



President's Corner
March 2019

Spring is finally here! Soon gardens will be filled with blooms and the trees will bear leaves. Western Springs is proud of our "Tree City USA" designation from the Arbor Day Foundation, and a ceremonial tree is planted each Arbor Day to honor the vital role that trees play in our everyday lives. On Friday, April 26, at 10 am, Village officials will celebrate Arbor Day with a brief ceremony at Forest Hills Elementary School. Details can be found at: <https://wsprings.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=1652>.

Each year, the Village offers a cost sharing program for parkway tree planting and replacement. All trees purchased through this program will be cost shared, 25% by the property owner, and 75% by the Village. Fees cover the tree, shipping, and planting. This is a wonderful opportunity to further beautify our community, and to ensure the future health of our urban forest. The deadline for reserving your tree is March 30. To learn more, go to: <https://wsprings.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=142>.

Spring showers bring flowers, but can also bring drainage and flooding challenges. There are many ways to improve water drainage on your property: limiting the number of square feet covered in concrete or decking material; maintaining and preserving the mature trees that catch and more evenly distribute the rainfall; adjusting downspouts to reduce the drainage that occurs above ground; purchasing a rain barrel to capture water for later use; and, planting a rain garden.

A rain garden is a shallow depression that is planted with deeply rooted native plants and grasses. To learn more about creating a rain garden on your property, see the Illinois Department of Natural Resources guidelines at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/PlantListRainGarden.aspx>, consult a landscape architect, or chat with your local garden center representative. Don't forget to apply for the required permits - any changes to the grade of your property affecting water flow are monitored by the Village. You can learn more about permits and plan approval at: <http://www.wsprings.com/133/Community-Development>.

You can purchase a rain barrel at your local home improvement store, or order through MWRD – the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago: <https://www.mwrdd.org/iri/portal/anonymous/rainbarrel>.

MWRD also has a water reclamation plant program, and offers free Bur, Pin, and Swamp White Oak saplings from March – October. A medium-sized Oak tree can absorb 2,800 gallons of water per year. <http://www.mwrdd.org/iri/portal/anonymous/Trees>.

Happy spring!

Alice Gallagher,
President