

## GROW Second Quarterly Report

April – June 2024

**Events:** None

### **Newsletter Articles:**

- April 2024 – Electric Lawn Equipment is Up to the Task
- May 2024 – A Proclamation Recognizing May 6 Through May 10, 2024 as Air Quality Awareness Week in the Village of Westchester
- June 2024 – Global Warming & Electric Vehicles (EV) – Why buy an EV? -

**Commissioner Changes:** None

### **Accomplishments:**

- **Shred Event:** GROW participated in the biannual paper shredding event and recycling of electronics. An estimate of 350 residents dropped off material that Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Tree Restoration:** Westchester is a member of Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA program. The Village plans to cut down 150 parkway trees that have been found to be damaged, have disease, or for other reasons. New trees are being planted replacing those trees that have been removed or to add trees where needed.
- **Air Quality:** GROW approved purchase of PurpleAir devise (\$379). Justification needs to be written and submitted to the Village Board for approval.
- **Proclamation for National Air Quality Awareness Week** of May 6-10 approved by Village Board. Because of poor air quality in Westchester (F rating by American Lung Association), GROW Commissioners manned a table at the Westchester Fire Station, 10240 Roosevelt Road, in the morning of May 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to inform residents of poor air quality and how to protect themselves. Educational material was distributed on air quality and on electric vehicles (knowing gas burning vehicles provide 25-30% of poor air quality). An electric vehicle, electric lawnmower and hedge trimmer were available on site to encourage use of electric lawn equipment over gas powered equipment.
- **No Mow May Till Mother's Day:** Recommendations to village residents to help with pollination. Because seasonal spring is occurring earlier due to global warming, future plans may include mow every other week – i.e. "Slow Mow Summer".
- **Juneteenth Celebration:** GROW manned a table/tent providing information to residents on water conservation, air quality, converting to electric lawn care equipment and vehicles. Village brought a rain barrel to event.
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Award (IEPA):** LAK/GROW submitted grant proposal and received notification that the Village will receive a \$40K grant.

### **Policy and Infrastructure:**

- **Climate Action Plan Special Meeting:** Separate meetings are planned to begin evaluation of climate action plan over time.

- **Recommendation for bike lanes on Westchester Blvd, Canterbury, and Mayfair:** Westchester is part of a consortium with four other towns working with CMAP to improve bike path safety and access. In 2024, plans will be made and finalized in 2025. In 2026, implementation would begin based on resources and grants.

***Educational events in progress:***

- **Concert in the Park:** Discussions over having an Electric Vehicle show during Concerts in August at Mayfair Park are in progress.
- **Education in Schools:** GROW has provided information to the Village on programs to provide education to middle school residents regarding global warming's causes, effects on the earth, and plans to mitigate its progression. These programs are pending discussions with Westchester school administration and is planned for early 2024 school year.
- **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District:** Tour at the Stickney site has been postponed and now planning for spring of 2025.