

# Village of Westchester

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



#### **Village Officials**

President

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Clerk

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gmbenline@westchester-il.gov

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Effective May 13, 2025, Robert Morales and Nicholas Steker will conclude their service as Trustees, and Brian Cross and Terrance Jones will be appointed to the Board. The June newsletter will reflect these changes.

#### Staff

Village Hall - (708) 345-0020

Barry Krumstok, Manager bkrumstok@westchester-il.gov

John Schwarz, Assistant Manager jschwarz@westchester-il.gov

Community Development/ Building - (708) 345-0199

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Public Works - (708) 345-0041

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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
VILLAGE HALL "SUMMER HOURS" START MAY 5: MONDAY - THURSDAY: 8AM - 5:30PM FRIDAY: 8AM-12PM				1 GROW ECOLOGICAL COMMISSION - 6:30PM VILLAGE HALL	2	3 DONATION DAY FOR WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY - 9-11AM WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
4	5 100 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM - VILLAGE HALL	6	7 VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED FOR IN- SERVICE DAY FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION - 6PM VILLAGE HALL	8 MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL - 7PM	9 MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL - 7PM	10 GGG PLANT SALE 9AM-12PM CRESTWOOD GAZEBO MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL - 2PM
11 Happy * Mochecy Day	12	VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 6PM VILLAGE HALL	14 AGING CARE SEMINAR 11:15AM MAYFAIR REC CENTER WIS BAND CONCERT 6:30PM	15	COP ON A ROOFTOP 5AM-12PM DUNKIN' (31 <sup>57</sup> ST)	17 CELEBRATE WESTCHESTER: ROARING 20'S SOIREE 6PM - ALPINE BANQUET HAUS
18	19	20	21	22 BROADVIEW- WESTCHESTER JOINT WATER AGENCY MEETING 100AM BROADVIEW VILLAGE HALL	23	24
25	26 MENORIAL DAY VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED	27 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 6PM VILLAGE HALL	28 V. V. V	29	30	31

• VILLAGE MEETINGS • VILLAGE EVENTS • OTHER LOCAL EVENTS



MAY 202



# Smoke alarms in your home



- Install smoke alarms outside all sleeping areas and on every level of your home, including the basement.
- For added protection, place an alarm inside every bedroom.
- Alarms should be installed at least 10 feet away from any cooking appliances.
- Ceiling installation is best. If mounting on a wall, place the alarm no more than 12 inches from the ceiling.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries every 6 months.
- The average lifespan of a smoke alarm is 10 years—replace units accordingly.

#### **Contact Us**

The Westchester Fire Department proudly participates in the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) "Be Alarmed" program. Our firefighters are available to assist residents—especially seniors—with proper smoke alarm placement and installation.

For more information or to request assistance, please call (708) 345-0433.



# **BUSINESS** Seven Day Spa — SPOTLIGHT Where Beauty Meets Passion

Owner Sara Shen began her career in the nail industry in 2014 with a dream of one day opening her own unique, full-service nail salon. That dream came true in 2021 when she became the proud owner of Seven Day Spa located right here in Westchester.

Seven Day Spa has a long-standing history in the community, having operated as a nail salon for nearly twenty years. When Sara took over, she brought with her a fresh perspective and a strong commitment to quality and innovation. Living in Chicago's Chinatown with her family, Sara continues to expand her knowledge and techniques through ongoing education in her neighborhood. She also stays on top of industry trends by using platforms like TikTok and other digital tools to keep her services current and relevant.

Sara was drawn to Westchester for its quiet charm, welcoming residents, and convenient central location — making her commute from Chinatown manageable. One of the biggest factors for Sara's attraction to Westchester is the safe and supportive environment the Village offers. She credits the Westchester Police Department for helping create a secure atmosphere that benefits both the residents and local businesses.

Sara and her dedicated team share a true passion for their craft. At Seven Day Spa, they aim to help clients feel confident and beautiful, offering services that go beyond the basics. Seven Day Spa's mission is to satisfy every customer that walks in the door and there is nothing that makes Sara happier than to see another satisfied customer leaving after receiving great treatment from her team she relies to provide great service. The Seven Day Spa team includes Sonny (4 years), Lisa (3 years), and Jay (2 years), each bringing their own creativity and skill to the table. Together, they specialize in high-quality, artistic nail designs and work collaboratively to deliver exceptional service.

The spa's service menu is extensive, offering more than just manicures and pedicures. Clients can also enjoy body and facial waxing, eyebrow tinting, and paraffin wax treatments. For nails, options include everything from classic





manicures to more advanced techniques like creative design nail art, chrome, cat eye, see-through colors, no-chip, Gel-X, and hard gel applications. A variety of relaxing pedicure services are also available.

Looking ahead, Sara is excited to continue growing her business in

Westchester. She encourages residents to support local entrepreneurs, noting that community backing plays a vital role in small business success.

For a relaxing, personalized experience with a team that truly cares, visit Seven Day Spa and treat yourself to one of their specialty services. You'll be greeted by friendly faces, expert care, and a passion for making every client feel their best.

7 Day Spa 10444 W. Cermak Road 708-562-6088 Website: Facebook.com/7DaySpaInc 6 MAY 2025

# Stay Calm, Drive Defensively, and Protect Yourself

With spring fully underway and warmer weather upon us, many changes come — including an increase in motor vehicle accidents. Heavy rains during this time of year can bring oil to the surface of roadways, making them dangerously slippery, like ice, or worse, causing vehicles to hydroplane and spin out of control.

It's also the season when many people are tackling their to-do lists — traveling more often to local hardware stores on weekends, picking up household supplies, planting flowers, and working on outdoor projects. This means more traffic on the roads, busier parking lots, and unfortunately, less patient drivers. All of these factors can lead to an increase in accidents and even heated confrontations between individuals.

It's important to remember that patience is a true virtue. Allow yourself plenty of time to get from point A to point B, and try not to get stressed or drawn into someone else's anger. Road rage can escalate quickly, often over something we have no control over — like another driver speeding, cutting you off, or taking a parking spot. As I've gotten older, I've become a strong advocate for stress management tools like yoga, meditation, or, when necessary, speaking to your doctor for additional support. We live in a fast-paced and often impatient society,

and it's more important than ever to stay calm and focused behind the wheel.

Now is a good time to recommit to being a "defensive driver." Stay alert, drive cautiously, and keep a safe distance around your vehicle at all times. Defensive driving skills can help you avoid accidents caused by those who may not be as careful. I have personally avoided many accidents simply by staying calm, driving slowly, and watching the behavior of others around me.

In closing, I am often asked, "How do I avoid red light ticket violations?" It's simple: When approaching an intersection, you will see a large white stop line, about one foot wide and six feet long. Always come to a full stop before the white line and pause for about 30 seconds before proceeding through your turn. This ensures you won't trigger a violation. If you look closely, you'll also notice two gray, round-shaped sensors embedded in the pavement before the line. These sensors activate the camera and monitor whether a complete stop was made – not a "California roll" through the intersection.

Drive safely, stay patient, and enjoy the start of the summer season.

Sincerely, Chief Daniel Babich

# The Cook County Sheriff's Office & the Westchester Police Department invite you to attend the





#### **Senior Citizen Safety Series**

- . Sweetheart Scams
- . Identity Theft
- Personal Safety

To register or receive more information, please call the Cook County Sheriff's Office at 708-865-7341

Thursdays
May 8 \* May 15 \* June 12
4:30 P.M.

Hosted at the Westchester Police Department 10300 Roosevelt Road in Westchester

#### **WESTCHESTER POLICE BLOTTER -**

All defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. 25-00937

03/15/2025 6:52PM

#### UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF WEAPON CERMAK RD & MANNHEIM RD WPD

Officers were dispatched to the area of Balmoral Avenue and Kent Street following a report of reckless driving involving a firearm. Upon locating the suspect vehicle, officers-assisted by neighboring law enforcement agenciesconducted a traffic stop leading to the arrest of a 37-year-old male from Cicero. The individual was taken into custody without incident and has been charged with Aggravated Unlawful Possession of a Weapon and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Fortunately, no injuries were reported during the incident. The 37- year old was transported to Maybrook Courthouse for a bond hearing. The investigation remains ongoing.

25-01052 03/24/2025 5:11PM TRAFFIC STOP

#### ROOSEVELT RD & PORTSMOUTH AVE

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 31 year old male from Greenwood, IN was cited for Improper Overtaking and Driving with Suspended Drivers License. The 31 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

25-01122

03/29/2025 11:30PM

TRAFFIC ARREST

11200 BLK CERMAK RD

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 25 year old male from Berwyn, IL was cited for Strobing Brake Lights, and No Valid Drivers License. The 25 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

25-01137 03/31/2025 12:46AM TRAFFIC ARREST MANNHEIM RD & CANTERBURY ST

WPD Officers were dispatched to the intersection of Mannheim Road and Canterbury Street in reference to a vehicle crash involving a Public Works vehicle. Upon arrival, officers spoke with three Public Works employees who stated they had been actively working in the area when the accident occurred. Their unoccupied village vehicle was parked on Mannheim Road, while they were working in front of the vehicle, it was struck by a Ford F150, causing it to hit all three employees. All three workers sustained non-life threating injuries and were transported to local hospitals. A 30 year old male from Downers Grove was cited for Scott's Law, Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid Crash, and Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. The 30 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL

25-01157 04/01/2025 4:44PM TRAFFIC ARREST CERMAK RD & SUNNYSIDE AVE

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 44 year old male from Alsip, IL was cited for No Valid Registration, Unlawful Operation Foregin Dealer Plate, and No Proof of Valid Insurance. The 44 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

25-01223

04/07/2025 1:17AM DOMESTIC BATTERY WESTCHESTER.IL

A 38-year-old female from Westchester has been charged with Domestic Battery and a 35-year-old male from Berwyn has been charged with Violation of an Order of Protection in Cook County Circuit Court following a recent incident. Both individuals were taken into custody, processed, and subsequently transported to the Fourth District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood for a bond hearing



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# NEWSLETTER

May 2025

#### Native Plant Give Away Saturday, May 10 | 10 AM - 1 PM

Stop by to pick up some free native plants grown from our very own Prairie Rising!

#### May Book Discussion

May 20th | 6:30 PM

This month we're reading The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali. Copies are available now at the circulation desk.

#### Library Closed Memorial Day

The Library will be closed all day on Monday, May 26th in honor of Memorial Day.

#### Drop-in Crochet Group Monday, May 5th | 6 PM

Join us for our monthly Crochet group at the Library! Total beginners and advanced welcome, all materials provided.

#### **Movie Matinee: A** Complete Unknown (2024)

#### May 14th | 1 PM | Community Room

In the early 1960s, 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in New York with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. Starring Timothée Chalamet, Edward Norton, Elle Monica Barbaro, Nick Fanning, Offerman.

#### Adult Take-and-Make Straw Air Plant Hanger

#### Monday, May 19th | While Supplies last

Grab a take and make kit to make an airy air plant hanger out of straws! An air plant is included, plus their simple care instructions.

#### Bingo for Adults

#### May 24th | 11 AM | Community Room

Get ready to shout Bingo! Registration is required for this program as spots fill up fast. **Call 708-562-3573 ext 2.** 

#### **Birding for Beginners**

#### May 3rd or 7th | 9 AM | Wolf Road Prairie House

Join us on the observation deck at the Historic Prairie House to watch spring migratory birds. The Library provides binoculars and bird ID handbooks. Open to all, with a focus on seniors and those with mobility issues. Wheelchair accessible. Registration is required.

#### Nature Walks in the Forest Preserve Multiple Dates | Bemis Woods North

Park at Bemis Woods North and meet at the bridge for an easy 30minute nature walk, led by a Westchester librarian. Appropriate for most adult ability levels; call (708) 562-3573 ext 2 or stop by for more details! Registration is required.

#### **Qigong is Back with Gail Morales!**

#### May 17th | 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. combination of gigong and sound will help reduce stress by calming the mind and body and improve sleep. Registration is required.

#### Summer Reading Club: Color Our World June 7th - July 31st

This summer, help us **Color Our World** as we read for prizes and let our imaginations run wild! There's a reading club for every age and super cool programs, too! And don't forget to join us on **Saturday, June 7** for our summer reading kick-off party!



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.

R MAY 202

#### Summer Reading Kickoff Party

#### Saturday, June 7th | 11:30 AM - 2 PM

Help us celebrate the end of the school year with our summer reading kick-off party! Enjoy hot dogs and shaved ice while you dance along with our family-friendly DJ! Grab your friends and play one of our giant outdoor games! And don't forget to sign up for our summer reading club - there are fabulous prizes to win!

# Teen Programs

#### **Mario Kart Mondays**

Weekly | 4 PM | Starting May 5th Zoom through the colorful world of Mario Kart and show off your racing skills! This program is intended for grades 2 and up.

#### Teen Take and Make Craft

# Monday, May 12 | All Day | While Supplies Last

Paint your way into spring with this DIY ceramic watering can! All materials supplied. First come, first served while supplies last. **For grades** 6-12.

#### **Teen Book Boxes**

#### Starting in June

Get a surprise every month with our teen subscription box – filled with books, goodies, and exclusive library perks! Perfect for anyone looking to discover new reads and exciting surprises! **Registration is required.** 

# LOOKING AHEAD INTO SUMMER...

#### Big Ol' Mess with Miss Mel Mondays | 10 AM | Starting June 9th

Come hang out with Miss Mel for a wild mix of laughs, chaos, stories and non-stop fun!

#### Mother Goose on the Loose Wednesdays 10:15 AM | Starting June 11th

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

#### **Kids Crafts**

Biweekly Tuesdays | Starting June 10th Get crafty at our fun craft table and make something special to take home!

#### Popsicle Storytime

Tuesday, June 17 | 11 AM | Youth Department Join us for a very special storytime with songs, stories, and a sweet treat!

#### **Family Tie-Dye**

Tuesday, June 24th [11 AM | Community Room Create awesome, colorful designs and make some great memories together! Registration is required

#### ZAP! Storytime at the Zoo Thursday, July 10th | Brookfield Zoo

Visit your favorite librarians at Brookfield Zoo! Admission for Westchester patrons will be free on this day, so you can enjoy a storytime and the zoo, too! Please call the Youth Services Department for more details at 708-462-5373 ext. 3.



# Make a Heartfelt Craft for Mothers Day!

Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> | All Day Youth Department

Make a greeting card for your favorite moms, aunties, grandmas, or anyone you love! While supplies last.





#### **GRASSROOTS GARDEN GROUP**

LET'S BLOOM TOGETHER.



# Saturday, May 10th, 9am-noon

It's Our 7th Annual Plant Sale!

From Asters and Beans to Zucchini and Zinnias...Grassroots Garden Group has it ALL!
With over 50 varieties of flowers, veggies, and herbs, and over 500 plants
to choose from, you might need to make a second trip!

Join us at the Westchester fountain at Mannheim & Cermak Roads (parking available on Crestwood) and stock up on everything you need for your garden.

As always, all profits benefit the Westchester Food Pantry!







#### SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, July 19th is our 7th Annual Westchester Garden Walk!

Interested in being a sponsor for the Garden Walk? Contact us at GrassrootsGroup2015@gmail.com for more details!

View all upcoming events on our website, GrassrootsGardenGroup.org











#### Aging Well in Westchester - Upcoming Event Schedule



Mayfair Recreation Center 10835 Wakefield Street Westchester, IL 60154



Wednesdays, 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM



May 14 - Wellness Topic\*

June 11 - BINGO!

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:

**WESTCHESTER**Aging Well Team

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

# **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### Village branch collection for May will be the week of May 5th – 9th

June's collection will be the week of June 2nd-6th

July's collection will be the week of July 7th – 11th

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 Belleview Ave west to Wolf Rd, Martindale Dr south to 31st Street.

Weekly yard waste collection by S.B.C. will begin on your first regular collection day in April.

#### <u>S.B.C. Waste Solutions, Inc.</u> 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 products, garden chemicals, universal materials, batteries, long fluorescent lightbulbs, and swimming pool chemicals. This separate collection must be prescheduled by calling 312-522-1115.

#### **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 use 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.

#### **National Drinking Water Week:** May 4th – May 10th

Drinking Water Week is an annual observance in May sponsored by the American Water Works Association to

recognize the critical role drinking water plays in our daily lives. This week also helps to reaffirm the tireless efforts and importance of those who provide clean, safe drinking water for the public.

#### National Public Works Week: May 18th – May 24th

APWA is proud to announce the theme "People, Purpose, Presence" for the 2025 National Public Works Week poster. Public works contributes to advancing and enhancing our quality of life, no matter where we live in the world. Public works professionals provide essential services that lead to healthier, happier, more vibrant communities.

The "Advancing Quality of Life for All" theme shines a spotlight on the way public works professionals advance our quality of life, whether as a first responder to an electricity outage, regular waste pickup, or a myriad of other ways they silently serve their communities.

Public works professionals advance the quality of life by providing an infrastructure of services in transportation, water, wastewater, and stormwater treatment, public buildings and spaces, parks and grounds, emergency management and first response, solid waste, and right-of-way management. They are what make our communities dynamic places to live and work. Join us in celebrating the quiet work these professionals do that makes life better for all of us.

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.

#### **Construction News**

#### • In-House Paving

#### Phase I - June

Street From To

Gladstone St Newcastle Ave Gladstone Bridge

Chaucer St Gardner Rd Bristol Ave

#### Phase II - September

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.



## Ways to Live Without Plastics

by Walt WojcikGROW Ecological Commission

Plastics were initially designed to be used and thrown away into landfills. (1) Recycling of plastics is extremely difficult as there is contamination from the many different plastics types (1, 2, 4, 5, and 7). In addition, when plastics degrade, they become non-digestible, small plastic particles (Micro- and Nano-plastics / MNPs) which enters our oceans and drinkable water systems like aquifers, rivers, and lakes. These MNPs are ingested by many living organisms including humans. So far, their deleterious effects on various organism and human life are now becoming known. One recent article identified individuals, who have MNPs in their carotid artery plaque, as having a 5 fold higher likelihood of a future stroke, heart attack or even death over a three year period, when compared to similarly matched individuals who did not have MNPs in their carotid artery plaque. (2)

NOW we understand that plastics, as they are, may have been a mistake. This article is a summary of the book by Sandra Ann Harris, "Say Goodbye to Plastic". (3) The below text identifies 15 ways to live without plastics and will mainly focus on plastics in the kitchen. (Please look at the weekly Westchester e-Newsletter for how to replace plastics for the other rooms in your home.)

- 1. If consumers do not buy items made from or contained in plastic, manufacturers won't make item. For example, I can buy apple sauce in a glass jar and not a plastic container. If the item you buy only comes in a plastic container even from different manufactures, consider re-thinking the need to purchase that item. Find an appropriate replacement (e.g. I have used apple sauce to replace sugar in some recipes.)
- 2. Single ply plastic bag alternative: When shopping, bring re-usable bags to put your groceries in. Ten years ago, Mariano's sold canvas containers with handles which I still use when shopping even at other stores.
- 3. Plastic baggie alternative: Use safe, washable metal containers with silicone lids as a container when making a lunch for your school age children or for left overs. (Look at the stackable options from ECOlunchbox at https://search. app/Lm2RMoURpKkm2Jrk8).
- 4. Styrofoam cup/paper coffee cup/plastic water bottle alternatives: Use reusable, washable metal (or ceramic/ glass) sealed travel mugs. Ask if your barista can fill your

reusable non-plastic cup when ordering your coffee.

etc.

- 5. Single use straws, plastic alternatives: Refuse to take items from your "to go" order and replace with reusable glass/metal/ceramic containers with silicone lids and use your washable metal/wood utensils.
- 6. Plastic trash can liner alternative: Consider new biodegradable bioplastics which degrade best at high temperatures used at an industrial composting facility. Otherwise, reconsider using such bioplastics until more information is available on its safety to soil and ecosystems.
- 7. Certain bamboo kitchen utensils may not be recyclable or compostable because of their lacquered finish. But if finished with an organic oil, then those are okay to use and dispose of in the trash.
- 8. Black plastic utensils alternative: Note that these utensils are known to leach forever chemicals (PFASs) that are harmful to us. If you have these, discard in trash and do not buy them anymore (4). Rather, use metal, wood or
- 9. Existing plastic containers in your home can be repurposed using them as non-food storage containers, potted plant containers, etc.
- 10. Bread in a plastic bag alternatives: Rather buy bread that comes in a paper bag (but without the cellophane window). At a bakery, ask to place bread in a paper bag or bring your own clean cloth bag (pillow case?) or waxed cotton bread bag. Store bagged bread in a metal/wood/ bamboo bread box at home.
- 11. Tea bag alternative: Because many tea bags are made from polyethylene (PET) and nylon, you can buy tea in metal containers. Steep tea in hot water using a reusable metal infuser.
- 12. Alternatives for Tetra Packs (cardboard looking outside with foil lining inside) that are used for prepackaged baby food, broth, spaghetti sauces, etc.: This packaging is not recyclable. Rather buy items in glass jars or aluminum/
- 13. Plastic wrap and wax paper alternatives (where the coating is a petroleum product): Instead use paper coated with beeswax or jojoba oil. Also consider using parchment paper that has a coating of silicone or aluminum foil. Used, but clean, aluminum foil is 100% recyclable.
- 14. Kitchen sink (plastic) sponge alternatives: Note some

#### GREEN FACT

The largest floating aggregate of plastics, called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is 0.6 million sq. mi. in size (2x the size of Texas) and is found in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California. Most of the plastics are micro-plastics and not easily visible from satellites. See Wikipedia https://search.app/ wotdMTWd1mobwxEh7

Save the Dates: Upcoming Sustainability Events! The GROW Ecological Commission invites residents to two upcoming presentations at Village Hall focused on energy efficiency and solar opportunities:

- Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00 PM Learn how to save energy and explore local solar options through the Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution (CS2) and other energy efficiency initiatives.
- Thursday, June 26 at 7:00 PM Join the Citizens Utility Board at Village Hall for a presentation covering solar basics, the Switch Together group purchase program, community opportunities, and the Illinois Solar for All program. events are free open Westchester residents!

sponges have antibacterial Triclosan in them, but now this chemical is found to be toxic to humans and marine life. Use steel wool pads, natural loofah or a dish cloth (like your mother may have used).

15. Teflon and non-stick pots and pans alternatives: Note: the non-stick surface can leach forever chemicals (PFAFs and others) that are harmful to humans. (4) Rather, one can cook with a cast iron skillet or stainless steel/ceramic/glass cooking containers, pots and pans.

#### References

- 1. The Fraud of Plastic Recycling. D. Allen et al. Center for Climate Integrity, Feb., '24. https://www.climateintegrity. org/plastics-fraud
- https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/. NEJMoa2407616
- 3. Sandra Ann Harris "Say Goodbye to Plastic A survival guide for plastic-free living" Hatherleigh, 2020. Sold at Amazon for \$14.53
- 4. What are the health effects of PFAS? Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry https://search.app/ Dexi92Kyx9RGn9KS8

#### Recipe of the Month

#### Lentil Bolognese

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme (or use more oregano)
- 1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt, plus more to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1 (5.3-ounce) tube of tomato paste 1/2 cup dry red wine (optional)
- 3 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup red lentils, soaked (see step #1)
- 1/4 cup walnuts (or pecans), crushed finely
- 1 (14.5-ounce/410g) can of crushed tomatoes or whole peeled tomatoes, crushed by hand
- 12-16 ounces long, wide pasta (such as pappardelle or fettuccine; or pasta of your choice)
- 1 tablespoon high-quality balsamic vinegar
- Flat-leaf Italian parsley or fresh basil, chopped or slivered (optional)

#### Instructions

1. Soak the 1 cup of lentils in water for 30 minutes, or up to

60 minutes. Meanwhile, prep all the other ingredients (i.e., chop the onions and garlic, chop the walnuts, etc.)

- 2. Heat a 12-inch deep sauté pan or Dutch oven on mediumhigh heat. Add the olive oil, and once it's shimmering, add the onions and season with a pinch of salt. Stir occasionally and cook the onions until a light brown fond starts to form on the surface of the pan, about 5 minutes. Add a few spoons of water to deglaze the pan, and stir. Continue cooking the onions, adding more water every few minutes and stirring frequently to prevent burning, until the onions are softened and golden brown, 9-10 minutes.
- 3. Add the garlic, thyme, oregano, 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, and pepper to taste. Stir frequently and cook for 60-90
- 4. Stir in the tomato paste and cook for 2-3 minutes to caramelize, stirring very frequently, until it's darker red in
- 5. Optional: If using the red wine, pour the wine into the pan and deglaze, scraping up any browned bits. Cook for 1-2 minutes, until the smell of alcohol has burned off and the mixture is jammy.
- 6. Pour in the broth to deglaze the pan, stirring any browned bits on the bottom of the pot and stirring the broth into the tomato paste to combine. Add the lentils and walnuts, and

stir to incorporate. Heat until the mixture comes to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium-low to maintain a rapid simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

- 7. Add the crushed tomatoes and simmer for another 15-20 minutes, or until the lentils are tender but still al dente, stirring occasionally to prevent burning and sticking. If using crushed tomatoes, you may need to add a little water or lower the heat as needed to prevent burning. I prefer to cook for 20 minutes for a more developed flavor.
- 8. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of water to a boil and salt generously. Add the pasta and cook until just al dente. Reserve a ladle or so of pasta water (may not need it). Drain the pasta but do not rinse it.
- 9. Taste the bolognese for seasonings, adding more salt and pepper to taste. Finish with the balsamic vinegar and stir to combine.
- 10. Add the hot cooked pasta to the bolognese and toss until well coated in the sauce, adding a bit of pasta water as needed to ensure the sauce coats the noodles. Garnish with chopped parsley or basil, if using.

#### Source: www.rainbowplantlife.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.



FREEDOM WALK & FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM WESTCHESTER VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM GLADSTONE PARK

WESTCHESTER TURNS 100 IN 2025—AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO HONOR OUR PAST AND LOOK AHEAD TO THE FUTURE THAN THROUGH OUR JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS. JOIN US FOR TWO DAYS FULL OF REFLECTION, CONNECTION, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

LEARN MORE OR BECOME A VENDOR/SPONSOR: WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG/JUNETEENTH



# Yard Sale Extravaganza

Thursday, May 29, 8am-3pm Friday, May 30, 8am-3pm Saturday, May 31, 8am-12pm Saturday Only--\$5/bag sale!



Generously hosted by the Westchester Community Church 1840 Westchester Boulevard Westchester, IL 60154



All proceeds benefit the Westchester Food Pantry











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Westchester Police Officers will be on the Dunkin' rooftop raising awareness and funds for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois.
Stop by to support a great cause—while supplies last,
we'll be selling t-shirts, pins, hats, tumblers, and
offering a chance to win exciting prizes!

Can't make it in person? You can still support the cause by donating online at <a href="https://www.westchester-il.org/foundation">www.westchester-il.org/foundation</a> — just write "Special Olympics" in the notes when checking out.

Let's rally together to support these incredible athletes!

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#### VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER

#### Annual Independence Day Parade

#### Friday, July 4, 2025 Parade begins at 9:30 a.m.

The Village of Westchester is seeking **participants and sponsors** for the annual **Independence Day Parade**. All businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to take part in this patriotic event.

#### **HOW TO BECOME A PARTICIPANT**

If you would like to participate in the 2025 parade, please fill out the form below, and return by June 13 to: <a href="mailto:info@westchester-il.gov">info@westchester-il.gov</a> or mail to Attn: Parade, Village of Westchester, 10300 W Roosevelt Rd, Westchester, IL 60154.

Contact Name:					
Email: Day-of Phone:					
Address:					
Type of Entry (Mark all that apply): Walking 🔲 Float 🔲 Clown 🔲 Bus 🔲 Van 🔲					
Truck Car Classic/Antique Vehicle Marching Band Political/Public Official					
Electric Vehicle					
Other  (Describe)					
HOW TO BECOME A CORPORATE SPONSOR					
For a \$100.00 sponsorship donation, you and/or your business/organization will be listed as a					
official Parade Sponsor in an issue of the Village Newsletter, which is delivered to approximate 7,200 households. Please fill out the form below and return with payment by June 13 to our 501(c)(3) organization at Attn: Parade, Westchester Community Events Foundation, 10300 V Roosevelt Rd, Westchester, IL 60154. Please make checks payable to Westchester Community Events Foundation. Thank you!					
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18 MAY 202

## **CENTENNIAL**

# What Preceded the 1925 Founding of Westchester

Before the town of Westchester was established in 1925, Native Prairie Potawatomis roamed the area. A large Native American settlement called Sauganakka along York Road included Graue Mill, which serviced surrounding farmers in the early 1850s. Sauganakka extended from south of Ogden Avenue up to Roosevelt Road. The natives established trails following animal tracks that became many of the main road arteries going to Chicago. Although the 1833 Chicago Treaty forced native tribes to depart the area prior to the settlement of German farmers here, the Christian Thiele family recalled when Native Americans did come to trade supplies at his general store at the intersection of Cermak and Wolf Road (now Fresh Meadow's Golf Course).

The township of Proviso was created in 1850. It was named after the Wilmot Proviso, legislation that was intended to stop the spread of slavery. Before Proviso the Township was named Taylor in honor of President Zachary Taylor, who died on July 9, 1850, soon after taking office. Earlier the area was named Franzosenbusch by the many German-speaking settlers, as Nicholas Thorode, a French immigrant from the island of Guernsey, had settled before them with his family on York Road near the Elmhurst Hospital. Thorode had a stone house, the first orchard and numerous sheep; he operated a sawmill where Graue Mill is now located.

Initially speculators bought the land that was up for sale after the departure of Native Americans. The first white settler in Proviso was Aaron Parsell, who bought land in section 29 near Salt Creek. He acquired several land sections, starting in 1832. One document of a purchase Parsell made in 1845 was signed by President Martin van Buren himself.

773-655-8529

Soon after settlers and speculators bought large parcels of land, many of them arrived from the East Coast in the 1830s. They were Lyman B. Bennett, Charles Chaman, George Mower, Trumble Kent, and a few others. Unfortunately, all that land speculation around the Chicago area caused the Panic of 1837, a depression that shook the nation for several years.

In 1835 Robert Jones, one of these large-scale landowners, owned the three parcels in section 20 along Wolf Road and Cermak Road that were to become the Boeger and Heidorn farms. He also owned tracts in Hillside. John S.C. Hogan owned Wolf Road Prairie and Westchester Commons in 1835. Wilhelm Mandel from Hanover bought that section along 31st Street extending beyond Mannheim Road into La Grange Park. Hogan also owned the entire stretch from Wolf Road south of Cermak to the county line. One Hogan property later became the Heinrich Degener land where the Westbrook Corporate Center was built. Degener's main residence was north of Cermak next to Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Dietrich Dieckhoff purchased the land from Heinrich Degener's heirs in 1884. His farm was sold to developers in 1924. His farmhouse incorporated the first Lutheran school house, which then served as their living room. The structure had been moved there from the Immanuel Lutheran forty acres, probably around 1908. The Dieckhoff farm is one of the last farmhouses still standing in Westchester. It was moved to its current location on Wolf Road Prairie in 1985.

Hogan's land also included land that was sold to Heinrich Volberding, which in the early 20th century became the Heinrich Schramm farm. Heinrich and Friedrich Volberding were brothers who immigrated from Rodewald along with their older sister who

married Friedrich Degener. Friedrich's property, extending all the way to the county line, is now the Highland Golf Course. His Volberding relatives were living on land directly west of the current location of the Prairie House. Friedrich and Heinrich Degener were also brothers, and Heinrich's land deed created the forty acres for the 1868 Immanuel Lutheran Church. These families and the Mesenbrinks came from Rodewald in the Kingdom of Hanover in the 1840s. Queen of Heaven Cemetery is located on the former Mesenbrink homestead, but the Mesenbrinks also owned land just east of Mannheim Road and south of Roosevelt Road across from Westchester's city hall. These farmers were instrumental in creating a school for the German-speaking Lutheran children, so that they did not have to walk nine miles to the Addison church school. Surprisingly, the custom of wearing wooden shoes was brought over from the town of Rodewald because the farmers there did seasonal work in Holland, and their lands in Hanover were flat and marshy.

In Westchester, some of the earliest German speaking settlers were Christian Gottlieb Puscheck (c. 1802-1861), his wife Rosina (nee Huebsch, 18-1875) and their children Helena, Anna, Karl, Wilhelm, and Gottlieb. They came from Kurzwitz, county Olm, in Silesia. They were Old Lutherans escaping from religious dictates in Silesia. They settled on the west side of Gardner Road, formerly Puscheck Road, on the eastern boundary of Westchester. Detailed records of their journey showed them leaving the port of Hamburg on July 1,1839, on the Brig Caroline, weathering extreme storms, sailing around Scotland, surviving hurricanes on the Atlantic, and finally arriving in New York on the 27th of August, 1839. They took a steamboat to Albany and a train to Buffalo. From

there he settled on a maple farm in either Minnesota or Wisconsin and traveled on a covered wagon to Illinois. Staying briefly in Lyons Township, they settled into the southern part of section 16 in 1845. Puscheck raised livestock and was an excellent grain farmer. His farm was divided between his two sons Karl and John Gottlieb upon his death in 1861. Christian G. Puscheck was one of the" founding fathers" who obtained permission from the Zion Lutheran church in Addison (where German Lutherans had to go for services), to form a school district in Proviso in 1852. The Puschecks intermarried with the Ahrens, Boeger, Degener and Heidorn families. Friedrich Ahrens owned land next to the Puschecks.

The German families who settled Westchester created the southern school district of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Addison (now located in Bensenville on Church Road). The nine founding fathers of the 1853 school were Heinrich and Friedrich Degener, Heinrich and Friedrich Volberding, Heinrich Mesenbrink, Heinrich Evers, Christian Puscheck, and Wilhelm Mandel. Dedicated to the education of their children, they founded the Immanuel Lutheran congregation in 1858 and built a larger school. It served as a church for ten years until the completion of a white Gothic church. The forty acres of the church were not incorporated into Hillside until 1958. Sadly, this landmark burned down in 1975. Many of the early Westchester settlers' graves can be seen in the 1880 Immanuel Lutheran cemetery. Their contributions led to the creation of the future town of Westchester. Stay tuned for part two of the continuing story of the local 19th century families in the next edition.



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#### Celebrate Westchester: A Roaring 20s Centennial Soirée

A centennial twist on a longstanding tradition - join us for a 1920s themed evening of dinner, drinks & dancing with fun live entertainment! Buy tickets: westchester-il.org/celebrate May



#### Juneteenth Ceremony & Community Celebration

Honoring Westchester's past and embracing its future - join us for reflection and connection followed by a celebration of unity and fun! westchester-il.org/juneteenth

June

19 &



#### Wine & Cheese Fundraiser

An afternoon of history and hospitality at the Prairie House - sip, savor, and support the Westchester Community Events Foundation!

June



### 4th of July Parade

Join us for this beloved timeless tradition, this year featuring a "Rolling Through The Years" Classic Car parade! Register or sponsor: westchester-il.org/july4

July



#### Westchester's 100th Birthday Party in the Park

A centennial celebration of community spirit - join us for a weekend full of tasty food, top-tier live music & plenty of fun as we celebrate 100 years of Westchester! July

118 12

www.westchester-il.org/centennial

20 MAY 2025



#### A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

As we head into the last part of the school year, there's a lot happening—sports, activities, and celebrations. We're excited to help your child finish the year strong—with plenty of support and encouragement along the way.

Thank you to our parents who completed the 5Essentials survey over the past few months. We are looking forward to preliminary data later this Spring. In all three buildings, we surpassed the 20% participation rate needed for a report. Your feedback is essential to our continuous improvement efforts.

Congratulations on this year's School Citizen of the Year (SCOTY) winners. The SCOTY program recognizes students chosen by their schools as good school citizens and models for others. Our SCOTY winners were honored on March 19th at West Leyden High School.

Our winners were:

Westchester Primary School - Donovan Halpin Westchester Intermediate School - Melissa Barajas Westchester Middle School - Ayden LaFlame

As I mentioned in a previous email, we will be using ParentSquare for school communication, primarily with email, text, and app notifications. ParentSquare automatically generates an account for each parent, using their preferred email address and phone number. We encourage parents to access their accounts so they can download the mobile app and update their preferences on when and how they are notified. Click HERE to learn how to get started with Parent Square.

Additionally, as we prepare for next school year, please be aware that registration information will be provided online only. You will not receive a letter in the mail. We will again use PowerSchool's Parent Portal for registration. If you need assistance logging in, please click here to recover your username or password.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email (psalemi@sd925.org) or cell (708-670-1927). Enjoy your May!

Philip Salemi, Ed.D Superintendent



#### **Westchester Primary School**

In May, WPS students were challenged to be a good friend. Students that were caught being extra kind to friends were recognized by staff. Students were chosen daily in each class to wear a lanyard with a problem solving wheel indicating that they were the role model for the day. Consistent reminders for Dolphin Pride keep our students safe, happy, and learning!



WPS is proud to announce our two honorable mentions for the KidWind 2025 National Energy Art Contest this year! Abby O. in first grade for "The Rainbow Windmill" and Xaniyah D. in second grade for "Sunset Over the Mill" have won the honorable mention award for their outstanding creativity, artistic ability, and understanding of wind energy in this nation-wide art contest. Their artwork will be showcased on the KidWind Art Challenge webpage. Congratulations to Abby and Xaniyah!

We had our 3rd Annual Westchester Pre-K Health & Wellness Fair on Saturday, April 26 from 11:00-1:00PM. The Health and Wellness Fair was an opportunity for families to connect and engage together with music and movement, food, and other families. All children aged 3-5 years old and their families living in the Westchester area and surrounding communities were welcome to attend. The event was also intended to raise awareness of local resources and small businesses available in the Westchester area and nearby communities.

WPS Open House and Fine Arts Showcase was held on April 17th! The Westchester Primary School kindergarten, first-graders, and second graders gave live musical performances, showcased their artwork, and showcased their writing research for all to see. Kindergarten and first grade students researched their favorite animal, and the second graders researched animals that help with pollination and seed dispersal. The event was a fantastic success to celebrate and showcase spring learning!

The WPTC/WPS Spring Book Fair event held in April was also successful. The Scholastic Spring Book Fair at WPS provides our school with funds to purchase books and resources to support all student learning.

In May, our students are participating in benchmark assessments, including the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). This state-aligned computerized adaptive assessment program provides educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning and make student-focused and data-driven decisions. Students are tested on MAP three times each year (fall, winter, and spring) in the areas of reading and math. The teachers use this growth and achievement data from MAP and other benchmark assessments to determine student growth for this school year, including student academic strengths and areas for growth.

**Kindergarten Screenings** and parent tours will be held at WPS by appointment on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM for pre-registered students. Both a parent and pre-registered child must attend the screening. Preregistration began on April 8, 2025. Please check our website for more information or contact the School Office at 708-562-1509.

As the school year is coming to an end, WPS continues to engage students in learning and several special activities/celebrations. We will host the 92 ½ Jazz Band. Their music and talent is unparalleled, and they inspired our students to be musicians. Our students are currently reflecting on their year-long growth in learning to prepare for our fabulous grade-level Victory Day celebrations. Additionally, the wonderful WPTC will sponsor our Second Grade Celebration, and Field Day is fast approaching.

MAY 2025 2

#### **Westchester Intermediate School**

We have many things to celebrate as we move into the last part of our school year. Our 5th Graders tackled the Illinois Science Assessment. Third and Fourth graders were able to go on field trips this past month. Third went to the Morton Arboretum and Fourth headed over to the Cernan Earth and Space Center at Triton College. Both were very fun and educational for our students.

Our Spring Food Drive for the Westchester Food Pantry brought in an abundance of items to support our local families with food insecurities. Our Spring Chorus concert with Mr. Holliday was amazing. The students have grown a great deal from the Winter Concert. We hosted our 4th Grade Fine Arts fest. We still have the Second Grade tour, parent night, and Spring Band Concert coming up. We are looking forward to seeing our families here for those events as well. And our 5th Graders will visit the Middle School to get them ready for next year.

As we finish up the year, we will have Spring Benchmarking with the assessment tools we have used this year. These will help us measure how our students grew over the whole year and guide us in planning for the next school year. Which seems a bit crazy that we are already thinking about that, but we are.

As summer approaches it can get tricky for students to stay focused. Encourage them to keep working up to their potential as we close out the year. It takes us all to keep our students learning and growing.

Front Row (left to right): Lucas Ulin, Colten Nagle, Silvio Scatchell, Julian Meier, and Gabe Meier. Back Row: The brave young man in the red shirt with a big smile—Logan Ulin



In an effort to help Julian Meier raise money for childhood cancer research, the Westchester students, parents, and staff raised \$5,418!! Julian participated in St. Baldrick's head-shaving event on March 3, 2023, in honor of his twin brother, Gabriel, who is currently in treatment. We are proud and overwhelmed to be part of a tremendous outpouring of love from our community, students, and staff toward funding research on childhood cancer. Gabe has genuine courage, and we wish him much strength and love as he continues to undergo treatment!

In an incredible show of support for childhood cancer research, Westchester students, parents, and staff came together to raise an outstanding \$3,155 for Shave for Gabe! Congratulations to Westchester Primary School for winning our district-wide popcorn party competition, raising an amazing \$1,319!

Over the past four years, our Westchester community has raised an impressive \$25,000 for childhood cancer research. With this year's contributions, we have now surpassed \$28,155!

This year, Julian Meier, Colten Nagle, and Silvio Scatchell participated in the St. Baldrick's head-shaving event on Friday, March 14th—a courageous act to support children battling cancer.

I would also like to recognize Lucas Ulin, a WPS kindergartener who shaved his head as part of Shave 4 Gabe/Shave 4 Logan in honor of his brother, Logan. Logan was diagnosed with cancer in October 2024 and continues to bravely fight through chemotherapy treatments. Lucas, along with the other participants, helped raise funds and awareness for childhood cancer research. Their selflessness and determination are truly inspiring! Our community's kindness and generosity continue to make a difference. Gabe and Logan have shown incredible courage, and we send them—and all children battling cancer—our love, strength, and support.

#### **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:

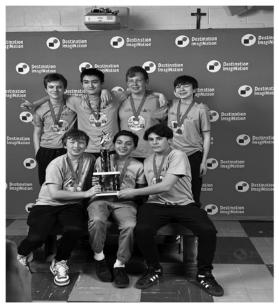
- •Be Responsible
- •Be Respectful
- •Be Safe
- •Be There, Be Ready

Congratulations to our March Warriors of the Month! 6th Grade: Liam Romero and Nyla Thompson, 7th Grade: Matthew Dattalo and Rachel Mitchem, 8th Grade: Hayate Crone and Arianna Zapata. 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.





Congratulations to our Destination Imagination team, The Conspiracy Crew, (Rylan Chrapkowski, Hayate Crone, Nolan Jawor, Logan Koch, Nathan Koch, Adrian Perez, and Leonel Raygoza) for their second place finish at the State Tournament. They will be competing in the Global Competition in May in Kansas City. We are proud of our team and Mrs. Blair their sponsor.



Please join us as the Westchester Middle School students perform High School Musical Jr. this spring! Performances will be May 8 (7:00 pm), May 9 (7:00 pm), and May 10 (2:00 pm). We look forward to seeing you there.

WMS, in coordination with the WPTC, is having their McTeacher Night on Monday, May 19, 2025 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Please join us at the McDonald's at 31st and Wolf Road for this event.

WMS is set to hold their graduation ceremony on Friday, May 30, 2025 at 7:00 PM. The ceremony will take place in the WMS gymnasium. We look forward to celebrating our graduates on this day.



## **Proviso Handyman Department**

#### May 2025

Time to open the windows and let the fresh air in! We can help take your storm windows off and put them away and install window screens. It's time to slide in a new filter in your furnace in preparation for summer. Do you have a rain barrel that needs to be connected to your gutter? We can do that for you!

#### Call 708-547-4001

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



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

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

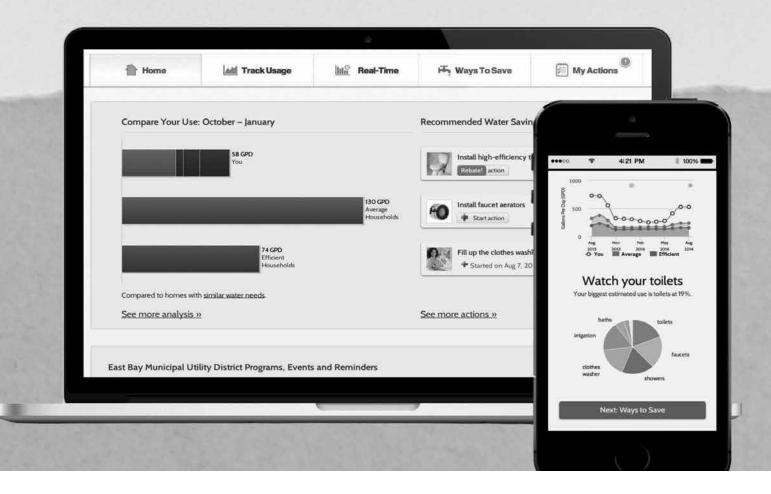
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Wing Snob Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHAMBER? EMAIL INFO@WESTCHESTER.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Please join us at the Roaring 20s Centennial Soirée to network and celebrate!

Alpine Banquet Haus

Saturday, May 17th

6pm

\$75.00/person

includes dinner and (2) two drink tickets

www.westchester-il.org/celebrate



We are nearing the end of this wonderful school year! Your support throughout the year has been instrumental. We have a few more fun events to round out the year such as 2nd and 5th grade celebrations, 8th grade dinner and year-end dance, and Field Days at all schools. Please keep an eye out for those events and volunteer opportunities!

May 7 will be WPTC's final meeting of the school year. It will be held at the WIS cafeteria at 6:00 p.m.

May holds Teacher Appreciation week that we celebrate May 5-9. Please help us show appreciation for all that this district's wonderful teachers and staff do throughout the year for our children!

The support received during the Plant Sale Fundraiser is greatly appreciated!

May is shaping up to be a fun and busy month, just as April proved to be. WPS had

We are nearing the end of their Spring Book Fair along with their open house. Both our support throughout the events were truly enjoyed. WIS had their spring book fair as well, along with their spring concert and Talent Show!

As always, we thank you for your continued support! We are looking forward to a fun May!

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

**May 7:** WPTC Meeting, 6pm WIS Cafeteria

**May 5-9:** Teacher Appreciation Week

**May 29:** WPS/WMS Field Day

May 30: WIS Field Day

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

 $wptc.membership to olk it.\\ com$ 

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

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





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#### **LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?**

Interfaith Career Network offers FREE assistance Open to all!

Thursday, May 15th from 7-9 pm

## Unlock Opportunities with Informational Interviews! -**Knowledge is Power!**

#### Fred Johnson, Presenter

In today's fast-changing job market, staying ahead is all about smart strategies and making the right connections. Enter the Informational Interview ... a powerful tool to uncover hidden opportunities, gain greater insights & knowledge, and build authentic relationships within your target industry.

With more companies hiring strategically and Networking becoming an even more important career-building skill, there's no better time to master the art of Informational Interviews.

Our speaker, Fred Johnson, has experience within Fortune 100 organizations and entrepreneurial roles in sales management, marketing and strategy within the consumer product, food & beverage, and ingredient industries.

Join us for an interactive & insightful discussion at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Road, in Western Springs on 5/15 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome! There is no cost to attend.

Visit <u>www.interfaithcareernetwork.com</u> for additional resources.

# Sib. Savon

June 29 3:00 -7:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of history and hospitality at the beautiful Prairie House as we sip, savor, and support the Westchester Community Events Foundation!

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: www.westchester-il.org/sipsavorsupport





MEMBERSHIP TYPES	APRIL 8TH - SEPTEMBER 14TH REGULAR RATES AGE 2yr & Up - membership required			
must reside in same household	RESIDENT / NON-RESIDENT			
INDIVIDUAL	\$130 / \$244			
FAMILY OF 2	\$203 / \$384			
FAMILY OF 3	\$240 / \$469			
FAMILY OF 4	\$277 / \$554			
FAMILY OF 5	\$314 / \$639			
FAMILY OF 6	\$351 / \$724			
FAMILY OF 7	\$388 / \$809			
FAMILY OF 8	\$425 / \$894			
FAMILY OF 9	\$462 / \$979			
FAMILY OF 10	\$499 / \$1064			
- Dhan				
SENIOR INDIVIDUAL	\$120 / \$226			
SENIOR COUPLE	\$186 / \$346			

#### Hours of Operation

SUNDAY 8:45am-10:45am

11:00am-11:30am 11:30am-6:00pm 6:15pm-8:15pm

MONDAY-THURSDAY 7:50am-8:50am

8:00am-11:15am 12:30pm-1:00pm 1:00pm-7:30pm

FRIDAY 7:50am-8:50am

8:00am-11:15am 12:30pm-1:00pm 1:00pm-6:00pm 6:15pm-8:15pm

SATURDAY

7:50am-8:50am 8:00am-11:00am 11:00am-11:30am 11:30am-6:00pm 6:15pm-8:15pm

RENTAL MEMBERS ONLY OPEN SWIM RENTAL

LAP SWIM 6/9-8/9 LESSONS MEMBERS ONLY **OPEN SWIM** 

LAP SWIM 6/9-8/9 LESSONS MEMBERS ONLY OPEN SWIM RENTAL

LAP SWIM 6/9-8/9 LESSONS MEMBERS ONLY **OPEN SWIM** RENTAL

\*Westchester Park District reserves the right to cancel, modify or restrict its schedule, or certain areas of the pool/facility due to mechanical complications, low attendance, staffing, undesirable weather, etc.

#### Daily admission rates

AGE

RESIDENT

NON-RESIDENT \$11.00

#### POOL RENTALS

The sun is hot and the water is cool; a perfect time for a party at the pool! Are you looking for the best summer party place? Look to the Westchester Community Pool! Private rentals include the exclusive use of the swimming facility for you and your guests. Rentals are staffed with lifeguards and a Pool Manager. Pool amenities are available and the renter may bring in food to be served.

If you are interested in a pool rental, please call the Community Center Administrative Office for pricing and availability at 708.865.8200.

Rental Availability: Friday: 6:15pm - 8:15pm Saturday: 6:15pm - 8:15pm Sunday: 8:45am-10:45am or 6:15pm-8:15pm

2025 Season

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.WPDPARKS.ORG

**DON'T MISS OUT - STAY CONNECTED** 



**@WPDPARKS** 





BONUS DAYS
included
SEPTEMBER
6TH, 7TH,
13TH & 14TH pending weather & staff



BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION - ADVERTISE IN THE "CELEBRATE WESTCHESTER" PROGRAM!

The Westchester Chamber of Commerce & Village of Westchester invite you to support the Roaring 20s Centennial Soirée by purchasing an ad in our commemorative event program, which will be seen by all attendees at this exciting milestone event!

AD OPTIONS: FULL PAGE - \$200; BUSINESS CARD - \$50; NAME LISTING - \$10

Ads can be promotional, celebratory, or personal—share your congratulations, promote your business, or honor a loved one! **Email info@westchester-il.gov to purchase!**