



## AGENDA

### RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission: October 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM  
Village Hall 740 Hillgrove Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Approval of Minutes**

1. Meeting Minutes - November 2, 2024

**C. Public Comment**

**D. New Business**

1. Interim Director of Recreation Report - 2026 Preliminary Budget Introduction
2. Athletics Supervisor Report - Tower Trot Recap, Athletics Program Update, Fall Brochure/New Programs
3. Recreation Program Manager Report - French Market, Summer Camp, Safety Village, New Programs
4. Administrative Coordinator Report - Senior Center Programs, Facilities/Rentals, Marketing

**E. Other Business**

**F. Adjournment**

Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend / participate in this meeting and who require accommodations to allow them to observe and participate, or who have questions regarding accessibility of the meeting or facilities, are requested to contact Jill Izzo at 708-246-1800, extension 127.

## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, November 2, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER: E. Piotrowski called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Commissioners present: W. Lyday, E. Piotrowski and M. Healy.  
D. Rassmussen arrived at 5:38 pm. Absent: Ted Pappas  
Also present: Recreation Administrative Coordinator, Ryan Harrison, Recreation Supervisor, Mike Kenny, Recreation Program Manager, Rita Ligeikis, Park District Superintendent, Dennis Conway. Aleks Briedis arrived at 5:40 pm.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Commission reviewed the minutes from the September 18, meeting. W. Lyday made a motion to approve the minutes, E. Piotrowski seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
4. CITIZENS COMMENTS:
  - A) Spartz Sportz Presentation by C. Spartz – C. Spartz introduced himself to the Commission and gave them some background on himself and a thorough introduction to Spartz Sportz Basketball Training. He explained how the Travel and House leagues have expanded over the last several years and how he has become a source of training and support to the participants and coaches. Our Basketball programs are now starting at a younger age and going on year around. His goals are quality instruction, serving long term and teaching life lessons within skill development.
5. OLD BUSINESS:
  - a) FY2025 Budget Update – A. Briedis reported that there are not any major proposed changes to the budget. He reviewed the budget lines that show the largest differences from the previous years within Revenues, Administration - Recreation, Recreation Services and Recreation Center. The capital items that were presented to the budget committee were as follows:
    - Replacement of the backflow preventer (RPZ) at the Recreation Center
    - Painting of the exterior of the Recreation Center
    - Soffit and gutter repair at Grand Avenue
    - Roof replacement over the Senior Center
    - Grand Avenue gymnasium stage improvements

M. Healy motioned to approve the 2025 Budget, W. Lyday seconded. Roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
6. NEW BUSINESS:
  - a) Spartz Sportz Agreement -A. Briedis stated that this agreement is very similar to his last and will expire in 6 months as to renew with our other Independent Contractors agreements on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and be on a 5yr cycle. The Properties and Rec Committee has reviewed this agreement. W. Lyday motioned to approve the

Spartz Sportz contract. E. Piotrowski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- b) IAPD Credential Certificate for 2025 Meeting- A. Briedis stated that for the Village of Western Springs to be represented at the Annual Business meeting, the Board of Trustees must officially designate delegates at a special or regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Staff recommends designating Director of Recreation, Aleks Briedis, as the delegate; Recreation Program Manager, Rita Ligeikis, as the 1st Alternate; and Recreation Supervisor, Mike Kenny as the 2nd Alternate. W. Lyday approved the delegates, M. Healy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- c) 2025 Recreation Commission Meeting Dates – Included in the packet. W. Lyday motioned to approve the meeting dates, E. Piotrowski seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- d) Financials ending September 2024 – A. Briedis gave an overview of the financials. R. Ligeikis explained that some reasons why there is a decrease in the Camp revenue is because Safety Village went from a 8 day program to a 7 day program due to the Juneteenth holiday so the cost of the program was decreased. Also, general day/summer camps are not as in demand as they were 10 years ago. Our residents seem to like shorter, more interest specific camps such as Lego, Baking or Animal camp.

## 7. REPORTS:

DIRECTOR BRIEDIS: A. Briedis reported on the following items.

- a) Grand Avenue Gym Improvements project is underway. All the old equipment has been removed from the walls including the basketball backboards. The walls and exposed conduit were painted. The new LED light fixtures have replaced the old fixtures. Currently the new flooring is being installed. Once the flooring installation has been completed, the wall padding will be added to the walls. The new basketball backboards have been ordered and should be delivered by the end of November. Once received, they will be installed. Finally, the court striping will be painted on the floor. The project is still estimated to be completed by the end of the year.
- b) Recreation Center Playground Surfacing project is also underway. The old surfacing, both rubber and wood chips have been removed. The new trench drain system has been installed. The underlayment consisting of 4” stone base course has been laid and compacted. The new poured in place rubber surfacing is scheduled to be installed in the next couple of weeks.
- c) Recreation Center Gymnasium HVAC Replacement - The roof top HVAC units have been ordered and should be delivered soon. Once delivered, installation will be

scheduled. The contract calls for the installation to be completed by the end of November.

- d) Other - Signage for the statue at the Grand Avenue Community Center has been installed.

PROGRAM MANAGER LIGEIKIS:

- a) R. Ligeikis gave a summary of her written report which included the new 7- day Safety Village format. She also stated that general summer camps seem to be less in demand than specialty camps such as Chemical Creations, Tye Dye camp and Baking Book club camp. The Mental Health classes that had been newly offered a few seasons ago have not been running so will be coming to an end soon. She also touched on a newly created partnership with the Village of Hinsdale Recreation Dept and new program offerings for the Winter/Spring brochure such as Coffee Break and Bake, Babysitters Club and some adult art classes.
  - b) RECREATION SUPERVISOR KENNY: M. Kenny gave an overview of his written report which included the annual Halloween Pickleball tournament with 64 participants over 3 divisions and the success of the Spartz Sportz partnership highlighting the travel basketball league's growth and record number of teams. He added that Spartz Sportz hosted a Welcome Night for the Blazers and Wildcats teams to kick off the season. Starting this winter/spring, he stated he will be co-oping various athletic programs with the Village of Hinsdale. In addition to the Sports R Us programs we offer, Sports Kid's Inc will be added as a new contractor to offer more programming including Archery, Track, Field & Fitness, Dodgeball, and Tot Olympics. We will also be adding a new Adult Pickleball league.
  - c) ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR HARRISON: R. Harrison gave a summary of his written report. He has been working on marketing materials for upcoming programs, sending out more program evaluations and planning to organize for and attend the Adult trips. He is planning on attending the IPRA Conference in January. Some completed work includes the hiring of 3 new Building Supervisors, promoted and photographed the Halloween Hoopla, helped edit and promote Winter Brochure, sent out evaluations encompassing 32 different programs and created flyer and eblasts for program with low enrollments.
  - d) PARK DISTRICT UPDATE: D. Conway reported that the new Spring Rock Park Pickleball courts are open.
- 8) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.
  - 9) OTHER: None.
  - 10) NEXT MEETING: The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

- 11) ADJOURNMENT: W. Lyday motioned, and M. Healy seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita Ligeikis  
Recreation Program Manager/Commission Secretary

DRAFT



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission: October 13, 2025

#### **AGENDA ITEM D.1.**

**To:** Recreation Commission

**From:** Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager, Nancy Flores, Interim Director of Recreation

**CC:** Ellen Baer, Village Manager

**RE:** Interim Director of Recreation Report - 2026 Preliminary Budget Introduction

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#### **Recommendation**

None.

#### **Summary**

The preliminary budget for the Recreation Department is under review by the Budget Team and is expected to be available in November. The list below consists of new or significantly changed items for discussion.

The Recreation Department budget is mostly self-sufficient with revenues from in-house/contractual programming, independent contractor agreements, and rentals providing funding for operating and capital expenditures. Staff oversee a revenue fund and four (4) expenditure funds for Administration, Recreation Services/Programming, the Recreation Center, and the Grand Avenue Community Center.

#### **Administration Recreation (6601210)**

##### **French Market Events (Special Events Supplies 6601210 55507)**

Staff recommends an increase of \$5,000 to this line item to further enhance activities and events at the French Market. In 2025, the Village increased activities at this event with the addition of bounce houses, character actor visits, Recreation arts and crafts/coloring murals, a College of DuPage play, musical programs, book reads by President Rudolph, and more. These were well received and there was a noticeable increase in attendance. The proposed increase will be used to increase the number and type of activities each week.

#### **Recreation Services (6602210)**

##### **Tennis Program (Tennis 6602210 55502/Revenue 210 34801)**

Staff have identified a decrease in the Tennis program participation in part to the ever-growing pickleball phenomenon, in addition to some tennis leadership challenges. Our approach is to reset Tennis for 2026 and identify a dynamic Tennis Pro who will attract and grow the Tennis program with energy, passion and enthusiasm.

##### **Summer Camp (Camps 6602210 53736/Revenue 210 34836)**

The Summer Camp program for 2026 will have a brand-new look. Staff have surveyed the community and have received insightful feedback to help create a summer camp program based on the needs of our patrons. While still in development, the costs for the camp will increase due to the addition of field trips, transportation costs, on-site entertainment costs and staffing costs. Some feedback we have received includes an increase of camp length to 6 hours per day vs 2.5 to accommodate working parents' schedule, 4 two-week camp sessions, more on-site activities and field trips.

**SEASAPR Levy (SEASPAR 6602210 537250/Revenue 210 31005)**

The South East Association for Special Parks and Recreation (SEASPAR) provides special recreation services to Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, La Grange, La Grange Park, Lemont, Lisle, Westmont, Woodridge, Brookfield, Indian Head Park, Western Springs and Willowbrook. The SEASPAR organization estimates an increase to our contribution from \$166,536 to \$171,582. These funds are generated by using the Special Recreation Levy.

**Tower Trot In-House (Tower Trot 6602210 55506/Revenue 210 34807)**

The 49th Annual Tower Trot will be organized in house by the Recreation Department & Village team. Recreation Staff were notified this year by Healing Hearts for Ashley that they will no longer be a partner with the Tower Trot run but will instead focus their efforts on music and dance fundraising. Staff will be working with Ham Radio again to assist in providing volunteers for the event as well as identifying potential sponsors and create new family activities before and after the race. Staff are currently working with Municipal Services to determine if the routes will be impacted by road construction in 2026. If not, we will apply to have the Tower Trot certified by CARA (Chicago Area Runners Association), which will expand the reach to a broader demographic, potentially increasing our registration for the run.

2025 Recap: Actual Revenue: \$25,433, Actual Expenses: \$22,593

**New Events Supplies (Special Event Supplies 6602210 55507)**

- **Breakfast with Buddy the Elf (formally the Candy Cane Cordial) and Breakfast with the Bunny** are some new and exciting events for young families to sit down and enjoy a nice breakfast from Honeybee Cafe, have fun with Buddy the Elf or Mr. Bunny, make a craft, take a selfie, enjoy some games and entertainment. Target revenue of \$4,500 based on 150 registrations will offset the total cost in expenses of \$1,600, with a proposed net revenue of \$2,900.
- **Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt** will give teens an opportunity to enjoy a new event held in the evening followed by some pizza, games and prizes. Staff is working hard to attract teens to participate in something new, unique, and fun. The potential program revenue may be modest at \$540 with a loss in revenue of approximately \$610. Teen programming can be challenging, and the staff are trying something new to increase engagement.
- Staff are excited to develop a new event in 2026 called the **Western Springs Amazing Race** where teams will compete in challenges and ultimately win the grand prize, (yet to

be determined). Challenges will incorporate our iconic town and open spaces; combining creativity, team spirit and friendly competition with multi-department collaboration.

- This Fall 2025, the recreation department launched a new **Volunteer Program** to encourage Western Springs residents to get involved and volunteer for our special events. The Fall Brochure provided the information, making it easy to sign up with a QR code. To date, we have gained the interest of six (6) volunteers. The reduction in staff hours due to the use of volunteers will be reviewed over the upcoming year and presented in the next budget cycle.
- The **Fun at the Tower** event will be held twice during the summer, on the Tower Green. This event will provide an opportunity for the community/families to gather in the morning/early afternoon to enjoy some outdoor activities including bounce house, face painting, music, murals, balloon art, cotton candy, and much more. The event does not require registration and is an opportunity for the community to gather and enjoy a free amenity provided by the Village of Western Springs Recreation Department.

### **Building Services (Recreation Center) (6603210)**

- Staff is reviewing security and building improvements at the Recreation Center and will have more information in November.

### **Grand Avenue Community Center (6605210)**

#### **Grand Avenue Stage – Architectural Study and Design (General Architecture 6605210 50320)**

Staff recommends an architectural study for the Grand Avenue Community Center stage at an estimated cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000. The purpose of the study is to review the feasibility and design of the removal of the gym stage to bring the area down to grade with the gym floor. The study would also include review of the installation of retractable bleachers to enhance seating and allow for recreation leagues to play games.

#### **Grand Avenue 2nd Floor Bathrooms – Architectural Study/Design and Construction (General Architecture 6605210 50320/Building & Building Improvements 6605210 55300)**

Staff recommends an architectural study for the 2nd floor bathrooms at an estimated cost of \$10,000. The existing bathrooms were designed for youth classes and recreation programs and are outdated. The bathrooms are regularly utilized by the Senior Center, Mattix Music, Jo's Footwork, and staff. Renovations are estimated to cost \$50,000 but may vary based on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and building code requirements.

### **Financial Impact**

The proposed budget will be reviewed by the Budget Team and financial impacts will be presented with the final proposed FY2026 budget.

**Recommended Motion**

None.

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

- Financial Stability

**File Attachments**

None



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission: October 13, 2025

#### AGENDA ITEM D.2.

**To:** Recreation Commission

**From:** Mike Kenny, Recreation Supervisor - Athletics

**CC:** Ellen Baer, Village Manager, Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager, Nancy Flores, Interim Director of Recreation

**RE:** Athletics Supervisor Report - Tower Trot Recap, Athletics Program Update, Fall Brochure/New Programs

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#### Recommendation

Informational only. No recommendations at this time.

#### Summary

##### **Tower Trot Recap:**

The 48th annual 2025 Tower Trot was a great success with 689 participants (42 residents in the 5K walk, 44R residents in the 10K, 261 residents in the 5k, 27 non-residents in the 5k walk, 37 non-residents in the 10K, 125 non-residents in the 5K, 61 R/NR participated in the Double, and 92R/NR kids did the Fun Run). Healing Hearts for Ashley will be focusing their efforts on a new direction and will not be partnering going forward. We will be running the 2026 Tower Trot event in-house without a charity partner.

Please see the attached Tower Trot recap overview and survey results.

##### **Athletic Program Update:**

We are in the process of hiring a new tennis pro, to help revamp and take over the lead of our tennis programming starting in the Spring/Summer of 2026.

Boys Blazers & Girls Wildcats Travel basketball tryouts took place August 18th – August 22nd, for grades 3rd -8th grade. NEW this year we added a 3rd grade girls team. We have a record number of 26 total travel teams this year, up from 23 teams last season. Practice will begin the last week of October with games running November – March.

We're currently working on the winter/spring brochure and will be offering a variety of new contracted sports. In the past, we have used Sports R Us and have seen a decline in numbers since they changed ownership. We will be adding several new contractors; Soccer Shots, Sports Kids Inc, Hot Shots 4 Kids and Shotokan Karate to name a few.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Recommended Motion**

None.

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

None.

**File Attachments**

1. Tower Trot 2025 - Survey Results
2. Copy of 2025 Tower Trot recap

## Responses Overview Closed

Responses

118



Average Time

03:58



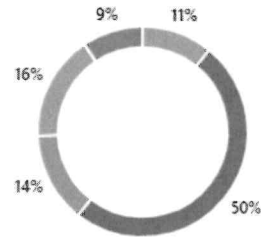
Duration

14 Days



1. In which race category did you or your family participate? (Select all that apply or complete a survey for each racer for more entries into the raffle)

● 5K Walk	14
● 5K Run	64
● 10K	18
● Double	21
● Fun Run	12



2. Quality of Website and Online information (If not applicable, please skip)

4.57

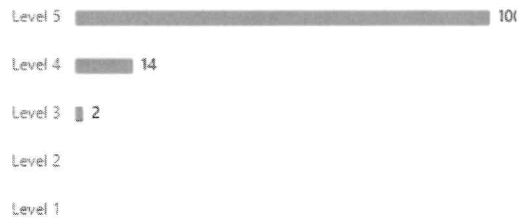
Average Rating



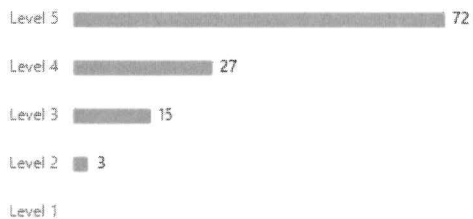
3. Ease of Registration Process (If not applicable, please skip)

4.84

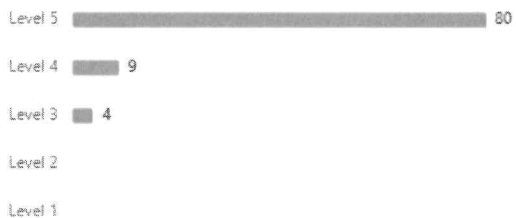
Average Rating



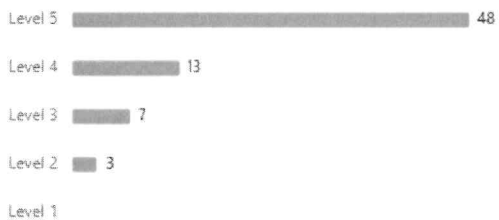
4. Cost of Registration (If not applicable, please skip)



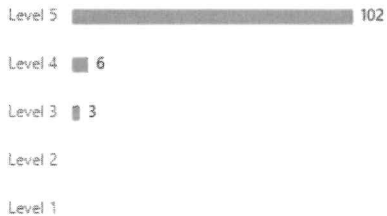
5. Directions Provided to Race (If not applicable, please skip)



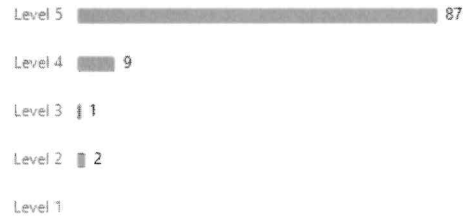
6. Parking Available at Race (If not applicable, please skip)



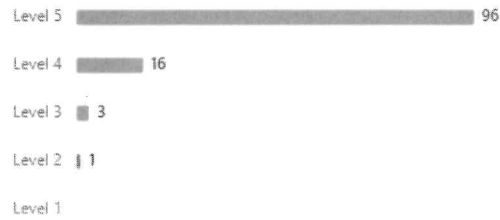
7. Ease of Packet Pickup Process (If not applicable, please skip)



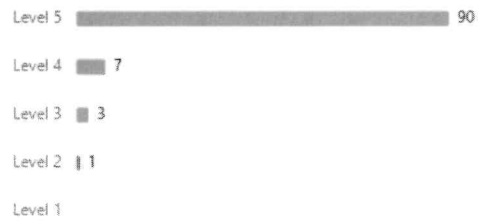
8. Toilet Facilities Available (If not applicable, please skip)



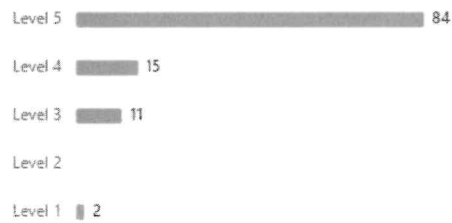
9. Race Course / Course Scenery (If not applicable, please skip)



10. Quality of Course Map Provided (If not applicable, please skip)



11. Course Markings (If not applicable, please skip)



12. Volunteer Support (If not applicable, please skip)



13. Traffic Control / Course Marshals (If not applicable, please skip)



14. Water / Aid Stations (If not applicable, please skip)



15. Post-race Food and Fluids Provided (If not applicable, please skip)



16. Timeliness of Race Results Posted (If not applicable, please skip)



17. Quality of Shirt given (If not applicable, please skip)



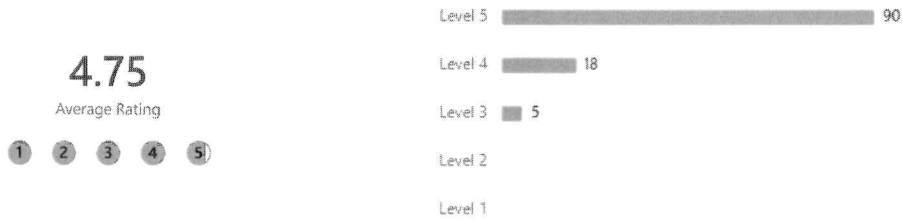
18. Quality of Competitive Awards (If not applicable, please skip)



19. Quality of Race Day Experience (If not applicable, please skip)



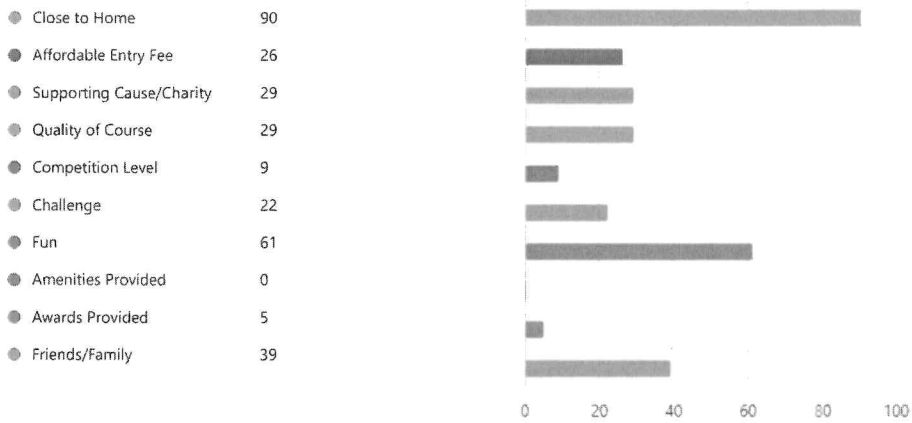
20. How well did this Race meet your expectations? (If not applicable, please skip)



21. Would you run this race again?

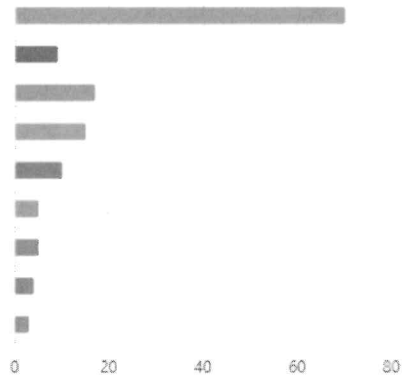


22. Which factors most influenced your decision to register for this race? (Choose up to three)



23. How did you find out about this race? (Check all that apply)

● I'm a Past Participant	70
● From a Past Participant	9
● From a Friend/Family Member	17
● Race Website	15
● Web Search/Search Engine	10
● Race Related E-mail Advertisement	5
● Social Media Advertisement	5
● Print Advertisement	4
● Other	3



24. Did anyone in your family use the Eurobungy?

● Yes	9
● No	104



25. Please provide any specific comments related to your ratings/answers

53  
Responses

Latest Responses  
 "The volunteer supporters were fantastic."  
 "I truly enjoy the event and everything about it. Keep it up!"  
 ...

26. Please provide your name and e-mail address to be entered into the free registration drawing

80  
Responses

Latest Responses  
 "ralph.orlowski@gmail.com"  
 "John Dixon. jfdatlaw@gmail.com"  
 ""  
 ...



25.

Please provide any specific comments related to your ratings/answers

54 responses

ID	Name	Responses
54	anonymous	The volunteer supporters were fantastic.
53	anonymous	I truly enjoy the event and everything about it. Keep it up!
52	anonymous	providing a sports drink like Gatorade would be a preferred, especially at the finish line
51	anonymous	Well-run race!
50	anonymous	More family stuff to make this even more enticing!
49	anonymous	Sadly the food/snacks were disappointing. Bananas were cut in half turning brown. Quartered bagels? Orange slices. Not very good.
48	anonymous	It would be nice if resident category awards were reinstated. It is very much a neighborhood race.
47	anonymous	This is a wonderful event that we have look forward to participating in every year.
46	anonymous	Especially for the 5K due to the large number of runners, it would be better if there were corrals set up. There are people at the front who are slow, or children who weave or stop. The beginning of the race gets a little crazy. Walkers, slower runners, or runners with strollers should start towards the back, would be helpful.
45	anonymous	Age group of < 14 is too broad. There were a number of 6-11 year olds running and they cannot be expected to be competitive with 13-14 year old kids. Bungee should stay open until all runners who want to do the activity have finished. Or give runners priority. Several who wanted to jump were not able to because of cutoff time.
44	anonymous	I'm just adding a note to say that your race results link on the website leads to the 2021 results, so that's confusing.
43	anonymous	I grew up in WS and ran this with my Dad starting at age 8 so it's a pleasure running with my own daughter now, starting her at age 8 too! She's now 18, we live on the north side of Chicago, and we've done this race a couple of times -- always beautiful. You do a wonderful job! The scenery is gorgeous and volunteers so lovely. Female bathroom in school was not great, but you did provide port o' potties -- except I didn't see a handwashing station. Food: loved your oranges and bananas! Years ago, you provided pizza, which was a hit and we missed that. We look forward to running again, thank you!
42	anonymous	did not care for the sleeveless shirt for the double
41	anonymous	Appreciate the organization behind this exemplary legacy race .. and it is fun!
40	anonymous	The food offering and vendors was smaller this year... perhaps because of the weather the previous week?

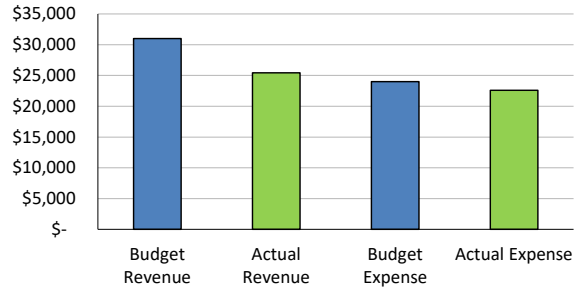
ID	Name	Responses
39	anonymous	Overall, great event! The only thing that was confusing was finding the start of the fun run. Having the start and end at two different places made it confusing because announcements made at the start couldn't be heard if you were near the music playing at the finish, so we almost missed the fun run start completely
38	anonymous	Would be nice to have a finishers medal for all participants and official race photos
37	anonymous	bring pizza back
36	anonymous	I've run and raced for 45 years, the entire event was so well run, streets well marked. The only thing I miss is Len C, great person.
35	anonymous	My app recorded my distance at 3.06 miles - probably a result of a lot of turns - but thought you might want to know that. There were also a couple of streets not recently resurfaced where you had to watch yourself for a bit. The race and course overall were great!
34	anonymous	Terrific and challenging family friendly race in a great setting!
33	anonymous	Terrific and challenging family friendly race in a great setting!
32	anonymous	I was disappointed with the post race food and fluids - really skimpy.
31	anonymous	The reason for the lower points regarding the food. The bananas were not whole and turning brown, the oranges too were cut and as well as the bagels. I think that was a bit cheap.
30	anonymous	nice event, see you next year
29	anonymous	The the staff was very friendly and accommodating. They create and welcoming atmosphere. I had a lot of fun.
28	anonymous	Such a well-organized race. Thank you to the race director, sponsors and volunteers.
27	anonymous	This race is not very accessible for those who are older or complete it more slowly. Unless there is a bathroom available mid-point on the course, my older father will probably not participate. Facilities halfway would provide more comfort for families since this is not a super competitive race. We were a few minutes late and had trouble finding out details. It would be good to keep informed people near the start and finish line for any latecomers or late finishers. It would also be nice to leave things up for an hour after most people have finished rather than breaking down stations so quickly. Thanks for considering this!
26	anonymous	I wish there would have been a reminder email sent about packet pickup and the event
25	anonymous	Great experience and extremely well organised.
24	anonymous	Great course marshalls!

ID	Name	Responses
23	anonymous	I think the only negative experience of the race was the traffic control. I was a 5k walker so there were not too many contestants left with me near the end of the race and it seemed traffic control stopped. I found cars were being let on the course and I had to be cautious of where I was walking and even had to go to the sidewalk.
22	anonymous	It's just a nice time. All these volunteers are super. The process is very easy. My kids are young and they really enjoy it. I'm so glad that it is charity based also.
21	anonymous	We thoroughly enjoyed this fun and well managed race!
20	anonymous	Sad there was no pizza.
19	anonymous	
18	anonymous	Fun race easy registration would prefer a non performance tshirt (i.e. cotton) option but that's just my personal preference thanks!
17	anonymous	Website said long sleeve for the double but got a tank. A little disappointing as the style of tank probably won't work when it it hot enough to actually wear it (too much ink, cheaper material). Spots on the 10k course where there were no marshals, which could have lead to trouble with traffic.
16	anonymous	My times have been inaccurate in two of the past three years, so clear instructions for those who run the double would be appreciated. Example: After you finish the 10K, is there an area you should or shouldn't go to before the 5K starts? Also, the tank top is nice, but for those who run the double I would like to see the long sleeve shirts return next year. You get more use out of them year-round. Also, if you run more races-you should get more of a shirt, not less (in my opinion.)
15	anonymous	Maybe encourage the little kids not to line up in the front of the Start by putting up mile time estimate lines at the starting line.
14	anonymous	My only constructive feedback is clarity around the start line for the walk AND when the walk starts. It would be really beneficial to have one of your team members near the start/finish line on Lawn to make sure the walkers get where they need to be on time
13	anonymous	Have a tattoo station rather than face paint - line always takes soooooo long!
12	anonymous	I've won the Double two years in a row now (and hope to keep the streak going - but getting harder!). I love this race and will continue to do it or, if unable to run, will definitely volunteer. I was going to reach out to a race director about this as well, but will add the comment here - for the 50th anniversary, since it seems most participants are from Western Springs, I thought it would be fun to have each neighborhood compete as a "team" (like in a cross-country race). Don't know how feasible it is, I just see lots of folks running in the mornings and think it could create some good competition. Thanks again!
11	anonymous	Used to have 1 mile and 2 mile splits time. I miss that

ID	Name	Responses
10	anonymous	Traffic control was mostly good except a construction crew's cement truck backed out of someone's driveway and blocked the street for a minute. This was a private home so not within control. I was able to pass on the sidewalk. As for the quality of the shirts, these commonly have very stretched out necks. Almost always unusable at any event.
9	anonymous	Next year can you have race results by age for the fun run? Some of the competitive kids wanted to see their placement results
8	anonymous	I ran the double and finished the 10K in a respectable time of 1:04, but when I went to start the 5K, the timing mat for the start had already been removed so my start time was not recorded. To say the least, I was not happy. On my watch, I ran the 5K in 33:18 at 10:42 pace. Due to the timing mat being removed before I got there, the official results show me with a time of 40:19 with a 13:00 pace. Next time it would be great if they could leave the start mat in place for a reasonable amount of time for the few number of runners her ran the double.
7	anonymous	I was one of several 5K runners lined up at 10K start line, started 11 minutes late
6	anonymous	Great race every year - keep up the good work!! It's one of my favorite events in our town, my whole family looks forward to it every year. Thank you for all your hard work making it a success this year.
5	anonymous	Overall a nice family-friendly event that we will participate in again. Overall constructive feedback: would be helpful to have a fun run paper map in addition to those for 5K/10K. Race results were slow to post, I was unaware there was a results table inside the gym (would be nice to know to get your official time and/or award if applicable).
4	anonymous	I was one of the age group 3rd place winners. I would much rather receive something like a hat or pint glass rather than a medal. It would be nice to get something with some use!
3	anonymous	Do it every year!
2	anonymous	I would suggest finisher medals
1	anonymous	Kids missed the pizza

## 2025 Tower Trot Overview

**Budget Totals vs. Actual Totals**



<b>Revenues:</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Registration	\$ 31,000	\$ 22,324	\$ (8,676)
Donations		3,109	3,109
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$ 31,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,433</b>	<b>\$ (5,567)</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Porta John Rental		\$ 1,200	\$ (1,200)
Sound System/DJ		765	(765)
Donations to HH for Ashley	-	3,109	(3,109)
Registration & Fees		2,385	(2,385)
Eurobungy		1,200	(1,200)
Water Jugs		179	(179)
T-Shirts	-	8,947	(8,947)
Awards / Ribbons	-	1,035	(1,035)
		-	-
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 24,000</b>	<b>\$ 18,820</b>	<b>\$ 5,180</b>

<b>Revenue Less Expenses</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Net Income	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,613	\$ (387)

<b>Payroll &amp; Benefits:</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
PD Staff hrs (8 officers x 4.5hrs)	-	2,579	(2,579)
PW Staff hrs (3 x 7 hrs)	-	1,194	(1,194)
<b>Total Payroll &amp; Benefits:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,773</b>	<b>\$ (3,773)</b>

Summary:

The 48th annual 2025 Tower Trot was a great success with 689 participants (42R in the 5K walk, 44R in the 10K, 261R in the 5k, 27NR in the 5k walk, 37NR in the 10K, 125NR in the 5K, 61 R/NR participated in the Double, and 92R/NR kids did the Fun Run).

Weather conditions were perfect on race day, despite rainy conditions earlier in the week, which caused the race to be marked on Thursday & Friday.

Healing Hearts for Ashley provided volunteers for registration and packet pick-up Friday 8am-6pm and race day. They also provided 40 total volunteers on the course (26) from Healing Hearts and (14) From the Ham Radio Group. The Ham radio group was a great asset this year, providing volunteers and added, radio and on course support through the race. We hope to have them support and work the race next year. With more advanced notice, they should be able to provide more volunteers.

Overall, this continues to be a great community event. Special thanks to Western Springs PW, Fire and Police for their help and support with this race. This was the last year of our partnership with Healing Hearts For Ashley, we wish them all the best in their future initiatives.

For Next year:

We are looking into having the race CARA certified. There is an application process and fee of \$250 (\$50 application fee & \$200 certification fee) is due with the application. Should the application be denied, the \$200 certification fee will be refunded.

**CHART DATA**

2025		
Budget Revenue	\$	31,000
Actual Revenue	\$	25,433
Budget Expense	\$	24,000
Actual Expense	\$	22,593



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission: October 13, 2025

#### **AGENDA ITEM D.3.**

**To:** Recreation Commission

**From:** Rita Ligeikis, Recreation Program Manager

**CC:** Ellen Baer, Village Manager, Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager, Nancy Flores, Interim Director of Recreation

**RE:** Recreation Program Manager Report - French Market, Summer Camp, Safety Village, New Programs

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#### **Recommendation**

Informational only. No recommendations at this time.

#### **Summary**

##### **French Market**

The French Market took place every Wednesday this summer at the Tower Green, and concluded on 9/24 with a visit from Wonder Woman. The Recreation Department will continue to be involved next year with murals, activities and entertainment. Planning will start in early 2026.

##### **Safety Village**

Safety Village ran from 6/16-6/18 to 6/23-6/26. The 8:30 session had 72 enrolled and the 10:15 AM session had 64 enrolled. This is the first year that the 10:15 AM session was offered cooperatively with La Grange and La Grange Park. La Grange had five (5) participants and La Grange Park had one (1). To run this program, it takes about 17 part-time staff, a Coordinator and volunteers. The Fire and Police Departments are also heavily involved in the program in that they help with drop off/pick up, teaching lessons and providing special characters and robots. The program was again successful this year and the Safety Village team is discussing staffing, 2026 dates, signage and an Open House option for next year.

##### **Summer Camp**

Summer camp registration totals were 42 kids in Just for Tots and 60 kids in Tower Camp. Staff have noticed a decline in camp numbers over recent years, due to a variety of factors. In order to gain a better understanding of what the community wants from a summer camp, staff created a camp survey (summary below). Feedback will be reviewed and utilized to create a camp built around the wants and needs of our residents/patrons.

##### **Summer Camp Survey**

A camp survey was developed to gather the community's needs and desires to create an

engaging and enriching new camp program. There were 53 people who completed the survey. A summary of the feedback received is as follows:

- 81% of the kids enrolling in camps are age 3.5-11 years old.
- 38% of parents want camps from 9:00 am – Noon while 44% prefer 9:00 am – 3 :00 pm.
- One (1) or two (2) weeks sessions are the preference, five (5) days a week.
- The start date of camp was tied at 44% between starting right after school ends and one (1) week after school ends.

Activity preferences most mentioned were arts/crafts, field trips, games, physical movement, water fun, themes and sports. Their number #1 factor influences enrolling in a program was cost, length of time, days and hours, child interests and friends.

Information on summer programs outside of the Western Springs Recreation Department was also collected. Programs included Lifetime Fitness, Grand Avenue, WS Kids Camp, Pleasantdale Park District, Blue Moose, Flying High and Summer City Adventures. Common themes of what was enjoyed most about those programs were full days, field trips, cost, variety, and being outdoors. Cost and location were liked the least.

### **Special Events**

Halloween Hoopla will be held on Friday, Oct. 24th. Popular activities will be offered such as games in the gym, crafts, Trick or Treating in Safety Village and entertainment. Additional activities have been added including a pumpkin patch (with one pumpkin provided to each participant), pumpkin painting, a fall photo opp, additional entertainment and a pumpkin weight guess.

A new holiday event this year will be Breakfast with Buddy which will take place on Sat, 12/13. This event will include a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee, a visit/photo with Buddy, reading of the book “The Elf”, hot cocoa bar, carolers, holiday crafts, and a letter to Santa.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Recommended Motion**

None.

### **Strategic Plan Alignment**

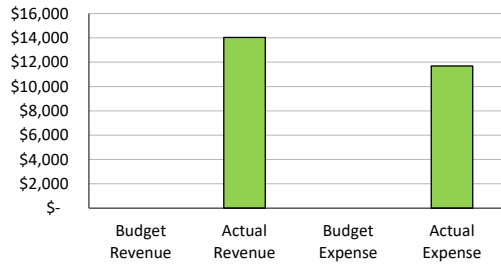
None.

### **File Attachments**

1. Summer Camp Recap 09.30.25
2. Safety Village 2025 Recap Updated

## 2025 Summer Camp Overview

**Budget Totals vs. Actual Totals**



Summary:

There are 2 Summer Camps offered in our brochure. Tower Camp is for ages 5.5 - 9 years and Just for Tots is for ages 3.5-5 yrs. Both camps were held at Forest Hills School. Camp enrollments were down this year and have been slowly dwindling over the last 5-8 years. Just for Tots Session 1 had 10, Session 2 had 18 and Session 3 had 14. Tower Camp has a 3 day and 5 day option however the total enrollment for Tower Session 1 was 18, Session 2 - 22 and Session 3 was 9. Knowing enrollment was low all camp entertainment this summer was free. As a result of low numbers we created a camp survey for the community to fill out so we can better serve the interests and desires of Western Springs.

For Next year:

Based on the survey results we will be offering Camps better in tune with customer needs and wants.

**CHART DATA**

2025	
Budget Revenue	\$ -
Actual Revenue	\$ 14,038
Budget Expense	\$ -
Actual Expense	\$ 11,692

<b>Revenues:</b>	Budget	Actual	Variance
Registration		\$ 14,038	\$ 14,038
Donations			-
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	\$ -	\$ 14,038	\$ 14,038

<b>Expenses:</b>	Budget	Actual	Variance
Camp shirts		\$ 533	\$ 533
Camp supplies		\$ 375	\$ 375
Mileage		\$ 58	\$ 58
Training		\$ 14	\$ 14
			-
			-
			-
			-
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		\$ 980	\$ (980)

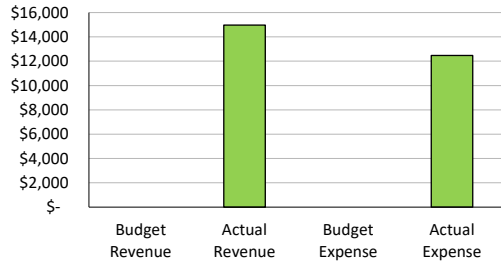
<b>Revenue Less Expenses</b>	Budget	Actual	Variance
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ -	\$ 13,058	\$ 13,058

<b>Payroll &amp; Benefits:</b>	Budget	Actual	Variance
Counselors (7)		\$ 10,093	\$ 10,093
Subs (5)		\$ 619	\$ 619
<b>Total Payroll &amp; Benefits:</b>	\$ -	\$ 10,712	\$ 10,712

Credit Card Fees:  
No expense account in 4002 for CC Fees.

## 2025 Safety Village Overview

**Budget Totals vs. Actual Totals**



Revenues:	Budget	Actual	Variance
Registration		\$ 14,971	\$ 14,971
Donations			-
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 14,971</b>	<b>\$ 14,971</b>

Expenses:	Budget	Actual	Variance
Stickers - Amazon		\$ 35	\$ (35)
Stickers - Amazon		62	(62)
Reimbursement - Abby	-	65	(65)
Robotronics		73	(73)
Staff & Participant t-shirts		710	(710)
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>\$ 945</b>	<b>\$ (945)</b>

Revenue Less Expenses	Budget	Actual	Variance
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 14,026</b>	<b>\$ 14,026</b>

Payroll & Benefits:	Budget	Actual	Variance
Safety Village Coordinator	-	1,375	(1,375)
Fire dept - 5 staff		1,549	(1,549)
Parttime Rec Staff (17)	-	\$ 8,603.74	(8,604)
<b>Total Payroll &amp; Benefits:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 11,528</b>	<b>\$(11,528)</b>

Summary:

This year was the 10th Anniversary of the Safety Village program at the Western Springs Recreation Center. Prior to that the program was held at Forest Hills School for 5 yrs. This year we had 136 children enroll in our Safety Village. The 8:30 am session has 72 and the 10:15 am session had 64. This is the first year we cooped the 10:15 am session with LaGrange and LaGrange Park. LaGrange had 5 enroll and LaGrange Park had 1 enroll.

The Fire Dept and Police Dept play a big role in this program as well as a few volunteers. The volunteers were Amy Avakian, Mandy Bauer, Lee Rosenberg, Lise Braithwaite and Kelly Hartford. The estimated volunteer hours worked for this program were roughly 82 hours. This year most of the staff was pretty young but the Safety Village team agreed they all did a great job!

For Next year:

Potential dates for 2026 may be 6/8-6/18. We discussed getting a new Safety Village sign for the fence and a projector screen for the gym. Next year the program will go back to 8 days because Juneteenth will not conflict.

**CHART DATA**

2025	
Budget Revenue	\$ -
Actual Revenue	\$ 14,971
Budget Expense	\$ -
<b>Actual Expense</b>	<b>\$ 12,473</b>

**I want to change to**

Total Revenue	\$ 14,971.27
Total Expense ( expenses + Payroll & Benefit expenses)	\$ 12,473.14
Variance	\$ 2,498.13

Credit Card Fees:  
No expense account in 4002 for CC Fees.



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission: October 13, 2025

#### **AGENDA ITEM D.4.**

**To:** Recreation Commission

**From:** Ryan Harrison, Recreation Administrative Coordinator

**CC:** Ellen Baer, Village Manager, Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager, Nancy Flores, Interim Director of Recreation

**RE:** Administrative Coordinator Report - Senior Center Programs, Facilities/Rentals, Marketing

#### **Recommendation**

Informational only. No recommendations at this time.

#### **Summary**

Over the course of the next few months, I will be working on a variety of improvement projects for the Recreation Department and the Senior Center.

Some examples of the work I am pursuing include;

- Creating and editing the 2026 Winter/Spring Brochure.
- Preparing marketing materials for advertising/promoting.
- Creating and administering promotional materials for the Halloween Hoopla.
- Updating the Village website ([wsprings.com/recreation](http://wsprings.com/recreation)).
- Attending the IPRA Conference to broaden my experience and knowledge in recreational fields.
- Sending out program evaluations two (2) weeks before the program ends to gain insight into class while still active.

#### **Senior Center Updates:**

- A new membership tier will be introduced in January of 2026, replacing the existing three (3) tiers (Bronze, Silver, and Gold). This tier will be \$40.00/\$50.00 for residents/non-residents and renews annually. Additionally, there will be a \$20.00 Bridge Fee and a \$10.00 Special Event Fee available for individuals who only want to participate in those programs.
- A Medicare informational presentation was done on 7/31/25 for twelve (12) participants.
- Bingo was offered on 8/28/25 and had twelve (12) in attendance. This was done in collaboration with Humana, who will be back 11/13 and 12/11.
- The two (2) Vaccination Clinics were well received and had a total of 37 participants, including staff of the Village.

- The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, in collaboration with the White Crane Wellness Center, has been successful and will finish November 11th. We average 15-20 participants each week.
- Leslie Goddard program event on 9/11/25 was well received and always popular with our seniors. We had 41 in attendance.
- We had a one time Chair Pilates class with Presto Real Estate for eight (8) attendees.

#### **Social Media update:**

- Facebook stats: July 7-September 30 we have had 6,990 views, 54 interactions, and 6 new followers on Facebook.

#### **French Market:**

- Worked with Mike, Rita, and Nancy to maintain a strong presence at the French Market, which has now concluded for the season.
- Created murals for all to enjoy each week.

#### **Financial Impact**

None.

#### **Recommended Motion**

None.

#### **Strategic Plan Alignment**

None.

#### **File Attachments**

None