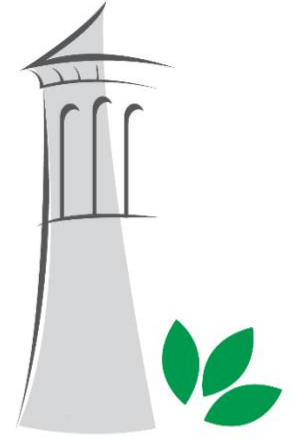


# Western Springs FROM THE PRESIDENT



November 23, 2022

**November 21, Board Meeting** (the full agenda and meeting video is posted [online](#)):

Every meeting of the Board and its committees provides an opportunity for the public to address the Board or committee. During the citizen comment portion of Monday's meeting, a resident inquired about the proposed [Stormwater Utility Fee](#) and how the revenue and expenses will be recorded on the Village's funds ledger. If adopted, a new Stormwater Fund will be created, and revenue and expenses associated with stormwater management will be reflected in that fund.

Most proposed ordinances, resolutions, and motions before the Board are passed through an omnibus vote. The omnibus vote is a time-saver for non-controversial matters, which are grouped together in one motion and a single vote is taken to approve them. Any member of the Board can request to remove an item from the omnibus list and have it discussed and voted on separately, prior to the omnibus vote. The second meeting of the month always contains an omnibus vote list, and items approved on Monday through the omnibus vote include: an updated fee schedule for Recreation Department activities next year; use of the motor fuel tax funds for the 2023 asphalt resurfacing program; the estimated real property tax levy for 2022; a first addendum to the Village Manager's employment contract; and a design build process for a stairway project at the historic water tower, among others.

Items on the omnibus vote list have all been discussed by the President and Board of Trustees on at least one occasion, and often on several occasions, prior to being paced on the omnibus vote list. Details on many of the above listed items can be found in [last week's issue](#).

**Finance:** In her monthly financial report, Chair of the Finance Committee, Trustee Rudolph, reported that the General Fund ended October in a deficit due to a delay in the second installment of 2021 property taxes, which are now due on December 30. Sales and local use taxes continue to be strong and are higher than the same period last year. Water/sewer consumption billed in October was 17% higher than the same period 1st year. The year-to-date consumption is just over 3% higher than last year. While the October shared fund statements were not yet available, The Village's portion of the Police Pension Fund for September decreased by 6.65%, decreasing the market share of assets held to \$13.726 million and maintained a trailing 12-month return (of - 27.39%).

**President's Report:** In my report to the Board, I shared that the recent sales tax referendum vote failed by a small margin – 428 votes. Thank you to all residents who thoughtfully studied the question of a 1% increase in sales tax. On behalf of the Board, I congratulated our representatives who won at the ballot box this month, including State Representative Jim Durkin and State Senator Suzie Glowiak-Hilton - both Western Springs residents. We also congratulate House Speaker Chris Welch, Representative La Shawn Ford, newly elected Senate Minority Leader John Curran, and State Senator Kimberly Lightford. Our federal representatives are Congressman Sean Casten and Senator Tammy Duckworth.

On this Thanksgiving week, I am thankful for the contributions of my fellow Trustees and the Village Clerk. I truly appreciate their efforts and hard work. I believe there is no better group of municipal employees than the fine folks here in Western Springs. Manager Baer leads by example, and her leadership is reflected in the Directors and staff who work so hard for the benefit of the Village, its residents, and the business community. I am also grateful for the many

residents who devote their time and expertise to serve on the various advisory commissions and boards of the Village. Finally, I am thankful to Attorney Jurusik for his wise and prudent counsel.

Manager's Report: Manager Baer noted that the Village's 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was awarded the GFOA (Government Finance Officers' Association) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. She congratulated Finance Director Mastandona and retired Director Turi for once again achieving this standard of excellence. In other news, The Recreation Department [Winter Activities Brochure](#) is available online and resident registration begins on December 2.

Residents are reminded that [LRS collection](#) on Thursday and Friday will be delayed by one day due to the holiday. Village administrative offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. The Police Department has announced that [overnight parking restrictions](#) will be suspended Wednesday through Sunday (weather permitting) for the holiday.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Monday, December 5.

Small Business Saturday:

- Please remember our local businesses and restaurants during this holiday season and especially this Saturday, which is "Small Business Saturday". Think of Western Springs first when shopping and dining - this weekend and always - in support of our local establishments.

Leaf Collection Program:

- The Village's leaf collection program runs through the week of November 28. After the final Village and LRS leaf collection week (November 28 – December 2) residents are responsible for their own leaf disposal, and debris must be removed from the curb area. Mulching and composting are recommended for disposal at that time. [Did you know that mulching leaves with your lawn mower is better for your lawn?](#) It's easier than raking and improves the health of your soil, among other advantages. Details on the Village program are available on the [website](#) and an orange postcard was mailed out to each household. Please: no branches, plants, or pumpkins in the curb.

Holiday Light Recycling:

- [Holiday light recycling](#) continues in the Village Hall lobby, at Thomas Ford Library, and at Village True Value Hardware. Bring your unwanted strings of lights and leave them in the collection boxes at these locations through January 31.

Styrofoam Collection:

- Monthly Styrofoam collection will take place on Saturday, December 3 in the Recreation Center parking lot between 9 am – 12 pm. Details are on the [website](#).

WSBA's Winter Wonderland Event

- Don't forget, [WSBA's Winter Wonderland](#) takes place on Saturday, December 3, from 12 – 5 pm. Santa arrives on a fire truck at 12:30 pm and the tree lighting takes place at 5 pm. Hope to see you there!

Wishing you and yours a very happy Thanksgiving,



Alice Gallagher,  
Village President