

Village of Western Springs

From the President



Thursday, January 13, 2022

Happy New Year! We're starting 2022 by refreshing this report to make it more relevant and valuable to our readers. *From the President* will be published bi-monthly on the Thursday following the Monday evening [Board of Trustee meetings](#). It will include highlights of the outcomes of each meeting, including topics under consideration that are currently pending or recently approved, focusing specifically on items that may be of particular interest to residents. It is my hope that this information will help our residents stay better informed and encourage further public engagement in Village Board decisions.

January 10 Board Meeting: (The full agenda packet is posted [online](#))

2022 Road Resurfacing Program:

At our last meeting, Trustee Fink, Chair of the Public Works and Water Committee, reported that the following roadways will be included in the 2022 asphalt street resurfacing program: Western Avenue, Race Street, Park Place, Walnut Alley, 46th Street, and Longmeadow Lane. Please refer to the agenda packet for exact locations of the proposed asphalt projects. The Board will vote on funding this program through two state grants at our next meeting.

Proposed Streetscape Improvements on Hillgrove Avenue

In order to accommodate our restaurants in their efforts to provide more capacity for outdoor dining, the Village Board has allowed for temporary expansion of the outdoor dining area into Hillgrove and Burlington the past two years. This expansion has proven to be very popular with our restaurants and their patrons, with very little impact to parking and traffic. Because of this, and the continuing interest in outdoor dining, the Board is considering staff's proposal to hire an outside consultant to draft a concept streetscape plan for Hillgrove Avenue, between Wolf Road and Lawn Avenue. This concept plan would guide future construction documents for this section of the downtown and form the basis for a future update to the Board's 2016 Downtown Revitalization Refinement Plan.

17 West Ogden

The former Mike and Henry's Auto Repair at 17 W. Ogden was sold to a development company this past fall, and there is a preliminary plan for a new townhome building on the site. The Board is considering several waivers and zoning amendments at the developer's request as we begin the formal review process. Each of the requests is common for smaller projects, such as this 5-unit townhome site design, since the project is not as large or complicated as other planned development sites, like Commonwealth or Timber Trails. The Board will vote on these requests at our next meeting.

Sprint Lease Agreement Extension

At our next meeting, the Board will vote on an amendment to the lease agreement for Sprint/T-Mobile cellular equipment on the Village's elevated tank in Spring Rock Park. Sprint has had equipment on the tank since 1997, and both parties have expressed an interest to renew the expired agreement.

Return to Virtual Meetings:

On December 20, 2021, I signed an [Executive Order](#) declaring that [Village public meetings](#) will be conducted via Zoom, with a participation link available at wsprings.com/meetings, in advance of the meeting. Participants are encouraged to attend public meetings via Zoom or by phone. Public comment will be available through the "raise hand" function on Zoom, or by sending an email to publiccomment@wsprings.com, or placing a comment in the drop box outside the Hillgrove Avenue entrance to Village Hall. In-person meeting attendance remains an option, however, masking, social distancing, and other applicable indoor mandates will be enforced.

CDC/IDPH Mandates:

The CDC has shortened [quarantine and isolation guidelines](#) for those who test positive for COVID-19. The Cook County Department of Public Health issued a [vaccine mandate](#) for recreation, entertainment, and event venues, as well as gyms and indoor eating establishments. Additional COVID-19 resources can be found on the Village's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Burlington Avenue Closure:

A portion of Burlington Avenue north of Spring Rock Park was closed on January 3, for approximately four weeks. The closure is to facilitate retaining wall work as part of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Expansion Project. You can read the Tollway's press release on the [Village website](#).

Illinois Tollway's 47th Street Pedestrian Bridge Project:

The Illinois Tollway is constructing a pedestrian walkway along 47th Street over I-294. Pile driving for the east abutment and the retaining wall begins January 17 and is expected to cause noise/vibrations in the area for approximately two weeks. More information is on the [website](#).

Until next time,



Alice Gallagher,
Village President

Take Care of Yourself, Protect Others, Support our Community