the Tower Green for
the holiday season. If
you have a tree that
you would like the
Village to consider for
next year's holiday
tree, please contact
msupert@wsprings.com.

Senior Activities

Seniors Club

Monday, January 13, 1 p.m., Recreation Center

Barbara Weyrick, the Lyons Township Assessor, will make a presentation on property taxes. Annual dues of \$10 will be collected. Renewals after February 28, 2014, will be \$12.

Monday, February 10, 12 noon

34th Anniversary and Valentine's Day luncheon with catering by *Taste of Home*. Following lunch, entertainment will be provided by Rick Pickren.

Wednesday, February 26, 11 a.m.

Day trip to the Theatre at the Center in Munster to see the musical *Ring of Fire*. Reservation to 708-784-8966.

Senior Center

Computer Use Group, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 1–2:30 p.m.

Members come together and share knowledge and challenges with an experienced moderator. The group shares and explores in the first half of the meeting and the last half involves a presentation or individual help. A fully charged laptop or iPad with Wi-Fi capability is required.

Seniorcise, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30–11:15 a.m.

Join our A.C.E. personal trainer in a class designed to meet the needs of all participants from the most agile and aerobic to those with disabilities. It's that time of year . . . time to feel better.

The Senior Center is located at the Grand Avenue Community Center at 4211 Grand Avenue. The center operates Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop-in business hours (services available) are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. Senior Center membership is open to the public and fees for 2014 are due in January. Membership fees are \$30 for residents, \$40 for non-residents, \$50 for resident married couples, and \$70 for non-resident married couples. Forms are available at the Senior Center and www.wsprings.com. For more information, please call 708-246-3299.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Welcome New Business!

Store owner and manager Ryan Carrasquillo recently opened **Yumz Gourmet Frozen Yogurt** in the Garden Market shopping center. The ownership team also includes Ryan's parents, Tony and Becky Carrasquillo. Ryan and his family are very excited to become part of the Western Springs' community. He noted that "Yumz Gourmet Frozen Yogurt offers an amazing variety of frozen yogurt flavors, toppings and combinations to make any visit an adventure for the taste buds. The self-serve concept allows customers to fill their cup with any gourmet frozen yogurt flavor, add a variety of toppings, weigh it and then love it."



**Yumz Gourmet Frozen Yogurt • 4700 Gilbert Avenue
708-246-4410**

L-R: Village Trustees Sheila Hansen and Alice Gallagher joined Yumz franchise owner Ryan Carrasquillo for the grand opening. Ryan is joined by his mother Becky Carrasquillo and Yumz franchise founders Lori and Matt Thelander.

One Year Anniversary

The Village of Western Springs congratulated **Yoga by Degrees** on their recent one year anniversary. **Yoga by Degrees** is located in the Garden Market shopping center. Check out their class descriptions at www.yogabydegrees.net to find the right class with right amount of heat for you.

L-R: Village Trustee Sheila Hansen, instructors Colleen Taylor and Meghan Rohde and Village Trustees Suzie Glowiak and Alice Gallagher



Yoga by Degrees • 4700 Gilbert Avenue • 630-690-9642

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide or CO is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking appliances, as well as water heaters and fireplaces, can be sources of carbon monoxide. Running a car or generator in an attached garage, even with the door open, can produce fatal CO concentrations. Make sure to have your furnace and chimney vents checked for loose or disconnected connections. Look for debris or soot on fireplaces, water heaters and appliances as these could be indicators of a CO problem.

The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). Symptoms include:

- Headache
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Nausea

High level CO poisoning symptoms include:

- Mental confusion
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Vomiting
- Loss of consciousness and death

If you suspect that you are experiencing CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately. If you stay in the home, you could lose consciousness and die from CO poisoning. Leave the home and call 911 from a neighbor's home or your cell phone.

Carbon monoxide detectors can save you and your family's life. For your protection CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Do not install your CO detector within 15 feet of a fuel burning appliance. Many detectors now have a built in end-of-life warning that will signal when you need to replace it. Generally CO detectors are manufactured to last from 5-7 years.

For any questions about CO and detectors, contact Lt Chuck Lichtenauer at clichtenauer@wsprings.com or 708-246-1800, ext. 306.

Recreation Department

Welcome to winter in Western Springs. Just because the temperature has plunged is not a good enough reason to stay home. The Recreation Department has many opportunities for all ages to stay fit in both body and mind while having some fun! Registration is open for programs so get out and recreate. The brochure is available at www.wsprings.com or call 708-246-9070 and one can be mailed. Program highlights are:

- Soft and Silly Volleyball, ages 3–5, January 23–February 27, 1 p.m., at the Recreation Center.
- Musical Adventures, ages 4–K, January 9–February 20 and February 27–April 17, 1–3 p.m., at the Recreation Center
- Youth Lacrosse Spring Registration is open for 1st–8th grade. Volunteer coaches needed. Training is provided.
- Blue Moose Extra Innings for 2nd–3rd graders. Please check the registration brochure for specific days and times.
- LTSC Mini (Pre–K, K, 1st and 2nd grades) Winter Soccer Academy at Grand Avenue Community Center, from January 18–February 15.
- Simply Sewing, ages 7–12, February 4–25, 4–5:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center.
- Adult fitness classes are offered mornings or evenings. Dates and times are available in the program brochure.
- Men’s Open Basketball is Thursday nights beginning January 9 at 8:15 p.m.
- Body Sculpting and Fat Loss Secrets Revealed is an adult program on January 16 from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center.
- Little Sweetheart Dance, Sunday, February 9, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Grand Avenue Community Center.

Please call the department, 708–246–9070, with any questions on programs, policies, procedures, fees/waivers, and locations.

NEAT Cleanup Day Save The Date—April 5

Join N.E.A.T. as they celebrate 29 years of community service! The Neighborhood Environmental Appearance Team (NEAT) is an organization that was created in 1986 as a subcommittee of the Village’s Architectural and Appearance Commission in preparation of the Village’s Centennial celebration. NEAT organized the first workday April 19, 1986 and continues to plan a one-day event in which community groups and families join together to clean litter and debris that accumulates in and around public areas of the Village.

NEAT Cleanup Day 2014 will be held on Saturday, April 5, with a rain date of Sunday, April 6. All residents and youth groups (it’s a great service project!) are invited to bring rakes, brooms and gloves to help with the cleanup. Groups are encouraged to preregister so appropriate work sites can be assigned. Check-in and registration will take place April 5 at the Recreation Center between 8 a.m. and noon. For further information, please contact Carol Yee at 708-246-6704/mscyee@hotmail.com or the Recreation Department at 708-246-9070.



Amended Illinois Vehicle Code Use of Cell Phones Prohibited

Residents, please be aware that the Illinois legislature amended the Illinois Vehicle Code, Section 12-610, to prohibit the use of an electronic communication device while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in the State of Illinois. The law went into effect January 1, 2014. “Electronic communication device” means an electronic device, including but not limited to a hand-held wireless telephone, hand-held personal digital assistant, or a portable or mobile computer, but does not include a global positioning system or navigation system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the motor vehicle.

This section of the law does not apply to:

- A law enforcement officer or operator of an emergency vehicle while performing his or her official duties;
- A driver using an electronic communication device for the sole purpose of reporting an emergency situation and continued communication with emergency personnel during the emergency situation;
- A driver using an electronic device in a hands-free or voice-operated mode which may include the use of a headset.

A maximum fine for the first offense is \$75, \$100 for the second offense, \$125 for the third offense, and \$150 for the fourth or subsequent offense.

TOWER TOPICS
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FOR SERVICES CALL:

Ambulance/Fire/Police emergency 9-1-1
Building Department 708-246-1800 Ext. 180
Fire non-emergency 708-246-1182
Police non-emergency 708-246-8540
Public Works Department 708-246-1800 Ext. 200
Recreation Department 708-246-9070
Refuse/Recycling (Allied Waste) 708-345-7050
Village Hall 708-246-1800

Explore and Stay Informed
www.wsprings.com

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Garden Club

The Western Springs Garden Club meets at the First Congregational Church, 1106 Chestnut, at 12:30 p.m. Programs for January and February are:

January 14—"Edible Gardening" with Dan Kosta

February 24—"Gardening Related Ordinances" with Director of Community Development Martin Scott

Please join the club for a meeting or contact Nancy at 708-246-2297 for more information about the club. Guests are always welcome to attend, and new members are eagerly accepted.



Legacy Gift Campaign

The 125th Legacy Gift Campaign is an ongoing effort to fund enhancements to the historical water tower. If you have not had the opportunity to make a donation, you may do so by mailing your donation to Quasquicentennial Legacy Fund, 740 Hillgrove Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558. The Campaign recognizes and thanks the following individuals for their recent donations:

Marilyn & Tom Cahill/\$500 • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kosin/\$100 • Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hussey/\$100

Please also consider adding your energy to the efforts of the 125th Legacy Gift Campaign. The committee is looking for fresh ideas and new visions for funding. Please contact Janet Dahl at janet@dahl.com, if you are interested in joining the group.

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The Police Department will be hosting AARP Driving classes on March 12 and 13, 2014 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in the All Purpose Room at the Village Hall. Not able to make the March class? Another class is scheduled for July 15 and 16. By taking the course you will learn defensive driving techniques, new traffic laws and rules of the road, and how to deal with aggressive drivers. Plus, you could receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance!

Register by contacting Lt. David Dayhoff at ddayhoff@wsprings.com or 708-246-1800, ext. 155.