



Village of Westchester

JANUARY, 2024

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From the desk of Village President Greg Hribal



Happy New Year Westchester!!! 2024 is Here!!

The Village was recently contacted by Secretary of State, Alexi Giannoulias about opening a senior citizen only driver's license and service facility within the Village Hall. Their timeline was short, however due to the hard work of Village staff the facilities were formally opened on November 27th. Seniors over the age of 65 of age can visit, without an appointment, to renew their license and renew license plates stickers. The written test as well as the drivers test can be done at this facility.

There will be some transition around the village hall and the post office as we work on parking availability as the board approved modifications to increase the amount of parking available. The overall project will add approximately 40 parking spaces, with 30 of those for village and Secretary of State staff, along with added parking along Municipal Drive to assist visitors to the driver's facility.

On November 28th the village welcomed Speaker of the House Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias along with 21st District State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid and 8th District Representative La Shawn Ford to announce the opening.

Thank you Speaker Welch, Leader Lightford and Secretary of State Giannoulias for considering Westchester when seeking the next location for a senior services driver's facility. I would also like to thank Trustee Nick Steker who was instrumental in bringing Westchester forward as an option in the location selection process.

The Village Board is continuing to review information related to the redevelopment and potential move from our Roosevelt Road campus but there have been no firm decisions made. Our first step in this process involved determining our space needs and a deeper review of the property previously purchased on Enterprise Drive. Each of these steps in reaching a conclusion requires time to have professionals review and inform the board of their findings.

The annual Shop with a Cop event allows Westchester children an opportunity to experience a happy holiday that they would not otherwise have been able to, was a great success this year. This year's sponsorship provided presents and a shopping experience for 10 Westchester children to share with Westchester and neighboring police officers. Thank you to School Resource Officer Cristian Aguirre for reaching out to the business community and for those businesses who provided a monetary donation to support the event.

The recent two-day Winter Wonderland hosted by the Westchester Park District in cooperation with the Village was incredible this past December. The weather was above average this year and I was extremely pleased with the turnout for this event. The Village has discussed an increased partnership and collaboration with our taxing bodies and Chamber of Commerce to share in the costs and staff work of hosting events throughout the year. Our special events committee is working at outlining a summer event schedule for 2024 and look forward to co-hosting several events throughout the year.

The Village has made many attempts to determine the best methods of providing information to the public. There is currently the newsletter delivered to residents monthly. There is the text and email alerting system, Code Red, that provides real-time information-based alerts regarding emergency water shut offs, construction updates and other alerts that are provided via phone call, text messages or emails and recently the Village began a weekly digital newsletter. Visit the Village of Westchester website at www.westchester-il.org to register your email address and receive weekly news that can keep you informed on events, news and updates to projects going on in Westchester.

Lastly, I would encourage everyone to welcome the recently opened Jungle Plate restaurant located at 9916 Roosevelt Road. The owners, husband, and wife Westchester residents, have crafted a Caribbean and African cuisine serving food made from scratch.



YOUR GOAL IS OUR GOAL

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2024

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Prevention of Winter Fires: Home Heating Safety

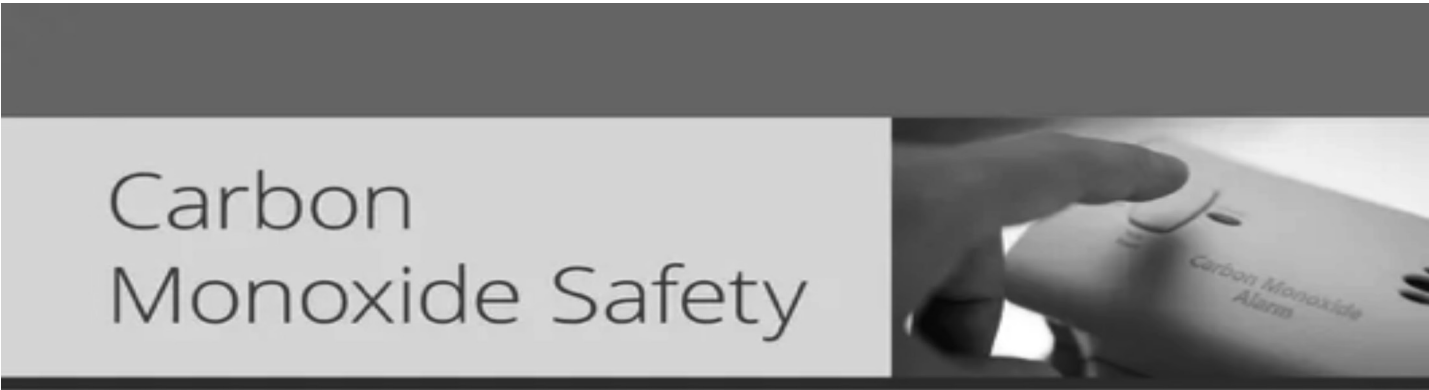


FIRE CHIEF MIKE MAVROGEORGE

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. Sources of carbon monoxide in the home include heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel, like a gas stove or fireplace. Each year, thousands of people are treated at hospital emergency rooms for CO poisoning; unfortunately hundreds of people die (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Consumer Product Safety Commission).

Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Make sure appliances are installed and operated according to the manufacturer’s instructions and local building codes. Most appliances should be installed by qualified professionals. Have the heating system professionally inspected and serviced annually to ensure proper operation. The inspector should also check chimneys and flues for blockages, corrosion, partial and complete disconnections, and loose connections.
- Avoid using a portable generator or any other gasoline engine-powered tool in or near an enclosed space such as a garage, house, or other building. Even with open doors and windows, these spaces can trap CO and allow it to quickly build to lethal levels.
- Install CO alarms on every level of the home.
- Make sure the alarm cannot be covered up by furniture or draperies.
- Avoid using portable fuel-burning equipment inside a home or garage, unless it is specifically designed for use in an enclosed space and provides instructions for safe use in an enclosed area.
- Avoid burning charcoal inside your home or garage.
- Avoid running your car in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Avoid using gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers to heat your home.
- Do not cover the bottom of natural gas or propane ovens with aluminum foil. Doing so blocks the combustion air flow through the appliance and can produce CO.
- During home renovations, make sure appliance vents and chimneys are not



Did you know?

More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental nonfire-related carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide or CO is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal.

Learn what you can do to protect your family from the dangers of CO.

- ✔ Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
- ✔ Install CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- ✔ Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- ✔ Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.

For more information and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov



Click here to add image.



blocked by tarps or debris. Make sure appliances are in proper working order when renovations are complete.

- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

Maintain Your CO Alarms

- CO alarms always have been and still are designed to alarm before potentially life-threatening levels of CO are reached.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
 - Test your alarm monthly by using the test button.
 - Look for your alarms expiration date and replace as needed.
 - CO alarms may be installed into a plug-in receptacle or high on the wall. Hard wired or plug-in CO alarms should have battery backup.

Never Ignore an Alarming CO Alarm

- It is warning you of a potentially deadly hazard. If your alarm is going off, do not try to find the source of the CO. Prompt medical attention is important if you are experiencing any symptoms of CO poisoning, take the following action:
- Call 911 if think you are experiencing any of the symptoms of CO poisoning.
 - Immediately get outside to fresh air.
 - Leave the home and call your fire department to report your symptoms from a neighbor’s home.
 - Avoid re-entering your home; you could lose consciousness and die.
 - Tell the paramedics/doctors that you suspect CO poisoning.
 - If the source of the CO is determined to be a malfunctioning appliance, DO NOT operate that appliance until it has been properly serviced by trained personnel.

Symptoms of CO Poisoning

- A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time. Because CO is odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people often don’t realize they are being exposed to this harmful poison. Initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). Symptoms include:
- Headache
 - Fatigue
 - Shortness of breath
 - Nausea
 - Dizziness
- High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:
- Mental confusion
 - Vomiting
 - Loss of muscular coordination
 - Loss of consciousness
 - Ultimately death

Happy New Year

Everyone at the Westchester Police Department would like to wish you a Happy New Year! 2023 went by in the blink of an eye and it is hard to believe it is already the new year. Going into the new year please remember to call the police any time you see something that looks out of the ordinary or suspicious. It takes a team effort to keep our community safe and the Westchester Village Officials, Village Manager and Law Enforcement Officers are all in to make that happen!

We urge anyone traveling for the holidays to stay safe and remain vigilant and if you see something say something!

Have a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Chief Daniel Babich



WESTCHESTER POLICE BLOTTER

Incident # 23-02513

Date/Time:11/10/2023 6:09PM

Location: Mannheim Rd. & Dickens St.

TRAFFIC STOP

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. Clarence Ford, 34, Bellwood was charged with Operating a Vehicle with Suspended Registration and No Proof of Insurance. Ford was issued a Citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

Incident # 23-02556

Date/Time:11/14/2023 4:42PM

Location: 10300 Blk. Roosevelt Rd.

TRAFFIC STOP

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. Manuel Mendoza 27, Chicago was charged with Expired Registration, Suspended Registration, No

Valid Proof of Insurance, and Driving with License Suspended. Mendoza was issued a Citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

Incident # 23-02633

Date/Time:11/22/2023 6:45PM

Location: Mannheim Rd. & Cambridge St.

TRAFFIC STOP

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. Jonathon Felipe Busto-Triana, 21, Cicero was cited with No Valid Registration and No Valid Drivers License. Busto-Triana was issued a Citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

Incident # 23-02682

Date/Time:11/29/2023 6:09PM

Location: 800 Blk. Mannheim Rd.

TRAFFIC STOP

WPD Officers responded for an accident that occurred in the parking lot of 825 Mannheim Rd. Clarence Hardin, 30, Westchester was cited with Driving while License Suspended. Hardin was issued a Citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

Incident # 23-02689

Date/Time:11/20/2023 9:21AM

Location: 700 Blk. Gardner Rd.

BATTERY

WPD Officers were dispatched to the area of Gardner and Kitchner, for the possible attempted vehicular hijacking that had just occurred. Proviso Central Dispatch advised that the victim was still on scene, and that there was a language barrier. A description was given out of the possible subject, that was last seen going southbound from the incident.

Police spoke to the victim who stated that a m/b subject punched out the front driver's side window of the victim vehicle and caused minor cuts/injury to the victim. Officers observed a subject matching the description walking southbound on the 900 block of Gardner. The victim positively identify the subject who Police located. Michael Jacobs, 49, Bellwood was cited for Battery and Criminal Damage to Property. Jacobs was issued a Citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

Village of Westchester

10300 WEST ROOSEVELT ROAD
WESTCHESTER, IL 60154
PHONE: (708) 345-0199 - FAX: (708) 345-0884
WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG



2023-2024 Snow Removal Rebate Program for Low-Income Seniors

The Village of Westchester is pleased to announce a rebate program to assist up to 100 low-income senior residents, aged 65 or older, with snow removal on their private property.

Interested participants must apply annually and meet eligibility requirements. Applications for the 2023-2024 season are currently open and will be accepted until February 1, 2024, or until the program reaches capacity, whichever comes first. Applications will be processed in the order they are received. **Eligible residents can submit a completed application in person or by mail to the attention of Annie Canavan at the Village of Westchester, 10300 W Roosevelt Rd, Westchester, IL 60154.**

Program Information:

- Participants are solely responsible for service coordination and payment to contractor. Contractor must be registered with the Village of Westchester. Check the Village website for a current list of registered contractors (snow removal contractors are typically in the “landscape” category).
- The Village of Westchester will reimburse each participant \$25 per snowfall event, up to \$250 total per residence for the season, pending receipt of proof of service.
- Participants are able to submit receipts to the Village of Westchester in person at Village Hall once a month, by the last Wednesday of the month. Reimbursement payments will be remitted via check and mailed to participants on or around the 15th of the subsequent month. All receipts for the 2023-2024 season must be submitted within 30 days of the final snowfall event of the season.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Participants must reside in the Village of Westchester. Accepted items for proof of residency include a copy of your driver’s license or state ID.
- Participants must be 65 years of age or older. Accepted items for proof of age include a copy of your driver’s license, state ID, or birth certificate.
- Participants must prove low-income status by providing a copy of **one** of the following: Medicaid card; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) card; or proof of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) enrollment.
- No persons capable of removing snow can reside in the household.

Village of Westchester

10300 WEST ROOSEVELT ROAD
WESTCHESTER, IL 60154
PHONE: (708) 345-0199 - FAX: (708) 345-0884
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Application for 2023-2024 Snow Removal Rebate Program for Low-Income Seniors

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.....

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Initial each line:

_____ I have attached a copy of proof of residency in the form of a driver's license or state ID.

_____ I have attached a copy of proof of age in the form of a driver's license, state ID, or birth certificate.

_____ I have attached a copy of proof of low-income status in the form of a Medicaid card, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) card, **or** proof of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) enrollment.

_____ I confirm that no persons capable of removing snow reside in my household.

_____ I understand it is my sole responsibility to coordinate service and provide payment to a contractor who is registered with the Village of Westchester.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

.....

SOUPER BOWL 2024



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Duncan's Pizza and Wings ▪ Mattone ▪ Paul's Pizza and Hot Dogs
Mary's Morning Mix-Up ▪ Westchester Inn ▪ Sawa's Old Warsaw

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ELVIS**



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Proviso Handyman Department

January 2024

Are your holiday boxes ready to be stored in your attic or basement?

Call and we will help put them away! Is it a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms?

If you haven't winterized your doors and windows our handyman can do that for you also!

Call 708-547-4001

The Proviso Township Handyman Program serves homeowners over the age of 60 and disabled homeowners who are residents of Proviso Township



**Bellwood · Berkeley · Broadview · Brookfield · Forest Park · Hillside ·
LaGrange Park · Maywood · Melrose Park · North Riverside ·
Northlake · Stone Park · Westchester · Western Springs**

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Michael A. Corrigan
Supervisor

Anthony "Tony" Williams
Clerk

Steven J. Zawaski
Assessor

Evelyn Chavez · Joseph Christopher · Mari Herrell · Clarence E Thomas
Trustees



WESTCHESTER
PUBLIC LIBRARY

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

January 2024

January Book Discussion

January 16 | 6:30 PM

This month we are reading ***Lone Women*** by Victor Lavalle. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk!

Library Closed February 2nd | Late Opening at 12 PM

The library will be opening late on Friday, February 2nd. Our updated hours will be 12 PM - 5 PM.

Register for Our Programs Online

Visit tinyurl.com/wpl-event-calendar to register for all of our programs.

Illinois Libraries Presents: Speculating our AI Future Panel with Corry Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells

Th, Jan. 11 | 7 PM | Zoom

Join us for a panel discussion featuring three best selling science fiction writers, Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells. They will discuss the promise, perils, and possible impacts that AI will have on our future, as well as AI in contemporary and future science fiction writing. **Register at**

https://bit.ly/ILP_DoctorowLiuWells

Illinois Libraries Presents: A Conversation with Jerry Craft: From Mama's Boyz to New Kid and Beyond

Tues, Feb. 6 | 7 PM | Zoom

Learn about life, art, and telling your story with bestselling author, illustrator and syndicated cartoonist, Jerry Craft. Join us for a conversation about his works and journey to success, including a drawing demo that will be fun for the whole family!

Register at https://bit.ly/ILP_JerryCraft

The Black Chicago Renaissance with Dr. Amira Davis

Sat. Feb. 17 | 1 PM | Community Room

In this presentation, Dr. Davis will guide participants through the Chicago Black Renaissance from the early to mid-20th century. The presentation will include a Q&A and an interactive component where audience members share their migration stories.

Registration is required.

Drop-in Crocheting Club

Biweekly Mondays | 6 - 7 PM | Starting Jan. 15th | Conference Room

Whether you're a beginner looking to start your crochet journey or an experienced crocheter seeking a social crafting environment, our welcoming sessions are open to all. **Registration is not required, must be 18+.**

Purl Power Knitting Club for Adults

Wednesdays | Jan 10 - 31 | 6 PM | Conference Room

Calling all adult beginners! Join us as we unravel the world of knitting, one stitch at a time, and create cozy, handcrafted creations. No experience necessary and all materials will be provided! **Registration is not required, must be 18+.**

Friday Senior Matinee

Fridays | 2 PM | Community Room

Join us every Friday at 2 PM for a movie matinee program! Call the Adult Department at 708-562-3573 to hear what movies are coming up and to register! **Registration is encouraged.**

Chair Yoga

Wed, Jan. 17th | 5:30 - 7 PM | Community Room

Join us for Chair Yoga with Miss Mel! Chair Yoga is a great, safe way to increase your flexibility and strength while at the same time reducing your stress. All skill levels are welcome! **Registration is required, must be 18+.**

Qigong and Sound Meditation Series

Th, Jan. 11 at 1 PM & Sat, Jan. 27 at 11 AM | Community Room

Join Gail Morales for this beginner friendly workshop that is a combination of qigong and beautiful sounds. Qigong involves a series of slow flowing movements and deep measured breathing while in a chair or standing. The workshop ends with soothing sounds from seven crystal singing bowls, chimes, handheld gongs, and other sound instruments. **Registration is required, single session sign up allowed.**



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY • 10700 Canterbury Street • Westchester, IL 60154

708-562-3573 • askus@westchesterpl.org • www.westchesterpl.org

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-8:00 pm; Friday-Saturday 9:30 am-5:00 pm; Sunday: Closed.

Library Director Fidencio Marbella • Board of Trustees John Lamberti-president, Elizabeth Hunter, Greg Christoff, Shannon Flint, Christine Kuffel, Darla Woods & Stephanie Pedersen • Board Meetings on 4th Monday of every month 7 PM.

If special accommodations are required to attend a library program, please contact us at least seven days in advance.

STORYTIME AT THE LIBRARY

Magic Carpet Club

Tuesdays | 4 PM | until Jan 30th

Storytime and crafts for **kindergarten through second graders**! Sign up online at our website's calendar.

Mother Goose on the Loose

Wed. & Th. | 10:15 AM | until Feb 1st

Storytime and crafts for children **up to 5 years** of age! Registration is required. Sign up online at our website's calendar.

Youth Winter Reading Club

Until February 2nd

Join our Youth Winter Reading Club **"To the Moon and Back"** as we embark on an interstellar journey with our space-themed reading adventure. Explore the mysteries of the universe one book at a time and discover the wonders that await among the stars. Meet each corresponding age group goal and receive a prize!

For Read to Me: 20 books

Beginning Readers: 15 books/chapter

Readers: 6 hours of reading.

Keep track in the library-provided reading log.

Teen Readers: Ages 11+, Every page is a point and 600 points gets you a level 1 prize.

Sign up at westchesterpl.readsquared.com or in-person from **December 4th until February 2nd**.

January Smash Bros. Tournament

Sat, Jan 13th | 2 -4 PM | Community Room

Battle it out in an epic showdown featuring your favorite iconic Nintendo characters at our Monthly Super Mario Ultimate Smash Brothers Tournament!

This event is intended for patrons in **2nd grade and up. Registration is required.**

YOUTH EVENTS

Smart Art with Miss Julie

Thursdays | 4 - 4:45 PM | Until Jan 25th

Make new friends, learn new techniques, and take home your masterpieces as each week we'll be crafting something new.

Sign up online at our website's calendar.

This event is intended for patrons in **2nd to 5th grade**.

Monday Mario Kart

Mondays | 4 PM | Community Room

Zoom through the colorful world of Mario Kart and show off your racing skills!

Sign up online at our website's calendar.

This event is intended for patrons in **2nd grade and up. Registration is required.**

Mystique Marvels: A Spellbinding Spectacle with Magician Alan Kazam!

Wed, Jan. 17th | 6:30 PM | Storytime Room

Join us for a spellbinding experience that captivates children all over the country!

Alan Kazam, a Professional Magician, will be visiting the library to perform an enchanting show that blends comedy, magic, and reading! This year's magical extravaganza promises incredible tricks, loads of audience participation, and even the thrill of levitating a lucky member from the crowd. **Registration is Required!**



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MARKET UPDATE

WESTCHESTER | DECEMBER 2023

33 Homes for Sale	12 Homes Under Contract
\$550,000 High Sale Price	\$210,000 Low Sale Price
\$337,800 Average Sales Price	98% Sale / List Price
15 Closed Sales	24 Average Market Time

Data provided by MRED LLC, for Single Family Homes on 12/10/2023 for 30 day period.

WESTCHESTER | LA GRANGE | WESTERN SPRINGS | HINSDALE | OAK BROOK | DOWNERS GROVE



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Coldwell Banker Stratford Place
wishes you a wonderful new
year filled with abundance, joy
and many treasured moments.

May 2024 be your best year yet.

~ *Laura Catrambone-Getace*



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Wishing you and your Family a Happy New Year

One of the real joys of the Holiday Season

is the opportunity to say Thank You

And to wish you the very best

for the New Year



Worry Free Remodeling

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The WPTC would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy Holiday Season!

In November, we had our second WPTC meeting for this school year. We appreciate the staff and parent involvement. The month also included the Charleston Wrap fundraiser as well as the Chipotle Restaurant Fundraiser.

We had our first Family Bowling Event at Eden Lanes which was a wonderful day filled with family, friends and excitement! We'd like to thank all that attended and everyone that donated amazing raffle prizes. Your support is truly appreciated.

Please remember the WMS School Store has returned and will be open once a month!! Dates will be announced on our Facebook page and announcements are made during school to remind students.

WPTC will be hosting our first Flying High fundraiser drop-off event on December 2nd. It's a fun evening for the children, and a chance for parents to have a night out.

Our restaurant fundraisers for December will be at Lou Malnati's on Wednesday December 6th, and the Buona Beef Fundraiser will be on Monday December 18th.

We will also be hosting a Winter Shoppe for students at WIS December 12-13th and at WPS December 20-21st. We are looking forward to this new event.

We will have our winter parties at WPS and WIS along with our winter dance at WMS before break. Please remember that our events can only take place with the help of our volunteers. This is a very fun and exciting experience and we would love to have you participate. Please look for emails and Facebook posts for volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to those who have taken the time to help out at our past events.

Keep an eye out for upcoming events!

December 2 Flying High Fundraiser
 December 6 Lou Malnati's Fundraiser
 December 15 WMS Winter Dance
 December 18 Buona Beef Fundraiser
 December 12-13 WIS Holiday Shoppe
 December 20-21 WPS Holiday Shoppe
 December 21 WPS EC/PreK Winter Parties
 December 22 WPS/WIS Winter Parties

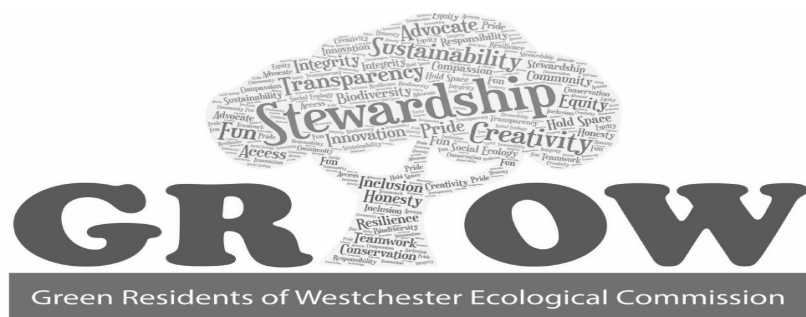
Please continue to check our Facebook page and website for any updates!

www.wptc.membershiptoolkit.com

<https://www.facebook.com/WPTC92.5>

You can also reach the WPTC via email at wptc925@gmail.com.





GROW Ecological Commission: Two Years of Environmental Action

The Green Residents of Westchester (GROW) Ecological Commission is a volunteer group that advises the village and educates the community on environmental issues. We are critical partners in beautification and ecological decisions. The commission is responsible for preparing, achieving objectives of, and sustaining Westchester's Climate Action Plan.

Highlights of our recent work:

Native plants and landscaping: Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity and can help reduce flooding.

Organized a native plant educational event and a plant sale with I Love Native Plants and Westchester Community Church.

Held a sustainable landscaping education event with Midwest Grows Green/IPM Institute.

Encouraged residents and children to appreciate nature by promoting events like the City Nature Challenge and the Villages' Arbor Day tree planting events at Westchester schools.

Tree Care and Canopy Restoration: Each year, Westchester's tree canopy provides \$1.8 million in ecosystem services that include carbon storage and sequestration, air pollution removal, and storm water interception (according to the Morton Arboretum 2020 Chicago Region Tree Census). They also can improve quality of life, increase property values, help foster good mental and physical health, and reduce surface temperatures.

Assisted the Village with writing two grants. A grant of \$25,000 was awarded for a comprehensive tree inventory and management plan for Village-owned trees. This will enable the Village to more efficiently build and maintain the canopy with an eye to age and species diversity.

Distributed native tree saplings provided by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to residents during the Village's shredding events.

Distributed bookmarks highlighting the trees most commonly found within Westchester, as well as instruction tags for Public Works to provide residents with newly planted trees.

Advocated for the Cook County Forest Preserve Referendum and for the Village to update its Noxious Weeds Ordinance.

Alternative Transportation: One of the

most effective ways to reduce acute and chronic respiratory ailments related to air pollution is to decrease the number of combustion vehicles on the road. This can be accomplished in many ways: carpooling, using public transportation, buying an electric or hybrid vehicle, walking or cycling. Walking and cycling are particularly impactful because they improve health.

Figure 1

Between, Nov'17 and Nov'23 the number of EVs in our village increased from 6 to 76, with the greatest increase occurring in 2023.

Collaborated with the Police Department to host two bike safety events (for adults and children).

Featured alternative forms of transportation at the 4th of July parade: Mustang Mach-E, Tesla Y, and Volkswagen e-Golf and the Westchester Cycling Group

Endorsed Westchester's participation in Tour de Proviso, township-wide bike event.

Recommended that the Village mitigate the impact on the environment without sacrificing needed functionality as Fleet Vehicles are due for replacement by: 1) considering total cost of ownership instead of capital and operating expenses separately (reference: Argonne National Laboratory), 2) planning for adequate EV charging functionality, and eventual re-evaluation of the need for underground fuel, and 3) considering staff input into new vehicle assessments while prioritizing EVs and hybrids.

Solar Power: Adding clean, renewable solar energy to the electrical grid will have the greatest impact on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Hosted five solar events with Citizens Utility Board. The sessions covered rooftop solar, community solar, the Illinois Solar for All Program, and the opportunity to participate in the GROW Solar Chicagoland and Solar Switch Chicagoland group purchasing discounts.

Recommended that the Village participate in the Chicago Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution, which will allow residents the opportunity to opt-in to this program.

Reduce Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions: Residential natural gas consumption is the greatest source of greenhouse gas equivalents in our community, and our community's utilization of natural gas and electricity are

significantly higher than the average for the metropolitan region, Cook County and our surrounding communities.

Hosted two energy efficiency events with Nicor to inform our community about free in-home energy assessments, free and discounted energy savings devices, and incentives/rebates that may be available.

Increased resident requests for Water Savings Kits (74 more kits) and Weatherization Kits (60 more kits) from the previous year.

Minimize waste: Globally, landfills are the 3rd largest producers of methane gas, which traps 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide during its first 20 years in the atmosphere.

Hosted a composting educational event and met residents to highlight the benefits of composting at Tour de Proviso.

Held two annual Reuse-a-palooza events yard sale and reuse festival weekends. Over 170 houses participated in Reuse-a-palooza each year.

Provided opportunities for residents to have their holiday pumpkins and gourds composted by providing "Pumpkin Smash" collection bins.

Gave feedback on the waste/recycling contract scope of services and ideas to help the Village reduce its landfilled waste. The suggestions included educational events/materials on acceptable materials in curbside recycling, right-sized services to incentivize residents to reduce solid waste, and options to compost organic waste, among others.

Prepare for climate change: Scientists are clear about the reality of climate change and with devastating storms, dangerous floods, melting glaciers, and rising seas becoming an increasingly regular part of life. We need to start working on ways to reduce the impact of climate change.

- Reviewed various climate mitigation strategies, their costs, and benefits, and drafted a Climate Action Plan, which was unanimously supported by the Commission.

Encouraged the Village President to join other local mayors in signing a Memorandum of Understanding to work collaboratively to reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants in our area by joining the C4 - Cross Community Climate Collaborative. The Memorandum of Understanding has been adopted by the full Village board, and was presented at the Nov. 28th board meeting, and will be voted on — presumably favorably — by the time of publication.

Our 2024 goals:

GROW is committed to continuing to work with the community to make Westchester a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place to live. In the coming year, GROW plans to focus on the following:

Take action:

Continue to develop Westchester's Climate Action Plan in collaboration with the Village.

Increase resident engagement in sustainable landscaping, composting, and other ecological initiatives that benefit residents.

Educate:

Inform the community about water quality and sustainability.

Increase awareness about air pollution, how it impacts health, and actions that can be taken.

Identify rebates and tax incentives for residents interested in considering electric vehicles and electric appliances.

Continue to provide information on solar technology and financial incentives for homeowners and renters, regardless of income.

Increase funding & partnerships:

Identify opportunities to secure funding for additional environmental projects.

Strengthen connections within our community and with our partners: Cook County Forest Preserve, Wolf Road Prairie, the Grassroots Garden Group, Park District, Westchester Public Library, the schools, the Illinois Extension Service, and within Proviso Township.

Get Involved!

2024 GROW Meeting Dates: We usually meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM (*unless noted) in the board room of village hall.

January 11th*, February 1st, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 11th*, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, December 3rd*.

There are many ways to participate in GROW activities:

- Attend GROW events: we host a number of events, workshops, and giveaways each year, promote them in the newsletter as well as the Westchester website, and email blast.

- Share your ideas and concerns at our monthly meeting: Help us make Westchester a greener and more sustainable community. We meet monthly at Village Hall – meeting dates are listed here and on the village website.

- Become a Grow Commissioner: We are recruiting to fill a 3-year term open beginning February 2024. Candidates should have the ability and availability to participate in commission meetings, events, and contribute to the Village newsletter. Relevant knowledge, education, or experience is helpful, but not required. Key to the commission being able to educate and engage residents for action on environmental issues/practices. Westchester residents 21 or older are welcome to apply. To apply, submit a copy of your resume/bio along with a cover letter/statement about your background and interests to: Evie Slavic - eslavic@westchester-il.gov

- Read GROW agendas, meeting minutes, reports on the village website <https://www.westchester-il.org/>.

January at a Glance

For more information please see the calendar on the Village Website:
<https://www.westchester-il.org/reference-desk/calendar>

- 1/5/2024 Friday**

 - 5:30pm Co-Rec Basketball League

1/6/2024 Saturday

 - 1:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #2

1/8/2024 Monday

 - 4:00pm-5:00pm Youth Tumbling
 - 5:00pm-6:00pm Youth Tumbling
 - 5:15pm Zumba Fitness & Commit Dance Fitness
 - 6:30pm Step Works

1/9/2024 Tuesday

 - 5:30pm D209 Board of Executives Meeting
 - 5:30pm Zumba Fitness & Commit Dance Fitness
 - 6:00pm Village Board & Committee of the Whole Meetings

1/10/2024 Wednesday

 - 11:00am Aging Well in Westchester
 - 5:00pm-6:00pm Cheer & Poms
 - 7:30pm Food Pantry Annual Meeting

1/13/2024 Saturday

 - 1:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #2

1/15/2024 Monday (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

 - 4:00pm-5:00pm Youth Tumbling
 - 5:00pm-6:00pm Youth Tumbling
 - 5:15pm Zumba Fitness & commit Dance Fitness
 - 6:30pm Step Works

1/16/2024 Tuesday

 - 5:30pm Zumba Fitness & Commit Dance Fitness

1/17/2024 Wednesday

 - 5:00pm-6:00pm Cheer & Poms
- 1/18/2024 Thursday**

 - 6:00pm D92.5 Board of Executives Meeting
 - 6:30pm Buckthorn Seminar w/Horticulturist Dave Coulter

1/20/2024 Saturday

 - 1:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #2

1/22/2024 Monday

 - 4:00pm-5:00pm Youth Tumbling
 - 5:00pm-6:00pm Youth Tumbling
 - 5:15pm Zumba fitness & commit Dance Fitness
 - 6:00pm Introduction to Astrology
 - 6:30pm Step Works

1/23/2024 Tuesday

 - 5:30pm D209 Board of Executives Meeting
 - 5:30pm Zumba Fitness & Commit Dance Fitness
 - 6:00pm Village Board & Committee of the Whole Meetings

1/24/2024 Wednesday

 - 5:00pm-6:00pm Cheer & Poms
 - 7:00pm Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

1/27/2024 Saturday

 - 1:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #2

1/29/2023 Monday




 - 4:00pm-5:00pm Youth Tumbling
 - 5:00pm-6:00pm Youth Tumbling
 - 5:15pm Zumba Fitness & Commit Dance Fitness
 - 6:00pm Introduction to Astronomy
 - 6:30pm Step Works

1/30/2024 Tuesday

 - 5:30pm Zumba Fitness & commit Dance Fitness

1/31/2024 Wednesday

 - 5:00pm-6:00pm Cheer & Poms



IDENTIFY

REMOVE

Protecting Westchester’s Natural Assets

Buckthorn Presentation

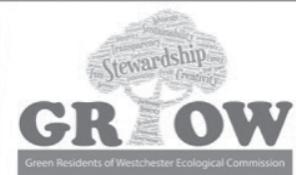
With Dave Coulter, Horticulturist

<https://www.osagegroup.com/>


Thursday, January 18th @ 6:30pm @ Village Hall

Questions?

nmolinaro@westchester-il.gov
or
eslavic@westchester-il.gov



An open event
for Adults,
Middle &



High School
Students to
attend

Sign up for the Westchester Weekly E-News!

Get the latest news, event details, and other important information from the Village of Westchester delivered straight to your inbox every week.

To sign up please go to the Village Website and under the Community tab, click on Village Newsletter and E-News

Or, use the link below:

<https://www.westchester.il-org/community/village-newsletter>





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Scott Hopman
773-655-8529

Giordano Manfredini
708-363-6789



Want to see your ad in the Village of Westchester's Newsletter?
Follow the steps below to find out more!

Please scan this QR Code to be take to the Village Website.
For pricing options, please click on "Advertising Submission and Pricing"



SAVE THE DATE

Valentine Dance, Friday, February 9th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm, at Westchester Community Church. Live music by the Weed Wackers (a 5 piece band) playing Oldies, Classic Rock, Old and New Standards, perfect to dance to. The evening includes refreshments, door prize, and raffles. You are welcome to BYOB to this event. Tickets go on sale, January 8th, \$20 per person, call 708-865-1282 for tickets. This event is sponsored by the Music Board.

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FOR ALL YOUR CONCRETE NEEDS!

Aging Well In Westchester

The Westchester Aging Well Team invites you to join us for **FREE** seminars to assist you in aging well!

2024 PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAYS ~ 11:15am-1:00pm

January 10 – Healthy You, Healthy New Year!

Join us for an informative and active program to kick off 2024!

March 13 – Let's Plan Today for Peace of Mind Tomorrow

A panel discussion on Trusts, Wills, Estate Planning, Funeral Planning, and what you need to know for your 2023 tax filing

May 8 – Let's Get Growing! Spring Gardening Seminar

Future Programs: July 10, September 11, November 13

Seminars will be followed by a light lunch

Where: Mayfair Recreation Center

10835 Wakefield St., Westchester, IL 60154

Registration Preferred ~ Spaces are Limited

Contact Alyson Scanlon at 708-603-2259 or email

AWN@agingcareconnections.org

The Westchester Aging Well Team is a group of volunteers working to make Westchester a great place to age well. Through a series of free informational programs, we help to promote lifelong wellness, support aging at home, raise awareness of available resources, provide a sense of community, and support healthy, informed, and safe aging.

QUESTIONS? Contact Alyson Scanlon at Aging Care Connections:
708-603-2259 or AWN@agingcareconnections.org

WESTCHESTER
Aging Well Team



Miracles In Progress Very Merry Holiday Party – 2023

On Friday night, 12/1/23, Miracles In Progress held their annual Very Merry Holiday Party! It was held at the Mayfair Recreational Center. Thank you to the Westchester Park District for hosting our event year after year. This annual event is designed to celebrate the holidays serving those with brain injuries and other special needs. Families had the opportunity to enjoy dinner, desserts, decorate gingerbread houses made by Krista Brazel from Krispies, enjoy holiday music, play trivia and bingo, spend time talking with and take pictures with Superheroes and Santa Claus. MIP gave each special attendee and their siblings a gift bag of great surprises! Gift bags were sponsored by MIP, World Famous Chocolates, Rainbow Cone, Buona Beef, Buddy Bear Car Wash, Brookfield Zoo/Chicago Zoological Society, Blistex Corporation, Ferrara Candy Company, Impulse Rehab & Wellness, Westchester, Morton Dental of Berwyn, McDonalds (JJC Family Restaurants). This year, the MIP kids and young adults were honored to receive unwrapped presents that they

could choose from. These presents were a very generous gift from MIP and the Illinois Police Association Tri-County Division, (ipacops.org). Thank you, Brian Kuratko and Stephanie Wilson-Muniz for organizing and coordinating this! Another generous surprise we received this year was from the Tri-County Heroes United. Appearances and photo opportunities were with Batman, Batgirl, Superman, Supergirl, Spider-Man, the Hulk, The Flash, Catwoman, The Scarlet Witch, and Wonder Woman. Everyone was thrilled to see and take photos with their favorite superhero! Again, this year, we thank Derek and Lisa Gordon for sponsoring this event in memory of Derek's late Mother, Wilda Gordon. Thank you to Paul and Andrea Gattuso from Paul's Pizza & Hot Dogs @ 31st and Wolf Road, Westchester who generously donated and catered our event again this year. Paul, Andrea & Family's generosity is boundless and they continue their support of Miracles In Progress in memory of the late Joe Woss, who was a dedicated MIP volunteer for many years. Everyone raved about the scrumptious dinner from Paul's

which included assorted pizzas, dinner salad, antipasto salad, mostaccioli, sausage/peppers and meatballs. Many of the desserts and array of abundant fresh fruits were donated by Paisan's Pizzeria and Bar, Berwyn; Culver's, Lyons donated custard for the ice cream bar for all the participants. A very big THANKYOU to the talented Nancy Kosiek for sharing your holiday decorating skills at the Mayfair Recreation Center with Miracles In Progress. You always make everything special for MIP and our town. MIP also thanks Ea Bell and her team from 3EEvents, Westchester for her Santa Claus and Superhero backdrops, Santa Throne, and amazing balloon creations! Thank you to Peter Marzano for being our event photographer. The pictures he took were phenomenal. Thank you to this year's event volunteers: Gianna Parolin, Emma Smith, LeeAnn Coniglio, Eddie Olewinski, Gia Marie Benline, Michael Benline, Jackie Benline, Sofia Benline, Sharon Henk, Josie DeRiggi, Phyllis Orlando, Mary Bakas, Nikki Kay Vahldick, Bridget Rowan, Rebecca Watson, Bryan McQuaid, Patricia Hyland,

Tyler Swenson, Allie Saraceno, Eden Saraceno, Tessa Saraceno, Michael Gobber, Rosemary Klitchman, Nazareth Academy Baseball Coaches, Lee Milano, Jim Thome and the awesome Nazareth Academy baseball team. These young men did a great job again this year! And, the MIP Santa Claus, Derek Gordon - we thank you for your love and patience for the extra care and time needed for our MIP kids who look forward to seeing Santa Claus every year! Thank you to our newcomer, Evie Slavic as Mrs. Claus. We appreciate you! Thank you to John Watson and Judy Saraceno-Swenson for everything you do for this event and throughout the year - which is way too much to mention! Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers! MIP Families who attended had a wonderful evening thanks to you! Since 2002, Miracles In Progress is a volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to maximizing the lifetime potential of those with brain injuries and other special needs. If you wish to contact MIP, you can call 708-531-1616 or visit miraclesinprogress.org.

LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?

Interfaith Career Network offers **FREE** assistance
Open to all!

Thursday, January 18th from 7-9 pm

**Helpful Advice From HR
While Conducting Your Job Search**

Leslie Kelley, Presenter

- Think your resume is good? You may be way ahead of others who you are competing against! You may not!
- Think your business protocol during your search is good? You may be way ahead of your competition! You may not!
- Think you may want to learn more from the corporate, “other side” of recruitment – YES! Come join us to get out ahead of your competition! Be the best you can be during your job search!

Our speaker is Leslie Kelley, Director of Human Resources for Chervon North America, Inc. in Naperville, IL. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in HR and a Master’s degree in Organizational Behavior. Leslie is actively involved in recruitment each week and can share some important tips that may launch your job search to the next level in a market that is topsy turvy!

We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross,
5005 Wolf Road in Western Springs. Everyone is welcome!

Visit www.interfaithcareernetwork.com for additional resources

PUBLIC WORKS

2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday Garbage Schedule

There will be no change to the garbage collection schedule.

Live Christmas trees up to 5 feet long will be collected on your regular garbage day the first two weeks of January. Trees over 5 feet in length must be cut down for collection.

Yard waste collection will resume your first collection day of April, 2024.

Village branch collection will resume the week of April 1st - 5th 2024.

Waste Management – 1-800-796-9696

- If your garbage or recycling was not picked up on your regular day, please call Waste Management directly.
- If you would like to request a new garbage or recycling receptacle, please call Waste Management directly.
- If you have large items that will not fit in your receptacle (i.e. couch, chairs, tables, etc.) please call Waste Management directly to schedule a large item collection.

The Waste Management’s “At Your Door Special Collection” service will pick up unwanted-potentially hazardous and hard-to-recycle items from your home.

That number is 1-800-449-7587.
The full list of items may be found at www.wmatyourdoor.com/residential.

The Village Hall will be collecting non-working holiday lights for recycling until February 1st.

VILLAGE SNOW RESTRICTIONS

Public Works crews keep our streets free of snow and ice during the winter months.

Please assist us by observing the following:

- Place garbage cans 3 feet behind the curb line- do not place them in the street.
 - Do not shovel or blow snow back into the cleared streets.
 - Please observe the “NO PARKING SNOW ROUTE” signs.
- The snow portion of the signs will be enforced after 2 inches of snowfall between December 1st and March 31st.

If you reside on a Primary designated SNOW ROUTE, after 2 inches of snowfall you must remove all vehicles from the snow route. Vehicles must stay off the street until the streets

are cleared thoroughly by the plows by Public Works. If the snowfall is continuing, the restriction is in place until Public Works completes the plowing for the day. Please check the signs at the corners of your block.

If you reside on a Secondary route, there is no parking Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the even numbered house side and no parking Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday on the odd numbered house side after 2 inches of snowfall. Please check the signs at the corners and center of your block for guidance. (This includes ALL side streets not designated a Primary snow route.)

If you have a Fire Hydrant on your parkway, please help keep the hydrant clear of snow so that the Fire Department may easily access the hydrant in case of an emergency, and so that the snow plows may quickly identify the hydrants while plowing.

Westchester Tree Replacement Program

The Village has been planting trees on eligible parkways at no cost to the resident. This replacement program does not allow for residents to choose the species of tree planted, the location, the number of trees planted, nor are residents able to opt-out of having a tree planted in the Village parkway in front and/or side of their residence.

If you would prefer to choose the species of the tree to be planted, this can be achieved through the 50/50 program. The resident can choose the tree from a list provided by the Village, and shares half of the cost of the tree and planting with the Village. To request a 50/50 tree, please call the Public Works Department at 708.345.0041.

As always, residents are asked to call Public Works at 708.345.0041 if an unusual amount of water is visible in the street or parkway. This could be a main break or water leak that requires our immediate attention. If after 3:30pm M-F & on weekends and holidays, please call 708.345.0060.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Balmoral Ave. from Canterbury St. to Roosevelt Rd. will undergo a full reconstruction starting in in spring 2024.



Wedgwood Bridge Construction & Detour

The Village of Westchester will be replacing Wedgwood Drive Bridge over Addison Creek in the Spring of 2024. Wedgwood Drive will be closed

between Suffolk Avenue and Norfolk Avenue. Travelers will be detoured one block south to Gladstone Street using Suffolk Avenue and Norfolk Avenue. The anticipated construction dates and bridge closure are May 15th 2024 through September 15th 2024.

POTENTIAL 2024 CONSTRUCTION PROJESCTS DEPENDENT UPON FUNDING

STREET PROGRAM

STREET	FROM	TO
Boeger Ave.	Cermak Rd.	Wakefield St.
Martindale Dr.	Windsor Dr.	Windsor Dr.
Sherwood Ave.	Boeger Ave.	Cermak Rd.
Kensington Ave.	Windsor Dr.	Cermak Rd.
Fairfield St.	Sunnyside Ave.	Kensington Ave.
Newbury St.	Sunnyside Ave.	Fairfield St.
Kensington Ave,	Fleet St.	Wakefield St.

ALLEY RECONSTRUCTION

ALLEY BETWEEN		FROM	TO
Suffolk Ave.	Portsmouth Ave.	N. Roosevelt Alley	
Portsmouth Ave.	Newcastle Ave.	N. Roosevelt Alley	
Hull Ave.	Westchester Blvd.	Devonshire St.	The Strand
Hull Ave.	Westchester Blvd.	The Strand	Railroad
Comwell Ave	Balmoral Ave.	Kitchner St.	Expressway
Portsmouth Ave.	Newcastle Ave.	Gladstone St.	Devonshire St.
Newcastle Ave.	Portsmouth Ave.	Devonshire St.	Dead End
Portsmouth Ave.	Suffolk Ave.	Devonshire St.	Dead End
Westchester Blvd.	Railroad	Roosevelt Rd.	Pelham St.
Pelham St.	Dead End	Roosevelt Rd.	Pelham St.
Westchester Blvd.	Hull Ave.	Chaucer St.	Dead End



A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Winter is here, and it's time to issue regular reminders about cold weather! In addition to walking to and from school, we regularly take our students outside for recess in grades Pre-K through 5th. Please make sure your student is dressed warmly during these winter months. I also want to remind you how important it is for us to have your most current contact information. The district uses a 'call-out' phone system and texting to notify families should we need to change the daily schedule. The calls are sent to the phone numbers registered by parents and guardians, so it is crucial for you to provide the school with any new phone numbers or email addresses. Please make sure you sign up to receive text notifications by completing [this form](#). In addition to phone calls, important information on school status due to inclement weather will be posted on the district's website and social media channels. If we need to close schools, we will implement an E-Learning Day. Kindergarten through eighth-grade students will attend remotely. You can read our plan [here](#). Teachers will provide live instruction via Google Meet sessions and/or materials. Preschool procedures will be communicated via email from PreK/EC classroom teachers.

January is a month that carries a sense of warmth, joy, and reflection. It is a time when we come together to celebrate the holiday season, express gratitude, and look forward to the possibilities of the coming year. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the diversity within our community, recognizing the various cultural and religious celebrations during this festive season. As we enter the holiday break, I express my deepest appreciation for the commitment and resilience demonstrated by our educators and staff. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I am genuinely grateful for the positive impact you continue to make in the lives of our students. I encourage everyone to take some time during the holiday break to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones. May this season bring joy, peace, and moments of reflection that deepen our sense of connection and community.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to the success of our students. We are wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year. We will see you in 2024! Feel free to email me at psalemi@sd925.org or call 708-670-1927. Don't forget to check our Community Link on our website.

Sincerely,
Philip Salemi, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Westchester Primary School

Westchester Primary staff and students are dedicated to growth. Our grade level staff participated in the second learning lab of the school year in December to grow as educators by watching a fellow teacher's lesson and meeting to discuss how to improve instruction. Our "Look Fors" in math took place by our math specialist and administration to determine where we can increase achievement. Also, WPS hosted fifteen of District 100 Berwyn South's staff to showcase our reading curriculum, instruction and activities.

In December, the Westchester Primary School Student Council created ornaments and decorated our Westchester Park District tree that was sponsored by the Westchester Parents & Teachers for Children (WPTC) Organization. WPS would like to thank the WPTC for sponsoring this tree as part of the Westchester Community Trim-A-Tree event. Our WPS students participated in the WPTC classroom winter parties and an all-school sing-along with songs to celebrate the diverse holidays before winter break. Also, WPS celebrated with a spirit week created by the Student Council to bring extra joy to our last week of school in 2023!

During December, all kindergarten-second grade students conferenced with their teachers to set goals for learning because they will be demonstrating their progress through a variety of classroom assessments. When our students return to school in January, Westchester Primary School assesses first and second-grade students using the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). This is a state-aligned computerized adaptive assessment program that provides educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning and make student-focused and data-driven decisions. Students in grades one and two are tested three times each year (fall, winter, and spring) in the areas of reading and math. All kindergarten, first, and second graders are also assessed using Fastbridge and other grade-level assessments to determine their growth from fall to winter. The teachers use this growth and achievement data to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school-wide curricular improvements.

Additionally, at the end of each January, students identified as English Language Learners, will participate in ACCESS, the state assessment designed to measure students' proficiency and growth in English in all four domains of language- reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This test is also designed to measure student performance with both social languages used every day and more complex academic language. Students will participate in whole group reading, writing, and listening tests and individual speaking assessments. Information gathered from this assessment assists teachers with designing effective instruction.



Westchester Intermediate School

Happy New Year to all our WIS families. We have had an exciting first half of the year. It is great to see our students growing each and every day. It is great to see the small groups working together to enhance their learning and to see them enjoying hands-on activities more and more frequently. We continue to focus on the social emotional needs of our kiddos as well. Students continue to come to school with anxiety which impacts their ability to focus on academics. We continue to build their coping skills so they can successfully face adversity in any form it takes. There are many things going on in the world around them and it impacts them.

With the start of the new year comes fresh energy after some time off. We will take our mid-year benchmark assessments for both reading and math. Teachers will use this new information coupled with classroom data collected throughout the first half of the year to focus on skills for which students continue to need support. We will also be able to celebrate the academic growth for students who demonstrate success due to their hard work and effort through the first half of the year.

As the second half of our year begins we set new goals for ourselves. We have made progress in the first half of the year but we still have work to do to build our learning community. Both teachers and students will continue to push themselves to be successful. With the continued support of our parents and families, we have what we need to drive ourselves to the next level of success. I hope everyone has an awesome remainder of the school year.

Go Huskies!

Westchester Middle School

As a school we will continue to reinforce our Warrior Expectations for everyone in the WMS learning community. Students and staff should:

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe
- Be There, Be Ready

Congratulations to our October Warriors of the Month! 6th Grade: Matthew Dattalo and Rachel Mitchem, 7th Grade: Nathan Koch and Alfonso Juarez-Pich, 8th Grade: Venny Cordero and Jazmine Diaz-Bautista. Warriors of the Month are selected by their teachers for setting a strong example and exceeding the expectations of the 4 Bs: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be There/Be Ready.



Thank you to our National Junior Honor Society members for creating the ornaments and decorating the WMS tree at the Park District. Also, a big thank you to the WPTC for sponsoring our tree again this year.



LaGrange Area Department of Special Education Presents:

Fun Family Cafe

RSVP

Together we will:

- ✓ Learn about community resources
- ✓ Support one another
- ✓ Share our experiences

WHEN:

December 15, 10:15am-11:15am:
Westchester Primary School 2400 Downing Ave,
Westchester, IL 60154

February 2nd & May 3rd
1:00pm-1:45pm:
Westchester Intermediate School 10900
Canterbury St, Westchester, IL 60154



Westchester Chamber of Commerce
"We Mean Business"



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we say farewell to 2023, the Chamber would like to thank everyone who helped make it a successful year.

To Bill Ernst for 26 years of chairing the WCC's Christmas Luncheon, & to **Barbara Brandt** for all the help.



To the Chamber's Officers, Directors, and ALL our members:
President: Laura Catrambone-Gerace
Treasurer: Mary Ann Kelley
Immediate Past President: Twy Callaway
Parliamentarian: Pastor Joe Mills
Acting Administrator: Theresa Gerace
DIRECTORS:
Jennifer Cavanaugh, Joe Russo, Dr. Steve Petrak, Phillip King, Steve Cerasuolo, David Gust, Bruce Horek, John Watson, Blaine Carragher, & John Lorenzo
LIFETIME MEMBERS:
Rich Daudelin, Bill Ernst
Administrators: Theresa Gerace & Heather Gerace

To our 2023 President, Laura Catrambone-Gerace & to our new President, Jennifer Cavanaugh.



AND TO ALL OF YOU!



Welcome our newest member, **Al's Pizza** in North Riverside.
Congratulations to our Pizza Palooza winners:
Q's Restaurant & Pizzeria, Paul's Pizza & Hotdogs, and
The Original Chickies Beef & Banquet!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you neighbors, friends and family for your
support and choosing me as your

#1 Real Estate Agent in
Westchester for 2023
in units and volume*

43
UNITS SOLD*

\$15MM+
VOLUME SOLD*

101%
LIST-TO-SALES
PRICE*

12
DAYS TO SOLD*

Top 1%
IN CHICAGOLAND†

CHEERS TO A BLESSED 2024!

Looking to make a move?
Contact me to help you get started!



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630.254.6652

#1 AGENT IN WESTCHESTER*
SIX YEARS IN A ROW (2018-2023)

Lifetime Resident, Local Expert



BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?

YOU CAN RELY ON US TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS!

OVER 16 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE!



Highlights of Testimonials from Realtor.com 2023. We are grateful for the opportunity to have helped our clients.

- Cavanaugh Team services were excellent. They went above and beyond the services expected. Nov. 2023
- Jen Cavanaugh is an exceptional realtor. This is the third time I have worked with her, and she has exceeded my expectations all 3 times. She is professional, kind, and dedicated to helping you find the home of your dreams. She is someone who truly cares about your needs and wants and will be there to support you not only throughout the homebuying and selling process but well after it. Nov. 2023
- I would highly recommend Jen and Jim as your agents as they go the extra mile for you. Aug. 2023
- Jen and Jim Cavanaugh are the best agents we have used in our home buying experiences. Aug 2023
- Finding a new home is an arduous task and Jen and Jim went above and beyond. We gave them our list of wants and needs, they gave us great options, were very patient when we made changes to our list and ultimately found us our dream home. I would recommend Jen and Jim Cavanaugh to anyone looking to buy or sell. Jul. 2023




JEN & JIM CAVANAUGH
REALTORS

CONTACT:
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 **708-408-9910**
CAVANAUGHTEAM.COM

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