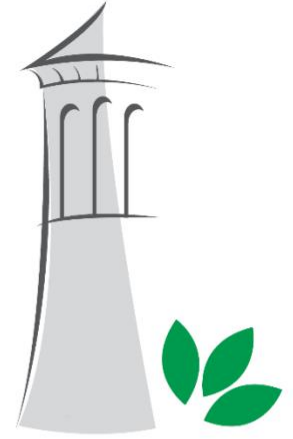


Western Springs FROM THE PRESIDENT



November 10, 2022

November 7, Board Meeting (the full agenda and meeting video is posted [online](#)):

Properties and Recreation: Committee Chair/Trustee Chen reported on the Committee's recommendation to approve of a resolution authorizing an updated fee schedule for Recreation Department activities and programs beginning in 2023.

Public Works and Water: Committee Chair/Trustee Fink reported on multiple items, including the asphalt resurfacing projects that are projected for 2023. He also discussed the Springdale Park flooding mitigation design plans from Christopher Burke Engineering, as well as the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's (MWRD) stormwater partnership grant program. The Village has submitted 4 different project applications for consideration by the MWRD. The Spring Rock Park water main improvement project is scheduled to be completed over the winter months.

Public Health and Safety: Committee Chair/Trustee Lewis reported that a Request for Proposals for paramedic services was recently issued by the Department of Fire and EMS. While the Village has been pleased with the current EMS service, it is good fiscal practice to periodically seek proposals. Please join the Board and Staff in congratulating Assistant Chief Chuck Lichtenauer on his retirement at the end of this month. A familiar figure at the Fire House and around town, AC Lichtenauer has served the residents of Western Springs for more than 20 years.

Finance: Committee Chair/Trustee Rudolph reported that the proposed draft 2023 operating budget has been circulated and is available on the [Finance Department's page](#) of the Village website. Printed copies are available for review at the Village Hall front desk and the Thomas Ford Memorial Library. The Committee has reviewed the 2022 property tax levy and it recommended that the Village adopt a levy that is 5.46% higher than the 2021 levy, allowable per the Property Tax Extension Law Limit (PTELL). Under PTELL rules, the Village portion of the levy is capped at 5%, the remainder represents the Library's share.

Trustee Rudolph also updated the Board on Phase II of the Stormwater Utility (SWU) fee study. The SWU fee model represents an equitable method of allocating the cost of improvements and maintenance of the stormwater management system by assessing a higher fee on those properties that place a greater demand on the system. Under this model, all property owners will be assessed a SWU fee based on their property's impact to the Village's stormwater system. A property's impact is calculated based on the amount of impervious surface area on the property. The recommended fee structure will be divided into three tiers for residential properties, with the majority of properties falling into the middle tier, at a rate of \$17.50/month. There is also a proposed credit system that can reduce utility fees for those who reduce the amount of impervious surface on their property. Trustee Rudolph emphasized the critical need for infrastructure funding, and that this is not an unusual approach – several other communities have implemented similar SWU fees. If approved, SWU fees will be applied to the water/sewer bills in the early part of 2023. For more information, visit the [website](#), or see this month's issue of [Tower Topics](#), which should be delivered this week.

General Government: Committee Chair/Trustee Tyrrell reported on an addendum to the Village Manager's employment contract and the proposed 2023 administrative budget.

In my report to the Board, I highlighted the accomplishments of Police Chief Brian Budds, who retired from service to Western Springs last week. Former Chief Budds was with the Department for more than 25 years. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Manager Baer reported that last weekend's pumpkin composting event was a huge success. This year's event welcomed 172 cars and composted 1,250 pumpkins. A big thank you to the volunteers from First Congo Green Team, St John of the Cross Parish School, and Village staff, whose efforts helped successfully divert so many pumpkins from landfills. Manager Baer also noted that the Village's popular leaf collection program will continue through the end of November. She added that another popular initiative, the annual holiday light recycling program, is currently underway. More information on these items can be found below.

The Board recessed to closed meeting to discuss the potential sale of excess right-of-way property and the hiring of an interim Chief of Police. Upon reconvening, the Board voted to approve an agreement to appoint retired Chief Terry Mee as Interim Director of Law Enforcement Services. Chief Mee was sworn in at Village Hall on Tuesday morning and is expected to serve as Interim Director during the search for the permanent Director of Law Enforcement Services. The Board and Staff welcome Chief Mee to the Village and look forward to working with him over the next several months.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on Monday, November 21.

Non-Home Rule Infrastructure Sales Tax Referendum Results:

- On November 8, 53.64% of election ballots contained votes against the proposed 1% non-home rule sales tax. The proposed tax was intended to provide a dedicated funding source for the aging infrastructure in our community and would have spread the tax to non-residents who shop within our borders. The Village will maintain infrastructure and pursue new projects, when possible, but current revenue sources do not meet infrastructure needs. The Village will continue to explore the limited funding options and opportunities available to non-home rule communities, many of which require that a referendum be placed on future election ballots.

Leaf Collection Program:

- While the greenest method of leaf disposal is to mow/mulch or compost, residents also have the option of disposing of leaves in kraft brown bags (with sticker)/LRS yard waste carts or raking them to the curb for collection by the Village. The Village's leaf collection program runs through the week of November 28. Details are available on the [website](#) and an orange postcard was mailed out to each household. Please: no branches, plants, or pumpkins at the curb.

Holiday Light Recycling:

- [Holiday light recycling](#) is once again available 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 any of these locations through January 31.

I-294 Northbound Ramp Closure:

- Just a reminder that as part of the Tollway's I-294 Expansion Project, the ramp connecting westbound Ogden Avenue to northbound I-294 is closed and scheduled to remain closed through the end of the year. Details, including a detour map, are available on the [Village website](#).

Veterans Day:

- On Friday, November 11, we honor the military veterans of the United States Armed Services. Please take a moment to show gratitude for those who have sacrificed so much for our nation and its people.

Until next time,



Alice Gallagher,
Village President