



President's Corner
April 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed our hearts and minds. Governor Pritzker continues to take aggressive precautionary action to minimize the impact of COVID-19 in our State, and the Village of Western Springs is taking the necessary precautions to minimize the spread within our community.

The Village Board and staff are well-prepared to meet the projected peak in reported positive cases over the next few weeks. Municipal mayors receive regular updates from the Governor, Mayor Lightfoot, and their respective Departments of Public Health, and I continue to meet with Village senior staff, virtually, on a daily basis, to stay informed of departmental happenings.

We encourage residents to visit the Village website and click on the "[COVID-19](#)" link for information. There you will find local updates as well as links to other trusted state and federal sites, with additional information for businesses, families, and seniors.

Our municipal government exists to serve and protect residents. This continues to be our goal throughout this crisis. While Village Hall is currently closed to residents, essential operations remain in place. Our police, fire, EMS, and public works staff continue their commitment to provide public services. Please conduct any business you have with the Village online, by phone, or use the Dropbox located outside of Village Hall.

On the whole, our residents have been doing an excellent job of following the Governors Executive Order and CDC guidelines to help flatten the curve by staying home as much as possible, washing hands, and practicing social distancing. As Spring arrives, we want to enjoy the nice weather. The Governor has identified outdoor activity as an essential activity exempted from the stay-at-home order, so long as social distancing is observed. When outdoors, practice common sense to keep yourself and others safe. Current advice is to wear a face mask when you are in a store or public area where it is difficult to maintain 6 feet of separation. Many of us have made our own masks, no sewing required, following instructions found online or in the newspapers.

While many members of our business community say they have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our residents, there are others who are struggling. Please continue to support local restaurants and businesses as weeks of closure and limited services turn into months. Order meals 'to go', buy gift cards online for future use, and leave positive reviews and messages of support on social media sites like Yelp and Facebook. There are financial resources available to those small business owners and their staff who may be struggling. For more information, please visit the [COVID-19](#) page of the Village website, or connect to the [Western Springs Business Association](#), and the [West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#).

Meanwhile, the business of the Village goes on. We continue to move ahead with the construction of Well #5 – though slightly delayed due to some limitations on the delivery of parts and supplies. The Village's roadway reconstruction projects for 2020 have been listed on the [website](#) and will soon be underway.

Many residents have asked what they can do to help. If you have masks, gloves, or other PPE, please donate these critical items, or donate your time or money to support those who are in need. Local food banks remain open and can always use volunteers. Governor Pritzker has established the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund to support non-profits caring for those most in need. Show your appreciation for health care workers and other essential services providers, whenever and however you can.

We all have a shared responsibility to take care of ourselves so that we can care for our loved ones, our friends, and our community. It is natural to feel stressed as our lives shift dramatically, and our routines are upended. There are simple things we can do to help relieve anxiety. Take control by setting and sticking to a new routine. Keep in touch with family and friends via technology. Take deep breaths, stretch, meditate, exercise – go for a walk or ride a bike, while keeping your social distance. Eat healthy and get plenty of rest. *Take breaks from the news, including social media.* Of course, if you or a family member are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, contact your doctor immediately. If it is an emergency, call 911.

There is hope on the horizon as State leaders begin to discuss how to lift the stay at home order while keeping the public safe. In the meantime, let's continue to work together and support one another. We will get through this.

Alice Gallagher,
Village President