



Village of Westchester

December 2010 Newsletter

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From the Desk of The President



The Thanksgiving Holiday of 2010 has just passed us by, and I hope all of our residents and visitors had a wonderful holiday feast. Gathering together with family and friends to give thanks for living in the greatest country in the world despite our troubles and problems, provides hope for the future. I hope everyone took a moment to remember our military forces overseas and those who are less fortunate than ourselves. I would like to thank all of the residents who volunteered to work at area shelters, and served several hundred people with a hot meal.

HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE

For me, December is a very special month. I enjoy all aspects of the Holiday Season such as the lights, ornaments, decorated trees, and holiday displays that can be seen throughout the Village. I can remember Becket Avenue glittering with white lights and Wakefield lined with red jacketed soldiers standing guard along the block. Individual displays are also quite impressive and most appreciative. The holiday season always brings out the best in people

as we cross over into a new year. On behalf of the entire village board, staff, and employees of Westchester, I would like to thank each and every resident, business, and visitor for bringing that special something to the Village this year. Although 2010 has been full of stressful surprises, those instances have helped us grow as a community and shown our strength. The weather and the damage it caused to our homes and beautiful village will certainly top the list of surprises however, equally important is the way we responded as a community. Many individuals and organizations came together in a common effort to restore our tranquil way of life in our community.

The Village of Westchester has also been getting ready for the holidays. We had our Second Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday December 3rd at 7pm at the main Firehouse on Roosevelt Road. For those of you blocked in traffic on Canterbury on November 18th at 9am our tree contractor Rick Sinnott, cut down an approximately 60 foot evergreen tree donated by the Staven family on Canterbury Street for

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Profile



Name: Patrick Sherlock
Rank: Lieutenant
Years as Firefighter: 21

Was there a moment when you realized this is the job for me? When I started as a new Firefighter and began to respond to emergency calls I knew that I had found a career. When I was hired I enjoyed the training I received so much that I became an instructor and I have been instructing for 19 years.

Describe a good day at work: A good day at work would be routine day of station duties, the daily training with the other Firefighters and a good dinner to end the day.

What is the best part about your job? The best part of the job is what a difference that the Fire Department can make in a person's life. The routine calls such as helping a person who has fallen and how appreciative they are for the assistance.

What is one downside to your job? A downside of the job is being away from the family for 24 hours at a time. On the holidays missing the whole day and not being able to spend the time with the family to celebrate.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow your career path? The best advice I can give to someone looking for a Firefighting career is to take as many tests as possible. The Fire Departments also require you to be a Paramedic enroll at school get licensed and get as much training as possible while testing.

What would occur on your perfect day off? A perfect day off for me would be a quiet day at home doing some light yard work, barbecuing and spending some relaxing time with the family.

Keeping the Wreath Red

The Westchester Fire Department wishes all the residents a Merry Christmas and safe holiday season. Each year a tradition of fire departments across the country is to hang a wreath at their stations with all red bulbs. The wreaths hung are part of the Keep the Wreaths Red safety campaign. When a fire is caused by holiday decorations, a red bulb is replaced with a white bulb. The wreaths are hung as a reminder to practice fire safety during the holiday season. The Westchester Fire Department wishes to keep the wreath red this year. Below are some holiday safety tips to keep your home safer during the holiday season.



Here are a few ways to help firefighters keep their wreaths red:

Trees- Look for "fire-resistant" labels when buying artificial trees. Although it doesn't mean the tree won't catch fire, it does mean it won't burn as easily.- Check live trees for dryness by bouncing the tree and grabbing a branch and pulling. Very few needles should fall off a healthy tree.- Keep trees away from fireplaces and radiators; take traffic patterns into account when setting up your tree.- Make sure your tree is secure in its tree stand, and keep the stand filled with water.

Candles- Keep burning candles in sight. Always extinguish all candles before you go to bed or leave the house.- Keep candles away from flammable items such as trees, decorations, curtains and furniture. Keep them away from pets and children, too.

Lights- Check each set of Christmas lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wire, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets.- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

- If you use an extension cord, make sure it's rated for the intended use.

Make a Fire Escape Plan

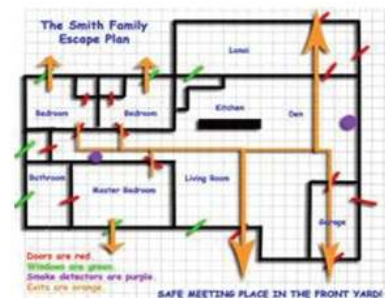
In the event of a fire, remember - time is the biggest enemy and every second counts! Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames.

Important

- Practice escape plans every month.
- Plan two ways out of each room.
- Immediately leave your home when a fire occurs.
- Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- Designate a meeting location away from your home.
- Once you're out, stay out!

Important

Having working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home dramatically increases your chances of survival. Smoke alarm batteries need to be tested every month and changed with new ones at least once a year. Also, consider replacing the entire smoke alarm every ten years, or as the manufacturer guidelines recommend.



Officer Spotlight: Lt. Mike O'Hagan

Name: Mike O'Hagan
Occupation: Police Lieutenant
Years as police officer: 20

Was there a moment when you realized this is the job for me?

I saw law enforcement as an honorable profession while growing up. After High School, I worked as a police dispatcher in Broadview. I



was attracted to the excitement of knowing that every day at work is different.

I was hooked, and started testing to be a police officer as soon as I turned 21.

Describe a good day at work:

(NO FLOODING!) Working as part of a team, and knowing that you made a positive difference in other peoples' lives and that all of our officers will go home safe.

What is the best part about your job?

Having the opportunity to work with a great group of officers on our

department to make things better for people in the community in a variety of circumstances.

The public does not always see the results of the professionalism and commitment our officers have until it affects them directly.

What is one downside to your job?

This job definitely has an impact on your family life. Having a supportive family like mine has made all the difference in the world as the station is sometimes my second home.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow your career path?

Get a good education, and explore the numerous options available in this career.

Keep your eyes and ears open, and work hard to make a difference. Don't get discouraged as most things are difficult before they are easy. Tomorrow is never a promise, so do the most you can today.

What would occur on your perfect day off?

NO RAIN! Sleep late, watch the Bears beat the Packers in the playoffs, take the dogs for a walk, watch the Blackhawks beat Detroit with friends, and then leave for the airport with my family for a nice long vacation!

Holiday safety tips from the Police Department

The Westchester Police Department offers residents these tips to keep the holiday season safe and enjoyable:

- Keep your doors LOCKED. This applies to your automobiles as well as your home and garages.
- Keep valuables out of sight. Don't leave your GPS, radar detector, laptop computer, purse, briefcase, wallet etc... in open view in your

vehicle.

- When out shopping, make sure you carry only the credit card or amount of cash you plan on using. Report any lost or stolen card immediately.
- Practice ATM safety. Avoid ATM's that look like they've been tampered with. Keep your PIN number secret and don't write it on the card. Put cash away immediately. Surrender your wallet, purse,

etc... if confronted. Don't resist or struggle. Report the crime to the police immediately.

- Shop safely on the internet. Buy from companies you are familiar with and trust. Look for the "padlock" sign on the website. NEVER give out personal information online or on the phone

such as your social security number or bank account information.

- And last but not least "Drive Smart and Drive Sober". Always appoint a designated driver or call a taxi when out celebrating and indulging in alcoholic beverages. Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year !

Police Blotter

1. On October 19th 2010 at 10:42am a Criminal Damage to Property was reported at the McDonalds located at 11110 31st Street. The restaurant manager advised that some time during the previous evening someone damaged the drive-thru window. No entry was made to the store.

2. On October 28th 2010 at 2:02pm a burglary to motor vehicle was reported at the Hampton Inn at 2222 Enterprise Drive. Various tools were taken from the tool box located in the bed of the truck. The tool box was forced open by unknown means.

3. On October 28th 2010 at 12:27pm a retail theft was reported at the Jewel Foods Store at 2128 Mannheim Road. Jewel loss prevention agent advised that he stopped a person for taking 20 packs of batteries. The alleged offender

was arrested by the Westchester Police Department.

4. On November 1st 2010 at 6:56am a burglary to motor vehicle report was reported on the 10800 block of Robinhood Street. The resident reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle and took items from the glove compartment.

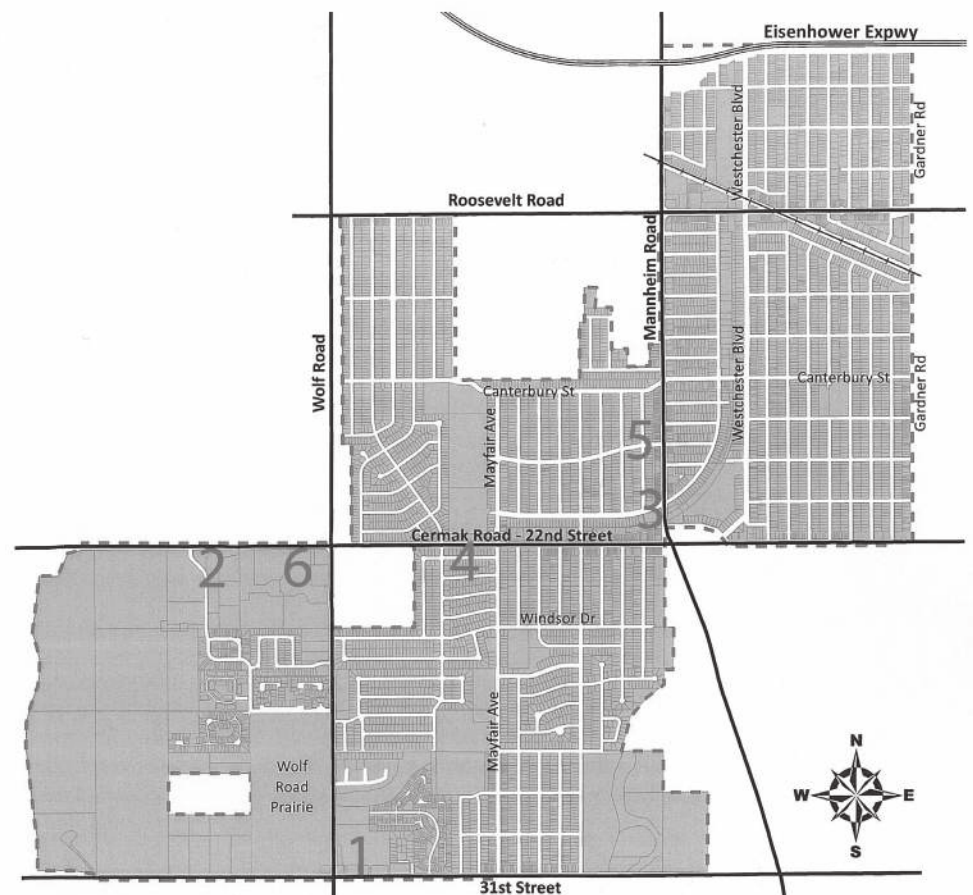
5. On November 9th 2010 at 11:46am a criminal damage to auto was reported at Belleview and Oxford. It was reported that sometime during the previous night, the front and rear window was damaged on the complainant's vehicle parked on the street.

6. On November 12th 2010 at 3:44pm a theft report was taken at the Panera Bread located at 11215 Cermak Road. A patron advised that their purse was taken after being placed on the back of a chair earlier in the afternoon at the restaurant.



Village of Westchester

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH



CALENDAR

4 DECEMBER 2010

Wednesday, December 1

Registration begins for Youth programs, including Storytimes and winter reading club. Contact Youth Department at 708-562-3573. Westchester Library.

December 1 - December 18

Gently Used Toy Drive at Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154. 708-562-2258. www.divineprovidenceschool.org

Monday, December 6

Friends of the Library Chess and Scrabble Game Night 6:30 PM at Village Hall. Membership in Friends required. Membership table available on game nights.

Tuesday, December 7

Early Childhood Screening at WPS appointment only Westchester Public Schools.

Bilingual Parents Mtg. at WPS. 7:00PM. Westchester Public Schools.

Wednesday, December 8

Winter Band Concert at WMS. 7:00PM. Westchester Public Schools.

Thursday, December 9

Senior Citizen Concert at WMS. 10:00AM. Westchester Public Schools.

Divine Providence School Offers "Teetering Tots" Playgroup 9:30-10:30AM. Teetering Tots is a program for parents and their children between the ages of 0-4. The purpose is to give parents a local activity to promote friendships while providing entertainment for the tots. For more information, call Divine Providence School at 708-562-2258.

Friday, December 10

Holiday Dance at WMS, 2:50-5:15PM. Westchester Public Schools.

Saturday, December 11

Market Day Pick-up 8:30-9:30AM at Divine Providence School, 2500 Mayfair Avenue, or call 708-562-2258.

Sunday, December 12

The Christmas Song, 6:00PM. The Westchester Bible Church is putting on an all new musical drama of the True Reason for the Season. With over 90 performers ranging in age from preschool to adult we are sure you will enjoy this performance. Visit our website for more information

www.westchesterbiblechurch.org

Westchester Community Church is hosting a Christmas Concert Spectacular at 7 PM. Join singer Sarah Van Drunen and musicians for a night celebrating the Christmas season. Complimentary cookies and refreshments will be served after the show. Advance sale tickets are Adults \$10, Children 12 & under \$7.50, Family ticket 2 adults & 2 children \$25. \$15 and \$10 at the door. To purchase tickets or for more information, please call the church office at 708/865-1282.

Saturday/Sunday, December 11-12

Hospitality after all weekend Masses Sat. 5:00 PM and Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 AM in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Divine Providence Parish, 2550 Mayfair

Sunday, December 12

Advent Reconciliation, 3:00 PM-4:00 PM, Divine Providence Parish, 2550 Mayfair

Tuesday, December 14

WMS Band & Chorus Performance at Yorktown Mall 12:00 noon Westchester Public Schools.

Winter Band Concert at WIS 7:00PM.

Wednesday, December 15

Divine Providence Over 50 Club Christmas Meeting and Luncheon will be held at Maggiano's in Oakbrook. Doors will open at 11:30 A.M. Tickets are available until December 7, \$15.00 for members and \$25.00 for guests. Call Ruth @ 708-947-9020 if you do not have your ticket yet.

Thursday, December 16

Christmas Program 7:00PM Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue.

Friday, December 17

Taize Prayer, 7:30 PM, Divine Providence Parish, 2550 Mayfair

December 20 - January 3

Winter Break. Westchester Public Schools & Divine Providence School.

Monday, December 20

Annual Christmas Show, 1:00 and 7:00PM, Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue. For more information, contact the school

office at 865-0122.

Aspire will be working the gift wrap area at the Oak Brook Mall on the following days and times. Various shifts available. Great opportunity for individuals, friends, groups, businesses or families with older children! Contact Julie Gies, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator 708.547.3550 extension 3554 or igies@aspireofillinois.org

- December 17/18
10:00AM-9:00PM
- December 19
10:00AM-7:00PM
- December 21/22/23
10:00AM-9:00PM
- December 24
8:00AM-6:00PM

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Masses at 3:45, 5:30 and 10:30 PM, Divine Providence Parish, 2550 Mayfair.

December 24 & 25

Village Hall Closed

December 24 – December 26

Library closed for Christmas holiday.

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00PM. Westchester Bible Church invites you to join this beautiful time of singing, Scripture reading, and a stirring message from Pastor Julian. Visit our website for more information, www.westchesterbiblechurch.org

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day Masses, 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30AM. There is no 5:00 PM anticipated Mass for Sunday on Christmas Day, divine Providence Parish, 2550 Mayfair.

Friday, December 31

New Year's Eve Service, 7:00 PM Westchester Bible Church plans for your whole family to join us for this fun evening! We begin with a potluck, and then we have a message, a time of singing, and Communion to usher in the New Year! Finish the evening with games for all ages! Visit our website for more information www.westchesterbiblechurch.org

December 31 and January 1

Village Hall Closed

December 31 – January 2

Library closed for New Year's holiday.

New Vehicle License Renewal Date

The Village Board has changed the due date for vehicle licenses from February 15th to April 30th. Renewal forms will be mailed to residents during early March, 2011.

Vehicle license rates have not changed, and the penalty for purchasing a vehicle license after the due date will stay the same. The late payment penalty is double the original vehicle license fee, e.g. passenger cars vehicle license fee is \$35, and the late renewal fee is \$70.

New Vehicle License Rate for Antique Vehicles Residents who own an antique vehicle and have a State of Illinois antique license plate will now be able to purchase a \$10 annual village license fee, rather than paying the \$35 passenger vehicle fee.

The Village Board decided that vehicles with State of Illinois antique plates are meant to travel infrequently on the streets, and should not be required to pay the same fee that a regular passenger vehicles that frequently use the Village's streets.

Residents are reminded that they must purchase a vehicle license for all vehicles housed in Westchester, as well as for all vehicles that are registered through the State of Illinois with a Westchester address, e.g. antique vehicles not housed in Westchester, but registered to a Westchester address, are required to have a Westchester vehicle license

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Day Mass at 9:30. This is not a holyday of obligation this year. There is a 5:00 PM anticipated Mass for Sunday today. Divine Providence Parish, 2550 Mayfair

Monday, January 3

Westchester Community Church, 1840 Westchester Blvd. Fish Chicken Fry, 4:30 - 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall, delicious chicken, fish and shrimp dinners served. If you have any questions, please call 708/865-1282.

DESK

Continued from page 1

our display this year. It was quite a sight to see how Rick supported, cut, and placed the large tree on a Public Works trailer. The transportation to just outside the main fire station on Roosevelt Road was an equally eye opening task. As the Public Works truck pulled the trailer down Mannheim Road, both lanes were put at a standstill. Members of the Staven family who donated the evergreen tree were present and did the honor of flicking the switch and illuminating our tree.

The theme of this year's tree decorations are 'Candy Canes'. Red and white LED low voltage lights were placed on the tree. The tree was decorated by our two members of our Public Works Department, Eric and Ted. Eric and Ted decorated our tree last year and after doing such a wonderful job, they volunteered to do it again. The holiday tree was adorned with decorations made by our primary and intermediate school children. Thank you to CAB member Sucada Bell and Daisy Girl Scout troop 51815 for also making ornaments for our tree.

Santa traveled all the way from the North Pole to make a surprise visit to our village. He rode our Fire Engine and brought hot chocolate, cookies, and complimentary photos with the jolly fellow were taken.

LIGHT POLE DECORATIONS

Our Citizen Advisory Committee picked out the decorative lighting for our street light on Mannheim Rd. There are several wonderful designs on display that were all picked by the group. Holiday banners that previously adorned our light poles were also added to street lights throughout the village. These banners were part of a decorating program made possible through the Westchester Chamber of Commerce with the assistance of the business community and the Village. The Chamber of Commerce is always looking for additional members. Please consider joining in 2011.

WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY

In the past month, the CAB, along with Judy Saraceno-Swenson, our food pantry coordinator, and the Boy Scout Troops from Westchester have



Members of the Citizens Advisory Board, from left to right: Kari Christianson, Charles Pedersen – Chair, Joe Mastruzzo, Sucada Bell, and Colleen Jamison-Vice Chair. Not pictured: Michelle Leibrock

been collecting non perishable foods. Volunteers have been organizing, sorting, picking up, and delivering care packages to those in need. Holiday times are especially difficult for those deciding how to manage getting a gift for their children and putting food on the table. Westchester has always been a community who helps those in need. If you need assistance or would like to drop off food item, the Village is here to help. Please contact the village hall at 345-0020.

VILLAGE NEWS

2010 has been a very interesting year for your Village Board. We, like all communities, have been working through the recessionary times and have been working diligently to keep Westchester in sound financial shape, without cutting personnel and services.

I recently read about the number of police departments that have had to lay off their police personnel whether sworn officers or civilian staff. We have been fortunate enough to hire and replace officers who have retired. As a police officer myself for 35 years, I understand the importance of having enough police officers to be on guard watching our community. Recessionary times tend to increase the amount of crime that is reported to the authorities. With high unemployment figures just under 10%, as well as those homes being foreclosed upon, crime prevention has become that much more important.

Westchester is fortunate to have a diligent police force that keeps a watchful eye every day. I am pleased with the leadership of our Chief of Police April Padalik and her staff. I believe our officers are the best

and have shown the "Community Commitment" to our village.

Recently our fire department, with the assistance of neighboring fire departments, responded to a house fire on Sunnyside Ave. Fortunately no one was injured in the fire. Village Manager Stan Urban and I met with the homeowner and saw the destructive effect that a fire can have on a home and its contents. Fire spreads very rapidly where combustible materials are available to fuel the fire. Please take a moment to re-check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Follow the manufacturers recommendations regarding extension cords while decorating for the holiday. Electrical fires and those involving space heaters increase during the holiday and winter months.

Accidental death and severe injury can occur and is preventable with the right precautions being taken. I am very proud of Chief Richard Belmonte, his staff, and all the firefighters who run into harm's way when most are running out.

The fire department has recently received a \$75,000 grant in order to put computer terminals in our fire apparatus. This also includes software that will be compatible with our emergency communications center. Great job, Fire Department.

Public Works has done a great job removing all the leaves from our streets this fall season. The purchase and use of the leaf attachment for our equipment has made leaf removal more manageable. Waste Management dumped over 750 tons of leaves this season. Thanks to all our residents for utilizing the leaf bags we delivered. Each garbage day I saw numerous bags lining the parkways ready for disposal.

On several occasions we were able to augment leaf removal with

assistance from Cook County Sheriff's SWAP program. Low risk offenders assigned to do community service by the court system were at our disposal at least two days a month. This is a supervised program the Sheriff of Cook County Tom Dart has made available to communities throughout Cook County. I have worked side by side with these folks on numerous occasions and have thanked them for their efforts to help clean up areas of town.

The recently sandblasted and repainted fire hydrants look great. Close to 900 hydrants were brought down to bare metal, primed, and hand painted with two coats of red paint. The fresh red hydrants now gleam on our parkways.

The street reconstruction project undertaken by your Village Board has come to completion this calendar year. After a late start due to the construction strike and devastating flood, we were able to complete all of the streets that were scheduled for this year. I know the residents who use Gardner Road, Manchester, Heidorn, Devonshire, Cromwell, Bond, Kent, Evers, Mandel, and Wakefield have seen vast improvements. Thanks to Joseph Nardulli our selected bidder for the project for his excellent, professional, and timely completion of the work. The Board will do everything in its power to keep our road construction projects moving forward next year.

Veterans Day November 11th 2010 was celebrated with an afternoon ceremony held at the Westchester Park District's Mayfair Facility. I, along with Park District President Steven Busa, and Library Director Ruth McCrank spoke to those in attendance giving praise, admiration, and respect to all of our military veterans who have served as well as those who continue to serve our country. World War II Veteran Frank Klika, a long time Westchester resident, spoke about his tour of duty in the Army, as well as with the Air Force. We salute your service.

FLOOD DAMAGE UPDATE

I have recently received a disturbing communication from FEMA addressed to Governor Quinn. This letter is going to have serious impacts on all municipalities who submitted damage assessment claims with FEMA for damage done to Government owned property including Schools, Park Districts, and Libraries. The letter states that "After careful review the damage done in Cook

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National Safety Council's tips for a safe holiday season

For many people, decorating the Christmas tree is a favorite part of the holiday. The National Safety Council offers some safety tips to make sure a mishap doesn't spoil your holiday season.

Christmas Trees

- A real tree can add to the spirit of Christmas by filling your home with beauty and the scent of pine. But a real tree can also pose a fire hazard. Each year, more than 400 residential fires involve Christmas trees and tragically nearly 40 deaths and 100 injuries result from those fires.

- Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull

off the branches. On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky with sap.

- Cut off about two inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.

- Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.

- If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.

- An average of 210 home structure fires begin with Christmas trees

and result in 24 fire deaths, 27 fire injuries and \$13.3 million in property damage.

Tree lights

- Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights only outdoors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets.

- Also, use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs.

- Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or

leave the house.

Tree ornaments

- Always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places.

- Read labels before you use materials that come in jars, cans and spray cans.

- Never place lighted candles on a tree or near any flammable materials.

- Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them.

- Do not hang popcorn chains and candy canes on the tree when small children are present. They may think that other tree ornaments are also edible.

DESK

Continued from page 6

County was not of the severity and magnitude to warrant its designation for Public Assistance under this disaster declaration. Therefore, your appeal is denied."

As you can imagine I, along with all your elected officials vehemently disagree.

Westchester is only one of more than 65 governmental bodies who had damage and submitted claims for a 75% reimbursement. At this time it appears that the door has been closed by FEMA to receive the much needed financial assistance to the villages and cities in Cook County.

The Village of Westchester alone submitted a damage assessment over 1.2 million dollars, with the Park, School, and Library District adding an additional 950 thousand dollars to the total.

I have spoke to our Congressional Leaders Daniel Lipinski, and Danny Davis about this injustice as well as placed calls to FEMA officials. I am requesting that all residents throughout Cook County contact their congressional officials and protest this arbitrary and capricious decision.

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

I had the opportunity to attend a

Legislative Breakfast held at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park. Senate President John Cullerton was the guest speaker. Our State Senator Kimberly Lightford was also in attendance, as well as numerous elected officials, community representatives, and hospital staff and administrators. Senator Cullerton expressed guarded optimism about the financial crisis of our state. The Senator responded to questions by Oak Park President Pope about not reducing the 'Distributive Share' of money that municipalities receive from the state. I asked the Senators to start reaching across the aisle and to work collaboratively with all elected officials to help solve the problems Illinois is facing and start creating jobs to put people back to work.

As your President, I have been attending meetings with state and local officials fairly regularly. One of the topics that have put all of us on notice state wide is the pension crisis that Illinois is in. Some 41 local municipalities have in the recent elections on Nov. 2 placed this Referenda item on the ballot regarding Pension Reform. The advisory measure passed in every community with a 75-84% margin.

Not a meeting goes on without a discussion of this very troubling topic. The Illinois Municipal

League, a state wide organization, recently disclosed the amount each city or village was funded per the department of insurance from 2004-2008. As I saw the list I was amazed at some of the funding levels for Police and Fire pensions. Some villages were only at a level of under 10%. Westchester totals were on the higher side of the villages with Police at 72.5% and Fire at 75%. This will surely be a hot topic in our legislature this year.

SENIOR AGING WELL MEETING

I visited the Nov. 17 meeting of the Aging Care Connections senior group at the Mayfair Park Recreation Center. The topic of discussion was Small Steps for Better Health & Senior Services. Information was made available to the group by Dr. Tom about exercise, diet, and nutritional choices. He explained that diabetes and obesity is on the rise but can be prevented with regular exercise and choosing the right kinds of foods. He stressed the importance of portion control and the positive impact all of these can have on our health. Informative handouts were made available from AARP, as well as Proviso Township.

The Senior Ride Program, as well as the Township Handyman program were also explained to those in attendance. For more information regarding Aging Care Connections

please contact 708-354-1323. Proviso Township can be contacted at 708-449-5700.

A representative from Westlake Hospital located at 1225 W. Lake St. in Melrose Park spoke about a FREE Westlake Senior Center Program for adults 63 years of age or older. Free education programs, as well as free health screenings for certain illnesses and discounted memberships at their fitness center, cafeteria, outpatient pharmacy are available. For more information, and a schedule of events, please call Westlake Hospital at 866-938-7256.

SMOKE TESTING

The Village authorized smoke testing has been completed with the exception of some re-inspections that will be completed as soon as possible. Letters have been sent to residences and businesses where downspout and sump pumps were improperly connected to the Village sanitary system, instead of to the storm sewer system.

Staff has been working diligently to collect, evaluate, and review the findings of our contractor. Any questions can go to John Fecarotta the Village Plumbing Inspector. Please accept the thanks of the Village for making every effort to correct this problem. The less storm water entering the sanitary system the better.



Mango Comes to the Library

This fall, the Library added **Mango Languages** to its stable of databases on the Library's website www.westchesterpl.org. Foreign language study has become increasingly important with the ready access to relatives, friends, colleagues and businesses around the world via the Internet. Mango is an online language-learning system and offers courses in 22 foreign languages as well as 15 *English as a Second Language (ESL)* courses. Whether for business, travel or simply curiosity, English speaking patrons can learn everyday greetings and helpful phrases for each of the 22 languages by selecting a language and choosing "Mango Basic." For more extensive instruction, "Mango Complete" is available in 16 languages. Each lesson provides clear instructions, with vocabulary used in real life situations and audio spoken by native speakers. Patrons who are bilingual, for whom English is not their native language, will find the ESL classes helpful in improving their English speaking skills. The Library is pleased to offer Mango for patrons who want a convenient - and fun - way to learn a foreign language.

Celebrating the Holidays and Our Diversity

The Library's reference librarians know that "celebrating the holiday season" can mean different things to different patrons, depending on each resident's religious belief and cultural tradition. It is because of this very diversity that the Library's collection offers books and resources for patrons to explore their own heritage or to enhance their understanding of the culture or religion of their friends and neighbors. For example, travel books and videos have always been a popular approach for learning about another country or culture and its people, along with music CDs and foreign films on DVD. Crafters will find books with instructions on making wreaths and holiday decorations, along with a variety of books for making last minute gifts out of wood, yarn, fabric and more. Parents with young children will find a wonderful selection in the Youth Department of folk-tales and stories that reflect the unique characteristics and traditions of other lands and peoples. And finally, food is at the heart of many holiday traditions and religious festivities. The Library's collection of cookbooks offers recipes from around the world so patrons can revisit traditional recipes from their youth or discover tempting recipes from other countries. Whether celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year, or another holiday, take a break from the holiday shopping frenzy and stop by the Library for resources to enrich your holiday celebration and revive your spirit!

Staying Safe and Warm This Winter

Winter in the greater Chicagoland area can mean cold temperatures, ice, snow, wind chill factors below freezing and even the occasional power outage. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has valuable information for learning about hypothermia, frostbite and other health concerns related to winter weather on their website at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter, including a link to an excellent booklet entitled "Extreme Cold" in PDF that you can view, download or print. You will find checklists of supplies to keep on hand for your home or in your car, safety tips on heating your home, recommendations for avoiding frozen water pipes, travel safeguards, tips on dressing warmly and more.

Infants and the elderly are especially vulnerable to prolonged exposure to cold temperatures. If you have a power outage or the furnace shuts down when the temperatures plummet, the village hall and fire stations serve as 24-hour warming centers. The Westchester Public Library is also a warming center during normal library hours.

Keeping your car's gas tank full is just one of many helpful tips for drivers from the Illinois State Police website www.isp.state.il.us/traffic/traffictips.cfm. The American Automobile Association (AAA) also offers excellent information for drivers at www.aaaxchange.com. Click the "On the road" tab for "Winter driving tips." Be sure to scroll down the page for their .PDF download "How to go on ice and snow." (Another option: enter "aaa winter driving tips" in a Google search box)



D.I. Alum and Westchester Library Board Vice President, Frank Perry, joined his daughter, Ava's, Pre-Kindergarten class.

Mr. Perry (owner of Joe's Place) read one of Ava's favorite books, "Clifford's First Autumn."

Mr. Perry stressed to the children the importance of reading and using our Westchester Public Library.

December Puzzle Page

Christmas Crossword

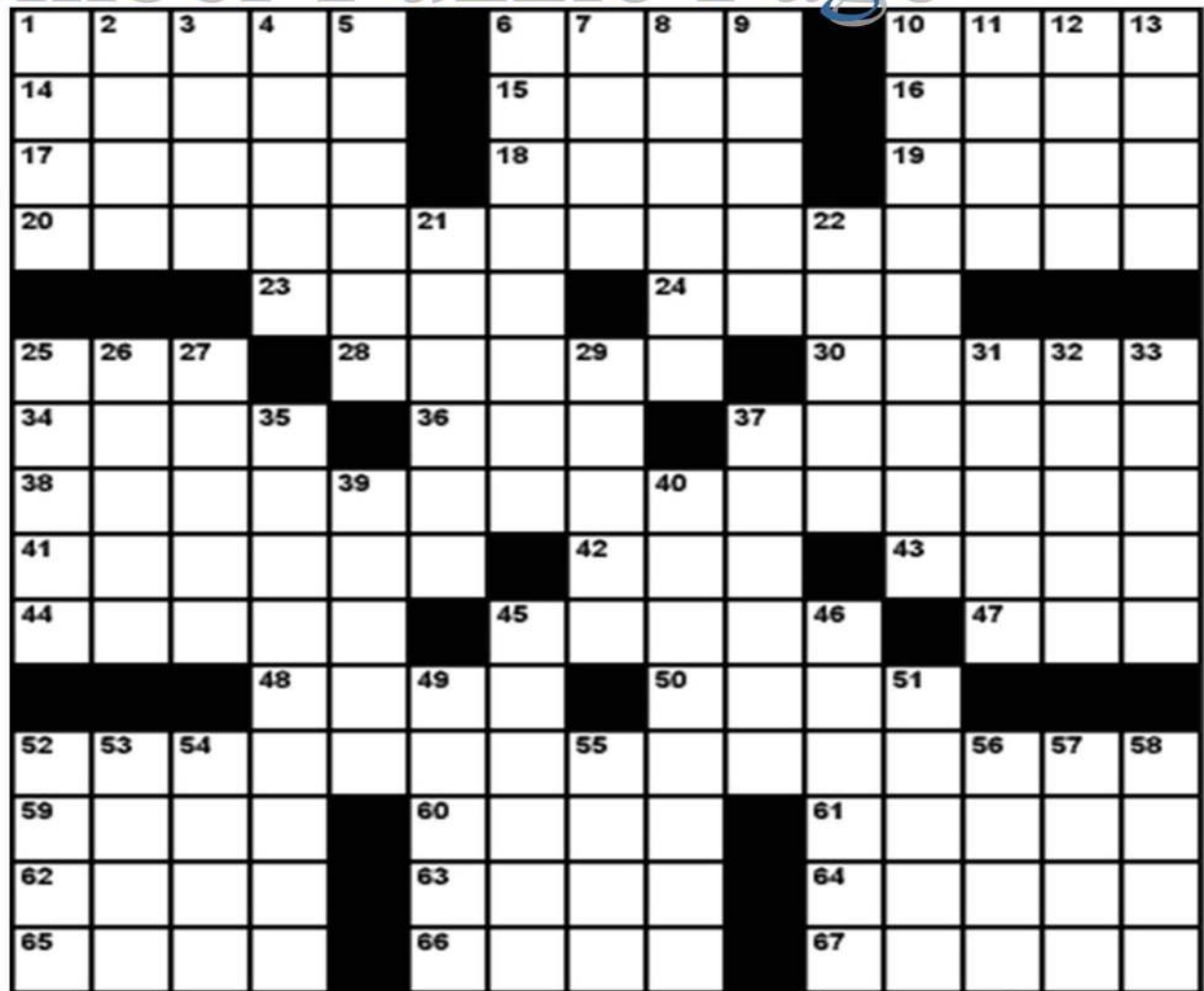
Across

1. Holiday pie
6. Santa's load
10. With 'the', syndrome causing missed putts
14. Key or corner
15. "Holiday In Harlem" singer
16. Young land?
17. Paper money
18. It may be found in 25 down
19. Blue-collar name?
20. Crèche figures
23. Longest division of geological time (var.)
24. No ice
25. Dot's follower, often
28. Homeless ones
30. Panorama
34. West Point, i.e. (abbr.)
36. Big ___ (Cal.)
37. Lots
38. Holiday decoration
41. Holdups
42. Rangers' org.
43. Dam's opposite
44. Wipe out
45. Time before life
47. Indian bread
48. Organic compound
50. Anthem opener
52. Holiday song, "Oh, little..."
59. Go over a manuscript
60. Big name in detergent
61. Mountain ridge
62. Penny ___
63. Tech. grad.
64. Girders
65. One who ogles
66. Negatives
67. Fills

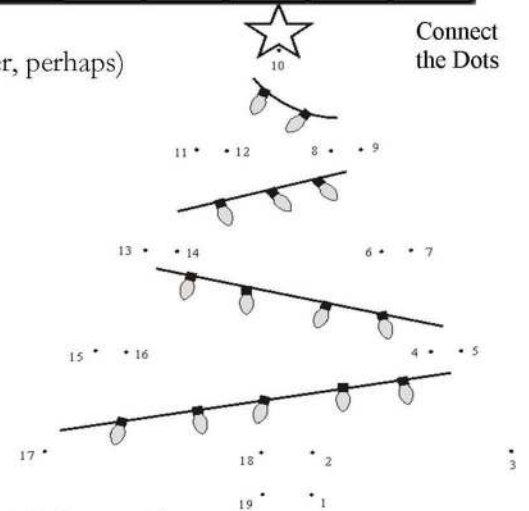
Down

1. Attention getter
2. Engrave
3. Heart
4. With 53 down, singer from Chicago

6. Element found in photocells
7. Succulent plant
8. Performers with a lot of makeup
9. "Dawson Creek" actor, Holmes
10. Holiday seasons
11. Detail
12. Coat
13. Tibia locale
21. Good natured teasing sessions
22. Enjoy
25. Place for 18 across
26. Earthy color
27. West Side Story gal
29. ___ Kafka
31. Killed
32. Aquarium fish
33. Very pale
35. Objector
37. Wise-looking (like Harry Potter, perhaps)
39. Office worker
40. Quick drinks
45. White elephant, for instance
46. Chunnel town
49. Many times
51. ___ Buena (evergreen plant)
52. Distant prefix
53. See 4 down
54. Kir ingredient
55. Slight advantage
56. Miami hoopsters
57. French 101 verb
58. GI's chow



Connect the Dots

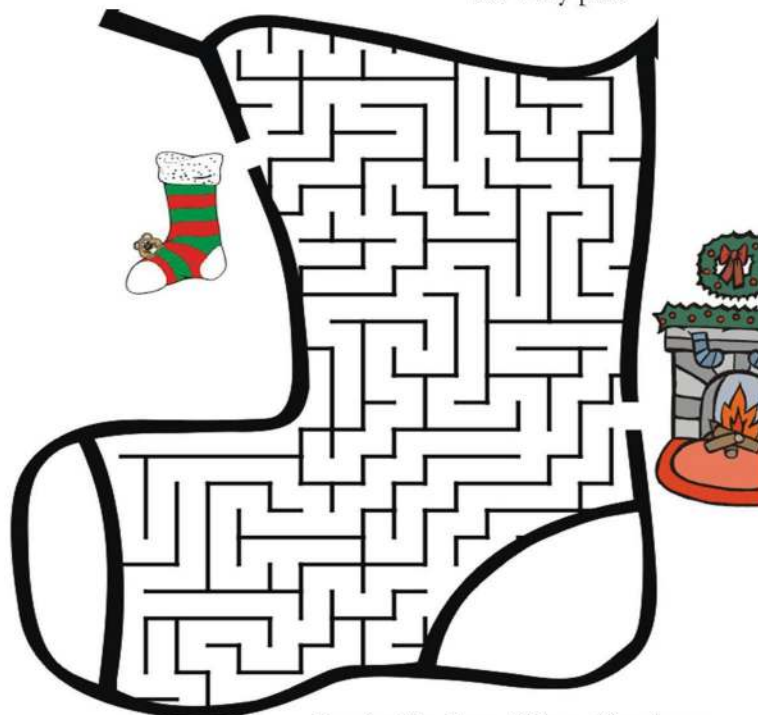


Christmas Word Search

Words associated with Christmas are hidden in the puzzle. Can you find them all?

J C Z K F G C F Z R A T S B X Y H
M Q H W T J A R T A E F S H A A I
C D P R P M W S T V M D L F K R B
Y Z E Z I Y L N U T M X O R U E O
S E T L O S A U Z S E Y R U H I Y
Z U Y L Q S T G B L E P A I J N T
N S R B I K T M O X P J C T G D I
F J N D N G M P A R S U N C O E V
D D T O S G H C S S T E T A L E I
A W Y Z W T U T Y D N G W K E R T
A A M S R S O G S I E V O E L S A
C G S O D C H X T N S Z H W U K N
I O N R K L Z D C N E N O J Y I C
R W A I D M G N R E R D M R Q M E
E C N H S I P T L R P F X T C O Z
G G W Y Q W T S E V L E I U Y I Z
I H A I C I C L E S N A A Q P Y L

- CARDS
- CAROLS
- CHRISTMAS
- DINNER
- ELVES
- FAMILY
- FRUITCAKE
- ICICLES
- JESUS
- LIGHTS
- NATIVITY
- NORTHPOLE
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER
- SANTA
- SNOW
- STAR
- STOCKING
- TREE
- YULELOG



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WESTCHESTER FALL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Let's All Do Our Part Before the Snow Falls

In last month's Newsletter, we reminded residents to bag their leaves. The Village and our generous Sponsors have provided leaf bags to promote this effort to reduce the amount of debris flowing into our storm sewers, and to improve the curb appeal and beautification of the Village.

It is important that every resident makes an effort to collect their leaves and keep the curb lines clean. This will allow the rain and snow (when it melts) to flow properly to the sewers.

Village crews are out collecting leaves with the cage sweepers and street sweeper machine. The Vector truck is also being used to clean out catch basins.

Can Leaves be Raked into the Street?

NO! Raking leaves into the street is prohibited.
Violators will be fined.

What Else Can Residents Do?

- ◆ Help your neighbors who are unable to rake their leaves.
- ◆ If you notice a storm sewer that is not draining, call Public Works.
- ◆ If you would like to sponsor the program, please contact Trustees Brian Sloan at bsloan@westchester-il.org or Wally Novak at wnovak@westchester-il.org or call Village Hall at 708.345.0020.
- ◆ Shop at and use the program sponsors for services.



We share the same
JOYS OF THE SEASON.



May the holidays bring you the joy of friends and family. As your good neighbor State Farm agent I appreciate your business and look forward to a new year together.

Bruce Horek, Agent, CLU LUTCF
10440 W Cermak Road
Westchester, IL 60154
Bus: 708-562-2772
bruce.horek.bz4d@statefarm.com

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Special Thanks to Our Village Attorney and Engineering Consultants for their service and commitment to the Village of Westchester. Whether it be for our everyday needs, special events, capital improvement projects or a disaster, we count on these men and women to provide the best advice and professional services to Staff and the Village Board, which enables us to make educated decisions as we lead our community forward.

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Edwin Hancock Engineering

Christopher Burke Engineering

V3 Companies

Thank you to all of our SPONSORS and VOLUNTEERS.

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays!

Register now for Winter classes!

Coming in December...

Gingerbread Drop-Off

Parents, do you need some time alone to catch up on your holiday to-do list? Let the kids have their play time while you have yours. Shop, eat and relax while your children play, dance, craft and more. Pre-registration is suggested.

Ages 4-8
December 18th
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
\$20 Resident / \$30 Non-Resident
\$25 Resident / \$35 Non-Resident
at door

Coming in January...

Mural Painting for Kids

This class is designed to create

a collaborative work of art to be displayed at the Community Center. Each child will produce a panel of a mural, which we all work together to create. Instructors will work with participants to design the composition and color scheme, with each child contributing their own creative ideas to the work. Please wear old clothing. Registration is limited to 8 children only.

Ages 6-13
January 22nd - February 26th
11:00 a.m. - Noon
\$50 Resident / \$60 Non-Resident

Alphabet Soup

Come explore letters, sounds, and the magic of "reading readiness" in a class designed to introduce letters, their sounds, and how to write them.

Each week children will be immersed in activities for the letter of the week. This is an ideal class for preschoolers.



Ages 2 ½ - 4 w/ parent
January 7th - February 11th
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
\$30 Resident
\$40 Non-Resident

Please visit our website, www.wpdparks.org or call the park district at 708.865.8200 for additional information on any of the above programs.



Congratulations to Westchester Middle School's 8th Grade Boys Basketball team and Immanuel Lutheran's 8th Grade Girls Basketball team for winning this years Tip-Off Classic!

SCHOOL NEWS

12 DECEMBER 2010

Board of Education Election

Four Westchester School District 92½ Board of Education seats will be filled in the April 5, 2011, Cook County Consolidated Election. September 21 was the first day for candidates to circulate nominating petitions.

Candidates may file nominating papers with the board secretary or designated representatives at the District Office from Monday, December 13 through Monday, December 20.

The District Office, located at 9981 Canterbury Street, is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20, and is closed during school holidays.

The Board of Education is comprised of seven members who serve four-year terms of office without pay. Terms are staggered so that three or four seats are contested at each biennial election.

For further information on candidate qualifications, responsibilities, and filing, visit the Illinois Association of School Boards' website at www.iasb.com/elections/.

Holiday Music Performances

Welcome winter with special holiday student musical performances. Westchester Middle School will present a concert for senior citizens on Thursday, December 9, at 10:00 a.m. at the Westchester Middle School, 1620 Norfolk Avenue.

Please bring a friend and stay for refreshments.

On Tuesday, December 14, at 12 noon, the WMS band and chorus will perform holiday music at Yorktown Center (upper level of the mall just outside of Carson Pirie Scott). Take a break from shopping and enjoy music from the Westchester Middle School's outstanding band and chorus.

On Wednesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m., the Westchester Intermediate School chorus will perform at Barnes & Noble, Oakbrook Center.

Literacy Volunteers

Westchester Primary School values parent involvement and strives to provide a variety of opportunities for parents to support children both in and out of the school setting.

Our literacy volunteer program has enabled many of our parents to work

with children in developing essential reading skills as well as a lifelong love of reading.

On any given day, literacy volunteers can be seen in classrooms reading and discussing stories in small groups, practicing flash cards, playing skill-building games, or writing with children.

We are very thankful for the time and dedication literacy volunteers provide. The children always look forward to their undivided attention and support!

PBIS Fall Fun Celebration

Students earned and enjoyed a Fall Fun Celebration as part of Westchester Primary School's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

The PBIS framework promotes a safe and positive school culture through teaching, practicing and positively reinforcing common expectations. At the Fall Fun Celebration, students dressed up in western wear, created class murals, enjoyed an extra recess that included dancing, and received a special treat donated by the WPTC in the classroom.

Student Assembly

Westchester Intermediate School students participated in an assembly called "Team Bully Free" to kick off Bullying Awareness Month in October.

Thank you to the Westchester Parents and Teachers for Children (WPTC) for sponsoring this assembly! Through the use of puppets, stories, and magic, WIS students learned about what bullying is, how bullying affects people, what respect means, and ways to stand up for someone who is being bullied.

The WIS students truly enjoyed the assembly and walked away with the important message that it is important for our school to be "bully free"!

G.R.E.A.T. Program

The fourth grade students at Westchester Intermediate School are participating in a six week program sponsored by the Westchester Police Department called G.R.E.A.T.

Our School Resource Officer, Officer Brian Lamphere, has been visiting each fourth grade classroom for 30 minutes each week to teach students about bullying awareness, practicing different ways of communicating, identifying when we feel angry and how to control anger, respecting

others, and being a GREAT citizen.

The WIS fifth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in this program this spring.

Thank you to the Westchester Police Department for partnering with the Westchester School District to provide our students with this valuable program!

8th Grade Fundraiser

The 8th grade Washington DC fundraiser concluded with the cookie dough and candy pick-up on Thursday, November 4th.

Students were able to sell magazine subscriptions, candy, and cookie dough to help offset the cost of their 8th grade trip.

This year's class sold over \$30,000 in products in which 40% of these sales will go towards paying for their trip.

Students also achieving \$425 or more in sales will be treated to a limo lunch and pizza party in the near future. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser.

Trips Broaden Students' Horizons at WMS

At the beginning of every school year, middle school students travel with their peers, teachers, and school administrators on two trips that are District 92½ traditions. From September 20-22, sixth graders visited Camp Timber-lee in East Troy, Wisconsin, on the edge of the Kettle Moraine Forest.

Eighty-seven students and ten adults enjoyed three days of learning, group, and team-building activities, including horseback riding, touring the nature center, creating crafts, canoeing, taking nature walks, learning to use GPS, and using survival skills. Students had an opportunity to get to know their teachers and fellow classmates while exploring topics/activities that cannot be replicated in the classroom.

On Friday, October 15, about 145 seventh grade students and District educators toured historic Springfield, Illinois. They learned about the history of the state and of the sixteenth president when they visited famous sites that included the Lincoln Presidential Museum, the Illinois State Capitol, Lincoln Tomb, and the Lincoln Home.

On October 7, as an introduction to the trip, two very special guests visited the school: Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln!



Students in WPS's Early Childhood classroom enjoy their fall party.



Students at the WPS PBIS celebration.



Lights, Camera, Action! The students in Ms. Simms's music class are learning the basics of PhotoStory by making a short movie about their favorite musical artist. Students work with a variety of tools to achieve results. "You get to find the pictures and make a movie. It's fun!" said one enthusiastic learner.



"Those Who Excel" award recipient Juanita Glassi, nurse at the Westchester Intermediate School.



"Those Who Excel" award recipients Sheri Wagner, secretary to the superintendent, and Barbara Stanger, Board of Education president.



Westchester Chamber of Commerce

"We Mean Business"

The Westchester Chamber of Commerce exists to promote our member businesses and partners with the Village of Westchester in promoting healthy economic development. We foster partnerships among village, governmental and civic groups and create and support community wide events and programs.

(708) 240-8400 www.WestchesterChamber.org
P.O. Box 7309 · Westchester, IL 60154

Celebrate Westchester at our Annual Awards Dinner.

Saturday, January 29th
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7:00 pm Mandatory Life Boat Drill, please assemble at your Life Boat Stations
Introduction of Cruise Staff
Special Presentations and Person(s) of the Year Awards

Buffet Dinner with Captain Bill at 7:45 pm

Salad Course
Caribbean Citrus Salad

Main Dinner Course
Seven Seas Roast Sirloin of Beef • Islander Chicken "Roti" • Plantation Mashed Golden Potatoes
Saffron Island Rice • Coconut Curry Roasted Chayote Squash

Dessert Course
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Boarding Passes available
Please call the Westchester Chamber of Commerce 708-240-8400

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Westchester Park District: Gary Kasanders

Chamber Secretary

Mary Bakas



ST. JOSEPH CHARGERS ADOPT FAMILIES IN NEED TO BRIGHTEN HOLIDAYS

The St. Joseph High School Leadership Classes adopted families in need for the Thanksgiving holiday and created baskets with all necessary groceries to have a traditional Thanksgiving meal. These same families also received a gift voucher for a turkey to enjoy. The St. Joseph High School Student Council sponsored this community outreach program.

Additionally, throughout December, these same Leadership Classes are 'adopting' children in need, ages 3-14, so that they can enjoy presents on Christmas morning. Each child will receive one practical gift and a fun gift or toy. Many of our 28 Leadership Classrooms will adopt multiple students.

All proceeds come directly from St. Joseph Chargers who want to give back to the community and to those less fortunate.

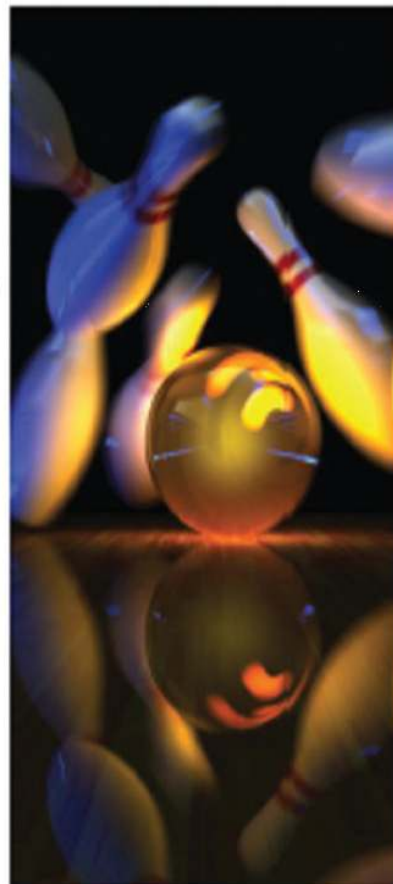
SHADOW DAYS AT ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL!!!



6th, 7th and 8th graders are encouraged to visit St. Joseph High School as a shadow, any Friday during the school year. Visit the website www.stjoeshs.org for a permission form or call the Admissions Office at 708-562-4433. We look forward to showing you the life of a Charger!

SJHS BOOSTERS INVITE YOU TO CANDLELIGHT BOWL

St. Joseph High School Booster Club is hosting its 5th annual Candlelight Bowl on Saturday January 15, 2011 at Willowbrook Lanes in Willowbrook, IL. The cost is \$25 per person and includes buffet dinner, 3 games of candlelight bowling and shoes. Limit 6 people per lane, must be 21 and over. Dinner is served at 8:30pm and bowling begins at 10:00pm. For more information contact Judy Saraceno-Swenson at 708-531-0535 or Madelyn St. Marie-Sei at 630-617-5909.





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SAVE THE DATE

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OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010
6:00pm to 8:00pm

Schedule a Shadow Day for any Friday during the school year.

ENTRANCE EXAM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2011
8:00am

Eighth graders should bring \$25, a calculator and two #2 pencils.



ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

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M	9:00 AM-7:00 PM	Th	9:00 AM-6:00 PM
T	9:00 AM-6:00 PM	F	9:00 AM-3:00 PM
W	9:00 AM-4:00 PM	S	9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Winter is coming: Avoid weather-related injuries

Heavy snow can immobilize a region and paralyze a city, stranding commuters, closing airports, stopping the flow of supplies, and disrupting emergency and medical services. Accumulations of snow can cause roofs to collapse and knock down trees and power lines. Homes and farms may be isolated for days and unprotected livestock may be lost. In the mountains, heavy snow can lead to avalanches. The cost of snow removal, repairing damages, and the loss of business can have severe economic impacts on cities and towns.

Injuries Due To Ice and Snow

- About 70% result from vehicle accidents
- About 25% occur in people caught out in a storm
- Most happen to males over 40 years old

BLIZZARD: Winds of 35 mph or more with snow and blowing snow reducing visibility to less than ¼ mile for 3 hours or more.

BLOWING SNOW: Wind-driven

snow that reduces visibility. Blowing snow may be falling snow and/or snow on the ground picked up by the wind.

SNOW SQUALLS: Brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulation may be significant.

SNOW SHOWERS: Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.

SNOW FLURRIES: Light snow falling for short durations with little or no accumulation.

FROZEN PRECIPITATION: Frozen precipitation melts into rain.

FREEZING RAIN: Frozen precipitation melts in warm air... .. rain falls and freezes on cold surfaces as a sheet of ice.

SLEET: Frozen precipitation melts... ..refreezes into sleet before hitting ground

SNOW: Snow falling into cold air never melts

Injuries Related to Cold

- 50% happen to people over 60 years old
- More than 75% happen to males

- About 20% occur in the home

Wind Chill is not the actual temperature but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also affected by wind chill; however, cars, plants and other objects are not.

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold. A wind chill of -20° Fahrenheit (F) will cause frostbite in just 30 minutes. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately! If you must wait for help, slowly re-warm affected areas. However, if the person is also showing signs of hypothermia, warm the body core before the extremities.

Hypothermia is a condition brought on when the body temperature drops to less than 95°F. It can kill. For those who survive, there are likely to be lasting kidney, liver and pancreas problems. Warning signs include

uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. Take the person's temperature. If below 95°F, seek medical care immediately!

If Medical Care is Not Available, warm the person slowly, starting with the body core.

Warming the arms and legs first drives cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure. If necessary, use your body heat to help. Get the person into dry clothing and wrap in a warm blanket covering the head and neck.

Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee or any hot beverage or food. Warm broth is the first food to offer.

Exposure to cold can cause frostbite or hypothermia and become life-threatening. Infants and elderly people are most susceptible.

AVOID OVEREXERTION, such as shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car or walking in deep snow. The strain from the cold and the hard labor may cause a heart attack. Sweating could lead to a chill and hypothermia.

Village of

Westchester

10300 Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL 60154, www.westchester-il.org, 708-345-0020

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Area troops are Scouting for Food

Scouting for Food used to be an annual food drive campaign, run nationally by Boy Scouts of America. When the program came to an end back in the 90s, Westchester resident and longtime Scouter Horst Kniesel, along with the Boy Scouts of Troop 73 from Westchester Community Church, kept the food drive alive in our town.

"Helping those in need and doing a good turn daily is a big part of Scouting," Horst said.

Over the years, other Scout units in town joined Troop 73 in helping with the food drive. Cub Scout Pack 73 - also from Westchester Community Church - came first, followed by Cub Scout Pack 172 and Boy Scout Troop 172 from Divine Infant Church.

Ed Colaianni, who has helped organize the drive the last few years, said it has become such a popular event that girls from the newly formed Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scout Troops from Westchester Community Church, and even a few boys from Boy Scout Troop 66 in La Grange Park, helped out this year.

The Scouts hit the streets on Saturday, November 13th, delivering informational flyers to every house in Westchester. They returned



the following Saturday to collect donations, bringing everything to the parking lot of the Westchester Community Church. Volunteers worked there to sort the food so that it could be delivered to local food pantries. If it sounds like a big project, it was.

Thousands of pounds of food and paper products, almost 300 pairs of used eye glasses and 10 hearing aids were collected, with close to 100 volunteers contributing over 550 hours of their time. And it

all happened just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday!

Village president Sam Pulia and trustees Walter Novak and Brian Sloan were among the many volunteers helping with food pick up and distribution.

President Pulia commented that thanks to the efforts of the Scouts and the generosity of Westchester's citizens, the village's food pantry will be well stocked to help those in need this holiday season.

Although the food drive is over

for this year, anyone wishing to make a donation can bring items to Westchester Community Church, 1840 Westchester Blvd. Nonperishable items such as canned meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, rice, beans, and pastas, as well as household/personal items such as soaps and toilet tissue, are accepted. Flags that are no longer fit to be flown and used eyeglasses and hearing aids are also collected.

The flags are retired at a later date by Cub Scout Pack 73. The eyeglasses and hearing aids go the Lions Clubs for their vision and hearing programs. In addition to the food pantry at Westchester Village Hall, the drive also benefits pantries at Westchester Community, Divine Infant, and Grace Lutheran churches.

The Scouts can't thank everyone enough for their support. Special thanks go to Murnane Paper Co. in Elmhurst for donating 7,500 sheets of paper, and Luis Printing Co. in Chicago for printing and folding the flyers. Special thanks also go to officers and members of Lodge Yankee-Jungmann #77, CSA, in Oakbrook, who annually contribute in excess of 100 lbs. of food and provide a financial donation.

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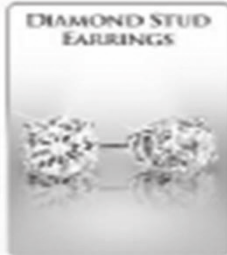


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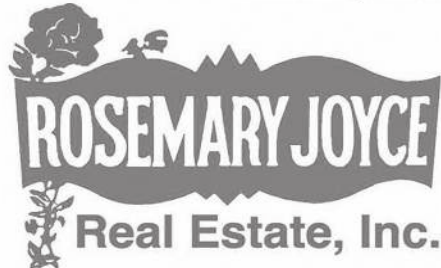
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Local History: Charles N. Field's Memories

Westchester – The Early Years

In 1832 Aaron Parsell, the first white settler, built a cabin in Section 29, the area that later became Westchester. The prairie soil was very rich and the farming excellent. German farmers were attracted to the area. In 1858, they established the historic Immanuel Lutheran Church at what is now Wolf and Cermak roads. The names of some of these farmers remain as exceptions to our otherwise all English streets, namely Heidorn, Evers, Boeger, Mandel, and Haase. The area near the church became an active social center when a stagecoach inn was built on the northwest corner. To control this possible "den of infamy," the Lutheran Church persuaded the Village of Hillside to extend its boundary south on both sides of Wolf Road to include the church and the tavern. This stagecoach stop became very popular for travelers enroute from Chicago to Batavia, Geneva and other settlements on the Fox River. This stagecoach, in later, became the first Lilac Lodge.

Now we move forward about 90 years to 1924 when a number of fast talking promoters approached the farmers offering them \$700 to \$800 an acre from land that was only valued at \$200 to \$300 per acre. Thus was created the Great Proviso Mystery! The promoters kept the real purpose an ironclad secret until they had acquired about 2200 acres, which is about the size of Oak Park. Rumors were rampant: Was the land being bought for factories, steel plants, locomotive shops or other manufacturing? To top it all off, there was a rumor that Standard Oil had found oil and were buying up the area around their finds. Up to that time, Chicago suburbs had developed near railway stations with nearby stores. The Great Proviso Mystery was uncovered when surveyors arrived to layout streets, water mains, sewers and also the spur line from the Aurora & Elgin RR in Bellwood to 22nd Street and Mannheim with a right of way dedicated west to Wolf Road. Stations were built at Harrison, Roosevelt, Canterbury and 22nd Street. The yards were located at what is now Gladstone Park. The round trip fare to the Loop was 25 cents with service every thirty minutes during rush hours. A one car "toonerville trolley" from 22nd Street met the trains at Roosevelt for the trip to the Loop.

One of the principal financial backers of the Westchester project was Samuel Insull, an electric utility and rapid transit corporate officer.

Insull was born in England and was responsible for the decision to give English names to the Village and its streets. The financial backers hired urban planners, architects and contractors to build Westchester.

The select two principal real estate developers, George F. Nixon & Son and the William Zelosky company to sell the lots and to build homes for those that did not have their own building contractor. Westchester's zoning specifications and building requirements surpassed many of the older suburbs. These two firms had many promotion schemes to entice potential buyers to Westchester. One plan was to organize "week-end excursion" to the Village. They absorbed the "L" fare, and served lunch prior to a general promotional talk which was followed by the "pitch" to couples by each salesman. Also the Loop Sears store provided a large area near their furniture department where layouts of Westchester and its' advantages could be promoted. Typical floor plans and actual furnished rooms were displayed. In the 1920's, developers would only build for bonified lot buyers and so they concentrated on selling lots. High powered promotion resulted in the sale of many lots but only scattered homes were built in the Village by the 1929 Crash.²

Prior to this construction workers laid the water mains, the double sewer system, paved streets and walks, erected ornamental street lights, planted parkway trees and laid the tracks for the rapid transit to Chicago.

The superintendent chosen to build Westchester was Grant N. Britten who rented the former Pflugh farm house on Mannheim just north of the I. C. tracks³. Construction barracks for "singles" and small huts for families were built near Harrison and Mannheim. Ruben Nelson rented the converted old Lutheran schoolhouse (today's Franzosenbusch Prairie House) for his wife Stella and their daughters. Ruben was the Office Manager & Time Keeper for the Westchester project. Stella often told the story, with a twinkle in her eyes, how a bootlegger offered to give her a



new fur coat if she would let him store booze in her barn. The Nelson's rented this old school house for about four years until they were able to move to a new two flat building at 1423 Newcastle Avenue.

As there were insufficient bonified

permanent residents, many of the 175 construction workers "swore" they were residents so they could vote in Britten's red barn on October 30, 1925, to incorporate the Village of Westchester. The Lord must have accepted their oaths as later one of the construction sheds became the "shell" of the original sanctuary of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, which was the first church established in the new Village. At the first election on Dec. 12, 1925, the 35 votes cast elected Otto J. Tatterow as the first president of the Village. The original Westchester Trustees include Grant N. Britten who became the second village president and at the same time he served as the first president of School Board 92½. Another of the original Westchester Trustees was Wesley Panttila who later became the second Police Chief and served many years in that capacity. Ruben Nelson worked many years in the village office and later was named Village Manager and then elected Village President.

School district 92½ was created on December 4, 1928 from District 88 in Bellwood, District 93 in Hillside and District 92 in Broadview. Before the creation of District 92½ students either went to the Immanuel Lutheran school or to a one room public school on 22nd Street in North Riverside near the Belt RR.³ The first election of a three member Board of School Directors was held on June 5, 1929.⁴ In August 1929, new residences were made available for classes at 1623 Newcastle (across the street from Divine Infant Parish) and in the 700 block of Newcastle. There was one teacher and about sixteen students of all ages in each of these two homes. A two room Grant N. Britten School opened in September 1930 followed by the George F. Nixon School in January 1931. For a year before these schools were opened, the school board paid cab transportation for

some students assigned to Bellwood and Broadview schools. The three member school board continued until the Spring of 1948 when the increased Village population permitted the election of a seven member Board of Education. Bill Gardaphe became the first Westchester-born child on January 9, 1929 to the Charles Gardaphe family of 738 Newcastle Avenue.

From almost the beginning Westchester has had a reputation for heated village elections. An early election made the front page headline of the Chicago Tribune. It read "RILEY WINS IN WESTCHESTER". This apparent prediction appeared the morning the polls opened. The Tribune could make this forecast as Bill Riley opposed his brother Ralph Riley for President. Bill and Ralph lived in the same two-flat but personal differences resulted in them only communicating through their wives. Another year a candidate for President hid in the trunk of a car to overhear a possible payoff by a scavenger to the sitting Village President. Other campaigns voiced accusations about new developers, the possible overlooking of building violations, etc. Westchester's heated elections increased when the unique three party contests replaced the two party system. The Village is unique in this respect as neighboring communities operated on a two party system.

Early in 1935 Oak Park friends suggested we all drive out to Westchester as they had heard there were homes with reasonable rents. Jo and I had never been in the Village and really did not know where it was located. Possibly that was because we could drive and did not have to learn by taking advantage of Westchester's paved streets and no traffic. Westchester was known as the "learner's heaven".

After viewing several homes on Hawthorne Avenue, we decided to rent a five room English Bungalow with an unfinished second floor for \$40 per month including a stove and refrigerator. After moving in during May 1935, we learned that we had helped break a renter's strike against a raise in rent from \$37.50 to \$40.00. Needless to say, the strike failed when the bond holders' realtor opened an office in the Village.

www.FranzosenbuschHeritageProject.org submitted by Shirley E. Slanker, Historian

The Village of Westchester has been very busy this year completing numerous projects intended to improve the Village. These projects include everything from painting fire hydrants to complete road reconstruction.

The largest project completed this year was the 2010 Street Improvements. This included reconstruction of eight roadways throughout town, including curb and gutter replacement, sewer repairs, sidewalk repairs, apron replacements, and total reconstruction of the road. The 2010 Street Improvement project is essentially complete, but there is some miscellaneous landscaping and punch list work left to complete.

The whole length of Gardner Road was repaved with some sewer repairs and miscellaneous concrete replacements. The remaining Gardner Road aprons will be reconstructed in 2011. A project that was completed in 2010 was the Roosevelt Road beautification project. This included new sidewalks with brick pavers and new decorative streetlights along Roosevelt Road east of Mannheim. The Village also received a new monument Village sign. Westchester Blvd. was reconstructed in the spring of 2010 from Roosevelt Road to Canterbury Street. The Westchester Blvd. project also included some sidewalk replacement and roadway striping.

Other, non-roadway projects included the replacement of approximately 2000 outdated and inaccurate water meters throughout town. These water meters updates also included installation of a touchpad, making water meter reading easier and more accurate.



Completed road construction on Cromwell Avenue.

The Village had all 870 fire hydrants in town sandblasted and painted a bright red color. The annual 50/50 sidewalk program and trip hazard reduction program was completed this summer. Please call Public Works at 708-345-0041 if you would like to add your name to the 50/50 sidewalk program for 2011. In order to improve the function of the Village's sewers, a smoke test of all the sanitary sewers was completed in order to find any illegal connections from downspouts to the sanitary sewer. Numerous point repairs to the sanitary system were also done to fix collapsed pipe and open up obstructions in the sanitary lines.

One remaining project still scheduled for completion this year is the moving of the water main out from under the pavement on Cermak Road to the parkway. The stretch of water main being moved

is on Cermak Road from Hull Avenue to Westchester Boulevard.

Some upcoming projects scheduled for next year include the replacement of water main on Fleet Street from Mayfair Avenue to Sunnyside Avenue and Preston Street from Sunnyside Avenue to the cul-de-sac east of Bellevue Avenue. The water tower is scheduled to be painted in the fall of 2011.

The 2011 Street Improvements will likely include Waverly Avenue, Concord Avenue, Camelot Street, and Cambridge Street reconstruction dependant on the reception of a grant. High Ridge subdivision sewer lining is still on hold awaiting funding.

Road construction:

Roosevelt Road ITEP
Westchester Blvd. - Roosevelt to Canterbury
Gardner Road Phase I - Wedgwood

to Roosevelt, and Canterbury to Cermak

Gardner Road Phase I - Roosevelt to Canterbury

2010 Street Improvements

Cromwell - Devonshire to Kitchener
Wakefield - Sunnyside to Stratford
Heidorn - Dickens to Canterbury
Evers - Dickens to Canterbury
Devonshire - Norfolk to Gardner
Manchester - Cermak to Canterbury
Bond - Portsmouth to Gardner
Kent - Norfolk to Gardner

Other Projects:

Replacement of approximately 2000 outdated and inaccurate water meters throughout town.

Sandblasting and Painting of all 870 fire hydrants.

Yearly 50/50 sidewalk and trip hazard reduction program.

Numerous sanitary sewer point repairs to fix collapsed pipe.

Sanitary Sewer Smoke testing to check for illegal connections.

Still to come this year: Moving water main from under the Cermak Road pavement to in the parkway.

Upcoming projects:

Water main replacement on Fleet and Preston (scheduled for early spring 2011)

Water Tower Painting (scheduled for fall 2011)

High Ridge subdivision sewer lining (waiting on funding)

Waverly, Concord, Camelot, and Cambridge Street reconstruction (dependent on funding)

Public works notes

Restoration of parkways that have been damaged by sewer and water excavations and/or snow plow damage will resume next spring, as weather permits.

The cold weather has arrived so please make sure the outside water spigots are turned off in the basement during the winter months to prevent pipes from freezing or cracking. If you are leaving town for warmer weather please inform the Public Works Department so crews can shut off the water at the buffalo box while you are away.

Adopt a fire hydrant this winter season! Help keep the hydrant clear of snow so that snow plow drivers and the Fire Department can easily identify the hydrant.

If residents see an unusual



amount of water in the streets or parkways, please call the Public Works department at 708-345-0041 or 708-345-0060 (after hours non-emergency number) immediately as

this could be a possible main break.

The Public Works Department snow plan is in effect and plows and spreaders are ready to go on a moment's notice. Please assist us by

observing these suggestions:

Place garbage cans and bins behind the curb line-not in the street

Observe all "NO PARKING" and "SNOW ROUTE" signs

Do not throw snow or anything else into cleared streets or roadway.

The following parking restrictions WILL be enforced:

After a two-inch snowfall (unless otherwise posted) it is unlawful to park any vehicle, or to permit any vehicle to remain parked, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. 8:30-4:30, on odd-numbered sides on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on even-numbered sides of the street on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Public Works Department, works long and hard to keep the Village streets and roadways clear and safe for all our residents. We need and appreciate your cooperation. Please drive carefully!

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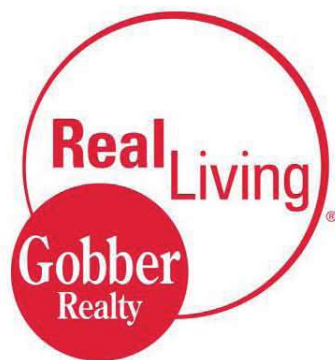
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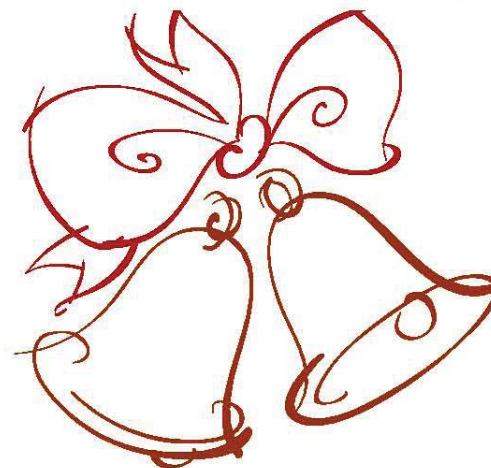


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