

Village of Westchester

ANNUAL REPORT

Barry Krumstok
Village Manager

2023



Dear Village Board & Residents,

It is with sincere enthusiasm that I present this annual report, marking my six months of service as your Village Manager. Since joining the team, my efforts have centered on revitalizing our community through comprehensive policy and procedural changes, with a focus on improving organization, enhancing community engagement, and fostering transparent and accountable governance. Along with the support of the Board and residents, I am also grateful for the unwavering dedication from our team of administrative officials and employees. Serving alongside each of you fills me with pride, and as we reflect on the past year, I am eager to highlight the positive strides we've collectively made in laying the groundwork for a stronger and more united Village.

Sincerely,



Barry Krumstok
Village Manager



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS



Imagine your daily routine – from the smooth commute along well-maintained roads to the seamless flow of water every time you turn on a faucet. These seemingly ordinary aspects are the backbone of our community's infrastructure. Roadways pave the way for easy travel, and water and sewer utilities ensure a constant, clean supply. They're not just structures; they are the silent architects of our convenience, shaping the comfort and quality of everyday life. We depend on this important infrastructure daily, so its maintenance and resilience is of the utmost importance. To continue providing residents with a smooth, safe and enjoyable daily experience, the Village of Westchester completed the following infrastructure improvements in 2023:

4 MILES

OF ROADWAY RESURFACED

13,700 FEET

OF WATER MAIN INSTALLED

27,400 FEET

OF CURB/GUTTER REPLACED

2,920 SQUARES

OF SIDEWALK REPLACED

PARKWAY TREES

- Village-Wide Tree Inventory was completed in 2023 in which 6,845 trees were surveyed, and 1,701 planting spaces were identified. This milestone, coupled with the upcoming Management Plan, equips us with essential data to effectively manage and strategically enhance the Village's urban forest.
- The Village planted 187 parkway trees in 2023 as part of its ongoing Parkway Tree Replacement Program.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

- The Village received a \$2.19 million ARPA allocation in 2023 that has allowed for the replacement of all residential water meters in the Village. The new meters read with 100% accuracy and can quickly detect a residential water leak.
- As of the end of December, 5,992 water meters have been replaced. Less than 350 replacements remain.

FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

- The Fire Department & Public Works Department worked together to inspect and flush all 1,276 fire hydrants throughout the Village.
- During the inspections, it was found that 10 hydrants needed to be replaced and 123 hydrants required repairs. Public Works has completed all replacements and repairs.
- This program was crucial in ensuring our Fire Department has a reliable and efficient water supply throughout the Village.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES & ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

After joining the Westchester team, it was my goal to revamp Village policies and procedures as well as implement important updates and facility improvements to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, compliance and transparency throughout the organization. These strategic changes not only enhance the internal workings of our Village but also lay the groundwork for a more responsive and citizen-centric governance. While this is an ongoing effort, we're certainly on the right track as we head into 2024. Take a look at what we've been working on:

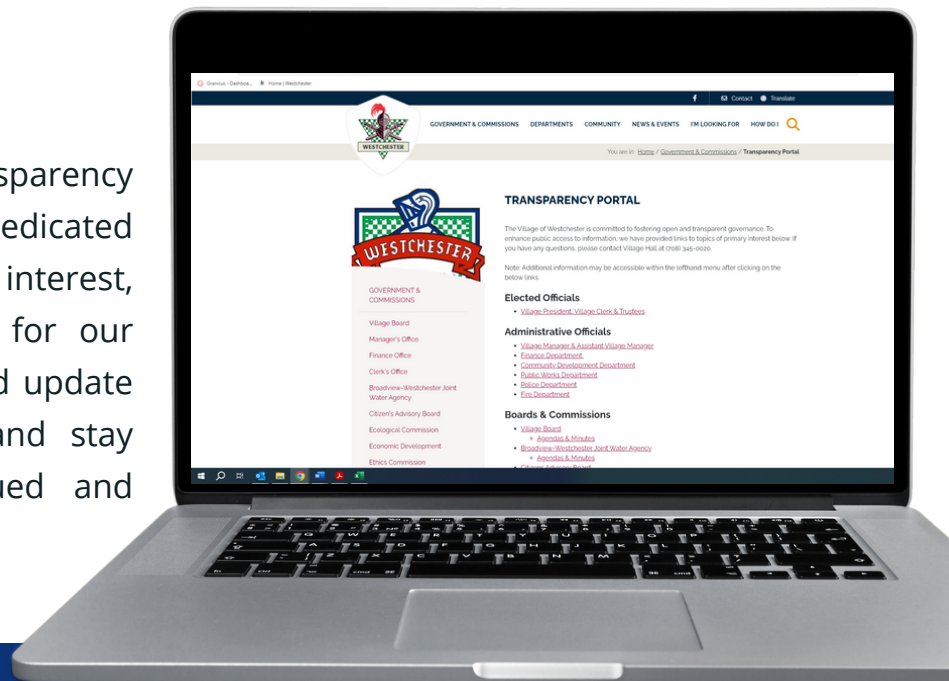
- Began rebuilding the Village's management team to align with the needs of the community and organization.
- Initiated three financial audits to bring the Village up to the current fiscal year, with completion scheduled over the course of 11 months.
- Negotiated with Public Works union & Sergeants union to establish mutually beneficial Collective Bargaining Agreements.
- Conducted a comprehensive Space Needs Study for the Administration, Police, Building, and Public Works Departments.
- Initiated a Pay and Classification Study for Village employees, incorporating a Performance Management element to be implemented in 2024.
- Updated the Village Personnel Policy Manual, last revised in 2006.
- Introduced onboarding and exit interviews for Village personnel.
- Reestablished regular attendance at Board of Fire and Police Commission meetings.
- Upgraded IT equipment to ensure reliable Village communications and partnered with Village of Hillside on IT services.
- Authorized the purchases of new body worn cameras for Police Department and a new ambulance stretcher for the Fire Department.
- Approved emergency circuit improvements at main Fire Station.
- Initiated HVAC improvements throughout Village Hall & Police Department.
- Engaged a professional to evaluate policies and procedures of the Economic Development Committee.
- Implemented Notary services at Village Hall.
- Collaborated with an actuarial firm to ensure sufficient budgeting for Police and Fire pensions.
- Conducted various contract reviews resulting in approximately \$200,000 in savings (e.g., HR software, T1 line termination, self-hosting phone services).
- Resumed monitoring and compliance efforts for RPZ and FOG programs.
- Amended the New Rental Residential Property Ordinance to include a Certificate of Inspection requirement.
- Amended the Code regarding Attendance and Order of Business for meetings to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.
- Implemented a Social Media Policy.
- Updated Purchasing Policy authority and procedures.
- Implemented a Purchasing Card Policy.
- Increased the frequency of online Municipal Code updates to monthly.
- Approved West40 Memorandum of Understanding.
- Formally joined and began engaging with Cross-Community Climate Collaborative (C4).
- Established intergovernmental agreement with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for more green alley improvements.
- Created Westchester Special Events Committee to increase collaboration between the Village, Park District, Library, School District, and other local entities to enhance community events.
- Welcomed Secretary of State Senior Only DMV into Village Hall.
- Facilitated appraisals of Village-owned properties at Enterprise Drive and prepared the buildings for "cold storage."

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS



The Village launched a weekly digital newsletter in November 2023. The Westchester Weekly E-News recaps recent news and events and highlights what to look forward to in the near future. Within 6 weeks of launching, we surpassed 1,000 subscribers. Let's keep growing in 2024, encourage your local friends & family to sign up by directing them to the Village website!

In December 2023, we added a "Transparency Portal" page on our website. This dedicated space consolidates key topics of interest, providing a comprehensive resource for our community. As we continue to add and update content, we invite you to explore and stay informed. Your engagement is valued and appreciated!



OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- New Resident Guide, Dining & Shopping Guide, & Senior Resource Guide can be found on our website.
- CodeRED, a web-based critical communication solution that enables the Village to notify residents of time-sensitive information - sign up on our website.
- Facebook - The Village maintains an active social media presence on its official Facebook page. Please follow the page at www.facebook.com/villageofwestchester to see construction updates, upcoming events, and other important news.

COMMUNITY & EVENTS

To enrich community events, the Village partnered with the Park District, Library, School District, and other local organizations to establish the Westchester Special Events Committee. Through regular meetings and ongoing communication, the Village can now organize a greater variety of events, fostering increased community engagement. Get ready for more fun in 2024!

2023 EVENTS & ACTIVITIES THE VILLAGE HOSTED, CONTRIBUTED TO, AND/OR PARTICIPATED IN:

- TOUCH-A-TRUCK
- NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
- MODCHESTER
- REUSE-A-PALOOZA
- HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION AT LOCAL SCHOOL
- PROVISO TOWNSHIP & COOK COUNTY ASSESSORS WORKSHOP
- TOWN HALL MEETING FOR CONGRESSMAN DAVIS
- 1ST ANNUAL JUNETEENTH EVENT
- 1ST ANNUAL 16" SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
- 4TH OF JULY PARADE
- TWO SHRED EVENTS
- SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE PARK
- SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK
- FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE
- TOUR DE PROVISO
- WINTER WONDERLAND TWO-NIGHT EVENT
- CHRISTMAS IN PROVISO
- SHOP WITH A COP



LOOKING AHEAD

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we are optimistic about the future of our Village in 2024. Our commitment to progress remains unwavering, and we look forward to further enhancing the quality of life for our residents. Moving forward, we aspire to build on our successes, address challenges, and implement new initiatives that will continue to elevate our community. It's essential to acknowledge that the residents are the backbone of our Village's success, and their continued support is invaluable. Together, we will shape a thriving and inclusive future for our vibrant community.

As always, please feel free to reach out with and questions, concerns, or comments. We are happy to assist!



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