

Village of Westchester

MARCH, 2024

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From the desk of Village President Greg Hribal

The Village of Westchester welcomes Aviator Coffee, after several years of development, to their flagship location at 1855 Mannheim Road, the former Le Petite location. Sandwiches, salads and breakfast offerings are available along with various fresh coffee options. Seeking to brand themselves as a fresh food and coffee sit down location, their drive-thru will also provide quick service for those on the go. This location intends to employ a total of 20 full and part-time employees.

Do you have any old bank and tax documents that you have avoided placing in your home garbage cans? Old or unused prescriptions that you need to properly dispose of? Westchester will be continuing our bi-annual shred event this year on April 20th, 2024. It is a great opportunity for residents to bring old documents that can be safely shredded on site. The Cook County Sherriff's police will also be present to take your prescriptions for proper disposal. We will be at 2305 Enterprise Drive between 10am and 12pm on April 20th. Drive up and we can assist you with removing it from your car.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District has begun working on the Addison Creek improvement project to assist in flood mitigation in that area. You may see various vehicles and equipment in the area as they work to mitigate trees and vegetation in the area along the creek to improve water flow out of Westchester. The Reclamation District will be seeking to remove homes from the flood plain after this project is fully completed, helping homeowners that live in the area of Addison Creek.

The Chicago Metropolitan Area on Planning (CMAP) is working with Westchester and neighboring communities on a project to improve bicycle path access between various public paths as well as improve safety on already existing roadway crossings. Areas of concern in Westchester, such as Mannheim Road and Cermak along with the crossing on 31st Street near Sunnyside Avenue have been discussed by us as an example of where bicycle crossing safety needs improvement. The collaborative group will seek

joint grant opportunities to complete this project.

The water meter replacement project is nearly complete, and I again thank the over 6500 homeowners who cooperatively and patiently made the appointment that was required. This near real-time information that the new equipment has provided us is allowing public works to notify residents of large amounts of water loss, before the billing period ends, saving residents and businesses the frustration of opening an abnormally large water bill. Water operators have already been able to notify over a dozen homeowners of inside and outside pipe leaks as well as other plumbing issues immediately after they occur due to excessive water usage being reported during a short period of time.

The Westchester Fire Department recently provided the board with their annual report outlining details of services provided throughout 2023. In addition to staff training and certifications earned by our fire department staff, the fire department provided several public educational programs and installed 70 smoke detectors in homes. Of note, 75 percent of the fire department's responses in 2023 were emergency medical and rescue calls. The Westchester Fire Department is continuing to seek firefighter/paramedics and are currently testing to fill 5 remaining openings we have.

Lastly, I would like to thank Hillside Mayor Joe Tamburino for his efforts in bringing suburban mayors and local legislators together to reform how property taxes are assessed in Cook County. Mayor Tamburino recently hosted a meeting of 17 local mayors and presidents to discuss how this initiative could be crafted to bring changes to Springfield for legislative action. Mayor Tamburino, an elected official of Hillside for over 40 years, is active with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus that regularly advocates for over 275 municipalities in Northern Illinois. I look forward to supporting his efforts as legislation is written and introduced.



March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month



FIRE CHIEF MIKE MAVROGEORGE

In Illinois, on any given week we could see blue skies, thunderstorms, and torrential rainfall. The changing weather is second nature to many of us, but as the calendar flips from winter to spring, it is important to not become complacent about severe weather threats that exist in our state.

part of Severe Weather Preparedness Month, the Westchester Fire Department is encouraging our community to prepare for severe weather. "Making our residents aware of severe weather hazards and how to prepare for them is important. We encourage all our residents, businesses, and schools to build a kit, practice your plan and be better prepared. During a village-wide disaster, there could be a significant delay in first responders reaching you, so being prepared for that possibility is critical," says Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Mike Mavrogeorge.

We encourage all Westchester residents to:

- $\bullet \mbox{ Update your family communications } \\ plan$
- Make a severe weather preparedness plan
- Build an emergency preparedness kit
- Identify your safe place to during a storm
- Know the various weather watches/ warnings/advisories

Know the difference between a watch and a warning and act accordingly.

Thunderstorms can produce damaging winds, deadly lightning, large hail, flash flooding and tornadoes. Illinois averages about 64 tornadoes each year. Tornadoes that strike at night are even more dangerous, like the 2021 Father's Day EF-3 tornado that struck DuPage County.

The National Weather Service and state and local emergency management officials strongly encourage people to have a National Oceanic and

WATCHES Conditions are favorable or expected, but not occuring or imminent				
Tornado	Atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms, capable of producing tornadoes.			
Severe Thunderstorm	Atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms, with 1" diameter hail and/or 58mph winds or greater.			
	WARNINGS Conditions are occuring or imminent			
Tornado	A severe thunderstorm has developed, and has either produced a tornado, or has a radar signature that is conducive for one to develop.			
Severe Thunderstorm	A severe thunderstorm has developed, capable of producing 1" diameter hail or greater, and/or 58 mph winds or greater.			

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All Hazards Weather Radio with battery backup. These radios can be programmed to receive alerts for specified counties to keep you and your family apprised of impending weather and post-event information for all types of hazards including natural (earthquakes), environmental (chemical spills) and public safety hazards (AMBER alerts). When an alert is issued for the programmed area, the device will sound a warning alarm tone followed by the essential information. The information provided in these alerts will guide you through the appropriate protective measures.

The Village of Westchester uses the CodeRED Emergency Notification System. The CodeRED® Emergency Notification System is a high-speed telephone communication service the Village uses to notify residents and businesses of an emergency situation. We encourage all residents to register for the CodeRED system.

Families are constantly on the go. It is critical for people to have multiple ways to receive notifications and updated information about severe weather warnings. FEMA offers a free mobile app that provides fast and reliable weather alerts from the National Weather Service (NWS). The app can be tailored to offer alerts for up to five different locations nationwide. The mobile app can also help you locate open shelters and critical disaster resources near you in the event of an emergency.

For more information about what

to do before, during and after severe weather, please visit:

Westchester CodeRED Registration: https://www.westchester-il.org/news/ code-red-notification-system Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA): www.Ready.Illinois. gov

NWS Chicago: https://www.weather.gov/lot/



On February 6, the members of Old Glory Masonic Lodge #141, located at 10210 Canterbury St, hosted a community recognition event where guests of honor were treated to dinner and a tour of the Masonic Temple. Westchester Fire Chief Michael Mavrogeorge was presented with a Community Service Award in recognition of his exceptional dedication and service to the Westchester Community.

WHERE YOUR DAILY JOURNEY BEGINS & ENDS

AVIATOR COFFEE & COCKTAILS

HOURS

SUNDAY-THURSDAY

6:30AM-9PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY

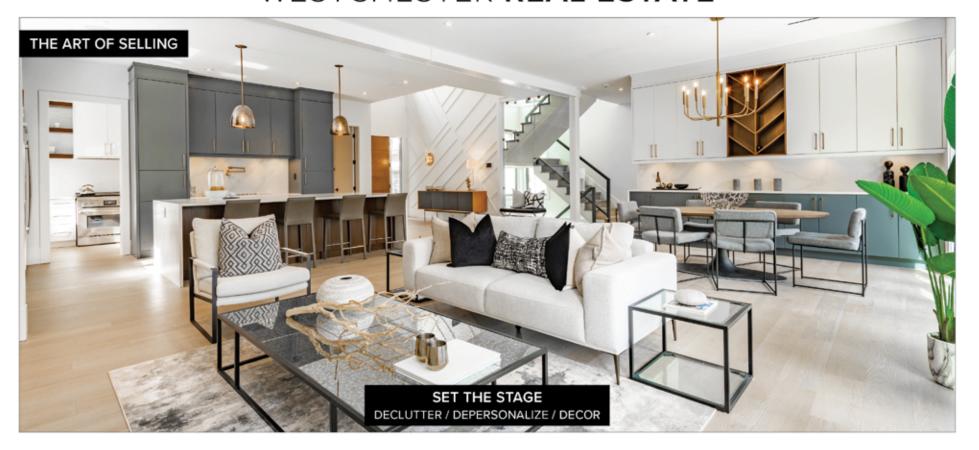
6:30AM-10PM



MARCH 2024 5

FIELDS°

WESTCHESTER REAL ESTATE



GET READY, SET,

SOLD!

Whether you're looking to sell now or this summer, it's never too early to prep your home for sale.

Let's get ready first by sprucing things up. Next, we'll set the stage by decluttering and depersonalizing which will make today's buyer feel right at home. Finally, our creative gurus will put together compelling marketing collateral to get your home sold for top dollar.

LET'S **PLAN YOUR MOVE** TODAY.

MARKET UPDATE

WESTCHESTER | FEBRUARY 2024

18 Homes for Sale	24 Homes Under Contract		
\$522,000 High Sale Price	\$212,000 Low Sale Price		
\$335,028 Average Sales Price	\$329,000 Median Sales Price		
14 Closed Sales	36 Average Market Time		

Data provided by MRED LLC. for Single Family Homes on 02/11/2024 for 30 day period.

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



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THE VILLAGE CALENDAR INCLUDES COMMUNITY EVENTS & PUBLIC MEETINGS AND IS CONSTANTLY BEING UPDATED. SCAN HERE OR VISIT THE VILLAGE WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT VERSION & MORE DETAILS ABOUT EACH EVENT.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Village of Westchester 2024 Vehicle Sticker Sale Begins 2:00pm Movie Matines 3:30pm Open Gym Basketball	O2 1:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #3
03	11:00am Beginner Pickleball Classes 04 3:30pm Open Gym Basketball 5:00pm Beginner Pickleball Classes 6:00pm Introduction to Sewing	()G0:00am Beginner Pickleball Classes 3:30pm Open Gym Basketball 5:45pm Yoga	3:30nm Open Gym Baskethall	07 10:15am Yoga 3:30pm Open Gym Volleyball 6:00pm D92.5 BOE 6:30pm Ecological Commission (GROW)	US 3:30pm Open Gym Basketball	09 1:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #3
10 Daylight Savings Begins Don't forget to set your clocks!	TEOOam Beginner Picilatuli Classes 3:00gm DVV Especihaun Trap 3:00gm Open Gym Baskettial 5:00gm Beginner Picilatuli Classes 6:00gm Inequinitial Classes 9:00gm Step Wester	1200am Beginner Pickleball Classes 5/45pm Yoga 3:30pm Open Dym Basketball 5:30pm 0209 80E 6:00pm Wlage Board & Committee	10:30am Beginner Pickleball Classes 13: th00am Aging well in Westchester 3:30pm Open Gym Basketball 5:00pm Introduction to Sewling 7:45pm Sound Bath Meditation	9:00am Ädvanced Segimer Pickieball Classes 10:15am Yoga 3:30pm Open Gym Volleyball 6:00pm D92.5 BOE	15 2:00pm Climate Action Museum with GROW 3:30pm Open Gym Basketball	1:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #3
17 St Patrick's	18 Tentative - Egg My Yard 3:30pm Open Gym Basketball 6:00pm Introduction to Sewing 6:30pm Stee Works	3:30pm Open Gym Basketball	20 8:30pm Open Gym Basketball 5:00pm Introduction to Sowing 7:45pm Sound Bath Meditation	21 9:00am Advanced Beginner Pickleball Classes 10:15am Yoga 3:30pm Open Gym Vollleyball	22 3:30pm Open Gym Basketbull	23 Breakfast with the Bunny & Egg-Candy Hunt 1:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #3
24	25 11:00am Advanced Beginner Picklehall Classes 5:00pm Advanced Beginner Picklehall Classes 5:00pm Introduction to Sewing 6:30pm Step Works	28:00am Advanced Beginner Pickleball Classes 5:45pm Yoga 6:00pm Village Board & Committee of Whole	10:30am Advanced Beginner 27 Pickleball Classes 5:00pm Introduction to Sewing 7:45pm Sound Bath Meditation	FlainSgill Egg Hunt 28 WOosm Advanced Beginner Pickelsel Classes 10:00sm Broschwer West-Fester John Water Agency 10:15em Yoga 6:00pm Headth & Welfess Far or Pair K Families	29	7:00pm Little Lyons Soccer Session #3
HAPPY EASTER		Committee of Whole				SULCEI, SESSICIE











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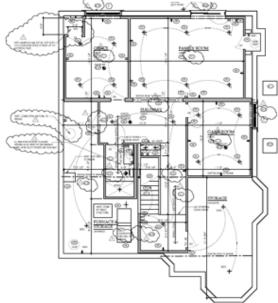


Enjoy!









BASEMENT BUILD OUT PLAN

Build





Start Planning your Project for 2024



Kitchen Remodels | Bathroom Remodels | Home Renovations





Westchester Aging Well Team Presents

COME AND ENJOY FREE BINGO, LIGHT SNACKS, &

GAME! FUN! PRIZES!



6

WEDNESDAYS **APRIL 10, JUNE 12, AUG.14, OCT.9** 11:15-1:00PM

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Driving under the influence

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you the sobering reality of drunkdriving crashes in our nation.

Every day, approximately individuals lose their lives in such accidents across the United States. Often, it's not until someone we know or love becomes a victim of an intoxicated driver that we truly grasp the magnitude of this issue.

These tragic deaths are entirely preventable. Yet, those who engage in drinking and driving seem to overlook the profound consequences of their actions.

Alcohol affects each differently, influenced by various factors such as consumption volume, timing, body weight, tolerance levels, and even experience with drinking. It's unsettling to witness individuals with alarmingly high blood alcohol levels, yet showing no outward signs of impairment.

As Chief of Police, it pains me to hear countless stories of innocent lives cut short due to the reckless decisions of drunk drivers, and the heart-wrenching calls that parents receive from officers in the middle of the night.

If you find yourself in situations where alcohol is involved, I implore you to take responsibility for your actions and prioritize the safety of yourself and others. Here are some simple steps we can all take:

1. Plan a safe ride home before the everyone gets home safely.



festivities begin.

2. If someone has had too much to drink, intervene and ensure they have a safe ride home.

3. Utilize designated drivers or carpooling arrangements to ensure

4. Consider using rideshare services like Uber to return home, leaving your car for retrieval the next day.

Remember, apologies cannot undo the devastation caused by drunk driving. Let us pledge to drink responsibly, and if necessary, opt for the safest choice of all: staying home.

Sincerely, Chief Daniel Babich Westchester Police Department

WESTCHESTER POLICE BLOTTER -

24-00257 1/25/2024 1:46AM TRAFFIC STOP **CERMAK RD & DOWNING AVE**

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. Keilan Baker, 21, Orlando, FL was cited for Speeding and Driving while license suspended. Baker was issued a citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL

24-00345 2/2/2024 4:32PM TRAFFIC STOP WOLF RD & 31ST ST

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. Luis Edwardo Perez-Reyes, 24, Chicago Heights, was

cited for No Valid Registration, No Valid Drivers License, and No Proof of Valid Insurance. Perez-Reyes was issued a citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL

24-00351 2/3/2024 2:51AM VEHICULAR INVASION 11201 CERMAK RD

Westchester Officers were dispatched to the BP located at 11201 Cermak Rd in reference to a belated burglary to motor vehicle report. Police spoke to the victim, who related that she stopped at the gas station to pick up a few items. The victim subsequently fell asleep and was awoken to someone knocking on her window. The victim left the gas station and a few hours later discovered that her purse containing multiple items were was missing from the vehicle. On 2/9/24 Westchester Detectives took into custody a subject who was identified on surveillance camera at the time of the incident. Cook County State's Attorney Office was contacted and Jacquise Jackson, 34, Justice was cited with one count of Vehicular Invasion. Jackson was issued a citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

24-00373 2/5/2024 5:11PM POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY ROOSEVELT RD & PORTSMOUTH AVE WPD Officer observe a vehicle perform a traffic infraction in the area of Roosevelt Road & Portsmouth Avenue. Officers spoke to the driver who related to Officers that he was test driving the vehicle for his client. A vehicle identification number check was performed on the vehicle and discovered the vehicle was stolen out of Chicago from 2023. Cook County State's Attorney Office was contacted and Anthony Palma, 31, Berwyn, was cited for Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle and Possession of Burglary Tools. Palma was also issued traffic citations for Expired Registration, and No Valid Proof of Insurance. Palma was issued a citation and Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

O MARCH 2024



A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you had a great first month of 2024. While the weather has created its own challenges, I am proud of how our staff and students have transitioned back after Winter Break. I am especially thankful to everyone who supported us through two Remote Days. While nothing can replace in-person instruction, we are thankful that our plan allows for students to be learning with their teachers, even if they are not physically in school. I wish I could tell you that the weather will be kind to us for the rest of the year; however, we all know how winters go around here so we will keep our fingers crossed.

Our students in grades 1 through 8 took the middle-of-the-year MAP test in January. Our teachers are reviewing the data and will work with students to set goals for the rest of the year. Be on the lookout for your child's MAP scores in the coming weeks.

We celebrated Black History Month with a celebration on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Families brought dishes to share and enjoyed a musical performance for a night of fun, food, and culture!

The 5 Essentials survey is now open through March 29th, 2024. The survey allows every parent to provide us feedback on different aspects of our schools. Here is the link to survey: http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/

Please visit our website www.sd925.org for important information about our District. You can also check out past Board meetings on our YouTube channel. If you have questions or concerns, email me at psalemi@sd925.org or call 708-670-1927.

Sincerely, Philip Salemi, Ed.D. Superintendent

Westchester Primary School

Westchester Primary Students were challenged to "Leave a Heartprint" in February by using kind words, kind actions, and being the best they can be. Students read and listened to books that encouraged leaving heart prints on others by using kind words and actions and received paper hearts to document their kindness. One or two students in every homeroom were chosen to wear a heart medal each day and be the class role model for the day. In addition to promoting kindness, good attendance has been a focus at WPS. Research shows that students with 97% attendance have great success in college, and those with attendance below 95% (9 or more days of absence in a year) may not be prepared for future learning. To promote good attendance, WPS will use incentives for individual students, classrooms, and the whole school each month.

To celebrate Black History Month, WPS highlighted famous African American Inventors and how they have made our world better. We encourage our students daily to think about what they might want to be when they grow up and how learning helps them achieve their goals. Several of our students entered our District Black History Art Contest and attended the Westchester School District Black History Month Celebration held on February 22nd.

The celebrations continued at WPS in February. Students and staff celebrated the 100th Day of School on February 5th by bringing in projects and collections of 100 and doing activities that involved making 100. The WPTC sponsored our Valentine's Day crafts and games that were led by a parent volunteer in each classroom. Our students and staff are so grateful to the WPTC for the Popcorn Day to commemorate the mid-year mark. Also, we celebrated Read Across America from March 1st to March 6th.



Additionally, WPS recognized The School Citizen of the Year, or SCOTY, Award winner: Benny Lopez. The SCOTY recognizes students that their schools have chosen as "good school citizens and models for others to emulate." Grades and activities are important

considerations, but only a small part of the selection process. Mrs. Fierro, Benny's classroom teacher reports, "Benny is so passionate about learning, is always challenging himself, and doing his very best in everything he does. He is such a kind and supportive student to his peers and everyone thinks of Benny as a good friend. Benny loves helping his classmates and his teacher in the classroom in any way that he can. Whether it is organizing materials, helping explain directions, sharing materials, or cheering someone up, Benny is always up for the task! He helps make our classroom brighter and is an amazing role model.



MARCH 2024 II

Westchester Intermediate School

Each year, we select one Fifth Grade student as our School Citizen of the Year. Students who are nominated for this award demonstrate those attributes that we would expect from a student. They follow our behavior expectations, they work hard every day, they are kind to others, and demonstrate that growth mindset for other students around them. We had seven nominees this year. They were Alex Bravo, Valeria Gallegos, Erona Ramadani, Naomi Reed, and Kimaya Willett. We are proud of all of them for being exceptional students here at WIS. Congratulations to Kimaya Willett who was our winner this year.





We are looking forward to our upcoming STEM night. Students are going to present experiments and projects along with guest speakers sharing what they do in their work in the field of science. It has been a couple years since we have had this event and we are excited to have it return to WIS.

Later this month our students will participate in the Illinois Assessment for Readiness. This is a state assessment that looks at how our students are doing in both reading and math. It is taken over the course of five days; three days for math and two for reading. We don't get results until the fall, but our students' achievement has an impact on our school rating and report card. We will be working with them over the next few weeks so they understand how to navigate the test.

We are looking forward to spring, warmer weather, and an amazing last third 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 January Warriors of the Month! 6th Grade: Tanylah Hull and Matthew Merino,7th Grade: Aiden Deer and Arianna Gonzalez, 8th Grade: Angel Murray and David Vargas. 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.

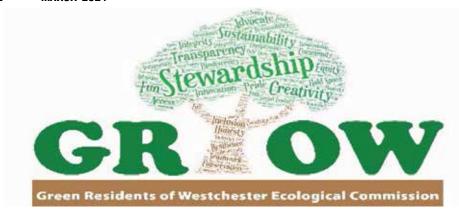


WMS is excited to announce our School Citizen of the Year (SCOTY) nominees. A SCOTY is a student that has a positive attitude, strong work ethic, good leadership skills, and is a superb role model among their peers. All staff members are eligible to nominate students and then vote on a winner. The following students were nominated: Nick Blissit, Venny Cordero, Guiliana Fiordirosa, Mary Flynn, Lottie Franzwa, Jozlyn Gonzalez, Evie Hennings, Kaitlynn Kurosaki, Abbie Lehmann, Olivia Marin, and Xavier Marin.



Congratulations to Olivia Marin for being selected as the School Citizen of the Year. She will be recognized at the West 40 Annual "SCOTY" School Citizen of the Year Recognition Program. Olivia is a student who is kind, warm, and always willing to help others. She thrives to do her best and does not shy away from challenges. She brings joy to those around her and creates a community of trust within her classes, groups, and extracurricular activities which include chorus, band, art club and the musicals. She is a good example to others in the classroom with her attitude, respect, and work ethic. She is the student that embodies the qualities of a **SCOTY**





BY MARIANA NICOLAE GROW COMMISSIONER

• Drinking Water

Drinking water or potable is water that is safe for ingestion, either when consumed directly in liquid form or consumed indirectly through food preparation. It is often (but not always) supplied through taps in which case it is also called tap water.

Typically in developed countries, tap water meets drinking water quality standards. Other typical uses for tap water include washing, toilets, and irrigation. Greywater may also be used for toilets or irrigation. Its use for irrigation however may be associated with risks.

In the United States, the United States Environmental Protection Agency **(EPA)** establishes standards as required by the **Safe Drinking Water Act, (SDWA)** which sets testing standards for drinking water in all states and localities.

As of 2019, EPA has issued 88 standards for microorganisms, chemicals, and radionuclides; this upcoming year a new standard is on the horizon regarding permanent plastic particles (PFOA/PFAS).

The SDWA does not apply to bottled water because bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

The FDA regulations for the bottled water followin general the EPA regulations, however there is no legal requirement for data to be shared with an agency or public.

A recent study performed and published by Columbia University in January 2024 found 240,000 nanoparticles of permanent plastic in a 16 oz water bottle.

Other sound standards and testing procedures are issued by National Sanitation Foundation International (NSF); the plumbing industry acts accordingly following these standards, by having the products certified as compliant.

This month we celebrate the World Water Day on March 22 and the theme of this year is Water for Peace.3

• Water Sources in Chicagoland

In Illinois, communities in Cook and DuPage counties get most of their water from Lake Michigan, while Kane, McHenry, Kendall, Will and western Lake counties get theirs from groundwater. Lake Michigan water enters the purification plant's intake basin through a

tunnel beneath the lake bed at depths of 20 to 30 feet, then is filtered through eight traveling screens to catch debris followed by chemical treatments. Those chemicals are added in small amounts: one teaspoon per 100 gallons of water and they are controlled by Chicago Department of Water Management. Western suburbs – and among them Westchester, get the Lake Michigan water filtrated, treated and transferred from Jardine Water Purification plant located on 1000 E. Ohio in Chicago.

• Quality Water Reports

a. Chicago Department of Water Management issues quarterly reports on raw water collected from Lake Michigan and then treated for all major chemical and microbiological contaminants. Those reports are free to be viewed under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) online.

b. Westchester Reports are also published for general information to the residents with results of the potable water tests results from water collected in multiple locations after necessary chemical adjustments. The water samples from Westchester are tested by certified labs and the results are published annually online and in the local newsletter that every household in the Village receives at no cost.

Three major contaminants regulated by EPA that are worth mentioning in this article: Lead, Chromium, and Forever Plastics.

c. <u>Lead Issue</u>

Lead is an element used for more than a hundred years in pipes and fixtures, however Lead leaches in the potable water and is affecting human health, especially children. The plumbing industry took the initiative in in 2009 to reduce the Lead content under The Low Lead Law. This law determined that the fixtures cannot contain more than 0.25% Pb (Lead) on total wetted surface and the solder and flux used on those fixtures cannot exceed 0.2% Pb (Lead).

However, Lead can still enter into the drinking water when the plumbing materials would corrode, especially when the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. The most common sources of Lead in drinking water are Lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures. The Lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as Lead services lines,

DRINKING WATER QUALITY

are typically the most significant source of Lead in the potable water. EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for Lead in drinking water at 15 ppb because Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels. Lead can bioaccumulate in the body over time and young children, infants, and fetuses are particularly vulnerable because a much lower exposure levels have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells.

d. <u>Hexavalent chromium issue</u>

In April 2017, U.S. Steel, located near Gary IN illegally discharged 350 pounds of Chromium - containing almost 300 pounds of Hexavalent Chromium - highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical, into a small channel that was diverted into Lake Michigan. As a note, this chemical was the source of a large distributed area with cancer patients and was described in the movie Erin Brockovich. This massive discharge in Lake Michigan shut down the beaches from Gary to Michigan City for six days, closed public drinking water intakes and endangered fish in Lake Michigan. The event was published in Chicago Tribune followed by a general outcry. The US Steel location is closed since 2019 and currently our potable water is free of Hexavalent Chromium.

e. Forever plastics issue

The latest issue that affects our drinkable water at the global level is the presence of forever plastics that are in microscopic quantities and are present everywhere, including food, meats, fish, and enter in our body on daily basis. PFAS are a diverse group of compounds, which are resistant to heat, water, and oil. These properties have made PFAS ideal for use in many industrial applications and consumer products, including grease and water-resistant food packaging, fire-fighting foams, carpeting, apparel, and upholstery. However, PFAS do not biodegrade - therefore bearing the name Forever Plastics, and are bio-accumulative, meaning they build up in the bloodstream

and organic tissues, mainly in liver, kidney, and bloodstream. EPA is currently working on a standard for detection and limitation of forever chemicals present in potable water.

Good Practices

- 1. A good practice for safe drinking water is to filtrate it through your refrigerator, equipped with a filter certified for NSF-53, that will retain Lead, Chromium, and other potentially harmful chemicals. Public schools already installed filters for potable water fountains that retain Lead, Chromium and several other chemicals.
- 2. Do not cook with hot water that comes to kitchen faucet from the water heater.
- 3. Never drink water from the bathroom faucet, especially if the faucet was installed before 2010, when the fixtures potentially contained up to 8% Lead. Kitchen faucets are certified for a different standard that is more stringent and chemicals would not leach into the water.
- 4. Never drink water in summer from the outside garden hose. The faucet may contain Lead and the garden hose will also leach chemicals especially when heated by the sun into the water.
- 5. When you come back from vacation, let the faucets run a good 3-4 minutes to get rid of the chemicals standing still in the pipes and inside the fixtures.
- 6. In case of a water interruption due to a village closure for emergency water repair, let the water run in all the faucets until it is clear, without any debris.

Wikipedia: Drinking Water

https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2300582121

https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day

Note:

Commissioner Mariana Nicolae holds a Master's Degree in Chemistry and worked in Regulatory field, as a liaison with EPA, FDA, and Plumbing Industry as Global Regulatory Manager at Sloan. For additional information, contact her at mnicolae@westchester-il.gov.



Countries where tap water is safe to drink (blue)

4



COMMUNITY FIELD TRIP HOSTED BY GROW!



Guided Tour of the Climate Action Museum – Exclusive FREE event!

Friday, March 15th - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Join the Green Residents of Westchester (GROW) for a community field trip!

All community members are invited to meet at the Climate Action Museum to embark on a free, guided educational tour hosted by the museum. This special event is designed to stimulate thought, inspire, and entertain. The museum, one of only six in the world, aims to become a transformative

"climate rite of passage" for a diverse segment of Chicagoans. Immerse yourself in dynamic, educational content that will inspire decisions that mitigate our Climate Emergency and promote a promising future for our children. **Don't miss** out on this exciting opportunity to engage with your community and contribute to climate action!

Meet at the Climate Action Museum, 300 S Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL 60606

Enter on Jackson Blvd across from Union Station, or on Van Buren St across from the Old Post Office

For additional information and advance registration (preferred), please reach out to GROW Commissioner Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase at ewchase@westchester-il.gov









Proviso Handyman department

March 2024

Time to check the caulk around your tub and sinks! Leaky faucets and sinks mean higher water bills! Replace your furnace filter for a better air flow.

Give our Handyman office a call to schedule an appointment or to register for our program

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

+ Only Homeowners within the boundaries of the Proviso Township+

Michael A. Corrigan Supervisor

Anthony "Tony" Williams

Steven J. Zawaski

Clerk

Assessor

Evelyn Chavez · Joseph Christopher · Gay F. Chase · Clarence E Thomas

Trustees



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

EWSLETTER

March 2024

Bingo for Adults March 9th | Noon

Bingo is back this month! Join us in the community room for a free game. Registration is required, please call 708-

March Book Discussion March 19th | 6:30 PM

Join us this month to read Yellowface by R. F. Kuang. Books are available now at the front desk.

Register for Our Programs Online

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

Friday Movie Matinee

Fridays | 2 PM | Community Room Must be 18+ to attend.

March 1: Brooklyn (2015)

562-3573.

An Irish immigrant in 1950s Brooklyn finds love with a local, but her past resurfaces, forcing her to decide between two countries and the lives she holds dear. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emory Cohen, and Domhnall Gleeson.

March 8: It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World (1963)

A group of motorists witnesses a car crash in the California desert, and after the driver's dying words indicate the location of a hidden stash of loot, they turn against each in a race across the state to get to it. Starring Spencer Tracy.

March 29: Catch Me if You Can (2002)

At just 21, Frank, a master forger, successfully impersonates professionals like doctors, lawyers, and pilots. FBI agent Carl becomes fixated on capturing him, but Frank thrives on the chase. Directed and produced by Steven Spielberg, with Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks, Christopher Walken, Martin Sheen, Nathalie Baye, Amy Adams, James Brolin.

April 5: Knives Out (2019)

A detective investigates the death of the patriarch of an eccentric, combative family. Starring Daniel Craig, Ana de Armas, Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis, Michael Shannon, Don Johnson, Toni Collette, LaKeith Stanfield, Katherine Langford, and Christopher Plummer.

Drop-in Crochet Club

Biweekly Mondays, March 4 & 18 | 6 PM | Conference Room Never crocheted before or want to work on a project in a friendly environment? Crafters of all levels can join our drop in crochet club! No registration is required, and materials are provided if you don't have your own. Must be 18+, registration is not required.

Drop-in Knitting Club

Biweekly Wednesdays, March 13 & 27 | 6 PM | Conference

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+.

The new SWAN Libraries + App is here

The SWAN Libraries + app lets you store your library card, manage your account, and find books, movies, and more from your phone or tablet. It is free and available to anyone with a library card for iOS and Android. If you had the previous version of the SWAN Libraries app, please delete, and download the new SWAN Libraries + app as the old app is no longer operational.

Oigong and Sound Meditation: Last Month! Th, Mar. 7 @ 1PM & Sat, Mar 23rd @ 11 AM | Community Room

Join Gail Morales for this beginner friendly workshop that is a combination of gigong 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 with Miss Julie

Tuesdays | 4 PM | March 5- April 23

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

Mother Goose on the Loose

Wed. & Th. | 10:15 AM | Starting Mar. 6th Storytime and crafts for children up to 5 years of age! Registration is required. Sign up online at our website's calendar.

Playdate Time!

Directly After Mother Goose on the Loose

Play dates aren't just for kids to socialize, but are also for caregivers to get together, chat, and share. Playdate Time at the library gives you the space and place to meet other families. Soft kid's music will be played along with a passive activity will be out for the week.

March Smash Bros. Tournament

Sat, Mar. 9th | 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.**

St. Patrick's Day Craft

Mar. 13, 14, 15 | Youth Department

Join us a for a pot o' gold of fun this St. Patrick's Day! Pick up your very own craft kit and get ready to spread some Irish cheer with our festive take-home activity! While supplies last.

YOUTH EVENTS

Mario Mondays Mondays | 4 PM | Youth Department Zoom through the colorful world of

Mario Kart and show off your racing skills! This event is intended for patrons in 2nd grade and up. Registration is required.

Teen Print Lab

participants.

Tuesdays | 4 PM | Youth Department Come learn how to use our 3D printers and create a project of your own! Registration required, limit 5

Smart Art with Miss Julie

Thursdays | 4 - 4:45 PM | March 7th -**April 25th**

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

Open Sewing

March. 16th | 10:30 - 12 PM | Youth Department

Do you need to finish a project for a special day? Do you have sewing machine experience but may need a bit of advice on how to proceed with your project? Sign up for open sewing. We provide the machines and the guidance if needed. These sessions are open to both kids 2nd grade and up and adults.

Everyone must have attended a class or has sewing machine experience.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT!

Presented by the Village of Westchester Economic Development Committee

"Do you make keys?" is often the first question heard each time Westchester Lock & Key answers the phone. The answer is "Yes!" and is always happily answered by the owner, Tony Siragusa, who takes great pride in offering this service that many locksmiths do not.

Located at 10052 W. Roosevelt Road, West-chester Lock & Key has served our community for over 48 years. The business opened on August 1, 1975 and expanded in 1982, all while remaining at its original Westchester location. The business was founded by Tony's father, the late Dominick Siragusa, and his mother's cousin, Frank, while Tony pursued a business degree in college. The Siragusa family chose Westchester for its thriving, family-centered environment. Renting their storefront since the beginning, they hold the property owners and the entire community in high regard.

Many lock and key businesses primarily operate online, offering aftermarket materials that may lack quality and have limited replacement parts available. Westchester Lock & Key distinguishes itself by prioritizing high-quality materials and personalized customer service. During a discussion with Tony regarding his business, members of the Village's Economic Development Committee witnessed Tony assisting a customer who was struggling to find the right product. Tony provided valuable guidance on how to locate and order the correct item, resolving the

customer's issue. With a well-stocked storefront and deeply knowledgeable staff, Westchester Lock & Key is always ready to fix your lock or key problem.

Tony has always been active throughout the Village, assisting homeowners in safeguarding their families, collaborating with businesses to enhance property security, and supporting the Village organization with various lock and key matters. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Westchester Lock & Key, like many small businesses, faced challenges. The PPP loans program was instrumental in helping Tony's business weather the storm and retain his dedicated coworkers. Since its inception, Tony has provided employment to over 20 individuals, currently maintaining a team of four. Many residents who have engaged Westchester Lock & Key have likely encountered or communicated with Len, a longstanding employee who has managed all service calls to residential and commercial clients for the past thirteen years!

The lock and key business has undergone numerous changes over the years. When the business launched in 1975, most systems were mechanical, making key duplication and lock repairs relatively straightforward. However, technological advancements have made the industry more complex, with many locks now being digital and operated by push buttons. To remain relevant, Tony has attended numerous semi-



nars to learn how to work with new equipment. While Westchester Lock & Key still offers basic key duplications, they also handle keypads, key fobs, various locking mechanisms, and other lock and key equipment. Despite the industry's evolution necessitating expanded services, Tony and his team remain dedicated to assisting residents and community members with installing new locks, gaining access to homes/buildings, retrieving keys locked inside cars, opening file cabinets that are missing keys, and addressing any other lock and key-related needs.

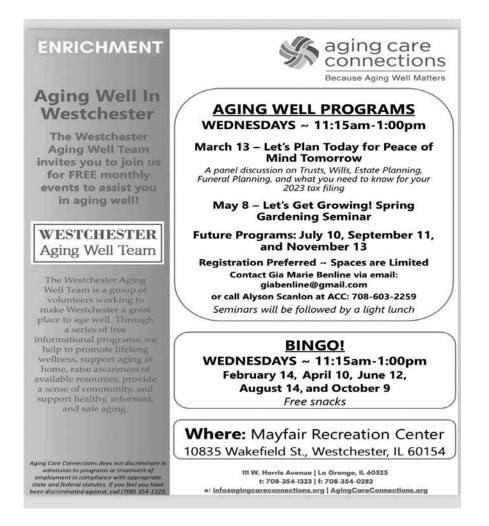
In his conversation with members of the Economic Development Committee for this article,

Tony expressed his belief that fostering a community relies on buying local and backing the businesses within the Village, much like how residents have supported Westchester Lock & Key over the years!

Business Information:

Westchester Lock & Key Service, Inc. 10052 W. Roosevelt Rd., Westchester. Phone: 708/343-7000; Fax 708/343-8585 Email: Westchesterlock@Yahoo.com Website: www.westchesterlock.net Hours: Mon-Fri 9:15 am-5 pm; Sat: 9:30 am





PUBLIC WORKS

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 accepted items may be found at www.wmatyourdoor.com/residential.

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 of the street and no parking Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday on the odd-numbered house side of the street 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 Reconstruction

Balmoral Ave from Canterbury St to Roosevelt Rd will undergo a full reconstruction beginning March 4, 2024.

The project is estimated to be completed by the end of October 2024. Questions can be directed to the construction engineer:

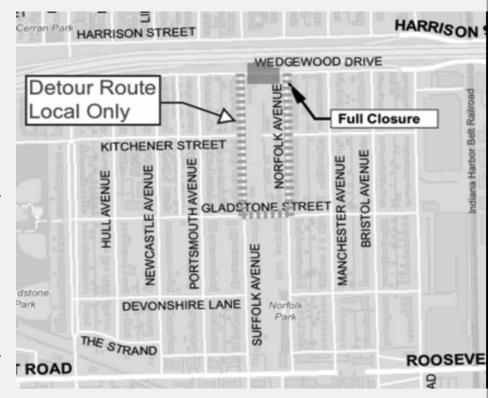
Matt Hoffman, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.; mhoffman@cbbel. com or at 224-289-2758.

Wedgwood Bridge Construction & Detour

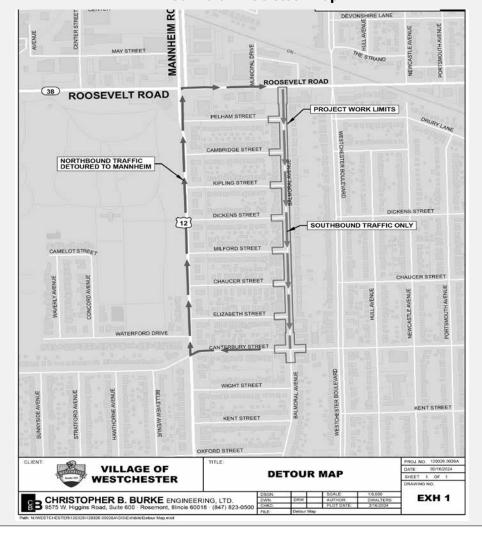
The Village of Westchester will be replacing Wedgwood Drive Bridge over Addison Creek in the Spring of 2024. Wedgwood Drive will be closed between Suffolk Avenue and Norfolk Avenue. Travelers will be detoured one block south to Gladstone Street using

Suffolk Avenue and Norfolk Avenue. The anticipated construction dates and bridge closure are May 15th 2024 through September 15th 2024.

Wedgwood Bridge Detour Map



Balmoral Ave Detour Map







WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY



Donation Drop-Off Days!

Saturday, April 6 9-11am Saturday, May 4 9-11am Westchester Community Church, 1840 Westchester Blvd., Westchester

The Westchester Food Pantry is gearing up for its annual Yard Sale Extravaganza! High-quality unwanted household goods will be turned into food for our neighbors in need. Clean out your closets, cabinets, garages and basements...your donations can make a difference in our communities. Please bag or box all donations. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

We <u>CAN</u> accept the following items in high-quality, good used condition:

Children's books only Purses and wallets Backpacks and luggage Toys, games and puzzles Baby items (small items)

Tools (manual and power)
Camping equipment (no sleeping bags)
Newer small electronics (radios, CD players,

DVD players, mp3 players, tablets)
CDs, DVDs, records

Home decor and artwork Kitchen items and utensils

Gardening supplies Craft/hobby items

Vintage collectibles Office supplies

Pet items/equipment

Antiques/memorabilia Sporting goods

Party supplies

Jewelry

Compact exercise equipment

Picture frames and photo albums

Vases and candles Video consoles and games

We **CANNOT** accept:

Large furniture (couches, mattresses, etc.)

Hazardous materials

Televisions

Computers and related equipment

Automobile parts

Construction materials

Car seats, cribs or baby swings

Large appliances (refrigerators, furnaces, etc.)

Clothing or shoes

Golf clubs and bags Stuffed animals

Adult books

Reference books, encyclopedias or magazines

Lamps

China/Dishes

Christmas trees

VHS or cassette tapes Skis and related equipment

The 2024 Yard Sale Extravaganza will be May 30, 31 and June 1

STOP LIVING WITH A LEAKY BASEMENT OR CRAWL SPACE!



If your basement or crawl space has ever flooded or had leaking wall cracks, it WILL happen again!

Perma-Seal has been the most trusted basement waterproofing contractor and foundation repair specialist serving Chicagoland and northwest Indiana since 1979.

IF YOU WANT YOUR BASEMENT OR CRAWL SPACE DRY ALL OF THE TIME. YOU KNOW WHO TO CALL!

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OUR SERVICES:

Basement Waterproofing • Foundation Repair • Crawl Space Solutions Sump Pump Solutions • Basement Defender • Sewer Backup Prevention Concrete Raising & Leveling • Air Quality & MORE!

WPTC news and notes

February raced by so quickly, it is hard to believe we are in March already!

We enjoyed Trivia Night in February, it was so nice to see everyone, and to have WIS's very own Mr. Pinkleman as our Trivia host. A big thank you to those that came out to support our schools and have some fun doing it!

Last month students enjoyed our fun-filled Valentine's parties at WPS and WIS; as well as the WMS Valentine's dance. WIS also celebrated its midyear mark with Popcorn Day! We appreciate the volunteers that make these memorable moments possible. Your support of the WPTC during our fundraisers is greatly appreciated. February's Flying High Night, and Jason's Deli were certainly wonderful ways to show support.

We will be having a WPTC meeting March 6th in the WIS cafe. All are welcome to come and get a better

understanding of what we do to support our schools and students.

We are also having two restaurant fundraisers this month at Wendy's on Roosevelt and Giordano's in Westchester.

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 the students.

Keep an eye out for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities!

Important Dates:

March 5- Wendy's Restaurant Fundraiser

March 6- WPTC Meeting-WIS Cafe 6pm

March 26- Giordano's Restaurant Fundraiser

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.

LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?

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

Thursday, March 21st from 7-9 pm "Is There Such a Thing as Job Security? It Might Be Time for a Reframe"

Dr. Peter A. James, Presenter

Depending on who you are chatting with on any given day, job security does not exist. And, yes, it is debatable. In this session, Dr. Peter A. James will provide some insights into how/why we should reframe this "job security" framework, but also how we (and those we care about) need to approach it moving forward. Be prepared to utilize and apply it for your career, business and life beginning today!

Dr. Peter A. James is a Professor of Business & Entrepreneurship and a certified business and leadership coach who partners with individuals and organizations as they seek to realize their potential. His career has taken him from an officer in the U.S. Army to sales and marketing in the corporate world and, higher education. He holds an M.B.A., a Ph.D., and has launched several business ventures.

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



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AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$334,963

NUMBER OF HOMES FOR SALE

down 41.5% from previous January

AVERAGE MARKET TIME

33 days

down 61.6% from previous January

MY RECENT WESTCHESTER LISTINGS



24 Kings Ct Westchester · \$329,000



11151 Regency Dr Westchester · \$332,500



1557 Heidorn Ave Westchester · \$335,000

Housing inventory is still low, now is a great time to list! IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS LOOKING TO MAKE A MOVE, I'D LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST.



juliewhite@atproperties.com 630.254.6652



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