



Village of Westchester

JULY 2025

Inside this Issue

**Fire
Department 4**

**Business
Spotlight 5**

**Police
Department 6**

Library 7

**Public
Works 11**

**New Water
& Sewer Rates 17**

**School
District 19**

From the desk of Village President Greg Hribal



Thank you, Westchester, for supporting this year's 4th of July Parade! It was an incredible way to kick off our 100-year anniversary celebration. More than 45 years ago, the Westchester Chamber of Commerce launched this cherished tradition, and the ongoing collaboration between the Chamber and the Park District continues to make it better every year.

I hope you'll join us on Friday and Saturday, July 11–12, at the Westchester Community Center for Party in the Park. This special event, hosted in partnership with the Westchester Park District and Chamber of Commerce, honors Westchester's centennial. Enjoy live performances by Triple Replay, Kenny Live, 7th Heaven, True Company, and Infinity. On Saturday at 4 p.m., we'll also recognize 40-year business owner and former Village President Paul Gattuso for his many contributions to the community. Visit our website for full event details.

At our June 10th board meeting, the Westchester Fire Department proudly recognized two promotions and welcomed five new firefighter/paramedics. Additionally, the Police Department welcomed one new officer. Eric Biskup, a 16-year veteran, was promoted to Fire Captain, and Nick Snavelly, with 12 years of service, was promoted to Fire Lieutenant. We also welcomed Carmelo Rodriguez, Marcus Jackson, Zaqary Martinez, Noah Szajkovics, and Randy Do to the fire department as well as Ryan McCarthy to the police department. Congratulations to Eric and Nick, and a warm welcome to our newest firefighters and police officer!

This year's Juneteenth Freedom Walk drew over 200 participants, with even more joining the flag-raising ceremony at Village Hall. Despite it being the hottest day of

the summer, the Community Block Party on June 21 at Gladstone Park was also a great success. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Despite it being the hottest day of the summer, the Community Block Party on June 21 at Gladstone Park was also a great success. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

The Westchester Police Department will once again host National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5, at Westchester Intermediate School from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.. Join us for food, ice cream, music, and community fun.

We're excited to welcome Blaque Flames, a new restaurant located at 9914 Roosevelt Road, offering wings, steak burgers, tacos, and more. As always, we encourage you to support all of our Westchester dining establishments when eating out.

The Westchester Grass Roots Garden Group will host their 7th Annual Garden Walk on Saturday, July 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's walk features 11 homes, and proceeds benefit the Westchester Food Pantry. Visit grassrootsgardengroup.org for tickets and more information.

The Village Board is in the process of forming a Veterans Commission to better understand and support the needs of those who have served our country. If you are a veteran and interested in serving on the commission, please email me at ghribal@westchester-il.gov.

Finally, with construction season underway, please visit the Village of Westchester website for the latest updates on local infrastructure projects. Streets such as Kitchen-er, Gladstone, and Windsor Drive are among those being repaired this year, with ongoing updates available online.

Village of Westchester

10300 W Roosevelt Rd, Westchester, IL 60154
www.westchester-il.org • (708) 345-0020



Village Officials

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Trustees

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Police Department - (708) 345-0060 Daniel Babich, Police Chief dbabich@westchester-il.gov	Fire Department - (708) 345-0433 Daniel Manning, Fire Chief dmanning@westchester-il.gov	General Questions/Information info@westchester-il.gov



THE ONLINE VILLAGE CALENDAR IS CONTINUALLY UPDATED AND INCLUDES MANY MORE LIBRARY & PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITIES. SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG/CALENDAR FOR ALL THE DETAILS!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED FOR IN- SERVICE DAY	3	4 <i>4th of July</i> PARADE - 9:30AM	5
6	7 100 TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM - VILLAGE HALL	8 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 6PM VILLAGE HALL	9 AGING CARE BINGO 11:15AM MAYFAIR REC CENTER	10 GROW ECOLOGICAL COMMISSION - 6:30PM VILLAGE HALL	11 PARTY IN THE PARK! JULY 11, 6-11PM JULY 12, NOON TO 11PM COMMUNITY PARK	
13 INSECT SAFARI 12-2PM PRAIRIE HOUSE	14	15	16	17	18	19 GRASSROOTS GARDEN GROUP GARDEN WALK 9AM - 2PM
20	21	22 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 6PM VILLAGE HALL	23	24	25	26
27 CHICAGO: HIGHLIGHTS PRESENTATION 1-3PM PRAIRIE HOUSE	28	29	30	31		

• VILLAGE MEETINGS • VILLAGE EVENTS • OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

*thank you for being a part
of the historic celebration!*

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ZIEBELL WATER SERVICE PRODUCTS

Thank you!

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

WHAT TO DO

HEAT STROKE

- High body temperature (103°F or higher)
 - Hot, red, dry, or damp skin
 - Fast, strong pulse
 - Headache
 - Dizziness
 - Nausea
 - Confusion
 - Losing consciousness (passing out)
- Call 911 right away-heat stroke is a medical emergency
 - Move the person to a cooler place
 - Help lower the person’s temperature with cool cloths or a cool bath
 - Do not give the person anything to drink

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Heavy sweating
 - Cold, pale, and clammy skin
 - Fast, weak pulse
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Muscle cramps
 - Tiredness or weakness
 - Dizziness
 - Headache
 - Fainting (passing out)
- Move to a cool place
 - Loosen your clothes
 - Put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath
 - Sip water
- Get medical help right away if:**
- You are throwing up
 - Your symptoms get worse
 - Your symptoms last longer than 1 hour

HEAT CRAMPS

- Heavy sweating during intense exercise
 - Muscle pain or spasms
- Stop physical activity and move to a cool place
 - Drink water or a sports drink
 - Wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity
- Get medical help right away if:**
- Cramps last longer than 1 hour
 - You’re on a low-sodium diet
 - You have heart problems

SUNBURN

- Painful, red, and warm skin
 - Blisters on the skin
- Stay out of the sun until your sunburn heals
 - Put cool cloths on sunburned areas or take a cool bath
 - Put moisturizing lotion on sunburned areas
 - Do not break blisters

HEAT RASH

- Red clusters of small blisters that look like pimples on the skin (usually on the neck, chest, groin, or in elbow creases)
- Stay in a cool, dry place
 - Keep the rash dry
 - Use powder (like baby powder) to soothe the rash



CS280226

From the Westchester Fire Department



We hope you are enjoying your summer in Westchester!

It has been a hot one so far and full of fun community events and days at the community pool.

Please remember to use sunscreen and hydrate when you venture outside.

If you do not have air conditioning in your home, please run fans and stay mindful of your health.

You can also visit the Proviso Township offices at 4565 Harrison in Hillside as a cooling center.

Another option is to read a book at the Westchester Public Library on Canterbury St. during the day and enjoy the air conditioning.

Additionally, all Cook County residents can visit cookcountyil.gov to find cooling centers by city or village.

Please take a minute to read the CDC’s information sheet on heat-related illnesses for you and your family.

Have a wonderful July!

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Drs. Sheldon, Sullivan, and Suchy

“A Legacy of Smiles—Celebrating Over 40 Years of Dentistry in Westchester”

If dentistry were simply about cleaning or whitening your teeth, that would be one thing. But for dentists Keith Suchy, Tom Sullivan, and Jim Sheldon, restoring someone's smile is truly “worth its weight in gold.” Anyone who has been a patient of Suchy, Sullivan, or Sheldon knows they are deeply committed to their patients and this commitment bleeds into the Westchester community.

The roots of this story stretch back to the earliest days of their careers and the legacy of local dentists who came before them. It began with a shared vision and a series of serendipitous connections that would lead to decades of dedicated care in our community.

Drs. Keith Suchy and Tom Sullivan met during freshman orientation at dental school and quickly formed a bond as colleagues and friends. After graduation, they hoped to open a practice in the western suburbs but struggled to find the right fit. Their first break came when Dr. Sullivan met Dr. Sol Goldman from Loyola University. That connection led them to Dr. Bob Price, a long-time Westchester dentist preparing to retire.

Dr. Goldman and his colleague, lab technician Tom Kowalkowski, formed a corporation called Somato and purchased Dr. Price's practice.

They offered the opportunity to Drs. Suchy and Sullivan to become associates with nothing more than a handshake—a testament to the trust and integrity of those involved. In 1982, the pair began practicing in a modest office with just two dental chairs. Over the years, they expanded both the practice and their team at their Highridge Parkway location.

Dr. Jim Sheldon's story is strikingly similar to Suchy and Sullivan. Encouraged by the beloved local dentist Dr. Antolak (who practiced near the former Tasty Freeze), Dr. Sheldon pursued dental school, where Drs. Suchy and Sullivan were among his instructors. Fate intervened again when Dr. Sullivan needed a ride home one

day—Dr. Sheldon gave him a lift, and a friendship was born.

That friendship led Dr. Sheldon to Dr. Bill Kort, and in 1989, he became an associate in his practice—again, sealed with a handshake. Dr. Sheldon went on to build a successful practice on Cermak Road while also contributing countless hours of service to Westchester.

Drs. Goldman, Price, and Kort weren't just professional mentors; they were community leaders who emphasized that practicing dentistry in Westchester also meant being part of the Westchester community. They encouraged their protégés to join the Westchester Chamber of Commerce and to get involved in civic life—and that's exactly what they did.

Over the years, Drs. Suchy, Sullivan, and Sheldon have held leadership roles in the Chamber, Rotary Club, Westchester Baseball and Softball, their local parishes, and on the Police and Fire Pension Boards. They've volunteered locally at the People's Resource Center and even participated in international missions in Honduras. Professionally, they've served in the American Dental Association, Illinois State Dental Society, and Chicago Dental Society. When Dr. Kort served as president of the Chicago Dental Society, he selected Dr. Suchy as his program chair—and when Dr. Suchy later became president, he tapped Dr. Sheldon for the same role.

Their professional and personal bonds have grown stronger over the decades. For many Westchester residents, however, it's their work with the Westchester Fun Fest and the Veterans Run that brings the biggest smiles.

Recently, the three dentists made their longtime collaboration official. With Dr. Sullivan preparing for retirement, Drs. Suchy and Sullivan sold their practice to Dr. Sheldon, combining their teams at the current location at the corner of Highridge and Roosevelt. Together, they now lead a staff of 14—many of



*Drs. Sheldon, Sullivan, and Suchy
1200 Highridge Parkway, Westchester, IL 60154*

whom have been with them for over 20 years, and some for as long as 36! The dedicated team includes Wendy, Lulu, Michelle, Deanna, Nicole, Dr. Albert, Carolyn, Jessica, Leah, Janet, and Drs. Arnashus, Lychyk, and Russo. The office also features an on-site dental lab to enhance care and service.

Westchester is truly fortunate to have professionals like Drs. Suchy, Sullivan, and Sheldon —people who have

spent more than 40 years not only caring for our community's smiles but helping shape the spirit of the Village itself.

Drs. Sheldon, Sullivan, and Suchy
1200 Highridge Parkway,
Westchester, IL 60154
Phone: 708/562-4474
Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/SullivanSuchyDental>

Pets are Unconditional Love

People would be surprised at the number of times I am patrolling in my police car checking local businesses and I locate animals sitting in a vehicle and it's a 100 degrees index outside.

On a mild 70-degree day the interior of a vehicle can reach 104 Fahrenheit in the sun. An animal cools down by panting, but when the air around them is hotter than their body temperature, this technique becomes ineffective.

People fail to remember that some of these animals are wearing a heavy fur coat making it very dangerous for these animals to suffer heatstroke and dehydration.

Every year we receive numerous 911 calls from animal lovers whom located animals locked in a vehicle, while the owner is inside the grocery store shopping.

Just think of it this way, if I wrapped you up in your warmest winter coat and had you run just a half a mile on a 95-degree day you would truly understand and know what that animal is feeling.



So please, give your animal a break and leave him at home enjoying his cold water, personal air conditioning unit

and laying on his favorite bed inside the home. He will be in a better mood to see you,

then laying and waiting inside some hot vehicle, that could take his precious life. Chief Daniel Babich

WESTCHESTER POLICE BLOTTER

All defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

25-1619 05/10/2025 3:29AM DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL MANNHEIM RD & GLADSTONE ST WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. 29-year old male from Stone Park, IL was cited for Improper Lane Usage, Speeding, No Valid Insurance, Open Alcohol, and Driving Under Influrnce of Alcohol. The 29-year old was released with a Citation

& Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

25-1825 05/23/2025 4:28PM TRAFFIC ARREST WESTCHESTER BLVD & BOND ST WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. 29-year old male from Chicago, IL was cited for Disobeying Stop Sign, and Driving with Suspended Driver's License.The 29-year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the

4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

25-1860 05/27/2025 12:09AM TRAFFIC ARREST LAGRANGE RD & CERMAK RD WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. 19-year old male from Oak Lawn, IL was cited for Speeding and No Valid License The 19-year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

25-1882 05/28/2025 10:05PM DOMESTIC BATTERY WESTCHESTER, IL A 46-year-old male from Westchester has been charged with Domestic Battery in Cook County Circuit Court following a recent incident. The 46-year-old male was taken into custody, processed, and subsequently transported to the Fourth District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood for a bond hearing.

*This is not a comprehensive list. Please visit www.westchester-il.org/blotter for more information.



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

July 2025

You Can Now Print From Home!

Click on the icon **"Printing and More"** on our website to learn more about how to print from home, from your laptop, or from your mobile device!

July Book Discussion

July 15th | 6:30 PM

This month we're reading **The God of the Woods by Liz Moore**. Copies are available now at the circulation desk.

Library Will Open Late on August 1st

The library will open at **12PM on Friday, August 1st**. Thank you for your understanding

Summer Reading 2025: Color Our World

Until July 31st

Youth Reading Clubs

Join our Youth Summer Reading Clubs for all ages—from PreK to high school! Whether you're just starting with Read to Me, growing your skills in Beginning Reader or Reader, or diving into new worlds in our Teen club, there's something for everyone. Track your reading, earn rewards, and have fun all summer long with **Beanstack**!

Adult Club

Our Adult Summer Reading Club is a great way to relax, discover new books, and celebrate your love of reading. Log your reading and activities on **Beanstack** to earn prizes and connect with a community of fellow readers all summer long!

What's Beanstack?

Beanstack is a web and mobile app that enables you and your family to track reading progress through the Library's various reading challenges.

Don't want to use the app? No problem! You are still able to fill out paper slips for your books at the library.



Scan the QR code or go to **westchesterpl.beanstack.org** to register. Once you have registered you or your child, you can enroll in our reading challenges!

Tiny Art Kits

Until July 31st | Adult Department

Turn in your tiny art kits by the end of July in order to receive your extra raffle entries for Summer Reading, and have your art in our August Gallery Show!

Photography in Nature

July 12th & July 30th | 10:30 AM & 6 PM | Multiple Locations

Join us in either the Library Garden Prairie Rising or Bemis Woods North to take photos of the new plants, pollinators, and birds. Use your own camera or smartphone, or arrange with the library in advance to borrow one of our DSLR cameras. **Registration is required.**

Mosaic for Beginners

Wednesdays, July 9-23 | 6 PM

Learn introductory techniques and craft a mosaic coaster. **Registration is required.**

Intro to Crazy Quilting

Thursdays, July 10-31 | 6 PM

Make a 12x12 crazy quilt square, and learn how to embellish it! You provide the fabric, we provide the sewing machines, notions and know-how. **Registration is required.**

Embroidered Tote Bags

Tuesday, July 22, 2 PM or 6 PM

Practice basic embroidery on a genuine WPL tote bag! **Registration is required.**

Qigong & Sound Meditation with Gail Morales!

July 19th | 11 AM | Community Room

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.**

Canning and Preserving with Author Emily Paster

Tuesday, July 8th | 6 - 7 PM | Community Room

Cookbook author Emily Paster, who also teaches at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, will demonstrate canning and discuss different food preservation techniques.



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 Patrick Callaghan • 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.

Storytimes in the Library

Mother Goose on the Loose

Wednesdays | 10:15 AM | Until July 30th

Get ready to sing, hear stories, and make a craft based on the theme of the day! Best for babies – PreK.

Popsicle Storytime

Tuesday, July 15th | 11 AM | Youth Department

Join us for a very special storytime with songs, stories, and a sweet treat!

Teen Programs

Teen Mystery Book Boxes

Monday, July 7th | Teen Room

Sign up for a mystery book box! In the box, you'll find two books on a specific theme and some surprises! For grades 6-12 with a library card. **Registration is required.**

Teens July Coloring Contest

Monday, July 7th | Teen Room

Stop by the Teen Room for a coloring sheet! At the end of the month, one winners will be selected to receive a prize! For grades 6-12.

Teen Take & Make Craft

Monday, July 14th | Teen Room

Pick up a cool craft kit that you can make at home or in the library! For grades 6-12; while supplies last.

Youth Programs

July Coloring Contest

All Month

Stop by the Youth Services desk for a coloring sheet! At the end of the month, two winners will be selected to receive a prize!

Kids Crafts

Biweekly Tuesdays | July 8th & 22nd

Get crafty at our fun craft table and make something special to take home!

Lego Club

Friday, July 11th & 25th | 3 PM

Don't miss this fun club where you can show off your building skills and get to put your creations on display!

Color Me Excited!

Thursday, July 24th | 2 PM | Community Room

Mark from Andertoons Cartooning will lead this fun drawing class! Sometimes it's hard to be plain black and white like a panda or a skunk. But don't feel blue, we've cut through the red tape and gotten the green light to reimagine animal colors! Zebras with orange stripes? Polkadot dalmatians?! They'll be tickled pink! **For grades 3rd - 8th; registration required.**



Zap! Storytime at the Zoo

Thursday, July 10th | 10:30 AM

Join your favorite librarians at Brookfield Zoo! Geared towards children up to age 7, this program gives zoo guests and families a fun way to connect with nature and wildlife through stories and play! **Westchester residents can pick up free admission tickets in the Youth Services Department before the event.** Please call Youth Services for more details at **708-562-3573 X3.**



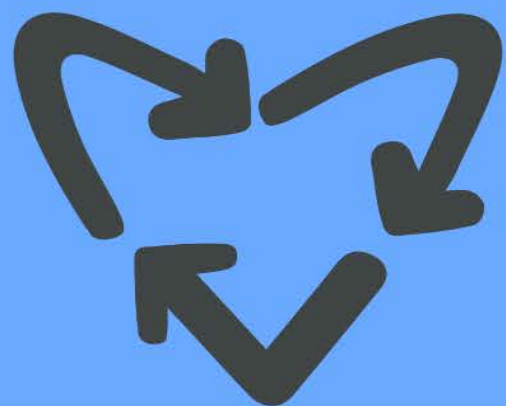
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If special accommodations are required to attend a library program, please contact us at least seven days in advance.

SALE!

REUSE-A-PALOOZA

YARDSALE BONANZA & REUSE FEST

September 20-21, 2025

**Post your sale for free at:
www.gsalr.com**

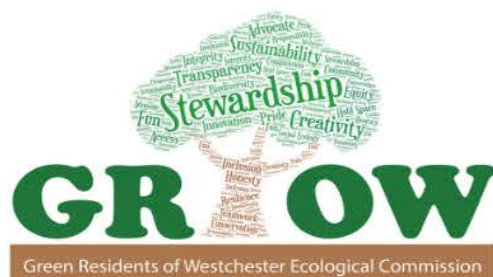
GROW Ecological Commission invites you to participate in our annual community yard sale! Reduce your trash by keeping useful items out of landfills, and shop for deals on unique, pre-loved items that reduce the impacts of buying new.



**Reduce
Reuse
Recycle**

Map of sales:

Visit www.gsalr.com and enter zip code



How to Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke

Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase,
GROW Commissioner

Worsening heat and drought, driven in part by climate change, have increased the number, size, and intensity of wildfires in the United States and Canada. Breathing unhealthy air, and especially wildfire smoke can make anyone sick, but some of us are at greater risk than others. Wildfire smoke contains a mixture of air pollutants, with fine particulate matter (PM2.5) being its primary public health threat. Wildfires also contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. PM2.5 is damaging to human health because it can deeply penetrate lung tissue and even affect the heart and circulatory system.

Westchester’s Air Quality and Canadian Wildfire Events

According to the American Lung Association’s 2025 “State of the Air” Report, the Chicago Metropolitan Area has the 15th worst level of ozone pollution in the country (ranked 17th in 2024) and the 13th worst annual PM2.5 level (ranked 22nd worst in 2024).

On June 26th and 27th, 2023 the wildfire smoke from Canadian wildfires found its way to the Chicago Metropolitan area where air quality veered into the red zone of the Air Quality Index (AQI). The air in Westchester became unhealthy for everyone. On June 27th, Chicago was deemed to have the “worst air quality in the world” as our air quality veered into the purple zone of the AQI, making it very unhealthy for everyone.

After the 2023 Canadian wildfire event, the National Weather Service and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, made changes to better inform the public of these events. Air quality alerts should be taken seriously by everyone in affected areas.

Exposure to Wildfire Smoke and Who is

Most Vulnerable to Air Pollution in General

Although a large population can be exposed to smoke during a wildfire event, most healthy adults and children will recover quickly from wildfire smoke exposure. Certain life stages and populations may, however, be at greater risk of experiencing health effects, including people with heart or lung conditions, diabetes, pregnant women, children, teenagers, seniors, and people who are active or work outdoors. Unhealthy air can also place those that have been socially or economically disadvantaged, especially minority populations, at increased health risk.

Protect Yourself and Others from Unhealthy Air

1. Use the Air Quality Index (AQI) to plan outdoor activities – Check the current air quality and forecast at <https://www.airnow.gov/airnow-mobile-app>

2. **Subscribe to EnviroFlash** at <https://www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm> to get air quality notifications sent directly to you

3. **Reduce your daily contributions to air pollution** –

- Drive less, bike or walk, carpool or use public transportation
- Use energy efficiently
- Choose ENERGY STAR certified products
- For cleaner heat, and air conditioning, upgrade to a heat pump, or geothermal system
- For cleaner appliances, replace your gas appliances with electric or heat pump systems
- Keep your vehicle engine tuned, inflate your tires to the recommended pressure, and don’t let your engine idle

• When refueling, stop when the pump shuts off, avoid spilling fuel and tighten your gas cap. Use low-VOC paint and cleaning products; seal and store them so they can’t evaporate.

• Don’t burn wood outdoors. Protect Yourself and Others from Wildfire Smoke

1. Prepare for Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy, and Hazardous Air Quality – Wildfire smoke can make anyone sick, sometimes with immediate and possibly serious health impacts.

Check your home to ensure that windows and doors seal, maintain your HVAC system to ensure that it can be set to recirculate and can operate with a MERV-13 filter.

Obtain a supply of MERV-13 filters and N-95 or KN-95 masks and a portable high efficiency air filter that does not emit ozone. If your home has a fireplace, make sure you are able to close its damper (or flue).

Consider setting up a clean room in your home. Determine where you will stay, if you are unable to adequately keep outside air from entering your home.

2. When you must take refuge indoors, avoid activities that increase indoor air pollution

- Smoking and vaping
- Using a gas stove
- Frying or broiling food
- Burning candles or incense
- Using aerosolized sprays
- Vacuuming

3. If you must be outside – Limit outdoor activities. Set the climate control in your vehicle to recirculate. Wear an N-95 or KN-95 mask.

Note: Every spring and fall the Cook County Forest Preserve District



(CCFPD) performs prescribed burns throughout the preserves. This activity is needed to effectively manage and restore degraded areas to ecological health. Individuals living closer to prescribed burn areas may experience more smoke exposure, and vulnerable populations may be disproportionately affected.

cess the Fire and Smoke map. Small fires, such as a prescribed burn, appear as very small burnt orange dots on the map, whereas large wildfire incidents appear as large bright red flames. The circles of various colors throughout the map locate EPA monitoring stations and PM2.5 sensors placed by citizens.

For more information contact: ewchase@westchester-il.gov

On the [airnow.com](https://www.airnow.com) app, you can ac-

Green Fact of the Month

Wildfire smoke is estimated to be about ten times more toxic to us than air pollution from burning of fossil fuels. Depending on what is burning, the smoke can have harmful gases and release fine particulate matter.

<https://news.stanford.edu/stories/2025/01/assessing-wildfire-health-risks>

Recipe of the Month

Carrot Hot Dogs
(makes 8 servings)

- Ingredients**
- 8 medium carrots, peeled and skinny ends trimmed
 - 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 - 1/4 cup low sodium vegetable broth
 - 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
 - 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
 - 1 tsp. maple syrup
 - 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
 - 1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
 - 1/2 tsp. liquid Smoke

8 hot dog buns
Ketchup, for serving
Mustard, for serving

Instructions

- Add the carrots to a small roasting pan and toss with olive oil. In a small bowl, whisk together broth, vinegar, soy sauce, maple syrup, garlic powder, paprika and liquid smoke. Pour over carrots and cover pan with foil. Let sit for 30 minutes.

- Preheat oven to 425°. Place the foil-covered baking dish in the oven and roast carrots for 30 minutes. Remove the foil and roast for another 20 minutes,

until the carrots are just tender enough to stab with a fork.

- Place carrots in hot dog buns, serve with ketchup and mustard.

Source: www.delish.com

Have a plant-based recipe you’d like to share with the community?

Send it to GROW@westchester-il.gov for consideration for future newsletters.

PUBLIC WORKS

Village branch collection for July will be the week of July 7th – 11th
August’s collection will be the week of August 4th – 8th
September’s collection will be the week of September 8th – 12th

The Public Works Department will collect branches the first full working week of every month (April-November)

- All brush must be put out on the front parkway by 7:00 a.m. on your designated collection day. Branches can be up to 7 feet in length and stacked with the butt ends facing the street in the same direction. If not stacked properly, a “restack” notice will be left.
- Again, please put ALL brush out on your designated collection day and Public Works crews will determine what constitutes an open load, which will be picked up later in the week.
- An open load would include any brush that will not fit through the chipper such as logs, stumps, and large limbs. These must be cut for one man to lift. Dirt must be removed from any root balls for pickup.
- Public Works Crews will only pass through a designated pickup area once due to time, scheduling, and other workload responsibilities.

Landscapers & tree services are responsible for their own debris disposal.

Please note the following schedule for branch

pickup:
MONDAY: From Mannheim Rd west to Wolf Rd and from Canterbury St south to Windsor Dr-including both sides of Windsor Dr. Also Waterford, Waverly, Camelot and Concord.

TUESDAY: Roosevelt Rd south to Cermak Rd-from Gardner Rd west to Mannheim Rd.

WEDNESDAY: From Roosevelt Rd north to the expressway and from Gardner Rd west to Mannheim Rd. Also, Roosevelt Rd south to Canterbury St from Haase Ave west to Heidorn Ave.

THURSDAY: From Bellevue Ave west to Wolf Rd, Martindale Dr south to 31st Street.

Weekly yard waste collection by S.B.C. began on your first rubbish collection day in April.

S.B.C. Waste Solutions, Inc. – 312-522-1115
sbcwastesolutions.com/westchester

- If your garbage, recycling, and/or yard waste was at the curb by 6am but was not collected by 6pm on your regular day, please call S.B.C. directly to report a missed collection.
- You may place two (2) large items that will not fit in your receptacle (couch, chair, table, etc.) at the curb every week for collection. Please call S.B.C. directly to inform them of large items.
- S.B.C. will collect household hazardous waste and electronic waste (e-waste), at no additional charge, including household chemicals, automotive products, paint prod-

ucts, garden chemicals, universal materials, batteries, long fluorescent lightbulbs, and swimming pool chemicals. This separate collection must be pre-scheduled by calling 312-522-1115.

2025 Independence Day Holiday Rubbish Schedule
There will be no rubbish collection on Friday, July 4th - Independence Day
Friday’s collection will be on Saturday, July 5th

Street Parking Restrictions
From April 1 through November 30, parking restrictions are in effect to support street maintenance activities. Please check posted street signs carefully—it is unlawful to park or leave a vehicle parked during designated weekday hours on streets marked for maintenance. These restrictions help ensure our streets stay clean and well-maintained. These restrictions are for one side of the street, once a week, 7am-3pm as designated by posted signage.

Westchester Tree Replacement Program
1. 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. Please call Public Works if you would like to request a tree be planted, sooner rather than later, on any

parkway.

2. 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 may choose the tree(s) from a list provided by the Village, and shares half of the cost of the tree(s) and planting with the Village. To request the list of 50/50 trees, please call the Public Works Department at 708-345-0041.

Village Watering Restrictions
There are water use restrictions in effect every year, May 15th to September 15th, from 12pm to 6pm. This includes:

- (1) Outdoor Watering
 - (2) Cleaning Outdoor Surfaces
 - (3) Cleaning Buildings
 - (4) Pool Filling
 - (5) Sprinkling/ sprinklers
- Outdoor water usage during unrestricted hours (before noon, after 6pm) is allowed on even numbered days for residents with even numbered addresses, and on odd numbered days for residents with odd numbered addresses. If we have a dry summer, further restrictions may be necessary.

Water Quality Data Report
The 2024 Water Quality Report is available in this newsletter, and may also be found online at www.westchester-il.org/waterreports

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

In-House Street Paving Phase II – September TBD

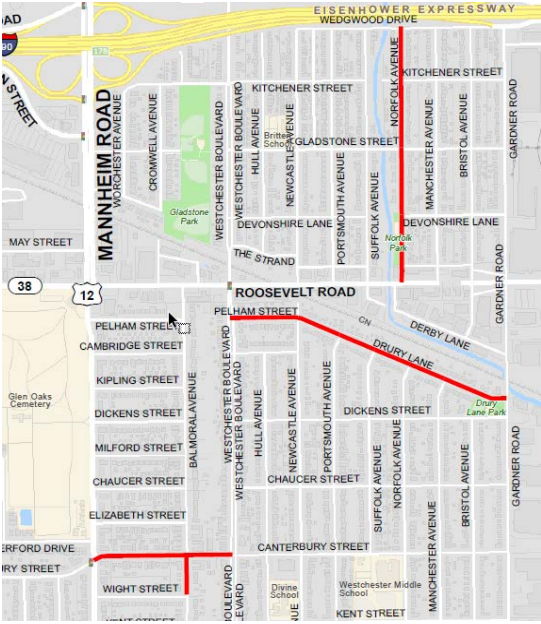
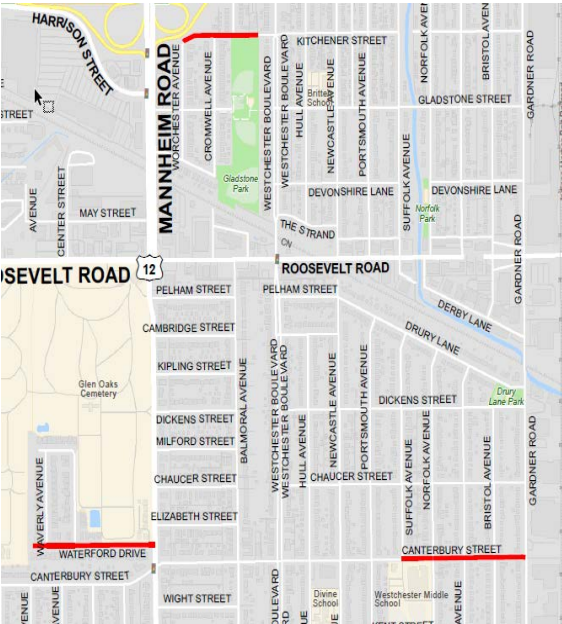
Street	From	To
Windsor Dr.	Mayfair Ave	Boeger Ave

Water Main/ Service Line Replacements, Sewer Lining, and Street Resurfacing Program

Street	From	To
Norfolk Ave.	Wedgwood Dr.	Roosevelt Rd.
Pelham St.	Westchester Blvd	Newcastle Ave.
Drury Ln.	Newcastle Ave.	Gardner Rd.
Canterbury St.	Mannheim Rd.	Westchester Blvd
Water main & service line replacements only		
Balmoral Ave.	Canterbury St.	Wight St.

Street Resurfacing Program

Street	From	To
Waterford St.	Mannheim Rd.	Cul-de-sac
Kitchner St.	Westchester Blvd	Worcester Ave.
Canterbury St.	Suffolk Ave.	Gardner Rd.



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 or on weekends and holidays, please call the non-emergency number at 708-593-3830.

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Demolition • Hauling and Delivery of Materials



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Insect Safari

With Naturalist Guides
Mike Rush, Jim Rowan and Larry Godson

Sunday – July 13, 2025
12-2 pm

Wolf Road Prairie House
11225 Constitution Drive, Westchester



Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) Photo: Jim Rowan

Educator and Civic Group Collaboration in Saving Wolf Road Prairie

Part II

As we now celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the official incorporation of Save the Prairie Society on June 30 of 1975, we also have several articles published by STPS from 1995 to 2003 under the title *Prairie Fire: A Serial History of Wolf Road Prairie* to gain more insights into this time. The first of these, “Save the Prairie Society—The Early Years,” was written by Jack Shouba, who experienced the growth in interest in saving the prairie and worked with several groups of interested citizens, experts in prairie preservation and government representatives who were willing to put in the time and effort to get the ball rolling. Jack has worked with STPS over several months recently to archive the scrapbooks of newspaper articles and other documents and publications he gathered over the years to keep this history alive. Although he had taught biology courses since the mid-1960s at Lyons Township High School, he had yet to be introduced to the native landscapes of the Chicago area. Shouba and his wife, Grace, a historian and member of the League of Women Voters, were learning about wildflowers as part of their growing interest in nature photography, so they decided to take a course called “Natural History of the Chicago Region” at the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Several influential experts on prairies lectured over the weeks of the course, including Dr. Robert Betz of Northeastern Illinois University, who planned and directed the planting of Fermilab’s prairie and was known for promoting the original landscape of our Prairie State at every turn. Another noted speaker was Floyd Swink, the recent author of the 1969 *Plants of the Chicago Region*, which became the canonical work on floral and faunal associations of the time. Following up on a Swink tip that there was a prairie that had managed to survive in the western suburbs, Grace decided to call Morton Arboretum to get more details, knowing that he was the arboretum’s education director and plant taxonomist. Answering the phone there was Alma Greene, the assistant to Morton naturalist Alfred Etter (who had studied under the “land ethic” author of *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold). An avid birder and botanist herself, Greene happened to be from La Grange and insisted on giving the Shoubas a prairie tour herself, she had already been photographing it for some time.

Joining Jack, Grace and Alma in a core group “hooked on” the idea of saving the prairie was Ruth Spevak, who took what she had learned at a 1960s Morton Arboretum class on prairies to get fellow members of the Garden Club of La Grange Park involved in trying to protect the endangered native landscape near their hometown. As the club’s Conservation Chairman, she took many of the initial steps to make it happen, such as looking up the 100 plus owners of over 600 lots and actually approaching them to see who would be interested in donating or selling their properties. Jack Shouba notes that the Garden Club of La Grange Park provided many of the early and active members of STPS, like Dorothy Thomas, who hosted the first exploratory meeting for founding the society in her home; Dorothy Corey, the first treasurer; and Em Mitchell, a volunteer realtor in prairie lot transactions. In fact, the representatives of many other local community groups took leadership roles as well, including the Junior Woman’s Club of Westchester, the Western Springs Garden Club, the La Grange Garden Club and the League of Women Voters. The first steering committee for starting the prairie society included League of Women Voters members Jeannie Kokes and Carol Murray. Carol became the society’s prairie plant illustrator and long-time secretary and brought along the talents of her husband, Dr. Darrel Murray, biology professor at UIC and educational materials developer for the first Earth Day in 1970, to join in on the planning. Another biology teacher to become active was Mark McCleary, who led the Proviso West High School Ecology Club.

To illustrate the influence that was to grow from this core group, whose enthusiasm has been likened to a prairie fire spreading, let’s first look at the leaders who gathered at the first “Prairie Parley”



set up by Alma Greene and Jack Shouba at Lyons Township High School on February 28, 1974. When Bob Betz addressed attendees he described more than 150 varieties of flora (through later research confirmed to be an impressive 320 native plant species, according to the Spring 1998 STPS *Prairie Fire*). Other influential figures gathered to advocate for the prairie included Daniel Pike, Nature Conservancy Director; Ray Schulenburg, curator of native plants at the Morton Arboretum; Roland Eisenbeis, conservation superintendent of the Cook County Forest Preserve District, and Gerald Paulson, of the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission in Rockford. (March 7, 1974 *Suburban Life*).

We who delve into the history of the prairie society only came to learn about the degree of devotion of the Garden Club of La Grange Park to the cause of saving Wolf Road Prairie in a round-about way, and only recently. Interestingly, in May of 2024 we at the Prairie House were honored but somewhat saddened to host what we were to learn was going to represent the disbanding of the La Grange Park group, shortly after celebrating their 90th anniversary. An organization that has been active that long obviously has a membership core that has evolved and changed many times, and like with STPS, so many of their most devoted members decades earlier have now passed on. Their current leadership approached us to ask if we would be willing to take possession of their records and archives. Struggling ourselves to catalogue and protect the many records, publications and holdings that have made it back to the prairie house from being stored in directors’ homes for safe keeping until we had our own renovated space, we at first wondered if the volume of their records, too, might exceed our available shelf space. We believe you’ll understand how glad we were to be able to accept the few archive boxes they had.

The prized possession that emerged from these archives is the forty-five page “Book of Evidence” prepared for the National Council of State Garden Clubs, for which the Garden Club of La Grange Park won the Civic Concern Award of 1975 for the State of Illinois. Contained herein is the original photo at right captioned in the November 6, 1975 *Suburban Life* article “Society Buys Land” as follows:

Marking the site of the first lot in the Wolf Road Prairie bought for the Save the Prairie Society are (from left) Mrs. Frank Spevak, president of the Society; Mrs. Robert Thomas, of Western Springs; and Mrs. Edward Corey, president of the La Grange Park Garden Club, which underwrote the purchase of the lot with the proceeds from its October boutique.

The required “brief description” for the application tells their story:

Efforts to preserve prairie land at 31st Street and Wolf Road, Westchester, Illinois began in 1970 when the garden club’s conservation chairman alerted the membership of its possible value as a nature preserve. Contacts were made with the Illinois Chapter of Nature Conservancy and Illinois Nature Preserve Commission. Through their services and through the Natural Land Institute, the La Grange Park Garden Club received help on how to proceed on land appraisal and eventual purchase of the property. Under the leadership of the garden club, other garden clubs and local community groups formed the Save the Prairie Society. Public awareness of this project made by folder distribution and signing of petitions by the public further promoted the work of the society. The first lot of this unique prairie was purchased on Nov. 3, 1975 by the garden club with funds raised by its 35 members. Clear here is how instrumental the group actually was in ensuring the prairie society’s initial successes and building the foundation for further action. Among other activities, they used their gardening skills and growing understanding of the prairie to introduce Wolf Road Prairie and native plants to the wider public in 1974 through an exhibit at the annual Suburban Men’s Garden Club Green Thumberama and through a Bronze Award winning display at the Chicago Flower & Garden Show at McCormick Place. But most significant to us was their organizational meeting called on May 6, 1974 with fifteen people attending, as they put it, 5 from La Grange Park Garden Club, 2 each from La Grange and Western Springs Garden Clubs. A steering committee was formed, with Ruth E. Spevak as chairman and Dorothy Thomas, both of La Grange Park Garden Club, and 6 other citizens. Thus the SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY was born.

Article by Drew Reaves, Save the Prairie Society

GRASSROOTS GARDEN GROUP'S 7th ANNUAL GARDEN WALK

In celebration of Westchester's Centennial, Grassroots Garden Group is excited to announce its biggest garden walk yet! On Saturday, July 19th, from 9am to 2pm, garden walk visitors can explore 11 beautiful gardens throughout the village at **Grassroots Garden Group's 7th Annual Westchester Garden Walk**. In years past, GGG's garden walks have focused on a specific neighborhood in town, but this year, gardens can be found throughout the village. "We wanted to celebrate the entire town and as many beautiful gardens as we could in honor of the town's centennial," stated Bethanny Alexander, Grassroots Garden Group's founder and president. "There are a wide range of garden styles this year so everyone is sure to find inspiration!"

The starting point to check in for this year's walk is the fountain area at Mannheim Road and 22nd Street (parking is available on Crestwood). While

visitors can check in anytime between 9am and 2pm, they are encouraged to arrive early to allow plenty of time for visiting the gardens. The walk will fully shut down at 3pm. Once visitors have checked in, the garden walk is self-guided and gardens can be visited in any order of their choosing. Due to the gardens spread out this year, visitors will need to drive from garden to garden (carpooling with friends is encouraged).

If anyone is up for a workout, feel free to travel by bicycle!

As always, Grassroots Garden Group is proud to have the Westchester Garden Walk as a fundraiser for the Westchester Food Pantry. Between the garden walk and the group's plant sale in May, Grassroots Garden Group has donated over \$40,000 to the pantry since 2018. Amanda Grant, Executive Director of the Westchester Food Pantry, stated, "We are so grateful for the partnership

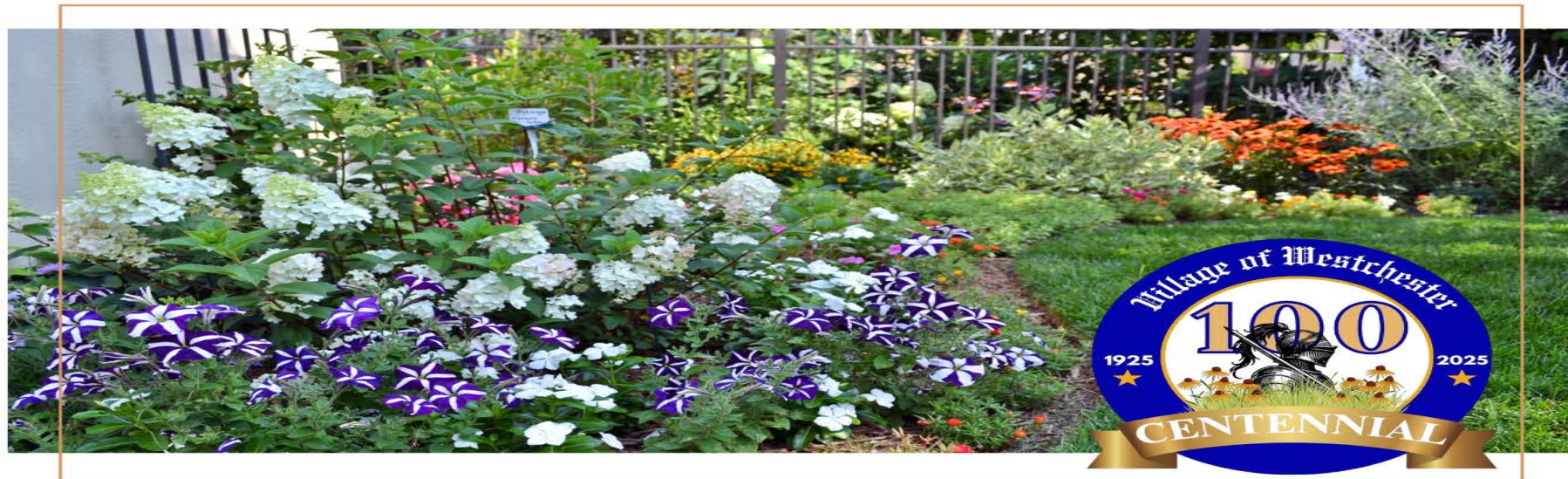
the pantry has with Grassroots Garden Group. Now more than ever, the pantry needs the community's support. The Westchester Garden Walk is a beautiful way to come together as a community and support our neighbors in need."

Making the garden walk festivities even more exciting are GGG's fantastic raffle prizes. Raffle prize coordinator, Pam Howard, shared, "This year's raffle prizes are a great mix of garden and butterfly themed items. We are so excited to include our grand prize raffle of a \$250 gift certificate from Hinsdale Nurseries which has a huge selection of high-quality nursery stock to satisfy any budding garden enthusiast." At the garden walk starting point, visitors can also shop the GGG Market which includes a variety of whimsical garden themed items made by members of Grassroots Garden Group. It's the perfect place to pick up a memento to remember the day!

Early bird pricing is available online up until the day before the walk and raffle tickets can be purchased online, as well. Visit www.grassroots-gardengroup.org and click on "News" for the link to purchase tickets, or scan the QR code in the ad found in the village newsletter.

Celebrating 10 years in Westchester, Grassroots Garden Group is a volunteer organization whose mission is to help make Westchester a more beautiful place to live. To learn more about Grassroots Garden Group, visit www.grassroots-gardengroup.org; email grassrootsgroup2015@gmail.com; or follow us on Facebook.com/[grassrootsgardengroup](https://www.facebook.com/grassrootsgardengroup) and Instagram [@grassroots_garden_group](https://www.instagram.com/grassroots_garden_group). We look forward to seeing you at the 7th Annual Westchester Garden Walk on Saturday, July 19th!

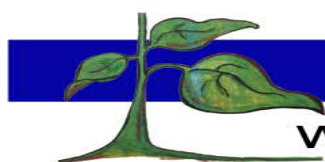
GRASSROOTS GARDEN GROUP PRESENTS 7TH ANNUAL *Westchester* GARDEN WALK



SATURDAY, JULY 19TH
9AM - 2PM

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS | RAFFLE PRIZES | GGG MARKET

In celebration of Westchester's Centennial, this year's garden walk is going to be our biggest and best yet! Tour 11 beautiful Westchester gardens and help us raise money for the Westchester Food Pantry. To date, this beloved annual event has raised over \$25,000 to feed our neighbors in need.



TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

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WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY



WET NOSE PANTRY

NEED FOOD? WE CAN HELP!



The Westchester Food Pantry serves the residents of Westchester, Berkeley, Bellwood, Broadview, Hines, Hillside, La Grange Park and Western Springs. To receive food, you must have a valid ID that shows your address in our service area. Clients can come to the Pantry once each calendar month. Please bring reusable shopping bags. WestchesterFoodPantry.org

THE PANTRY IS OPEN
WEDNESDAYS 4:30-7PM
AND SATURDAYS 9-11AM

1938 S. MANNHEIM ROAD,
WESTCHESTER, IL 60154
708-927-4826

¿NECESITAS COMIDA? NOSOTROS PODEMOS AYUDAR!

Westchester Food Pantry atiende a los residentes de Westchester, Berkeley, Bellwood, Broadview, Hines, Hillside, La Grange Park y Western Springs. Para recibir alimentos, debe tener una identificación válida que muestre su dirección en nuestra área de servicio. Los clientes pueden acudir al Pantry una vez al mes natural. Por favor traiga bolsas de compras reutilizables. WestchesterFoodPantry.org



LA DESPENSA ESTÁ ABIERTA
MIÉRCOLES 4:30-7PM Y
SÁBADOS 9-11AM

1938 S. MANNHEIM ROAD,
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Chicago: Highlights of the Last 20,000 Years

Glaciers, Lake Chicago, Native Americans,
Marquette & Jolliet, Fort Dearborn,
and the Sanitary & Shipping Canal

Presented by E. J. Neafsey

Sunday – July 27, 2025

1-3 p.m.

Wolf Road Prairie House

11225 Constitution Drive, Westchester





Proviso Handyman department

July 2025

Are you watering your garden and lawn? Do you notice your outdoor spigot drips after you turn it off? Keep your water bills from skyrocketing by having your spigot checked.

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



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LaGrange Park · Maywood · Melrose Park · North Riverside ·
Northlake · Stone Park · Westchester · Western Springs

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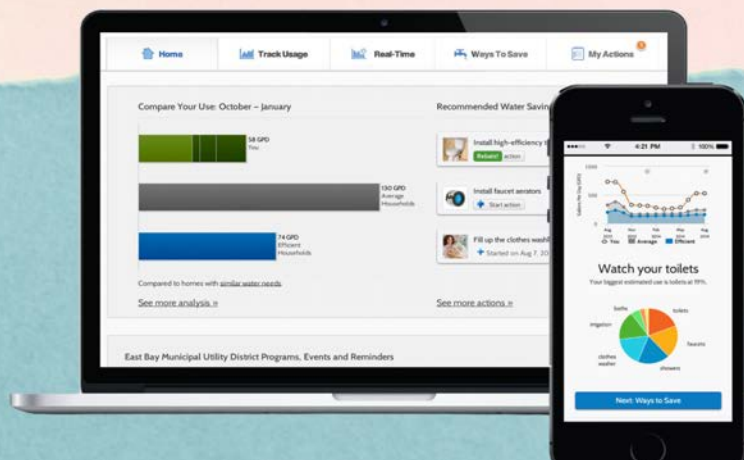
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LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?

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

Thursday, July 17th from 7-9 pm

"Ace the Interview and Get the Job Offer!"
Lauren Milligan, Presenter

Every job seeker knows that the most stressful part of a job search is the interview. This presentation will prepare candidates for even the toughest interview scenarios, including behavioral questions. Lauren's clients have actually said they can't wait for their next interview! This presentation shows how to prepare, stay focused, and properly follow-up after the interview. She'll cover the psychology behind certain questions and how to stay on track, no matter if interviewers try to throw candidates off their game.

Our speaker, Lauren Milligan, is a resume writer and job coach, business owner, instructor at College of DuPage, and a welder (by hobby). Her clients come to her for resume development, LinkedIn profile creation, networking and interview skills coaching, crafting a multi-tier job search campaign, and corporate outplacement. Lauren has worked with thousands of professionals in all stages of career advancement for the past 19 years.

We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Road, in Western Springs on 7/17 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome! There is no cost to attend.

Visit www.interfaithcareernetwork.com for additional resources

ENRICHMENT - AGING WELL NEIGHBORHOOD



Aging Well in Westchester - Upcoming Event Schedule



Mayfair Recreation Center
10835 Wakefield Street
Westchester, IL 60154



Wednesdays, 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM



July 9 - Wellness Topic*
Aug. 13 - BINGO!
Sept. 10 - Wellness Topic*
Oct. 8 - BINGO!
Nov. 12 - Wellness Topic*
Dec. 10 - Holiday Party*

*RSVP to Gia Marie Benline giabenline@gmail.com or awn@agingcareconnections.org
MayFair Recreation Center, 10835 Wakefield St., Westchester 60154

These programs are brought to you by the:



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.

Anti-Discrimination Statement
Aging Care Connections does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate state and federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call 708-354-1323.

Aging Care Connections
111 W. Harris Ave., La Grange, Illinois 60525 | Tel.: 708-354-1323
W:AgingCareConnections.org | E:awn@agingcareconnections.org

Water & Sewer Rate Increases – Effective July 1, 2025

New Water & Sewer Rates Effective July 1, 2025

On June 24, 2025, the Village Board officially approved updated water and sewer utility rates, based on recommendations from the Baxter & Woodman utility rate study. These changes take effect July 1, 2025, and represent the next phase of the Village’s multi-year plan to address aging infrastructure, comply with the State’s Lead Service Line Replacement Mandate, and maintain long-term financial sustainability of our water and sewer systems.

New Rates Effective July 1, 2025:

- **Water usage:** \$19.21 per 1,000 gallons
- **Sewer usage:** \$4.03 per 1,000 gallons
- **Water infrastructure fee:** \$22 per month
- **Sewer infrastructure fee:** \$15 per month

These rates will appear on the **September 2025 utility bills**.

The approved ordinance also includes a **10% increase in July 2026, a 5% increase in July 2027**, and then **annual increases of 3–5%** to keep pace with infrastructure maintenance and water delivery costs.

Purpose of This Effort

As part of the Village’s commitment to community improvements, capital infrastructure, and maintaining safe and reliable utility services, the Village President and Board of Trustees approved adjustments to water and sewer utility rates, effective July 1, 2024. This was the first step towards addressing the Village’s aging infrastructure, with a subsequent comprehensive utility rate study to be done by an outside professional group to ensure the necessary funding is available to continue addressing these critical infrastructure needs. The Village Board approved a contract with Baxter & Woodman, Inc. to complete this rate study in October 2024 to provide the Village options on additional rate adjustments to continue funding capital improvements and fund financial stability. **These rate adjustments are necessary due to two primary factors: aging infrastructure and the Lead Service Replacement Mandate.** There have been several discussions, meetings, and communications since February 2024 regarding this topic.

How Does Water and Sewer Service Work?

The Village purchases water from the Broadview Westchester Joint Water Authority (BWJWA), who purchase water from the City of Chicago. **The water purchased from the BWJWA is just for obtaining water for the Village. Once purchased, the Village is responsible for all costs to operate, maintain, repair, and, if needed, replace the water system infrastructure throughout the Village.**

Furthermore, sanitary sewer treatment and stormwater runoff is handled by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). While MWRD treats sewage and manages stormwater runoff downstream when it discharges into waterways, the Village, like the water system, is also responsible for all costs related to the sanitary and storm sewer systems throughout the Village, including reservoirs, creeks, etc. Revenues and expenses related to the Village’s operations of the water and sewer infrastructure in Westchester are accounted for in the Utility Fund, which is classified as an enterprise fund for the Village.

What is an Enterprise Fund?

An Enterprise Fund (also known as a Business Fund) is a type of government fund to account for revenues and expenses related to “business-type” activities a municipality conducts, and are very commonly used for accounting for public provided utilities. Enterprise Funds are intended to be self-sufficient, with the primary revenues generated via user charges (billed every two months in Westchester) sustaining the operations, maintenance, and capital improvements of the system. In Westchester’s case, revenues currently being generated fall short of the significant underground capital infrastructure costs, which are necessary to update of our overall aging infrastructure and replacement of lead water service lines (as mandated).

Why Are Additional Rate Increases Needed?

Utility Fund revenues can only be used to fund the operations, maintenance, and improvements of the Village’s Utility System. Our community is facing a pressing challenge of aging underground infrastructure, with **a significant portion of our water mains (49%), storm sewers (60%), and sanitary sewers (27%) dating back to the 1920s-1930s.** This century-old infrastructure, over 75 miles of main in total, requires urgent attention and an ongoing improvement plan to ensure the continued delivery of safe and reliable water and sewer services to our residents. **Funds received from increased utility rates directly support the capital improvements needed** to bring this underground infrastructure up to date, reducing the frequency of service interruptions due to main breaks and emergency repairs. **This plan is anticipated to be a 16-year effort, and is estimated to cost approximately \$120 million.**

The Village is at a critical juncture for our underground infrastructure. Over the last five and a half years, there has been 227 water main breaks, 35 of which have been since the start of 2025, and continue

a trend of the number of breaks increasing year over year. There have been 102 service leaks in the same time frame. In addition, the Village recently experienced an emergency water main replacement on Windsor Drive, which cost approximately \$250,000.

For the current fiscal year, approximately \$5 million in underground capital infrastructure improvements are being directly funded through the Utility Fund. However, this desperately needed work will almost entirely deplete the reserves in the Utility Fund, and without subsequent rate increases, further capital improvements will not be possible. As stated previously and communicated extensively in 2024, the most recent increase in July 2024 was the first step towards funding this capital effort, with a subsequent rate study to determine subsequent rate adjustments to continue funding capital improvements.

How was the Rate Study Conducted?

Village staff has worked closely with the Baxter & Woodman team over eight months to provide an array of information about how our utility system is operated and maintained, what the challenges the Village is facing or foresees with our system, and review the capital improvement plan for the next seven years and take into account the lead service line replacement mandate. **This process required staff to evaluate, fine tune, and prioritize capital projects to the bare minimum.** Furthermore, to stretch funding further, water mains are being replaced with PVC instead of iron, water service lines are being replaced with PEX instead of copper, and sanitary and storm sewers are being lined instead of replaced (unless absolutely necessary). These changes alone saved approximately \$150,000 for work being completed in 2025. As part of the rate study, several approaches were evaluated to address the Village’s funding shortfall for our utility system to ensure every option and approach was considered, then subsequently critiqued to determine which approach minimizes the impact on Village residents and businesses.

What About Lead Water Services?

The Lead Service Replacement Act, mandated by the federal government, requires the identification and replacement of all lead service lines in our water system. This unfunded mandate reinforces the critical need for proactive investments in our infrastructure to uphold public health standards and meet regulatory obligations. Currently, there are approximately 1,000 “resident-side” (from the outside valve to the water meter) lead water services, and approximately 3,600 “Village-side” (from the water main to the outside valve) lead water

services throughout Westchester. **Under this mandate, the Village must remove all lead services from the water system by 2040.**

While municipalities have the option to devise a funding strategy that could entail individual residents bearing the burden of lead service line replacements, which can cost upwards of \$15,000 per service line, the Village has instead chosen to incorporate and fund lead water service line replacements as part of these adjusted utility rates. **By covering the cost of lead service line replacements, this makes the Village eligible to apply for additional funding opportunities via grants, no-interest loan programs through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency - IEPA (which is provided through the State Revolving Fund), and even for IEPA loan forgiveness for economically disadvantaged areas of Westchester. However, these programs require the municipality to cover the entire lead service line replacement cost. If the Village required a cost-share from residents for lead service line replacement, the Village would not be eligible for these funding opportunities. Furthermore, “resident-side” lead service lines only account for 22% of the lead services in the Village, the remaining 78% are “Village-side” lines, which under any replacement funding model are the responsibility of the Village to replace.** The Village is always searching for grants, but as time goes by, any grant funding opportunities are becoming more and more competitive to secure.

These utility rate adjustments enable the Village to absorb these costs as part of the overall underground infrastructure program, without separate additional cost to Village residents. This approach ensures that lead service line replacements are seamlessly integrated with the Village’s community-wide infrastructure projects, at more competitive rates due to utilizing economies of scale.

Is Westchester the Only Municipality Paying for the Entirety of Lead Service Lines?

Every municipality is unique on the challenge they face with their lead service line problem. **Municipalities surrounding Westchester that are covering the entire cost of lead service line replacement include Berkeley, Brookfield, La Grange Park, and Western Springs** (to name a few). Others are offering a cost share with residents, which include Villa Park and Lombard. Other municipalities are still debating their approach to this issue, which include Downers Grove and Clarendon Hills, whereas some (like Elmhurst) have taken the position it is 100% the responsibility of the residents. Finally,

Continued From: Page 17, *WATER*

there are municipalities (such as Oakbrook) that already replaced their lead service lines over the last several decades, so it is not an issue for them.

Once again, for a municipality to qualify for some of the previously mentioned funding opportunities, these programs require the municipality to cover the entire lead service line replacement cost.

Alternative Funding to Address Capital Improvement

Village staff, the Village’s engineering firm, and grant writing consultant are extremely diligent in pursuing and mining for grants for projects to reduce the financial burden on Westchester residents and businesses. Due to this extreme effort, **for the last three fiscal years, the Village has applied for approximately \$17.2 million in grant funding. We have been awarded approximately \$6.8 million, denied \$6.7 million, and have \$4.3 million currently pending, with no determination yet.** Of the above amounts, \$2.4 million has been awarded, \$2 million denied, and \$500,000 is still pending specifically for utility infrastructure capital funding.

Anytime a grant is available that the Village is even remotely eligible for, the Village applies for that grant. It is important to note that several grant opportunities require projects to be “shovel ready”, meaning if the grant is awarded, the project is already designed, engineered, and ready to be sent out to bid. As such, the Village tries to stay one construction season ahead of anticipated future projects so if a grant opportunity arises, the Village is more likely to obtain that grant.

Unfortunately, a lot of the current grant and loan (with forgiveness) programs available for underground infrastructure have median household income (MHI) limits. Recently per the IEPA, the MHI for our area is \$72,563, and Westchester’s MHI is \$94,151. As such, **the Village is frequently denied grant opportunities due to Westchester’s MHI exceeding grant and loan forgiveness eligibility requirements.**

What About Revenue Generated from Development to Address Capital Improvement?

The current capital improvement plan

for the next seven years includes approximately 70,560 feet of water main replacement, 1,477 lead service line replacements, and 100,885 feet in sanitary and storm sewer lining along 41 roadway sections in the Village, benefiting 1,662 households. The cost for this work is an average of approximately \$8.9 million per year for construction and engineering costs.

To illustrate the amount of development needed to completely offset these needed improvement costs, the entirety of the sales-tax generating development in the Village of Hillside is \$6.5 million per year and the Village of Broadview is approximately \$6 million year. **To completely offset Westchester’s anticipated capital needs, we would require one and a half times these amounts in additional economic development.** Increased development of this size is simply not possible in Westchester, as after decades of direction to maintain Westchester as a bedroom community with minimal commercial and retail development, the Village is “landlocked” and unable to expand our borders further as our boundaries are constrained by our neighboring municipalities boundaries.

What About Using Money from the General Fund Revenue to Address Capital Improvement?

The General Fund is the main operating fund for the Village, covering the majority of the Village’s operating expenses. These expenses include the majority of salaries and benefit expenses for the Village’s approximately 100 employees, professional and contractual work, as well as commodity purchases. These expenses allow the Village to provide public safety to the community, to maintain our non-utility infrastructure with our roads, sidewalks, and parkways, and finally to handle the majority of the administrative aspects of the Village.

For Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Village’s total budgeted expenditures in the General Fund are \$23.2 million, which required extensive cost reductions (including forgoing funding a few of the current vacancies across multiple departments to balance the budget). **To support the \$8.9 million in capital work for the Utility Fund would result in approximately 40% further reduction in operational spending, which would require a similar reduction in staffing, leading to the elimination of public services,** most significantly in public safety and public

works, as those departments comprise 88% of the Village’s staff.

Utility Bill Impact

Under rate option 1B, the water usage rate will be \$19.21 per 1,000 gallons used, and the sewer usage rate will be \$4.03 per 1,000 gallons used, and the water infrastructure fee would increase to \$44 per billing cycle (\$22 per month) and the sewer infrastructure fee would increase to \$30 per billing cycle (\$15 per month) in the first rate adjustment, which will take effect on July 1, 2025. These rates will be seen on the September utility bills, and water and sewer charges are billed in arrears. It is important to note that individual usage is notated on utility bills as units, where each unit equals 1,000 gallons. For example, if your utility bill says 5 units of water usage, that equates to 5,000 gallons used.

The provided rate adjustments under Option 1B prevent the entirety of the cash reserves in the Village’s Utility Fund from being depleted, though will fall well below the fund reserve goal of \$1 million for the near future, and provides for the continue funding of underground capital infrastructure improvement moving forward.

In addition, historically, the Village has received higher costs to purchase water than what was charged to users. For example, **in 2023, the BWJWA received a 22.55% water rate increase to the cost of water purchased from the City of Chicago, which was passed on to the Village. In the same year, Village water rates increased 3%. This has resulted in costs outpacing revenues in the Villages Utility Fund.**

Estimates used in Village Staff analysis during the multiple meetings the Village Board reviewed and discussed recommendations for rate adjustments follow the EPA average individual consumption rate of 82 gallons per day. However, **many Westchester residents use substantially less than 82 gallons per individual per day. A utility bill calculator tool is available at www.westchester-il.org/waterrates.** This calculator, along with additional information about the rate change, will be available on the Village website so residents can enter their most recent usage from their utility bills to see an estimate of their September utility bill.

Other Efforts to Help Residents Manage Increased Utility Bill Costs

In June 2024, the Village revised the utility bill hardship program to be easier for residents struggling with utility costs to participate in the program and introduced the Water Fixture Efficiency Reimbursement Grant Program for low-income residents to reduce their consumption. Since these changes went into effect, the Village has seen a significant reduction in delinquent accounts, a small increase on average of approximately three account holders at any given time on a hardship payment plan, and have had zero applicants for the Water Fixture Efficiency Reimbursement Grant Program.

In August 2024, the Village Board approved a contract with Veregy Central, LLC to establish a customer portal for utility account holders to monitor their consumption, set alerts for when excessive water flow is occurring, and receive water saving tips to reduce their consumption. This portal is in the final stages of quality control, and is expected to be released to the public in June or early July 2025.

Do These Proposed Increases Pay for Accounts Currently in Delinquency?

No, they do not. Proposed rate increases are to support the continued underground capital infrastructure improvements. During the COVID-19 pandemic, water-shutoffs due to non-payment were suspended. However, the Village resumed water-shutoffs for delinquent customers back in February 2024 to reduce the number of utility accounts previously in delinquency. Since this effort was re-established, it has brought hundreds of accounts back into payment compliance.

Overall Objective

The fundamental objective of the Village remains to deliver safe and dependable services to our residents. Remember, from the day-to-day motions of turning on a faucet or flushing a toilet, to the sudden emergencies that require firefighting efforts, our goal is to ensure that these essential services are always readily available, without compromise.

Your understanding and support are crucial as we work towards building a safer and more resilient community for generations to come.

Utility Bill Calculator

A utility bill calculator is available at www.westchester-il.org/waterrates.



A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we wrapped up another school year, I wanted to thank you for your partnership, support, and trust throughout the year. It's been a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable moments—and we couldn't have done it without you.

As we head into summer, I encourage everyone to enjoy a well-deserved break. Whether traveling, relaxing at home, or exploring new activities, I hope your summer is filled with joy and time together as a family.

On June 19th (Juneteenth), we will participate in the Freedom Walk and Flag-Raising Ceremony at Westchester Village Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please join us if you can.

Please **sign up for ParentSquare** if you haven't already. It will be our primary source for communication next year. Also, please remember that **registration materials** will all be available online. Registration opens July 1, 2025.

This month, we also take time to celebrate the retirement of several dedicated staff members who have given so much to our schools and students:

- **Sheryl Brown**, WPS Kindergarten Teacher
- **Chris Hartman**, WIS Paraprofessional
- **Scott Pope**, WMS Building Foreman
- **Cindy Shouse**, WMS Social Studies Teacher

We thank them for their years of service and wish them all the best in their next chapter.

Finally, congratulations to the **Class of 2025!** We are proud of your accomplishments and excited to see all you will achieve in high school and beyond.

I hope you all have a safe, enjoyable summer. If you need anything, please contact me via email (psalemi@sd925.org) or phone (708-670-1927). See you in August!

Warm regards,
Philip Salemi, Ed.D
Superintendent

Westchester Primary School

As part of planning for the upcoming school year, all parents of school-aged students are encouraged to register their children online starting July 1. Early bird registration opens beginning July 1st using our district website www.sd925.org and closes on July 15th. If you have any questions, please contact gchayka@sd925.org or call 708-562-1509. Our 2025-2026 School Calendar is located on our sd925.org website under the "I Want To" tab on the right.

Kindergarten Screenings and tours for all incoming kindergarten students of new families who were not screened in May will be held at WPS by appointment once registration has been completed. Both a parent and a pre-registered child must attend the screening. Please call the School Office at 708-562-1509 to receive a link to sign up if your child is registered and needs to participate in the kindergarten screening. Parents will tour the building and receive information about our kindergarten programming while their child participates in the screening with a staff member. Additionally, all kindergarten students must have a physical on file, along with their required state vaccination records, to begin school on August 20th.

For all registered students and families, mark your calendar for the following dates and events:

Monday, August 11th, is our Welcome to 92.5 Orientation for New Families to WPS and Bus Orientation from 5:00 - 6:30 PM at Westchester Primary School, 2400 Downing Avenue, in the cafeteria. At this event, we will discuss strategies for a strong home/school connection to ensure your child's success at WPS and familiarize students who may be utilizing our district transportation. A parent or guardian must accompany students to this event.. Bus transportation to and from the orientation session will be provided to you and your student from the school nearest your home. Parents/Guardians and children of WPS who are not yet signed up for the bus can still participate. If you attend the event and are not taking bus transportation to WPS, please enter through Door 5, located at the back of the school near the playground off Fleet Street, and use the parking lot on Fleet Street.

Listed below are pick-up times and locations:

- Westchester Middle School, 1620 Norfolk, with a 9:40 a.m. pick-up. Meet at door 8 by the parking lot
- Britten School, 10110 Gladstone, with 9:40 a.m. pick-up. Meet at the corner of Gladstone & Newcastle
- Westchester Intermediate, 10900 Canterbury with a 9:40 a.m. pickup. Meet at door 1 in front of the building.

More extensive safety education programs will be done when your child starts school. However, it is extremely important that your child has the opportunity to ride the bus and learn some general safety rules before starting school. If you have any further questions about this session, please call the Transportation Department at (708) 498-0055.

On Monday, August 18th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., is our Meet and Greet with a Treat event. Students and families are invited to come and meet their teacher, meet their classmates, bring in their supplies, and enjoy a small treat courtesy of the WPTC.

Wednesday, August 20th, is the first day of the 2025-2026 school year. Our doors open at 8:35 AM, and students are dismissed at 3:15 PM. We can't wait to see our students!

Also, Right At School will be offered at WPS again this year. This program provides parents a safe, comfortable, and fun place for their children before and after school. Led by nurturing and experienced educators, your children will complete their homework, engage in fitness and enrichment, and become part of a community that feels like family. The program will run every morning starting at 7 am and afternoon until 6 pm. Families will have the option to register for any number of days per week. Programs, open to grades K-5, will begin on their first day of school and run every day that school is in session for a full day. For families who only require sporadic care, a convenient daily drop-in option is available. Visit their website at www.rightatschool.com to view program information and rates and to register for the 2025-2026 school year.

Westchester Intermediate School

I hope that all of our families are having a relaxing summer. Summer work is underway in the Intermediate building. Our custodial staff is cleaning, repainting, and making repairs to the school in order to make it ready for the new school year. We are very thankful to our amazing custodial crew who are able to get right to work after students leave for the summer.

We have our Jump Start summer school upcoming and it will be wonderful to see both students and staff working together to increase skills in both reading and math. We encourage all of our students to do a little bit of reading and math each day just to keep those skills up and the brain working.

We have said goodbye to Ms. Quirin, one of our 4th grade teachers, who is taking a step toward her dream of owning a gym someday. We appreciate all the time and energy she gave to our students. We are sad to see her leave but wish her the best in her new endeavors and hope to see her as a substitute next year. We are in the process of searching for a new teacher for our fourth grade team and look forward to adding a talented person to our staff for next year and the years to come.

Have a great rest of the summer!

Go Huskies!

Westchester Middle School

Congratulations to our May Warriors of the Month! 6th Grade: Jordan Henderson and Frankie Rodriguez, 7th Grade: Caitlin McMahan and Oliver Zavala, 8th Grade: Camila Calderon-Ramirez and Victoria Guidice. Warriors of the Month are selected by their teachers for setting a strong example and exceeding the expectations of the **Warrior Way: Ambitious, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Optimistic, Ready to Learn, Safe and Successful**



Congratulations to our Destination Imagination team, The Conspiracy Crew, for finishing 9th in the Global competition. Our team competed against teams from all over the world and had a great experience. Team members were Rylan Chrapkowski, Hayate Crone, Nolan Jawor, Logan Koch, Nathan Koch, Adrian Perez, and Santi Raygoza. Congratulations to the team on our highest finish ever and a big thank you to Mrs. Blair, their WMS sponsor and Mrs. Jawor and Mrs. Raygoza, their parent sponsors.



At the end of this school year, we said goodbye to two of our staff members who retired. We wish the best to Mr. Scott Pope, WMS Building Foreman, and Mrs. Cindy Shouse, 7th Grade Social Studies. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Westchester Middle School.

Please be on the lookout for your registration email. The information will not be coming via regular mail this year. Please contact the main office if your child is not returning to fill out the necessary forms to transfer them to their new school.

FREE LUNCH

Available to children 18 and under

Locations

WMS 1620 Norfolk Ave., Westchester Illinois
WIS 10900 Canterbury St., Westchester Illinois
WPS 2400 Downing Ave., Westchester Illinois

JULY 14 - 31, 2025
Mondays - Thursdays
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Meals must be eaten on site

Meal menu available at
www.sd925.org

**WESTCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS**



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025
4:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Join us for a night of
FREE food, music, touch-
a-truck, family fun,
and more!**



**WESTCHESTER
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
10900 CANTERBURY ST**





VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER
WESTCHESTER PARK DISTRICT
WESTCHESTER CHAMBER

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Westchester's 100th Birthday

PARTY IN THE PARK

COMMUNITY PARK, 10201 BOND STREET

FRIDAY, JULY 11

6:00 - 8:00 PM **TRIPLE REPLAY**

8:30 - 10:30 PM **KENNY LIVE**

SATURDAY, JULY 12

12:00 - 4:00 PM **BIRTHDAY PARTY**

GAMES | PIE-EATING CONTEST | BOUNCE HOUSES
CUPCAKES | HONORING PAUL GATTUSO @ 4PM

4:30 - 6:00 PM **7TH HEAVEN**

6:30 - 8:30 PM **TRUE COMPANY**

9:00 - 11:00 PM **INFINITY**

WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG/PARTYINTHEPARK

FREE ENTRY
LIVE MUSIC
BEER TENT
TASTY FOOD
FAMILY FUN

2025
Summer

WESTCHESTER PARK DISTRICT
presents...

CONCERT

series

WEDNESDAYS IN AUGUST
MAYFAIR PARK SOFTBALL FIELD / EAST
6:00pm DJ
7:00pm Concert
food and refreshments
sold on site

AUG
6

LOUIE PIPES

Dedicated to preserving all the great songs.
Vintage Supper-club style vocalist, where style, class
& great music live on!



AUG
13

6:15pm Special
Performances by:

Andy "Lyrik" Cruz
DANCE K STUDIO
sponsored by:
Daniel Maldonado

MUSIC IN MOTION BAND

It's not just music. It's a feeling, a state of
mind. You won't be able to resist tapping
your feet and bobbing your head in
time to the beat due to their uplifting tone
and the raw skill that makes their
music so amazing.



AUG
20

WEST END 40

West End 40 is a unique blend of R&B, Jazz, Gospel,
Top 40 & Original Music. We pride ourselves on our
diversity of styles, providing energized
entertainment for a highly diverse, selective crowd
of music lovers from all walks of life.



AUG
27

BACK 2 SCHOOL CELEBRATION

Celebrate the beginning of a new school year
with some outdoor family fun. Picnic Games, Bounce Houses, Entertainment,
Food Trucks and so much more. 4-6pm
Stay onsite and celebrate into the evening with our last concert of the summer-
Tim Gleason Duo 7-9pm

AUG
27

TIM GLEASON DUO

Tim Gleason performs cover songs & original
music. His eclectic playlist includes country, rock,
pop, and dance. Whether performing with his band
at Country Thunder, at private parties, weddings,
or at the local pub, Tim always brings the
good times.



A heartfelt
THANK YOU
to our sponsors:
Village of
Westchester
Derek Gordon

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Thank you, and I'm looking forward to connecting with you soon!

Phone: 312-287-4481