



President's Corner
July 2018

Summer is a busy time in the Village of Western Springs, as residents make the most of the warm weather and play in our parks, shop in our vibrant downtown, wander the Sunday French market, and enjoy outdoor dining at one of our excellent eateries. This year, summer also means the much anticipated re-opening of the East Train Platform, and the beginning of Lawn Avenue improvements.

Summer is market season! The French Market operates Sundays from 9 am - 1 pm, from May through the end of October. It is located on Hillgrove Avenue in front of the historic water tower, and offers a variety of produce, meats, seafood, breads, pastries, chocolates, cheeses, wine, artisan-made goods, and flowers from local and regional vendors. Want to become a market vendor? Learn more at: <http://wsprings.com/352/French-Market>

Next to the market sits the new East train platform. This project is part of a larger ongoing downtown revitalization effort designed to enhance the commuter experience and overall downtown streetscape through improvements in safety and aesthetics. The new platform design includes paver bricks and concrete, improved lighting, new plantings and more seating. We plan to celebrate the newly improved East train platform by welcoming even more shoppers, diners and commuters to our downtown business district now that major construction has been completed.

There are more changes ahead! Lawn Avenue, just south of the train tracks, will soon undergo reconstruction. This project is primarily a maintenance driven project, but will include new curb lines, parking reconfiguration, a wider pedestrian walkway and landscaping. Once completed, the area will have a more welcoming aesthetic and improved pedestrian safety. Our complete downtown redevelopment plan can be found at: <http://wsprings.com/133/Community-Development> and details on the 2018 roadway program are at: <http://wsprings.com/496/2018-Roadway-Program>.

Summer is also picnic, playground and park season. Residents can enjoy the brand new Spring Rock Park playground, experience the newly installed butterfly garden, hear an outdoor concert, or watch a movie under the stars, in one of our thirteen parks. Free concerts will take place on July 11 at 6:30 pm at the Tower Green, and July 27 at 6 pm in Ridgewood Park. Camping Under the Stars is overnight on July 13, and National Night Out - a family event promoting police-community partnerships - is August 7 at Spring Rock Park. Your teen can round out the summer with a special teen night on August 24.

The Recreation Department also offers summer activities for all ages. If you're looking for something fun for the kids during the dog days of summer, check out their summer camps for ages 3-8. Or how about a bicycle scavenger hunt for your 'tween'? This fun event takes place on July 10 from 4-5:30 pm. Learn more about the many activities and events offered through our Park District at: <https://www.wsparks.org/> and our Recreation Department at: <http://www.wsprings.com/199/Recreation>

Happy summer, everyone. Hope to see you out and about, enjoying all that the Village of Western Springs has to offer!

Alice Gallagher,
Village President