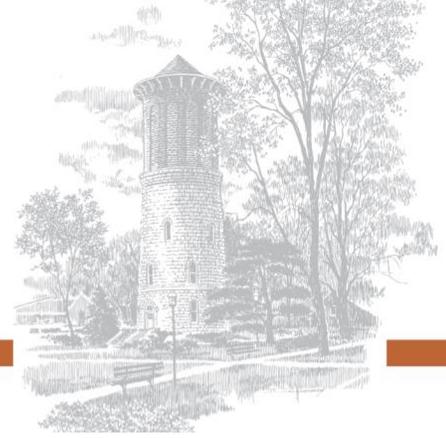


# TUESDAY TOPICS

October 27, 2020



## Increased Mitigation Measures Against COVID-19:

- Yesterday, the governor announced that suburban Cook County and the Metro East region will join four other regions operating under increased mitigation measures to stem a resurgence in these areas. Our region has exceeded two of the health metrics requiring enhanced mitigation measures: 8 consecutive days of test positivity increases, and 7 days of hospital admissions increases. Starting Wednesday, indoor service at bars and restaurants will no longer be allowed in suburban Cook County, and limits on group sizes will be lowered to 25 people or less. Read more about additional mitigation measures at [Illinois.gov](https://www.illinois.gov) and on the Village [website](#), including my full [public health statement](#) to the Board on Monday.

## Advisory Referendum:

- Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees voted to include an [advisory referendum question](#) on the sale of recreational cannabis on the November 3 ballot. The purpose of the advisory question is to broadly obtain residents' opinion on this novel issue in advance of a Board decision on the matter.
- The following question will be posed, with a yes or no response: "Shall the Village of Western Springs allow cannabis businesses to operate within the Village of Western Springs?"

## BNSF Bridge/Tollway Expansion Project Update:

- The Tollway reports that construction of the shoo-fly is complete, and all trains are now operating on the shoo-fly structure. Demolition work to remove the abandoned bridge will begin as early as this week. Work is anticipated to take place during the day and at night, and may also include weekends. Pile driving for the new bridge will begin after Thanksgiving, and may also occur at night. The Tollway is aware that off-hours work is an annoyance to nearby residents, but advises the overnight hours may be necessary to ensure safety. Updates on this project will be posted to the Village [website](#) as information becomes available.

## Halloween Festivities and Pumpkin Smash:

- Western Springs, La Grange, La Grange Park, and Countryside have issued joint [Halloween festivities guidelines](#) based on Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommendations. Trick-or-treating hours are on Saturday, October 31, from 3 - 7 pm. Homeowners who choose to participate are encouraged to place individually wrapped treats on a table or other clean surface and at a safe distance from their door, like at the edge of the front walk or yard.
- According to the [U.S Department of Energy](#), discarded pumpkins accumulate in landfills where they decompose and turn into methane – a harmful greenhouse gas with more than 20 times the warming effect of carbon dioxide. Every pumpkin “smashed” is one diverted from landfill that will compost into a nutrient-dense soil additive. The Village is partnering with SCARCE to host its second annual composting event. Bring your discarded pumpkins to the Western Springs Pool parking lot on Saturday, November 7, from 9 am – 12 pm.

Don't forget to “fall back” this weekend – daylight savings time ends Sunday morning at 2 am. Until next time,

Alice Gallagher,  
Village President