

# tower Topics

VILLAGE *of* WESTERN SPRINGS



## ***President's Perspective***

Welcome to 2012! On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we wish each of you a Happy New Year, and extend our best wishes for good health, prosperity, and happiness to all our residents. It is my custom to begin every meeting with recognition for our veterans and members of our armed services. As we enjoy the comforts of table and hearth this holiday season, we should remember our servicemen and women who have given up these comforts in service of our country. It is their efforts, sacrifices, and commitments often in service far from home and loved ones that guarantee our peaceful celebrations.

This past year was one of celebration and success for the Village. The year began marking the Village's 125<sup>th</sup> year with a grand neighborhood block party at McClure. The joy of that event was quickly extinguished by the tragic loss of our friend and colleague, Bill Nelson. The Village lost a dedicated employee, a truly valued colleague; all of us lost a good friend.

Highlights of the Village's significant accomplishments in 2011 include:

- Weather incidents have faded from memory for many of us, but our Public Works Department was challenged by several significant snow and rain storms. The challenges were met, even though a strain was put on the budget. The staff has submitted a request for a grant that hopefully will reimburse the Village for part of the unexpected costs for snow events.
- We opened and dedicated the new South Fire Station. The station was long-planned, and the subject of numerous public meetings. It was constructed at virtually no cost to the residents since the facility was constructed entirely with funds from grants.
- In May, the terms of three dedicated and effective trustees, Marcia Buell, Janet Dahl, and Jim Maragos ended, and the terms of trustees Sheila Hansen, Ed Tymick and Pat Word began.
- Sections of Woodland and Garden Avenues were reconstructed.
- After nearly 2 years of public meetings, the Village accepted a Downtown Redevelopment Plan. With significant public input, the Plan represents the residents' views of what they would like the downtown to look like upon redevelopment.
- After more than 15 years of study, evaluation and planning, the Village began to rehabilitate and construct a reverse osmosis water treatment facility on Hillgrove Avenue.
- The Village continued the celebration of its Quasiquicentennial with additional activities in conjunction with the Gathering on the Green in June and the WSBA Christmas Walk in December. At the December event, the Legacy Committee's proposed gift to the Village in honor of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was unveiled. We look forward to completing the necessary fundraising in 2012 to make the gift a realization.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

*(President—Continued from Page 1)*

The Village completed the 2011 accomplishments, as well as the day-to-day operations of municipal government, within the confines of a lean, no-nonsense budget. Similarly, plans for 2012 were made with a foundation of a realistic budget. We recognize that the revenues we rely upon to fund operations have leveled off, if not declined in some cases, while at the same time the expenses of delivering municipal services continue to rise. We are not alone in this situation, as virtually every level of government is confronted with the same predicament. We planned accordingly in the past, and our planning has served the Village well. Although we are always hopeful “things will turn around”, we cannot plan on that sentiment. Rather, we have adopted a budget for 2012 that reflects a realistic attitude towards the future. What we expect to accomplish in 2012 includes the following:

- Completion of the reverse osmosis water treatment plant.
- The road/street maintenance program will continue and begin with the resurfacing of Hillgrove Avenue, west of Wolf Road. We also plan to totally reconstruct north Woodland Avenue and replace the original water main installed more than a century ago.
- Commence the final engineering plans for the new west underpass.
- Develop a policy and plan to deal with the menace of the emerald ash borer. We are currently inventorying the Village’s parkway ash trees, inspecting them and assessing their current condition. With that information, we intend to develop a program to mitigate losses over some extended period of time. This should allow us time to provide for some replacement and regrowth and to minimize the overall impact on the Village’s streetscape.

At a recent board meeting, we recognized several youngsters who had won first place in their age groups in a contest sponsored by the Historical Society. The theme of that contest was “Why I Love Western Springs.” As the board listened to these creative, insightful essays, which mentioned the water tower, our friendly merchants and our beautiful parks, the words evidenced a repeating theme: it is our police officers, fire fighters, recreation department instructors and other Village employees who make a difference in the lives of these young people. We have come to expect a high level of dedication and service from our municipal employees. Sometimes it takes words of children to remind us of how appreciative we should be.



William T. Rodeghier  
Village President

## ***Water Plant Rehabilitation Update***

---

Construction on the Village’s new reverse osmosis (RO) treatment plant is well under way and water softening is no longer taking place at the plant. During the construction period the water treatment plant intends to use water primarily from well #4. Currently, the well has a naturally occurring fluoride level of approximately 2.1 mg/L. This level is considered to be safe for drinking; however, fluoride levels in drinking water above 2.0 mg/L may cause some adolescent children to show signs of dental fluorosis.

Dental fluorosis is a condition that occurs in developing permanent teeth before they erupt from the gums. Commonly exhibited signs of dental fluorosis are white streaks on the teeth in minor cases to brown discoloration in more severe cases. Fluorosis is a cosmetic condition only and does not affect the overall health in the integrity of the tooth. Children and adults who already have permanent teeth exposed will not be affected.

If you have further concerns regarding the possible impact of dental fluorosis, the Village recommends that you contact your family dentist to determine how to proceed with your child’s dental care for the remaining construction period of the RO plant. Questions concerning the plant’s construction may be directed to Ken Hayes, 708-246-1800, Ext. 215.

## ***Municipal Roundup***

The President and Board of Trustees approved the following items during the months of November and December:

- A contract to Morrow Brothers Ford, Inc. of Greenfield, IL for a 2011 Ford F350 truck in the amount of \$28,764.
- A Special Events Class “I” liquor license to St. John of the Cross for their 2012 Endowment Trust Fund Gala to be held on March 10, 2012.
- A Class “B” liquor license for a full service restaurant as well as a Class “H” outdoor consumption license for an outdoor café to Hillgrove Cellars.
- The 2012 tree trimming contract with Nels Johnson Tree Experts of Evanston, IL in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.
- The 2012 tree removal contract with Sinott Tree Service, Inc. of LaGrange, IL, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.
- The 2012 landscaping contract with Brickman Group of Mokena, IL, in an amount not to exceed \$68,530.
- A contract with Twin Supplies, Ltd., in the amount of \$130,107.22 to pay for the purchase and installation of lighting fixtures, wiring and bulbs at the Village Hall, the Recreation Center, the Fire Department and the Public Works facility. The contract will be paid with grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Clean Energy program.
- A series of resolutions and ordinances to approve the 2012 property tax levies for the Village and library and approve the Village’s 2012 budget. The Village’s portion of the levy totals \$5,362,239 which is 4.3% over last year’s levy for the Village.

### ***Village Manager Patrick Higgins is pleased to announce the appointments of Patrick Kenny as Director of Fire & EMS and Matthew Supert as Director of Municipal Services***



Our Village is fortunate to welcome back Patrick Kenny to the position of Director of Fire and EMS. Pat was the Deputy Chief from 2008 to 2010 until leaving for the position of Assistant Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Kenny brings to this position over 30 years of experience. He began his career in 1982 as a firefighter with the Tri-State Fire Protection District in Darien and then transferred to the Hinsdale department. Pat moved through the Hinsdale ranks and eventually became the fire chief in 1994 until his resignation in 2008 to become the Deputy Chief in Western Springs. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program, the College of DuPage with an associate degree in fire science and Loyola University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. Chief Kenny began his duties on January 1.



At the December 19 Village Board meeting, the Village Manager officially appointed Matthew Supert as the Director of Municipal Services. Matt has been the Acting Director of Municipal Services since January 2011 and began his career with Western Springs in 2007 as the Municipal Services Analyst. Matt is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a bachelor’s degree in political science and Northern Illinois University with a Masters of Public Administration. As Director of Municipal Services, Mr. Supert will manage the daily operations of Public Works, the Water Department, engineering and properties.



## ***Quasquicentennial Legacy Gift Presentation***

---

On Saturday, December 3, the Village celebrated the final episode of the celebrations for the Village’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a laser light show and the presentation of the Quasquicentennial gift from the community to the Village. Janet Dahl, former Village trustee and a member of the Legacy Committee, spoke to the large crowd about the past year and the proposed concept to enhance the historical Water Tower:

For the last year we have celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Village—its Quasquicentennial. We’ve had a big party, concerts, and a wonderful Kirschbaum’s water tower cake that fed thousands. Today, we close this year of celebration, but in the spirit of Christmas, we are here to give a gift. A Legacy Committee was formed as part of the “Q” celebration to raise money for an endowment to mark this milestone. Our residents, businesses and companies serving the Village donated almost \$45,000 for our legacy gift.

Then our committee set about to choose what this gift should be. As we walked through the Village, we saw what you see today—our Water Tower, beautiful and stately—a wonderful symbol of our town. We also saw that her stairs were a little worn, and not quite **grand** enough for Grand Avenue and Hillgrove. So, we went to the Village and expressed our dream of sprucing up the Tower so she retains her iconic beauty.

Together we will create a beautiful, reimagined look for the Tower. The Village will revitalize the stairs, adding some beautiful curves to match the architecture of the Tower. A larger landing will highlight the importance of this landmark.

We will take it from there. The legacy gift will add stone benches, decorative brick edging, and a bronze medallion honoring the Quasquicentennial year of 2011.

The Tower has been not only our Water Tower, but also our Village Hall and our Police Station. Today, it is home to the Historical Society. Maintaining it and improving the Tower Green is a perfect way to honor the Village motto, PRIDE in the PAST, FAITH in the FUTURE.

The design concept plan for the historical Water Tower is available for viewing at Village Hall.

## ***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 subjected 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.

## Senior Services

---

Winter's here but that's not stopping the seniors of Western Springs. Join the group and chase those blues away.

### **Monday, January 9, 1 p.m., Recreation Center**

Rita Lopienski, a music major who works with social programming at Plymouth Place, will be the guest entertainer demonstrating world sounds on drums from Africa, India, the Middle East and South America. Annual dues of \$10 will be collected.

### **Monday, February 13, 12 p.m., Recreation Center**

32nd anniversary celebration with a catered lunch. The lunch will be followed with entertainment by John Measner, a modern magician with a traditional touch, including state illusions and audience participation.

### **Thursday, February 23, 9:15 a.m.**

Day trip to The Chicago History Museum for a guided one hour tour and lunch followed by a short visit to the Garfield Park Conservatory.

The Senior Center at Grand Avenue Community Center is another opportunity for seniors to socialize and be involved in a variety of activities. The center is open Monday—Friday from 9 a.m.—5 p.m. and is staffed from 12—3 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For activity information, please call 708-246-3299 or visit [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com). Membership renewal is due during the month of January.

## Recreation Department

---

Winter/spring is a fantastic time to utilize the terrific indoor recreational facilities in the Village. Indoor sports such as basketball, floor hockey, volleyball and others are a great way to beat the winter blues. Registration is open for programs so get out and recreate. The brochure is available at [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com) or call 708-246-9070 and one can be mailed.

Program highlights are:

- Youth LaCrosse Spring Registration—January 22 or 24.
- 3-point Athletics Youth (3rd—5th grade) Basketball Program at Highlands Middle School from January 21—March 10
- LTSC Mini (Pre-K, K, 1st and 2nd grades) Winter Soccer Academy at Grand Avenue Community Center, from January 14—February 11.
- Book club for grades 3rd—5th. Book discussion coordinates with activities relative to the book.
- Tumbling. A wonderful way to introduce your child to gymnastics.
- New and FREE!—Ask An Architect. One-on-one consultation. Thursday, January 26. Register at 708-246-9070.
- New Pilates Instructor!. Come get fit and meet the new Pilates instructor. Monday nights at Grand Avenue Community Center beginning January 9.
- Little Sweetheart Dance, Sunday, February 12, from 2—3:30 p.m. at Grand Avenue Community Center.



## **Grand Tree Lights Up Tower Green**

To honor the Village's Quasquicentennial year, Village staff decided that the Tower Green needed a large, magnificent tree to light up the Tower Green through the holiday season. Borrowing from the Chicago idea, the Village turned to its residents and solicited for a pine tree donation. Six offers were made and the Perona Family tree was the top pick. The Public Works Department had the complicated job of removal and moving the 45 foot tree from 5205 Grand to the Tower Green. The Village gives a big "THANK YOU" to the Perona Family and hopes everyone enjoyed the lights of the season at the Tower Green.

## Family First Safety Plan A Commitment to Safety and Wellbeing



The Western Springs MRC is a group of willing and trained volunteers ready and available to assist our village in the event of an emergency. Although it is called a “Medical Reserve Corps” you need not be in the medical field to participate. In fact, all volunteers bring their own unique skills and knowledge with them from varied backgrounds, and it is this variety that is vital to the success of our unit. The next meeting of the MRC will be January 11, 2012 at 7 p.m. Lt. Fred Lesch from the Fire Department will be speaking about Blood Borne Pathogens. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining or want to learn more about the organization, please contact, Tim Conley, MRC Coordinator, at [tconley@wspings.com](mailto:tconley@wspings.com) or 708-246-1182.

As we enter into the winter, please remember a few preparedness and safety issues:

**SEVERE STORMS**—Snow and ice storms have the potential to cause emergency situations. Severe storms can sever power lines rendering you without electricity. What you may not know is that your furnace may depend on electricity for an ignition spark and likely uses electricity to power the fan that pushes heat throughout your home. While power outages in the summer may make things uncomfortable without air conditioning, loss of heat is a much bigger issue. In the event of a severe storm and power outage, the Village has contingency plans for a warming shelter. Last winter, a large portion of Springdale was left without power during the February blizzard and some residents required this service. If you find yourself needing assistance, please call the Village non-emergency number, 708-246-8540.

As discussed at the last community MRC meeting, if a severe storm occurs, be prepared with food, water, and medicines to last at least three days in your home. Emergency response teams are very busy after emergencies and may take time in reaching you. For more information on Emergency Family Preparedness, please check [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

**INFLUENZA**—Colder weather and being indoors also brings with it the spread of infections like influenza. The Centers for Disease Control recommend influenza vaccinations annually for everyone, but especially for those at high risk of serious infection. These include all children over 6 months, all pregnant women, all people over 65, and anyone with a chronic health condition. Please refer to the CDC website [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) for additional information and see your physician or local pharmacy for a flu vaccine.

### *Police Chief and Crime Prevention Officer Receive Special Awards*



Police Chief Pamela Church has been recognized with an award for her exceptional commitment to crime prevention and community safety. Chief Church was named the 2011 Illinois Crime Prevention Association’s Chief of the Year. Chief Church was formally honored at the Association’s Annual Chief’s Appreciation and Awards Luncheon on December 1, 2011 in Wheaton.

Officer Danielle Stevens was also recognized for her exceptional commitment to crime prevention and community safety and was named the 2011 Crime Prevention Association’s Officer of the Year. Officer Stevens also received the Cook County Sheriff’s Award of Merit by Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart. This prestigious award is given annually to select law enforcement officers throughout Cook County who have consistently performed beyond the call of duty by displaying an outstanding attitude, public service, and professionalism.



## Business Spotlight

**Green Promoting** is the newest member of the village’s business community. With over 30 years of combined marketing experience, **Green Promoting** offers a unique and creative approach to promotional marketing which will take your company to the next step and earn you some green. Please stop by and meet the partners of **Green Promoting** located at 4471 Lawn Avenue. Company information is also available at [www.greenpromoting.com](http://www.greenpromoting.com) or 708-784-1180.



I-r: Trustee Sheila Hansen, Owners, Paula Buttel and Carol King, Trustee Deb Lyons and Trustee Jim Horvath

The grand opening celebration of **Design Studio**, 917 Burlington Avenue, took place on Friday, November 25. The opening of the Burlington Avenue location is the culmination of over 30 years of hard work between business partners and Western Springs residents, Carol King and Paula Buttel. **Design Studio** is a bright, vintage-inspired accessories store with a contemporary feel and enthusiastically supports locally made products. In addition to the storefront, the rear patio features garden accessories and a seating area that can be rented for parties or free of charge for fundraisers. Visit the studio to find unique one-of-a-kind treasures for your home, garden and personal needs.

[www.shopdesignstudio](http://www.shopdesignstudio) • 708-784-9799

## Stay Warm, But Safe—Avoid Chimney Fires

Enjoy your fireplace; however, keep in mind these safety tips:

### Fireplace Safety

- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned annually. Creosote, the residue that sticks to the walls of chimneys, is highly combustible.
- Always use a screen around the fireplace to contain sparks and to keep children and pets safe.
- Lay down a fire resistant hearthrug on the adjacent floor and keep the hearth area clear of combustible materials such as wood, books and loose paper.
- Use *seasoned* woods only. (*Dryness* is more important than hard wood versus soft wood considerations. Unseasoned woods cause more creosote buildup in the chimney.)
- Never burn cardboard, wrapping paper, trash or tree branches; they can spark a chimney fire.
- Do not leave the fire unattended for any length of time.
- Make sure the fire has completely died out before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector.

### Chimney Fires

The sound of a typical chimney fire may be a low rumbling sound, much like a freight train or low flying airplane. Slower burning chimney fires (those with less fuel or restricted air flow) may not be as dramatic but can be equally dangerous. In either case, if you realize a chimney fire is occurring:

- Close the glass doors on the fireplace
- Get everyone out of the house, including you
- Call 911

**TOWER TOPICS**  
Village of Western Springs  
740 Hillgrove • Western Springs, IL 60558  
708-246-1800 FAX: 708-246-0284  
Editor • Peg Schuenke  
708-246-1800, Ext. 203  
mschuenke@wsprings.com

**FOR SERVICES CALL:**  
Ambulance/Fire/Police emergency..... 9-1-1  
Fire non-emergency ..... 708-246-1182  
Police non-emergency ..... 708-246-8540  
Public Works Department .. 708-246-1800 Ext. 200  
(parkway trees, streets, sewers, water )  
Recreation Department..... 708-246-9070  
Village Hall..... 708-246-1800

Visit us on the web!  
[www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com)

**VILLAGE BOARD**  
President William Rodeghier  
708-246-1800 Ext. 120  
wrodeghier@wsprings.com

Trustees:

Suzanne Glowiak..... 708-246-1800 Ext. 119  
sglowiak@wsprings.com

James Horvath..... 708-246-1800 Ext. 117  
jhorvath@wsprings.com

Deborah Lyons..... 708-246-1800 Ext. 118  
dlyons@wsprings.com

Sheila Hansen..... 708-246-1800 Ext. 115  
shansen@wsprings.com

Edward Tymick ..... 708-246-1800 Ext. 116  
etymick@wsprings.com

Patrick Word..... 708-246-1800 Ext. 114  
pword@wsprings.com

Pre-sort  
Carrier Route  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Western Springs, Illinois  
PERMIT NO. 34

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**  
**WESTERN SPRINGS, ILLINOIS**  
**60558**

***Explorer Post 740 Needs Your Support***

The Explorer Post is raising funds to attend the National Explorer Conference in July 2012 at Fort Collins, Co. Currently, the Post is selling "Entertainment" books at \$25 each. An upcoming drive will be "Little Caesars" pizza kits; average price is \$15 for 3 pizzas. The Explorers are local boys and girls, 14—20 years, who volunteer their time to serve the community. At events they assist with public safety, they assist in alcohol and tobacco compliance checks and ride with officers. The time they contribute is a valuable asset to our Village and any assistance that could be given to the Post would be appreciated. Orders may be placed with Post Liaison Officer A.J. Hull at [ahull@wsprings.com](mailto:ahull@wsprings.com) or 708-246-8540.

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. Garbage service is not affected by these holidays.

***NEAT Cleanup Day***  
***Save The Date—April 14***

Join us at N.E.A.T. celebrates 26 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 2012 will be held on Saturday, April 14, with a rain date of Sunday, April 15. 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 14 at the Recreation Center between 8 a.m. and noon. For further information, please contact Carol Yee at 708-246-6704/[mscyee@hotmail.com](mailto:mscyee@hotmail.com) or the Recreation Department at 708-246-9070.