

tower Topics

VILLAGE *of* WESTERN SPRINGS



IN MEMORIAM

James "Jim" Tilden
November 17, 1951—October 3, 2012

A community leader with a
never-ending spirit.
Jim was a gift to our Village.
May he rest in peace.

2013 Spring Local Elections

Local elections are held every two years, and residents may not be familiar with the "Caucus" or Town Meeting method for nominating candidates for local office. Candidates will be needed for the April 9, 2013 election to fill positions on the Library, Park and Village Boards. While the Village Board or Village government cannot endorse any political party, the following is intended to explain the system that has historically operated within the Village.

Unlike the more common "two-party system" that is found in federal, state, and many local elections, for over 80 years our residents have participated in what is known as a Town Meeting or "Caucus" system whereby every resident is considered to be a member.

The process begins when leaders in each of the Village's six precincts begin looking for residents who are willing to fill upcoming vacancies on the Library, Park and Village Boards. The precinct leaders identify the kinds of skills that are being sought by each of the boards and try to match up potential candidates with those needs.

The next step involves selecting the nominees for the various board vacancies. This will take place at six local precinct meetings; all precinct meetings will be held at McClure Junior High on Wednesday, November 14, 2012. at 7 p.m.

On Thursday, November 29, 2012, at 7 p.m., those who have been nominated from the local meetings will be introduced at a Village-wide caucus meeting at McClure Junior High. Other candidates may also be introduced from the floor, with prior notice. Following a vote by those present, the

(Continued to Page Two—Spring)



CHRISTMAS WALK
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 1
2 to 5 P.M.

Join the festivities and capture the holiday spirit at the annual Christmas Walk, sponsored by the Business Association, in downtown Western Springs. Visit Santa, take a carriage ride, enjoy yummy treats and listen to the sounds of the season. The traditional tree lighting ceremony and caroling will take place at the Tower Green at approximately 4:45 p.m.



resulting candidates will be placed on the official ballot for the April 9, 2013 election.

Residents who have a potential candidate in mind for the Library, Park or Village Boards may contact Jack Lynch, Party Chairperson of the Caucus, at jlynch026@gmail.com. The information will then be passed along to the appropriate precinct leader. Complete information regarding the Caucus and the upcoming election can be found on the Caucus website <http://wscaucus.wix.com/wsc>.

Under state law, a resident can also choose to run as an independent. If a resident wishes to run as an independent, the resident needs to circulate and file a petition with the Village Clerk's office during the filing period of December 17–24, 2012. The guidelines for running as an independent are available through the State Board of Elections website, www.elections.il.gov.

November 14
Local Precinct Meetings

November 29
Village-wide Caucus Meeting

Municipal Roundup

The President and Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of September and October:

Approved

- The extension of the AT&T lease agreement for the Spring Rock Park Water Tower for five additional years (February 1, 2013, through January 31, 2018) at a rate of \$31,300 per year.
- The RFP proposal submitted by AECOM to study consolidation of dispatch functions for the Villages of LaGrange, LaGrange Park and Western Springs and approved payment of one-third of the total fees and expenses (\$74,982) for the study.
- An ordinance providing for the issuance of a \$560,000 General Obligation Promissory Note to pay for the purchase of real estate at 4368 Hampton.
- A contract in the amount of \$20,252.01 to Sole Source Provider Flame-Sim, LLC of Hoffman Estates, IL, payable from a FEMA SAFER Grant to pay for the purchase of a fire training simulator program.

St. John of the Cross Parish School Receives National Recognition

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has announced that St. John of the Cross Parish School has been selected as one of 50 private schools across the nation as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School based on the school's overall academic excellence in student academic achievement levels. St. John of the Cross Parish School qualified for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program by being an exemplary high performing school. High performing is defined as "the achievement of the school's students in the most recent year tested which places the school among the highest performing schools in the nation in reading (or Language Arts) and mathematics as measured by a nationally normed test." The Blue Ribbon Committee not only examined recent test scores, but the scores of students over the last five years. Congratulations to St. John of the Cross Parish School.

Water Plant Reconstruction Project Update

The reconstruction of the water plant into a reverse osmosis (RO) system began one year ago and the completion is expected in early January 2013. For one week, beginning November 25, the RO manufacturer will start up and test the RO equipment without the membrane elements installed. This will allow the manufacturer to thoroughly test all of the equipment, instrumentation and the control system. From December 3–7, the membrane elements will be installed and, upon completion, the system will go online and the 30-day operational test begins. During the testing period (12-10-12 to 1-8-13), the Village will have full use of the system and membrane treated water will be distributed; however, the RO equipment will be on and off while the equipment is fine tuned.

Updates will continue to be posted to www.wsprings.com. If you need further information, please contact Matt Supert, Director of Municipal Services, at msupert@wsprings.com.



Harvest Saturday Food Collection

The youth groups from St. John of the Cross Parish will be hosting a Harvest Saturday Food Collection on Saturday, November 17. The youths will be distributing flyers on Saturday, November 10, to homes and businesses and will return on November 17 to pick up the food donations. The collection will be distributed to a Chicago food pantry that day. The youth groups appreciate the generosity from last year's collection and look forward to another blessed Harvest Saturday.

Recreation Center

The 2013 winter/spring brochure will be mailed to all homes November 16-18. If you do not receive a brochure, please contact the Recreation Department at 708-246-9070 or view the brochure at www.wsprings.com. The mail-in registration form for winter/spring programs will be due by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 6, and the department will be closed on Friday, December 7, to process registration forms. The Recreation Department offers a variety of activities for all ages so get up, get out and recreate!

- Registration deadline for 5th-6th grade boys and girls basketball leagues is November 6.
- Men's open basketball is on Thursdays, 8:15 to 9:45 p.m., at the Recreation Center. Cost is \$3 per night.
- Turkey Shoot—Test your skill and win flavorful Thanksgiving items. This annual free throw basketball competition will take place on Saturday, November 17. Competition begins promptly at 10 a.m. at the Recreation Center. There is no fee to participate but pre-registration is encouraged by calling 708-246-9070 ext. 419.
- Adult fitness classes are offered on various days, times and levels to meet your needs.
- Dodgeball is on Friday nights. 3rd-5th grade play from 5:30 to 7 p.m., 6th-8th grade play from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and high school and older play at 8:30 p.m.
- Christmas Capers—Holiday vacation takes on a new spirit of excitement when your child registers for the Christmas Capers program. Your child's day is filled with games, cooking, arts and crafts, and sports. Programs start at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. so you can sign up your child for a half day, or pack a lunch and stay all day. A complete schedule of events will be available in the winter/spring brochure, your child's school website or www.wsprings.com.
- Spring Lacrosse
 - Travel registration for grades 4-8 is Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 16, 11 to 12:30 p.m.
 - House League registration for grades 1-8 is Sunday, January 27, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Tuesday, January 29, 7 to 8 p.m.

Senior Activities

Seniors Club

Monday, November 12, 1 p.m., Recreation Center

Singer-songwriter Rick Pickren, descendant of Buffalo Bill Cody, will take you back to the good old days of singing cowboys.

Thursday, November 29, Day Trip

Members will meet at 11 a.m. at the Drury Lane Theatre, Oak Brook, to see "Singing in the Rain." Reservations to 708-784-8966.

Monday, December 10, 11:30 a.m.

Annual holiday lunch at the William Tell. Members only event. Entertainment by the Highland Middle School Chorale. Reservations to 708-784-8966.

Senior Center

Located in the Grand Avenue Community Center at 4211 Grand Avenue, the Senior Center operates Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special events coming up are:

- Western Springs History will be presented by John Devona on Sunday, November 11, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
- Annual holiday program will be on Friday, November 16, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Renowned book dramatist Barbara Rinella will portray a range of characters from both literature and history.
- The Christmas celebration will be on Friday, December 14, at 1 p.m. Event details will be available at the Center or by calling 708-246-3299.



Thomas Ford Memorial Library

Extreme Gingerbread Returns!

Wednesday, November 28, 6—8:30 p.m.

Team up or fly solo—this time the stakes are even higher. Join the 3rd annual gingerbread creation extravaganza, and have your work displayed in the Library for the community to view and vote on during the Christmas Walk. Winners will receive sweet prizes! Participants must register by Friday, November 23.

Christmas Walk Destination at Thomas Ford Library

Meet Splat the Cat! Saturday December 1, 2—4 p.m.

Stop by during the Christmas Walk and meet Splat the Cat! This fluffy feline is the star of several books by Rob Scotton, including *Merry Christmas*, *Splat*. Splat will want to dance with you, so don't forget your camera!

Exam Cram at Thomas Ford Library

December 18, 19, 20, 6—10 pm

Parents, tell your kids! Make the library your study space! Exam Cram service includes group and quiet study space, free snacks, drinks, and Wi-Fi. High school students with a valid ID may take advantage of our extended hours during exam week too.

Did You Know...

The Library is happy to deliver materials to the home-bound. If anyone you know could use this service, please contact the Circulation Desk at 708-246-0520 or info@fordlibrary.org.

Village Board Recognizes Community Contributions

At the October 22, 2012 Village Board meeting, the Board honored the accomplishments of resident, Jane Burns Stacy, and the Western Springs Historical Society and recognized their significant contributions to the community.



Jane's last stage appearance, 2010,
Waiting in the Wings

Jane Burns Stacy—A resolution was passed by the Board of Trustees honoring Jane Burns Stacy for 68 years of service to the Theatre of Western Springs and the community. In 1944, Jane joined the Theatre of Western Springs and has been a resident of the Village continuously since that time. During this time, she has volunteered her time and talent in numerous capacities with the Theatre and also to many institutions, programs and activities within the Village. In recognition of Jane's long and dedicated service to the Theatre of Western Springs and to the community, the President and Board of Trustees dedicated the paved driveway immediately west of the Theatre, beginning at Hillgrove Avenue and terminating to the north at Mary Catell Drive, to be known as "Jane Burns Stacy Way."



Western Springs Historical Society—The Society was honored with a proclamation recognizing the Historical Society Board and its volunteers for the preservation and revitalization of the Ekdahl House (formerly "Spaghetti Bowl") into a museum. In January 2008, the Historical Society spearheaded a preservation project to save the Ekdahl House from demolition and move the building to the current site at Wolf Road and 43rd Street, next to the fire station. Through the efforts of the Historical Society Board and volunteers, the building has been restored to its 1887 appearance and serves the community as a museum where the visitor can explore the Village's history and its connection to 19th century issues. Since the grand opening on November 5, 2011, the museum has also been a gathering place for community events.

What to Know When It Snows

Parking—Parking is restricted on Village streets for 12 hours after a snowfall of four or more inches has occurred, or until the snow has been removed, provided that the snowfall has stopped. The Village respectfully requests that residents make every effort to remove their vehicles from the street as soon as possible during any snow event. This protects your car from being splashed by salt spray, becoming plowed in, or being struck by a skidding vehicle. The more cars off the street, the better the snow removal will be.

Shoveling—Pile it up, do not push it out. It makes little sense for the Village to plow the roadway only to then have residents shovel snow from sidewalks or driveways into the streets. Yes, the plows will leave snow in the driveways; however, residents will benefit by waiting until the streets have been cleared before clearing the end of the driveway.

Fire Hydrants—The Fire Department reminds you to help keep fire hydrants near your home free of snow. In the event of a heavy snowfall or drifting, we ask all residents to assist in clearing the areas around the fire hydrants in your neighborhood. Your assistance will help prevent any delays in locating or connecting a fire hydrant, if one is needed.

VILLAGE HALL HOLIDAY HOURS

The Village Hall will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25, for the Christmas Holiday. For the New Year's holiday, the Village Hall will be closed on Tuesday, January 1. Residents, please remember that Tuesday refuse pickup will be on Wednesday during the weeks of Christmas and New Years.

Green Up Your Fall Cleanup Mulch Your Leaves

If you rake your leaves into the street, the Public Works crews will pick up those leaves and haul them away. If you have a lawn service, the lawn service hauls away your leaves. The garbage company also hauls away the leaves, after you have carefully stuffed the leaves into a yardwaste bag. Consider greening up your lawn by keeping the fallen leaves on your lawn. Chop those leaves into small pieces with a mulching or rotary mower. Passing over the leaves once or twice will do it and your lawn benefits from the nutrients you are leaving and not removing. If you like to rake, your garden or flower beds will welcome the leaves. The leaves will be a natural mulch and the plants will be protected with a blanket throughout the winter.

Historical Society Preservation Awards

The Western Springs Historical Society honored three homes as the 2012 Preservation Award winners at the October 22nd Village Board meeting.

All of the winners were nominated in May by a neighbor or anonymous person and were reviewed by a panel of judges familiar with historical preservation, construction and architecture.

The awards, which the Historical Society has been giving since 1996, recognize owners for restoring or preserving their residences while maintaining the architectural and historic integrity of the structure. Houses must be at least 50 years old for two of the categories and only the exterior of the buildings is considered. Judges use criteria that have been established by the US Department of the Interior and are recommended by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The category, The Good Neighbor Award, is for a newer structure, either residential or commercial, that fits the scale and historic style of Western Springs. The 2012 Preservation Award winners are:

Preservation/Exterior Rehabilitation

Scott and Barb Hudson
1206 Walnut

Compatible Addition

Kevin and Grace Halm
4143 Grove

Good Neighbor

Joe and Julie Niego
4216 Grand

More information, along with photos of the homes, is available at www.westernspringshistory.org.

2012 Leaf Removal Guidelines & Schedule



The Public Works Department needs your help to insure that leaf pickup occurs in a timely manner. It is necessary that **ONLY** leaves be raked into the gutter—**NO BRANCHES, LAWN CLIPPINGS, FLOWERS or PUMPKINS**. These items have to be manually removed, placed on the parkway and slows the leaf removal process.

Oct 22–26	Entire Village beginning Field Park through Ridgewood
Oct 29–Nov 2	Entire Village beginning Field Park through Ridgewood
Nov 5–9	Field Park, Old Town North, Old Town South, Ridge Acres
Nov 12–16	Forest Hills, Fairview Estates, Springdale, Ridgewood
Nov 26–30*	Entire Village beginning Field Park through Ridgewood
Final Pickup is December 3*. No exceptions	

*Weather permitting. Snow removal takes priority.

- Entire Village rotation is Field Park, Old Town North, Old Town South, Ridge Acres, Forest Hills, Fairview Estates, Springdale and Ridgewood. Removal will run continuously Monday through Friday except for Thanksgiving week. If the crew has passed your area and your leaves were not out, the crew will not return until the next scheduled pickup.
- Residents using a lawn service should make the necessary arrangements to have the work done the week before the scheduled pickup. Please notify your lawn service that only leaves are allowed in the gutter.
- Due to traffic and roadway configurations, residents on Wolf Road from Ogden to 47th Street and all of Ogden Avenue should rake leaves only to the edge of the parkway at the curb and not into the gutter.
- Residents on Wolf Road from 47th Street to 55th Street, all of Gilbert and the rest of the Village must rake their leaves into the gutter. Leaves not raked into the gutter will not be picked up.
- The last week for pick up of bagged leaves/yardwaste will be the week of November 27.

Commonwealth and Timber Trails do not receive the leaf removal service.

The schedule may be affected by emergency responses by Public Works. Call the Leaf Hotline at 246-1800, Ext. 305, for updates.



L-R: Fire Chief Pat Kenny, Stephanie Grimm and Deputy Fire Chief Gary Mayor

The 2012 Scholarship Program sponsored by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Educational & Research Foundation recently named the recipients of its 2012 grants. Congratulations are in order for FF/PM Stephanie Grimm for earning the Roy & Bernice Weiss Memorial Grant Scholarship.

The objective of this scholarship program is to assist individuals desiring to further their academic background through courses in the Fire Services or related certification programs. Individual scholarships are awarded in various amounts up to \$2,000.



Stay Informed During A Disaster

By Greg Ozark, MD, Co-medical Director & Heather Molinaro, Coordinator

Every disaster has the potential to impact health and community. Recent disasters have demonstrated the power of Facebook and other social media to promote community resilience by allowing users to share information. In the event of an emergency, the Village of Western Springs recommends the following:

- Monitor the local television and radio stations and adhere to the warnings and guidelines. The student-run radio station of Lyons Township High School is WLTL Radio (88.1 FM).
- Get a crank or solar powered weather radio. You can monitor the NOAA National Weather Service at 162.55Mhz.
- View information on the Village's website at www.wsprings.com.
- Confirm that you are enrolled in the community's notification system, CodeRED. This system gives personnel the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency or critical community alerts to targeted areas or the entire Village. To enroll in the system and for more information, visit www.wsprings.com.
- For Facebook users, we recommend that you "LIKE" two Village pages: the Village of Western Springs and the Western Springs Medical Reserve Corps.
- Prepare yourself and your family before a disaster strikes. Develop a family communications plan, make an emergency supply kit and familiarize yourself with other resources available. Visit www.ready.gov for the most comprehensive website containing information about what to do before, during, and after various emergencies.

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

More than 33 million American homes include a natural tree in their holiday festivities. Yes, the trees add a special touch to the holiday season but they also can be a fire hazard. Please remember the following safety tips regarding Christmas trees:

Picking the tree

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles. The trunk should be sticky to the touch.

Placing the tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1-2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand each day.

Lighting the tree

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree light before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace.
- Trees are collected at the curb during the weeks of January 6 and 13.

Be Safe When Hanging Holiday Lights

- Assure good ladder footing.
- Do not stand on or above the highest recommended ladder rung.
- Wear non skid footwear.
- Don't work alone. Have assistance to hold the base of the ladder and be available for emergencies.
- Remember: do not put up on a warm November day what you do not want to take down on an icy January day.

Avoid Holiday Crime

The holidays are a special and joyous time of year. It is also a time to be especially alert to the possibility of crime. As the holiday season draws near and our days get busier, we need to take extra care and precautions. Here are some simple tips that can reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime:

- Never leave valuables in plain view inside your vehicle. Always remember to lock your vehicle doors and windows.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts before you go away on a holiday trip.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave home, even for a few minutes.
- If you go away for a few days, have a neighbor watch your house, shovel snow, pick up the mail and newspapers.
- Drive with extra caution. Allow an impatient driver to pass rather than escalate hostilities.
- Be cautious when giving out your credit card number over the phone and the Internet. Know who has access to your information.

The Police Department offers free vacation house and home security checks. For more information, please call 708-246-8540.

New Auxiliary Officers



L-R: Jamie Henneman, Chief Pam Church, James Demonte

The Department of Law Enforcement Services recently hired three new auxiliary officers, Jamie Henneman, James Demonte and John Robinson. The new officers are currently in training and were sworn in on Monday, October 22, at the Village Board meeting.

Accepting Applications—The Department is accepting applications for auxiliary police officers. The Auxiliary Police Unit is a volunteer unit assigned to supplement full-time sworn police officers in the daily routine of police services, community relations and events. If you are interested in learning more about the Unit and starting the process to become an auxiliary police officer, please stop in at the Police Department and ask for an employment application. More information on the Unit, is available at www.wsprings.com.

Police Department Awards & Recognitions

At the October 22nd Village Board meeting, two veteran police officers received special recognition for a life-saving action and an achievement.



Officer Terry Madler received the department's Life Saving award for his actions that resulted in the saving of lives during a fire that occurred at a residence in the 3800 block of Grove on April 3, 2011. While on patrol in the early morning hours of April 3, 2011, Officer Madler smelled a strong smell of smoke in the area of Grove and Ogden Avenues. He was able to locate the source of the odor and observed the residence was on fire. Officer Madler contacted the Fire Department and evacuated the family. His actions that morning potentially saved the lives of all family members and helped to minimize damage to the residence.

Deputy Chief Brian Budds

recently became a Certified Eligible Police Chief through the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Voluntary Certification Program. The certification process allows for continuous professional growth and educational development and offers candidates an opportunity to demonstrate a higher level of competence in their profession. There are currently only 76 Certified Police Chiefs and 39 Certified Eligible Police Chiefs in the state.



NEW OFFICER

The newest member to join the Western Springs Police Department is Officer Ryan Postal. Ryan graduated from the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy on September 28 after successful completion of the 12 week basic academy and will now begin the department's 12 week Field Training program. Ryan was formally sworn in at the October 22nd Village Board meeting.

TOWER TOPICS
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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*

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**125th Anniversary
 Legacy Gift Campaign**

The Legacy Committee wishes to thank the following individuals who have made donations to the Legacy Gift Campaign since May, 2012. Donations may be sent to the Quasquicentennial Legacy Fund, Village Hall, 740 Hillgrove Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558

FOUNDER (\$250)
 Ann and Marty Keller

PIONEER (\$100)
 Al and Mary Bachman
 Neal Ridgeway, AIA
 Ray and Jeanne Stanis
 Sue and Gary Klein,
 in memory of Jim Tilden

LEGACY (\$50)
 In honor of Linabury Family

The Village's contribution to the rehabilitation of the historical water tower has begun and will be completed in time for the annual Christmas Walk. The project includes replacement of the stairs, widening the walkway and the addition of seat walls that will extend from the outside of the stairs. The Legacy donations will add additional seat walls, decorative brick edging and a bronze medallion honoring the Quasquicentennial year.

Gifts of Hope—An Alternative Gift Market

Finding a Christmas gift for someone who has everything has just gotten easier. The annual Gifts of Hope, an alternative gift market, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, December 2, at First Congregational Church of Western Springs, 1106 Chestnut. Shoppers can stop by Plymouth Hall to meet representatives from more than 20 local, regional and international charitable organizations and learn about their mission and good works. Then choosing from "wish lists" created by the groups, shoppers can make a donation that funds a particular purchase, such as a meal, a bag of seed or a pair of gloves for a needy person. Cards will be given out that explain the donation was made on behalf of a family member or friend for a meaningful Christmas gift. For more information on the market, please contact 708-246-1900 or visit www.wscongo.org.

Garden Club

The Western Springs Garden Club meets at the First Congregational Church, 1106 Chestnut, at 12:30 p.m. Programs for November and December are:
 November 19—"Holiday Arrangements"
 December 3—"Emogene Cooke Day" Annual workshop to make Christmas favors for area nursing homes.
 For membership information, contact Cindy at 708-579-0589.