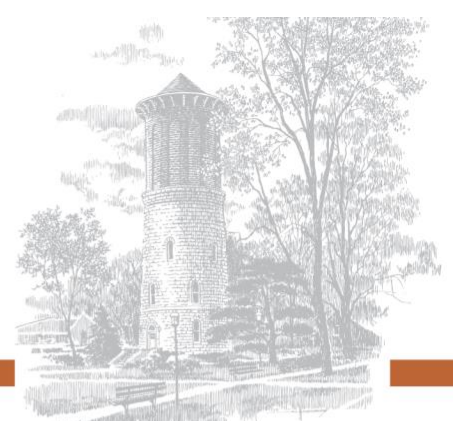


# TUESDAY TOPICS

January 26, 2021



## Pay Water Bills Online:

- Residents can now pay water bills online. Using the Village's new online utility bill payment option, residents can receive water bills electronically, sign up for Auto Pay (ACH) from the bank, or pay with a credit or debit card (a \$2.00 convenience fee applies). Learn more by clicking on the "[Green Pay](#)" text box on the front page of the Village website.

## Refuse and Recycling Reminders:

- A member of First Congo's Green Team recently noticed that a number of recycling carts had both blue recycling bags and black trash bags inside of them. Plastic bags are not included in our recycling program, but they can be recycled, along with other types of plastic, through the [Trex Recycling Program](#) at participating retailers. For a refresher on single stream recycling, click [here](#). Please also be reminded that electronic waste requires [bulk item stickers](#), and must be scheduled by calling [LRS](#) directly. For more information about how to dispose of, recycle, or donate used electronics, visit the [SCARCE website](#).

## Fraudulent IDES Claims Affecting Local Residents:

- The Police Department continues to share information about the ongoing fraudulent Illinois Department of Employment Security claims. To learn more about how this scam unfolds, see page 11 of the most recent issue of [Tower Topics](#) newsletter, or view the informative [video](#) by Crime Prevention Officer Magnuson on Facebook.

## Region 10 Advances to Tier 1 COVID-19 Resurgence Mitigations:

- This past Saturday Suburban Cook County, Region 10, advanced to Tier 1 mitigations. Restaurants may resume limited indoor dining (25 guests or 25% capacity per room, whichever is less). Reservations are required and indoor food service is limited to a maximum duration of 2 hours, with no more than 4 persons per table. Dining only with members of the same household is recommended. To learn more, visit the [IDPH website](#) or the [COVID-19 page](#) of the Village website. It is encouraging to see our metrics trending in a positive direction, but we must all continue to do our part to keep transmission rates low, until everyone has access to the vaccine.
- On January 25, the State moved to Phase 1B of the Illinois vaccine distribution plan. Phase 1B expands vaccine eligibility to include non-healthcare frontline essential workers such as first responders; teachers; corrections workers and inmates; postal, public transit, and grocery store workers; and staff at shelters and day cares. Phase 1B also includes all residents aged 65 and older. There are approximately 3.2 million Illinoisans eligible to receive the vaccine in this phase. Online registration for COVID-19 vaccinations in Cook County began Monday at: <https://vaccine.cookcountyil.gov/sign-up>. While this is good news, the vaccine is not yet available for widespread distribution. Until that time, it is important to continue to practice protective measures: wear a mask, wash hands, and socially distance.

## Village Infrastructure Improvements:

- On January 21, the Village Board's Public Works & Water and Finance Committees held a joint meeting to discuss infrastructure needs and financial planning to address improvements. Staff recommended a comprehensive Village-wide infrastructure improvement study along with an outsourced financial review and projection of municipal resources. The full Board discussed these recommendations at its meeting last night and will move forward on staff's recommendations. More to come as we plan for critical infrastructure improvements.

Until next week,

Alice Gallagher,  
Village President

*Wear a Mask, Socially Distance, Wash Hands, Be Safe  
Take Care of Yourself, Protect Others, Support our Community*