



GRC Theme Key

April:

“When it is asked how much it will cost to protect the environment, one more question should be asked; how much will it cost our civilization if we do not?” Gaylord Nelson

Debrief on CUB “Illinois Solar for All” event which had 7 and 6 participants each day. This event didn’t make it into village newsletter. **Opportunity: Look for a local space to hold GROW Solar events that is central for all of Proviso and also a live stream opportunity at libraries.** GRC Objectives: **C, E13, E17, E33, LS9, LS10, LS11**

Only Earth Month Event open to public was “Westchester Shred to Recycle”, which included shredding, medications take back and MWRD educational materials and giveaways. Annual municipal hosting of intergovernmental Tree City USA Arbor Day tree planting which was at the Middle School. **Opportunity: Start planning Earth Month events earlier to include Cook County Sheriff, MWRD, Forest Preserve and/or Morton Arboretum speakers and also have larger scaled event to include food collections for Food Pantry.** GRC Objectives: **L38, WR11**

City Nature Challenge end of April - beginning of May which is a contest where participation makes an impact on understanding biodiversity and coexisting with nature. (<https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/>) **Opportunity: Work with Proviso Park Districts to engage in shared landscapes via picture taking and identification.** GRC Objectives: **L38, L40**

Reusa-Palooza discussion on adding additional sister events like up-cycling class or repair clinic. **Opportunity: Always looking for more volunteers in planning for this large scale event.** GRC Objectives: **WR22**

Climate Action Plan According to the CMAP 2019 greenhouse gas emissions report for our region, over the past 9 years, we have only achieved a reduction of 1% per year. A reduction of 5% per year is needed to reach our 2030 goal. IPCC Synthesis Report discussed. The press release from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was shared, with the following excerpts being highlighted"

- a. "Every increment of warming results in rapidly escalating hazards. More intense heatwaves, heavier rainfall and other weather extremes further increase risks for human health and ecosystems. In every region, people are dying from extreme heat. Climate-driven food and water insecurity is expected to increase with increased warming. When risks combine with other adverse events, such as pandemics or conflicts, they become more difficult to manage."
- b. "In this decade, accelerated action to adapt to climate change is essential to close the gap between existing adaptation and what is needed. Meanwhile, keeping warming to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels requires deep, rapid and sustained greenhouse gas emission reductions in all sectors. Emissions should be decreasing now and will need to be cut by almost half by 2030, if warming is to be limited to 1.5 degrees C of global warming." **Opportunity: To utilize tools available in order to reduce greenhouse gases.** GRC Objectives: **C, C1 C2**

Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution (CS2) was engaged again with Dawn in interim role as VM. **Opportunity: Research from VM to see what needs to be done in order to implement village wide program.** GRC Objectives: **E13, E17, E33**

LeeAnn Kruszynski assisted in another tree grant opportunity specifically for more trees on parkways which would include 70 trees and gator bags. **Opportunity: Host Tree Walk Summer of 2024 to increase resident engagement as well as apply for village to become a nontraditional arboretum** (<https://www.arbnet.org/>). **Will also look to obtain Tree City Growth award for current efforts.** GRC Objectives: **L24, L24a**

Roosevelt Road/Addison Creek dumping was addressed by Lee Kaufman. Having businesses that dump near a waterway or within a primary business section degrades the quality of our villages natural resources. **Opportunity: Address building owners who do not appropriately handle waste. Village can recognize businesses who do practice sustainability as well as attract new businesses that share in a community brand featuring natural resources. Westchester could be coined as "Prairie Strong" to entice a more green economy to support our villages greatest asset, Wolf Road Prairie.** GRC Objectives: **WR23, ED6, ED7, ED9, ED10**

[April Newsletter](#) was written by LeeAnn Kruszynski and Matt Downs titled "Waste not, want not". April has been designated Food Waste Awareness Month with food waste, environmental health and your own finances being closely linked (pg 10). Advertised for Village Spring Cleanup in May (pg24) and Shred To Recycle event in April (pg 26). **Opportunity: Check** GRC Objectives: **WR22, WR24, WR25**

May:

Former Commissioner Diane Scott during public comment introduced native mural opportunity and Lee mentioned sculpture art as well within our public spaces. Nikki brought up in NB MWRD Rain Barrel art which ties in generally **Opportunity: Collaborate with CAB who is also working on village mural concept. Form Rain Barrel art project similar to LaGrange and auction off with proceeds going to Foundation.** GRC Objectives: **SC3, SC4, SC6**

International Compost Awareness Week Call to Action for May was discussed but there wasn't enough time to move forward. (<https://illinoiscomposts.org/education-and-outreach/call-to-action-il-libraries-can-support-international-compost-awareness-week/>) **Opportunity: Connect with Library to host an Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition Awareness Week in May 2024.** GRC Objectives: **WR12, WR25**

"Westchester Spring CleanUp" event planning and scoping out locations for cleanup. **Opportunity: Host event twice a year, in Spring & Fall, and be prepared with safety materials such as vests, gloves and pick-up tools. Set-up dates in December for 2024 to encourage a larger turnout for event.** GRC Objectives: **WR24**

Sustainable Landscaping event held with Ryan Anderson of Midwest Grows Green/IPM Institute. Resident Leann Pettis said one of the biggest takeaways from this event was the awareness of how dogs and children are transporters of pesticides by tracking into a home and spreading throughout. Also a concern if pesticides are used in parks. **Opportunity: Hold more events supporting Natural Lawn Care and tie in composting education. Set-up GROW sponsored events at Library as Earth Hours to engage community outreach of all ages.** GRC Objectives: **C9, L14, L29, L30, L39, SC1, SC2**

GROW co-hosted Cycle Event with Police Department to hold an adult class and separate children's bike class (skills & drills). **Opportunity: Host event twice a year. Become a more bicycle friendly community.** GRC Objectives: **M3, M4**

Discussion regarding potential to publish in newsletter abbreviated minutes or meeting highlights. **Opportunity: Consider a concept to share our meeting information in monthly newsletter. Is this something Trustee Liaison and VMs can identify and compile for all appointed public bodies?** GRC Objectives: **SC35**

[May Newsletter](#) written by Nicole Molinaro titled "Green Lawns & Blue Waters" connecting Westchester's unique position surrounded by nature in three directions and our cultural control of residential lawns by "Reading Your Weeds" (pg 10). Westchester/Ride Illinois Family Bike Ride ad (pg17). GRC Objectives: **L29, L29a, L29b, L29c, L30**

June:

Had representative from International Pure Water Filter give presentation and made recommendation to Village Board to not move forward.

Topic of Desplaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District Mosquito Abatement discussed regarding how often and why they would conduct an adult mosquito treatment. DVMAD does not conduct routine adult mosquito control operation, i.e. a DANGER code word chemical called DUET Dual-Action Adulticide. **Opportunity: Host a DVMAD educational event that would include how to use Mosquito Dunks at home and other ways to mitigate or repel mosquitoes in an ecological way.** GRC Objectives: **L23c, L29c**

Planning for 4th Of July Parade which included EVs and Westchester Cycle Group. Agreed to hand out bookmarks again and Diane took lead in designing and printing. GRC Objectives: **SC35, M39**

[June Newsletter](#) Bicycle Safety article written by Lee Kaufman talked about Rules of the Road and Hand Signals which included a Reuse-a-palooza ad (pg 10) GRC Objectives: **W23, W24, W56, C13**