

# tower Topics

VILLAGE *of* WESTERN SPRINGS



## ***President's Perspective***

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, I wish you a Happy New Year. May the New Year bring each of you good health and prosperity. As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, let us keep in mind those whose continuing sacrifices ensure our freedom to celebrate and enjoy. Let us never forget the service of our veterans, and let us always be grateful for those men and women in uniform who currently serve us, often in remote and lonely areas away from family and loved ones.

As I look back on 2012, I am pleased to report significant accomplishments within our community:

- The year began with the swearing in of Fire Chief, Patrick Kenny, and in June the Village swore in a class of 18 new paid-on-call recruits.
- On the road maintenance front, Woodland Avenue between Ogden Avenue and Chestnut Avenue was reconstructed with water and sewer improvements. Also, Hillgrove Avenue was resurfaced from Wolf Road to the newly named Jane Burns Stacy Way behind the Theatre of Western Springs.
- Options were evaluated and a plan was adopted to confront the emerald ash borer menace.
- Most of the construction of the reverse osmosis water treatment plant was completed. The patience of our residents during the construction process has been remarkable.
- The first steps to reconstruct the east commuter platforms from Wolf Road to Lawn Avenue began by awarding a contract for preliminary engineering.
- Construction of the impressive new staircase at our iconic water tower was completed—a fitting improvement to our signature building.

*(President—Continued on Page 2)*



## ***All New Village Web Site***

### ***Better information for better communication***

As part of the Village's commitment to communicating more effectively with its residents, business owners and visitors, Village staff recently completed an all-new redesign of the Village's web site, [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com). The site went live on January 1, 2013. The goal of the web site redevelopment project was to improve the graphics, navigation, functionality and communication of the previous web site.

The new site is fresh, lively and more engaging for you. Real-time updates to the site and the calendar will now enable residents and businesses to see all Village meetings and events in one place. Highlights of the revised site include:

- An enhanced search function.
- Improved navigation to allow you multiple ways of accessing information on the site. The main navigation bar includes audience-driven navigation so residents, businesses and visitors can quickly find information unique to them.

*(Web—Continued on Page 3)*

- The pedestrian crossing on Ogden Avenue at Woodland Avenue to Bemis Woods was completed. This was a long-sought-after safety improvement but not without some controversy.
- The Village moved forward with our neighbors LaGrange and LaGrange Park to explore the consolidation of municipal services, beginning with public safety dispatch.
- Property adjacent to the Recreation Center parking lot was purchased, and we will begin the process of determining the best use of that property.

I am happy to report that the Village is financially sound. The Board of Trustees and the Village staff have cooperated in keeping the costs of running the Village government within our budget. In difficult economic times, we have tried to deliver the same quality of municipal services that all of you deserve, and have come to expect, while dealing with the pressures of reduced revenue.

Plans for 2013 include the following:

- A new Village web site was launched on January 1.
- Consolidation of municipal services will continue in the public safety dispatch area.
- Methods will continue to be explored to encourage downtown redevelopment, including exploring the use of creative financing techniques. We expect some exciting news in the upcoming month regarding one of our recently vacated storefronts.

- The reconstruction of the water plant will be completed with the new reverse osmosis treatment system fully operational during the first quarter of 2013.
- The road maintenance program will continue with plans to reconstruct Woodland Avenue from Chestnut Avenue to Hillgrove Avenue.
- Plans will move forward to construct the west underpass of the railroad in 2014.
- The Village’s historic Water Tower project will continue with additional landscaping. Other improvements will be financed by the generosity of our citizens through the Quasquicentennial Legacy Fund donations. Donations are still welcome. Please see article on page 6.

Many of you serve on the various boards and commissions that are charged with conducting public meetings and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees on a variety of community issues. I recently reviewed many applications to fill five vacancies. I am always amazed by the wealth of talent in our Village, and the enthusiasm with which so many very capable people volunteer their time to assist in making Western Springs such an enjoyable place to live. The entire Village thanks you.



William T. Rodeghier  
Village President

## ***Municipal Roundup***

The President and Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of November and December:

### **Appointments**

- Daniel Nikolic as Chair of the Board of Fire & Police Commission
- Greg Miller to the Plan Commission
- Ryan D’Aprile to the Economic Development Commission
- Robert Baker as Chair of the Economic Development Commission
- Doug DeRock to the Economic Development Commission
- Lee Fry to the Economic Development Commission
- Richard Fisher as Chair of the Infrastructure Commission
- Jason LaBuda to the Recreation Commission

### **Approved**

- An Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of LaGrange, LaGrange Park District, Lyons Township High School and Village of Western Springs for the installation of a traffic signal to be located across Willow Springs Road near Denning Park The Village’s cost for the traffic signal will be \$3,000.

- A renewal agreement with Public Safety Services, Inc. to provide paramedic services to the Village for a three-year period.
- An ordinance to allow for raising chickens under a temporary use permit.
- An ordinance amending the installation and operation guidelines of generators for residential use.
- A series of resolutions and ordinances to approve the 2012 property tax levies for the Village and library and approve the Village’s 2013 operating budget. The Village’s portion of the levy totals \$5,576,719 which is 4% over last year’s levy for the Village.
- A renewal of the Tree Trimming Contract for 2013 with Nels Johnson Tree Service at 2012 prices with a total contract price not to exceed \$35,000.
- A Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village and Metropolitan Alliance of Police, Chapter 456.
- A proclamation announcing December as National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month in Western Springs.

- A mega menu on the top navigation bar entitled “I Want To,” which will quickly direct you to the information you are looking for.
- Engaging you through “Notify Me” to receive Village information, updates, community events and alerts.
- Web site personalization. Choose the modules and features that you would like to see most often, including calendars, news items and emergency alerts.
- An app download for the Village’s Citizen Request Tracker.

The new Village web site is your go-to place for information about all things in Western Springs. Please take some time to explore the new site and learn about all the ways you can stay informed and engaged with the Village of Western Springs. We hope you enjoy it!

## ***Friendly Winter Reminders***

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### **Residents Encouraged to Shovel Sidewalks**

Please take the time to shovel the public sidewalks for the benefit of students, mail carriers, and other pedestrians. It’s courteous and the right thing to do.

### **Help Your Neighborhood by Clearing Snow Away from the Fire Hydrants on Your Property**

In case of an emergency, seconds count! There are over 450 fire hydrants in Western Springs. Is one on or near your property? Please assign someone in your household the responsibility of keeping fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow for easy access.

### **Parking**

Residents should make every effort to remove their vehicles from the street as soon as possible during any snowfall. The more cars off of the street, the better the snow removal. Parking is prohibited on all streets for 12 hours after a snowfall of four or more inches. Cars parked illegally may be subject to tow.

### **Slow Down**

Please use extreme caution while driving this winter. Streets in Western Springs, as well as the surrounding communities, will have patches of snow/ice. Motorists are advised to slow down to adjust to these winter conditions. Give yourself additional time to get where you are going and allow time to brake in order to stop safely.

### **Refuse Collection**

Residents and building owners are reminded to clear snow away from refuse containers and recycling bags to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible, it will not be emptied or picked up. Call Allied Waste directly at 708-345-7050 to report a missed collection.



## ***Shawn Feeley Alpha House***

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On Saturday, December 15, 2012, a contingent of members of the Western Springs Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department, led by Chief Pat Kenny and retired Assistant Chief Frank Madler, participated in the formal dedication and grand opening of the Shawn Feeley Alpha House. The home will provide shelter to homeless Illinois veterans and is located at 1328 South Sawyer Avenue in Chicago.

Shawn Feeley, a Western Springs resident and former member of the Department, passed away on August 15, 2012, while spearheading efforts to raise the funds necessary to open the facility. Recognizing Shawn’s efforts on behalf of homeless veterans and as a board member, EdgeAlliance chose to name its first veteran’s facility in honor of Shawn. EdgeAlliance is an organization whose mission is to provide shelter and care to the homeless, including homeless veterans. This facility, which will house up to 12 homeless veterans, is a result of Shawn’s extraordinary efforts and the first of many EdgeAlliance facilities benefitting homeless veterans.

The members of the Fire Department participated with the United States Marine Corps in raising and saluting the American flag at the facility and honoring Shawn’s family, including his wife, MeLisa, and his son, Will, and the many guests and dignitaries in attendance.

# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## McNeily & Company

The Village of Western Springs is proud to welcome McNeily & Company to the community.

Led by President Michael McNeily, they opened the Western Springs' office earlier this year and have been busy ever since. At McNeily & Company, their focus is on retirement planning, insurance, estate planning, wealth transfer and tax-free investing. The business is located at 1060 Hillgrove Avenue in the heart of downtown Western Springs. Contact McNeily & Company at 708-246-2737 for more information on the services offered. Mike and his family are also proud to call Western Springs home.



l-r: Lt. David Dayhoff, Trustee Jim Horvath, Michael McNeily, Village President Bill Rodeghier, Trustee Shelia Hansen & Trustee Suzy Glowiak



Village President Bill Rodeghier and Trustees at the ribbon cutting ceremony with Dr. Patrick Pendleton and his family

## Patrick C. Pendleton, DDS, FAGD

Recently, Village President Bill Rodeghier and Board of Trustees congratulated Dr. Patrick Pendleton on the opening of his new office in Western Springs. Dr. Pendleton's move may have been just a few doors down but the new space is an amazing and modern facility. The practice offers cosmetic and family dentistry with a focus on a positive dental experience in a warm, friendly environment. Dr. Pendleton is proud to be involved with the Western Springs community, loves treating patients of all ages, and is even an accomplished drummer in his spare time! A visit to Dr. Pendleton is sure to put a smile on your face, and making that smile healthy and happy is his number one goal. The practice is best described by Dr. Pendleton as "a personalized family practice that responds to your needs".

600 Hillgrove, Suite #5  
708.246.2405 • [www.drumdoc.net](http://www.drumdoc.net)

## Davanti Enoteca Is Opening at 800 West Hillgrove

Village President William Rodeghier and the Board of Trustees are proud to welcome the restaurant, Davanti Enoteca, to Western Springs. Scott Harris, Founder and CEO of Francesca Restaurants, has chosen 800 West Hillgrove Avenue as the newest location for the Davanti Enoteca concept. Davanti Enoteca serves simple Italian fare in a rustic wine bar setting. Prior to opening this new restaurant concept a few years ago, Mr. Harris and the team of chefs from Francesca's Restaurants did their research. Already experts in their own right for rustic, Italian cuisine in Chicago, the chefs traveled across the country, eating and tasting to discover how chefs nationwide defined this cuisine. Inspired by their travels, in 2010 the team proudly introduced the new wine bar and restaurant: Davanti Enoteca in Little Italy. The concept has since expanded to San Diego, CA, Del Mar, CA, and Scottsdale, AZ. The Western Springs' location will be led by long-time managing partner, Chris Elsey.

As for the menu, small plate starters include selections of vasi (jars of spreads) and boards (tableside presentations of dishes such as the mascarpone polenta and ragu of the day). Larger shareables will include pastas such as Uovo in Raviolo 'San Domenico' (giant ravioli, ricotta, egg, spinach), pizzas like Pizza della Fattoria (farmed egg, potato, pork belly, scallions, asiago, and béchamel) and entrées such as Spada Davanti (grilled swordfish, brussel spouts, pancetta, Calabrian chili).

The restaurant is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2013 or shortly thereafter. Watch [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com) and *Tower Topics* for updates as Western Springs prepares to welcome Davanti Enoteca!

## Police Department Awards



l-r: Police Chief Pam Church, Officer Phil Lo Chirco, Officer Daniel Albrecht and Officer Arthur Hull

On November 19, 2012, Officers Arthur Hull, Daniel Albrecht, and Phillip Lo Chirco, were presented with the Cook County Sheriffs Award of Merit by Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart at the 20th Annual Sheriffs Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony. This prestigious award is given to select law enforcement officers throughout Cook County who have consistently performed beyond the call of duty by displaying an outstanding attitude, public service, and professionalism.

Officer Hull has been a member of the Police Department for over 14 years and during his tenure, has served as a Patrol and Elderly Service Officer, Child Safety Seat Technician, and a Police Explorer Post Coordinator. Officers Albrecht and Lo Chirco were both recognized for their participation in the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force. Albrecht and Lo Chirco have each been members of the Police Department for 13 years and during their tenures have served as both Patrol Officers and Investigators.



l-r: Luis Calderon, Sheriff Tom Dart and Anthony Oswalt

Two Explorer Post 740 cadets, Luis Calderon and Anthony Oswalt, were formally recognized by Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart on November 27, 2012 at a special awards ceremony held at the University of Illinois at Chicago in recognition for their respective volunteering and community service during 2012.

## ***"Buckle-Up Your Valentine" Campaign***

The Police Department's certified child safety seat technicians will be conducting FREE car seat safety checks during the week of February 10, 2013 through February 16, 2013 at the Western Springs Police Department. If anyone is interested, please call the Police Department at 708-246-8540 to make an appointment.

## ***Water Plant Rehabilitation Update***

The reconstruction of the water plant into a reverse osmosis (RO) treatment plant is entering into the final stages of the project. Much of the major mechanical components of the plant are now complete, and softened water is expected to be going to distribution within the next month.

The Village is currently in the operational testing phase of the new water plant treatment equipment, which began in November and will continue through the end of January. The Amiad iron removal units were brought online in early November and were operating for approximately three weeks under a testing phase. The units have currently been shut off while adjustments are being made from the results of that testing period.

The reverse osmosis units, the units that will soften the water, have been flushed and sanitized and are expected to receive their approval from the IEPA shortly. The membranes are expected to be installed around the first of the year, after which point the Village will begin its 30-day testing period on the RO units. If no further adjustments are needed to the processing equipment, the Village should be receiving fully softened water by February.

After that period, there will be an additional two months of architectural and other site work to be completed on the site.

Updates will continue to be posted to [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com). For project information, please contact Matt Supert, Director of Municipal Services, at [msupert@wsprings.com](mailto:msupert@wsprings.com).

Village services will be closed on Monday, January 21, in observance of Martin Luther King Day, and on Monday, February 18, in observance of Presidents Day. Garbage service is not affected by these holidays.



## ***The Quasquicentennial Legacy Gift***

At the 2011 Christmas Walk, the Quasquicentennial Legacy Committee presented to the Village a proposed concept to enhance the historic Water Tower. By the 2012 Christmas Walk, a portion of that concept has been completed with the rebuilding of the stairs, adding beautiful curves to echo the curves of the tower and widening the walkway. This phase of the concept was completed by the Village, and the remaining phase will be completed with funds from the Quasquicentennial Legacy Gift, a gift being funded by the citizens and businesses of Western Springs. The Legacy Gift will add stone benches, decorative brick edging and a bronze medallion honoring the Quasquicentennial year of 2011. The Legacy Gift is not 100 percent funded to support the second phase of the project and donations are still being accepted to:

Quasquicentennial Legacy Fund  
Village Hall  
740 Hillgrove Avenue  
Western Springs, IL 60558



### ***THANK YOU!!***

*(donations from 11-1-12 to 12-31-12)*

\$100 from Liz Burns & Family in memory of Jim Tilden  
\$100 from Anne & Jerry Shay

## ***Stay Warm, But Safe***

### ***Fireplace and Heating Your Home Safety Tips***

#### **Fireplace Safety**

- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned annually. Creosote, the residue that sticks to the walls of chimneys, is highly combustible.
- Always use a screen around the fireplace to contain sparks and to keep children and pets safe.
- Lay down a fire resistant hearthrug on the adjacent floor and keep the hearth area clear of combustible materials such as wood, books and loose paper.
- Use seasoned woods only. (Dryness is more important than hard wood versus soft wood considerations. Unseasoned woods cause more creosote buildup in the chimney.)
- Never burn cardboard, wrapping paper, trash or tree branches; they can spark a chimney fire.
- Do not leave the fire unattended for any length of time.
- Make sure the fire has completely died out before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector.

#### **Chimney Fires**

- The sound of a typical chimney fire may be a low rumbling sound, much like a freight train or low flying airplane. Slower burning chimney fires (those with less fuel or restricted air flow) may not be as dramatic but can be equally dangerous. In either case, if you realize a chimney fire is occurring:
  - Close the glass doors on the fireplace.
  - Get everyone out of the house, including you.
  - Call 911.

#### **Heating Your Home Safely**

- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have heating equipment inspected and cleaned each year by a qualified professional.
- Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.

## Recreation Department

Welcome to winter in Western Springs. Just because the temperature has plunged, is not a good enough reason to just stay home. The Recreation Department has many opportunities for all ages to stay fit in both body and mind while having some fun! Registration is open for programs so get out and recreate. The brochure is available at [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com) or call 708-246-9070 and one can be mailed.

Program highlights are:

- Youth LaCrosse Spring Registration—January 27 or 29. Volunteer coaches needed. Training is provided.
- Blue Moose Extra Innings—New for 2nd and 3rd graders. Please check the registration brochure for specific days and times.
- LTSC Mini (Pre-K, K, 1st and 2nd grades) Winter Soccer Academy at Grand Avenue Community Center, from January 12—February 9.
- Adult fitness classes are offered mornings or evenings. Dates and times are available in the program brochure.
- Men's Open Basketball is Thursday nights beginning January 3 at 8:15 p.m.
- Try our new vegetarian cooking class on Thursdays, January 24 & 31 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- Little Sweetheart Dance, Sunday, February 10, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Grand Avenue Community Center.

## Senior Services

Winter's here but that's not stopping the seniors of Western Springs. Join the group and chase those blues away.

### Monday, January 14, 1 p.m., Recreation Center

Jenny Riddle, acclaimed actress, teacher and book reviewer who depicts, in character, the lives of famous and historical people. Annual dues of \$10 will be collected. Renewals after February 28, 2013 will be \$12.

### Monday, February 11, 11:30 a.m., Recreation Center

30th anniversary celebration with a catered lunch. The lunch will be followed with entertainment by Chris Colletti, singer and keyboardist, who will perform "Songs the Heart Remembers." There are no day trips planned for January and February. Day trips for March and April include Hemingway Museum & Conservatory and Starved Rock Lodge.

The Senior Center at Grand Avenue Community Center is another opportunity for seniors to socialize and be involved in a variety of activities. The center is open Monday—Friday from 9 a.m.—5 p.m. and is staffed from 1—3 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For activity information, please call 708-246-3299 or visit [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com). Membership renewal is due during the month of January. Dues for residents are \$30 for a single and \$50 for a couple.

## Garden Club

The Western Springs Garden Club meets at the First Congregational Church, 1106 Chestnut, at 12:30 p.m. Programs for January and February are:

January 14—"What's New!" with Adele Kleine

February 25—"Spring Wildflowers of Illinois Woods" with Mel Zaloudek

For membership information, contact Cindy at 708-579-0589.



### "FIREFIGHTER JIM" RETIRES

James Reynolds, "Firefighter Jim", as he is affectionately known to every boy and girl in the community, accepts his retired helmet from Deputy Chief Gary Mayor at the December 17, 2012 Board of Trustees meeting. The Board officially recognized Jim for his years of service as a firefighter, since January 2001, and as the Director of Public Education, since 2002. Also, Jim was recently recognized by the Illinois Fire Inspector's Association with their 2012 Achievement Award. The Village thanks Jim for his years of service to the community.

**TOWER TOPICS**  
Village of Western Springs  
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mschuenke@wsprings.com

**FOR SERVICES CALL:**

Ambulance/Fire/Police emergency . . . . . 9-1-1  
Fire non-emergency . . . . . 708-246-1182  
Police non-emergency . . . . . 708-246-8540  
Public Works Department . . . . . 708-246-1800 Ext. 200  
(parkway trees, streets, sewers, water)  
Recreation Department . . . . . 708-246-9070  
Refuse/Recycling (Allied Waste) . . . . . 708-345-7050  
Village Hall . . . . . 708-246-1800

*Visit the Village at  
[www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com)*

**VILLAGE BOARD**  
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*The St. John of the Cross Crossroads Youth Groups thanks all of you who so graciously contributed to the annual food drive for Harvest Saturday. The Western Springs community has provided a very bountiful harvest for those less fortunate and it is very much appreciated.*

**CodeRED Community Notification System**

The Village of Western Springs has licensed the CodeRED Community Notification System to help disseminate important or critical information.

The Police Department encourages all residents and businesses to enter their contact information, including additional phone numbers and email addresses, to ensure all of the data in the system is accurate. The information can be entered at [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com) through the link to CodeRED. If you do not have internet access, please contact the Police Department at 708-246-8540 to submit your information.

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***NEAT Cleanup Day  
Save The Date—April 13***

Join us as N.E.A.T. celebrates 28 years of community service! The Neighborhood Environmental Appearance Team (NEAT) is an organization that was created in 1986 as a subcommittee of the Village's Architectural and Appearance Commission in preparation of the Village's Centennial celebration. NEAT organized the first workday April 19, 1986 and continues to plan a one-day event in which community groups and families join together to clean litter and debris that accumulates in and around public areas of the Village.

NEAT Cleanup Day 2012 will be held on Saturday, April 13, with a rain date of Sunday, April 14. All residents and youth groups (it's a great service project!) are invited to bring rakes, brooms and gloves to help with the cleanup. Groups are encouraged to preregister so appropriate work sites can be assigned. Check-in and registration will take place April 13 at the Recreation Center between 8 a.m. and noon. For further information, please contact Carol Yee at 708-246-6704/mscyee@hotmail.com or the Recreation Department at 708-246-9070.