

# TUESDAY TOPICS



September 14, 2021

## Railroad Crossing Overnight Closures:

- Railroad tie replacement is required to maintain a safe and efficient railroad system. BNSF has scheduled [overnight closures](#) of the railroad crossings at **Gilbert, Lawn, and Central** (pedestrian crossing) from 7 pm – 8 am between Friday September 17 – Sunday, September 20. By scheduling the work during the overnight hours BNSF crews can complete the work in three days, as opposed to weeks during daytime hours that include more train traffic. The Wolf Avenue crossing will remain open. Residents should expect construction noise, light pollution, and train horns during the overnight hours.

## Tower Trot 2021:

- The 44th Annual Tower Trot will be held rain or shine this Saturday, September 18 and is open to all ages and abilities using CARA age categories for awards. Registration is required and includes t-shirt, refreshments, and entertainment. On Saturday, certain streets in Old Town North and Field Park will be closed from approximately 8:30-10 am. Please limit car travel in those areas and watch for runners. 5K, 10K, and Fun Run course maps can be found [here](#). For more information and to register, visit the [Village website](#).

## Tollway Project Reminders:

- Last week the Tollway issued a [press release](#) that provides more information about the pedestrian bridge project, and they've created a webpage specifically for this project. Visit the [Village website](#), or the [Tollway's project page](#) for more information.
- As part of the I-294 Expansion Project, the Illinois Tollway is coordinating local watermain replacement and sewer work on Hillgrove Avenue between the public works facility and Prospect Avenue. This work is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year. Visit the [Village website](#) for additional details.

## National Suicide Prevention Month:

- September is National Suicide Prevention month. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Metro Suburban is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities affected by mental illness by providing education, support, and advocacy free of charge. Consider registering for their (in person and virtual) wellness classes, beginning September 16. Visit them at: <https://namimetsub.org/>, or call 708-524-2582.

## Manager Ingrid Velkme to Retire:

- Please join the Board in congratulating Village Manager Ingrid Velkme on her upcoming retirement this Friday, September 17. Ingrid began her career in Western Springs as an intern in 1987. Years later she returned to the Village to become the Deputy Village Manager/Director of Administrative Services, and then the first female Village Manger in the Village's history – a position she's held for over four years. Ingrid led the administration through a very difficult period, arguably the most challenging period in recent municipal history. Her leadership, integrity, and commitment to our residents and businesses is inspiring. While the Board chooses her successor, they will name an interim Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Village. Deputy Village Manager Casey Biernacki will fill the interim role. On behalf of the entire Board, I thank Ingrid for her exceptional work, and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Until next week,

Alice Gallagher,  
Village President

*Take Care of Yourself, Protect Others, Support our Community*