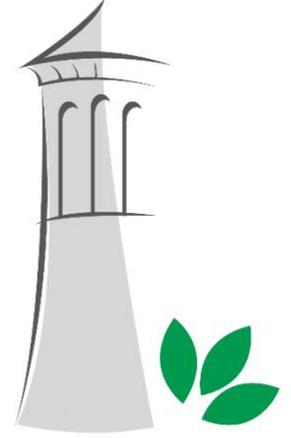


# Western Springs FROM THE PRESIDENT



April 14, 2022

**April 11 Combined Workshop and Special Board Meeting** (the full agenda and meeting video is posted [online](#)): Executive Director Jim Moldenhauer presented an update on the Lyons Township Area Communications Center (LTACC) and its services. LTACC provides telecommunications services to its member communities: Western Springs, La Grange, LaGrange Park, and Countryside. Our LTACC dispatchers are the first and most critical contact for residents with public safety concerns. The Board issued a proclamation declaring April 10 – 16, 2022 as National Safety Telecommunications Week. We salute the men and women of LTACC and are grateful for their dedicated service.

This week's meeting included reports from the following committees: General Government; Public Works and Water; Properties and Recreation; Planning and Zoning; Public Health and Safety; and Finance. Of particular note is the Capital Infrastructure Plan - the Board's Finance and Public Works Committees met jointly several times in 2021 to review unfunded capital projects and consider a variety of capital funding solutions. The joint committee recommended, and the full Board concurred, that the Village develop a comprehensive Capital Infrastructure Plan. This plan is intended to determine present and future infrastructure projects and maintenance needs, as well as associated costs, for all public infrastructure, including roadway, storm, sanitary, and combined sewers, water production and distribution, municipal facilities, sidewalk, and street lighting. As a first step in the process, the Board will consider staff's recommendation to hire an outside qualified consultant to provide a plan that identifies and prioritizes each individual infrastructure improvement with cost estimates, sustainability options, and ongoing capital assessments.

The Board is also considering the following items:

- The Water Department's recommendation to conduct a water distribution system leak detection survey to identify leaks in our approximately 52 miles of water main and 580 hydrants.
- A comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan, developed by the Municipal Services Department. This plan outlines goals, budgets and best practices in the care and management of the Village's trees.
- An amendment to the Downtown Redevelopment Plan, the Development Control Ordinance, and the conditional use permit for the new mixed-use building at 514 Hillgrove. The revised plan includes a fourth story, set back from the front of the building by approximately 20 feet. The fourth story allows for two additional condo units, bringing the building's total to 10 units. The Board is also considering similar amendments to allow for façade renovations and improvements at the Garden Market Shopping Center, and a development proposal to construct a new, five-unit townhome building at 17 W. Ogden, the former Mike & Henry's auto repair building.

The Board voted to approve a number of items in an omnibus vote, including: an agreement with IDOT for roadway improvements on 55<sup>th</sup> Street; and an authorization for professional services for the sewer reconstruction and separation project on Central Avenue. The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25, at 7 pm.

#### Ogden Avenue Crosswalk Relocated:

- Please be reminded that the crosswalk located on Ogden/Woodland has been removed and relocated to a new, safer signaled crossing at Ogden and Wolf, which connects directly to the new multi-use path. For your safety and from now on, please use only the new crosswalk when crossing Ogden to and from Bemis Woods. You can learn more about the Bemis Woods bike path project on the [Village website](#).

### Annual Vehicle Stickers and Pet Licenses:

- All residents who own or lease a licensed motor vehicle registered in Illinois are required to pay an annual vehicle license fee. Renewal notices were mailed mid-March are due by April 30. Residents are strongly encouraged to purchase stickers [online](#). Details are on the [website](#) and in the current issue of the [Tower Topics](#) newsletter. [Pet licenses](#) for \$10 are also required.

### Yard Waste and Organic Composting:

- LRS collects yard waste and organic compost material at the curb on scheduled collection days from April 1 through November 30. Yard waste/organic compost must be in a brown bag with an LRS sticker, or in a rented cart designated for organic waste. Food waste accounts for approximately 20% of all waste that ends up in landfills and residents who compost will play a larger role in reducing this type of waste in landfills, while helping reduce greenhouse gases. Learn more about what can be composted on the [Village website](#).

### Spring Rain Gardens

- There are many ways to improve water drainage on your property: limiting the number of square feet covered in concrete or decking material; maintaining the mature trees that more evenly distribute 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 that can absorb inches of water that could otherwise be headed for the storm drain or contribute to flooding. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) has published a [Green Neighbor's Guide](#), with useful resources on these subjects, and more. These resources are also on the [Village website](#). Remember to apply for the [required permits](#) before you begin your rain garden. Any changes to the grade of your property affecting water flow are monitored by the Village to ensure that there's an appropriate plan that benefits the property owner and the neighborhood.

Until next time,



Alice Gallagher,  
Village President