



# Village of Westchester

February 2012 Newsletter

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## From the Desk of The President



President Sam D. Pulia and newly appointed Village Manager Janet Matthys.

### WINTER WONDERLAND HAS ARRIVED!

February has arrived and so has our overdue inclement winter weather. As I write this article in mid January we are awaiting the arrival of some 3-5 inches of snow, as well as a temperature drop to the single digits with very uninviting wind-chills. All in all, I guess we should be grateful it has taken this long for Jack Frost to appear. I, like many of you, enjoyed those unseasonable 40's and 50's in December and early January over being all bundled up shoveling snow.

### WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

Our first real snow event occurred January 13th and I hope you received my ROBO call alerting you that the snow routes and alternate parking restrictions on the side streets were in effect, and going to be enforced. That ROBO call will be the only one of the season informing you we are enforcing the snow restrictions. I know a majority of our residents have always complied with the restrictions in the past and know you will continue to do so. However, for those of you who are unaware of the restrictions, or do not comply, please be informed that vehicles parked on the designated snow routes are to be removed from the street after 2" of snow has fallen. Please see the Police Department page of this newsletter for a comprehensive list of streets that prohibit parking after a 2" snow fall.

Also, please do not forget that the streets belong to everyone and you are not allowed to save spots with furniture, chairs, or other items. These types of items are considered hazards to the public and will be removed by the public works department or police, if necessary.

With this in mind, I would think that residents and visitors parking on the street would be mindful of what address you are parking in front of, and who may have shoveled it. Neighbor to neighbor complaints and hard feelings that never seem to resolve have occurred over snow shoveled street parking spots. I believe that we are all in this together and should be working together as one to help each other out during these snow events. Let's all help one another and pitch in.

### TIPS FOR SAFE SHOVELING

Shoveling snow is a documented hazard for those individuals of a certain age and physical condition. A number of fatal heart attacks have been associated with snow shoveling.

Here are a few tips to prevent injury:

- Warm up your muscles before you start.
- Shovel early and often; do not let the snow build up to an unmanageable height. The average shovel of snow can weigh 5 to 10 pounds.

See **PRESIDENT**, page 4

## Profile



**Name:** Sean O'Connor  
**Rank:** Firefighter/Paramedic  
**Years as Firefighter:** 1 year

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

After college I was looking to take more classes and a family member suggested taking an EMT-B course. I found the class interesting and I decided to continue onto paramedic school and the fire academy.

### Describe a good day at work:

A good day at work is when everyone goes home safe.

### What is the best part about your job?

One of the best parts of the job is working with the other guys on the department.

### What is one downside to your Job?

One of the worst parts of the job is being away from family.

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

Take an EMT class and get as much training as you can.

### What would occur on your perfect day off?

A perfect day off would be spent with family and friends.

## Let's Retire Fire

The facts speak for themselves: Americans over the age of 65 are one of the groups at greatest risk of dying in a fire. On average, more than 900 Americans age 65 and over die in fires. People over the age of 85 die in fires at a rate five times higher than the rest of the population. However, there are a number of precautionary steps older Americans can take to dramatically reduce their chances of becoming a fire casualty.

### UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

#### Why Are Older People at Risk?

Older Americans are at risk for fire death and injuries for a number of reasons:

- They may be less able to take the quick action necessary in a fire emergency.
- They may be on medication that affects their ability to make quick decisions.
- Many older people live alone and when accidents happen others may not be around to help.

### SAFETY TIPS FOR OLDER AMERICANS

- **Kitchen Fires.** Most kitchen fires occur because food is left unattended on the stove or in the oven. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, take a spoon or potholder with you to remind you to return to the kitchen. Never cook with loose, dangling sleeves that can ignite easily. Heat cooking oils gradually and use extra caution when deep-frying. If a fire breaks out in a pan, put a lid on the pan. Never throw water on a grease fire. Never use a range or stove to heat your home.
- **Space Heaters.** Buy only heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Use only the manufacturer's recommended fuel for each heater. Do not use electric space heaters in the bathroom or around other wet areas. Do not dry or store objects on top of your heater. Keep combustibles away from heat sources.
- **Smoking.** Don't leave smoking materials unattended. Use "safety ashtrays" with wide lips. Empty all ashtrays into the toilet or a metal container every night before going to bed. Never smoke in bed.

Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

## 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.

# Snow route parking bans in force in village

Winter is back in force and so are the Snow Route Parking Bans:

## 11.30.010-Established-Parking prohibited when;

Snow emergency routes for the Village of Westchester are hereby established, prohibiting parking at any time after accumulation of two or more inches of snow and until said snow has been removed, at the locations set forth in Section

11.30.020.

### 11.30.020-Designated;

The following streets or portions of streets within the Village of Westchester are designated as snow emergency routes:

- Gladstone Street from Gardner Road to Westchester Boulevard
- Westchester Boulevard from Eisenhower Expressway to Cermak Road
- Drury Lane-Pelham Street from Gardner Road to Westchester Boulevard
- Canterbury Street from Gardner Road to Wolf Road
- Balmoral Avenue from Roosevelt Road to Mannheim Road
- Dorchester Avenue from Mannheim Road to Mayfair Avenue

- Sunnyside Avenue from Canterbury Street to Thirty-first Street
- Boeger Avenue from Roosevelt Road to Wakefield Street
- Windsor Drive from Bellevue Avenue to Wolf Road
- Wakefield Street from Boeger Avenue to Wolf Road
- Wakefield Street from Sunnyside Avenue to Mayfair Avenue
- Mandel Avenue from Roosevelt Road to Canterbury Street
- Mayfair Avenue from Canterbury Street to Thirty-first Street
- Essex Street from the intersection of Windsor Drive and Downing Avenue to Sunnyside Avenue.

After a two-inch snowfall and except as otherwise posted, it is unlawful to park any vehicle, or to permit any vehicle to remain parked between the hours of eight-thirty a.m. and four-thirty p.m., on odd-numbered sides of the street on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on even-numbered sides of the street on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Odd sides of the street are defined as the south side of east and west streets, and the east side of north and south streets.

Even sides of the street are defined as the north side of east and west streets and the west side of north and south streets.

Determination of odd and even for cul-de-sac parking and other similar circumstances shall be made by reference to house numbers.

## 11.32.160-Parking on alternate sides between eight-thirty a.m. and four-thirty p.m.;

## Profile



**Name:** Amy Scavelli  
**Rank:** Senior Telecommunicator  
**Years as Telecommunicator:** 8

**What made you choose police/fire dispatching as a profession?**

My dad was a fireman.

**Describe a good day at work.**

Like any other job, when it goes by quickly

**What is the best part of your job?**

The different varieties of people I get to encounter. It is never a dull moment.

**What is the downside of your job?**

Getting stuck at work long hours, sometimes.

**What advice would you give someone looking to be a 9-1-1 telecommunicator?**

Make sure you are willing to work a flexible schedule and have the ability to multi-task.

**What would occur on your perfect day off?**

I would get things done that I never have time for, like laundry.

## Police reports

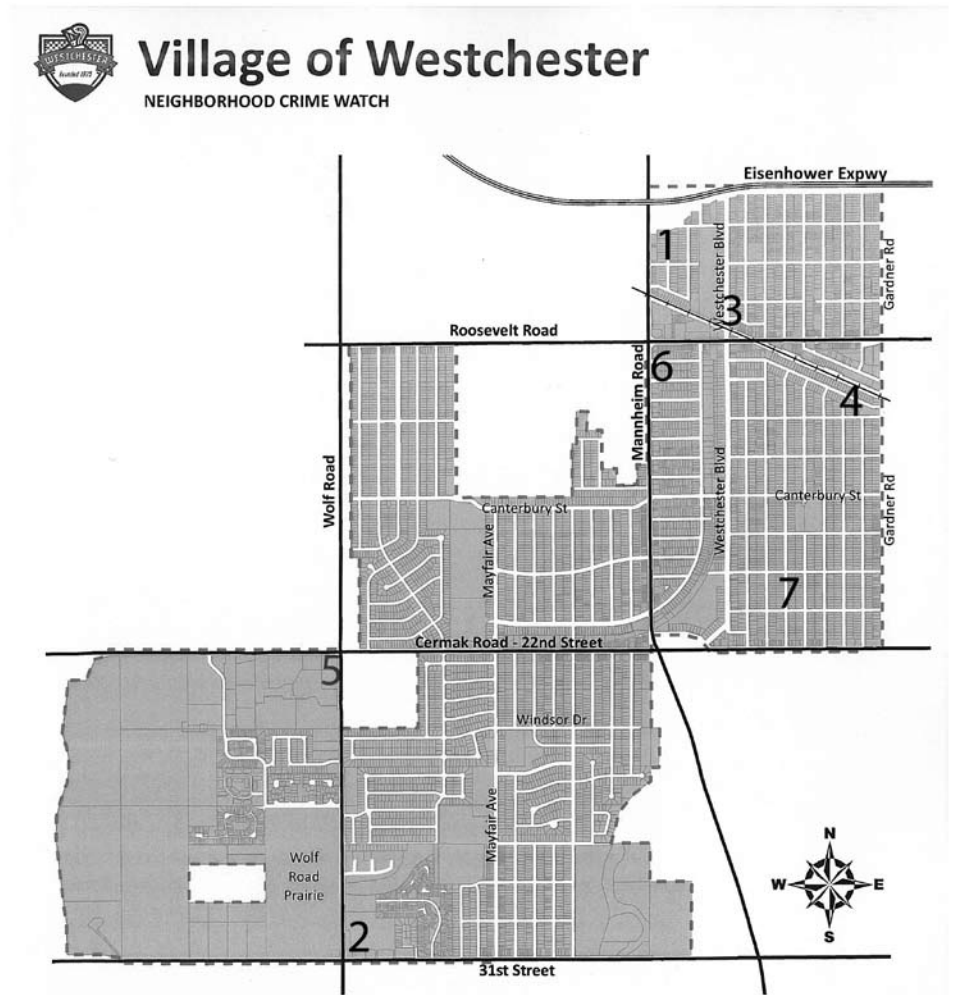
1. At 5:56pm on December 16th 2011, a **theft of motor vehicle** was reported on the 700 block of Worchester. The theft occurred between 8:30pm the previous evening and 7:00am that morning an unlocked vehicle with the keys inside was taken from the driveway.

2. At 5:31pm on December 20th 2011, a **retail theft** was reported at the Dominick's food store located at 3020 Wolf Road. Store manager reported an unknown person took two bottles of alcohol valued at approximately \$75.

3. At 7:29pm on December 24th 2011, a **criminal damage to vehicle** was reported on the 1100 block of Westchester Blvd. The resident advised that the rear vehicle window was broken out. A brown or beige sport utility vehicle was observed leaving the area at that time.

4. At 11:04am on December 27th 2011, a **criminal damage to property** was reported on the 9800 block of Drury Lane. The resident reported on 12/25/11, unknown person(s) damaged the front door attempting to gain entry cracking the door frame. Entry was not made.

5. At 3:20pm on December 31st 2011, a **theft of motor vehicle** was



reported at the BP Amoco located at 11201 Cermak Road. A 1997 Lexus was taken while the vehicle was parked outside with the engine running.

6. At 11:07am on January 13th 2012, a **retail theft** was reported at the Walgreen's located at 10345 Roosevelt Road. Employees reported that a male subject exited the store taking two cases of beer without

paying. Subject entered a white van and drove East on Roosevelt.

7. At 7:54am on January 14th 2012, a **criminal damage to vehicle** was reported on the 1900 block of Portsmouth. The vehicle owner reported that between 11:00 pm the previous evening and 7:00am that their windshield was shattered on their vehicle parked in the driveway.

# PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

- Push the snow instead of lifting it. If you must lift the Snow do it properly. Bend from the knees and use your legs to lift and push. When you have to, lift by straightening your legs without bending at the waist.
- Do NOT throw the snow over your shoulder; this requires a twisting motion that stresses your back.
- Pace yourself, start out slow and easy.
- Wear layers of clothing and keep exposed areas covered.
- Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated while shoveling.
- Check with your doctor if you have a medical condition that may prohibit you from shoveling DON'T DO IT.
- If necessary, consider hiring someone to remove snow for you.

## WINTER WEATHER ALERTS

Every year we hear on the radio or television common winter weather advisories, watches, and warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Often we are not sure what they mean. Here is a summary of the most relevant.

### ADVISORIES:

**Snow Advisory-** This advisory is issued when snowfall is predicted to be at least 3-5 inches.

**Wind Chill Advisory-** This advisory is issued when wind chills are predicted to be at least 30 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero.

**Freezing Rain/ Sleet Advisory-** This advisory is issued when a light accumulation of ice will occur and cause hazardous travel conditions.

**Freezing Fog Advisory-** This advisory is issued when, as a result of fog, a light accumulation of freezing moisture occurs on roadway, bridges/overpasses and will result in hazardous travel conditions.

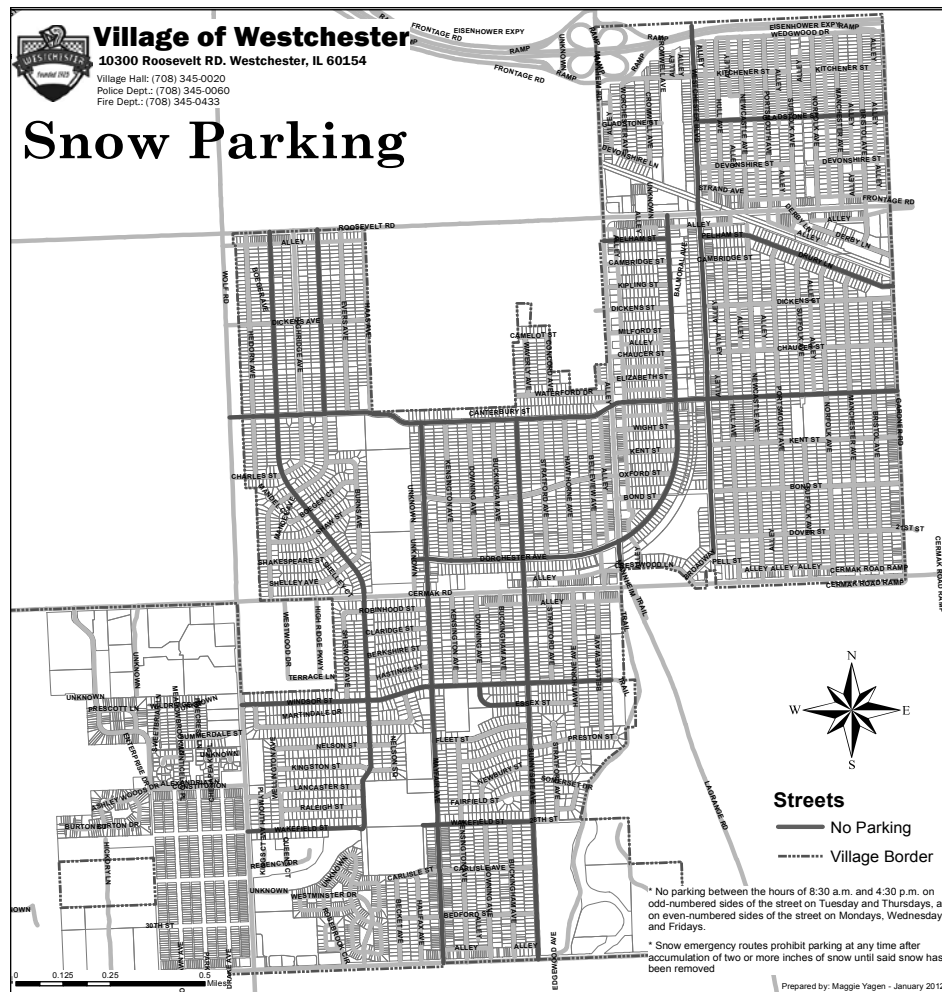
### WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

**Winter Storm Watch-** This watch is issued when conditions are present for the possibility of severe weather such as possible heavy snow and ice is within the next day or two.

**Winter Storm Warning-** This warning is issued when severe winter weather conditions are happening, imminent, or likely to occur.

**Lake Effect Snow Warning-** Issued when lake effect snow is predicted to occur.

**Heavy Snow Warning-** This warning is issued when a heavy accumulation of 6 or more inches of snow is



predicted.

**Wind Chill Warning-** This warning is issued when wind chills of below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, or colder is predicted to occur or are occurring.

During the winter months when the temperature drops the elderly should take extra precautions. More than 50% of the injuries that occur due to the cold happen to those over the age of 60. Wearing warm clothing including hats, gloves, scarf, and mittens over exposed skin can protect against frostbite. If frostbite occurs, warm the affected area gradually by wrapping the skin or placing the affected area next to warm skin. Refrain from rubbing the skin as additional damage can occur. Seek immediate medical attention.

### SAFE WINTER DRIVING TIPS

**-Plan ahead and take your time.** Road conditions can be checked at [gettingaroundillinois.com](http://gettingaroundillinois.com) before you leave for your destination.

**-Watch out for Snow Plows.** They are covered by "Scotts Law," and the "Move Over Law", which requires drivers approaching emergency vehicles stopped along the roadway, to reduce your speed, change lanes if possible, and proceed with caution.

**-Always be prepared.** Having emergency items in your car such as a snow brush, ice scraper, shovel, jumper cables, extra food, bottled water, blanket, tools, flashlight, first aid kit, and extra windshield washer fluid are just some of the basic items you may need when problems arise.

### VILLAGE WARMING CENTER

As the winter temperatures fall the need to provide a warming center becomes necessary. The Community Room at the Village Hall 10330 Roosevelt Rd. has been designated as the Village Warming Center. Those using the services are required to stop at the Westchester Police Department to register. Users should be prepared to bring their own pillows, blankets, and food for the duration of their stay. Cots and water will be provided. A vending machine for soft drinks is available. Only legitimate handicap service animals are allowed.

### VILLAGE MANAGER APPOINTED

At our January 24 Board Meeting, Ms. Janet Matthys was unanimously appointed to the position of Village Manager. Ms. Matthys was hired this past summer as the Village Finance Director. Since that time, Ms. Matthys has done an outstanding job handling a multitude of village tasks and functions. Her appointment as Interim Village Manager on October 11 subjected her to three months of non-stop year end audits, board preparation, and several employee contract negotiations, in addition to managing the day-to-day operations of the Village. Her role as Village Manager will allow her to expand her professional growth and responsibilities.

I, along with the entire board, believe Ms. Matthys possesses the necessary skills, temperament, and financial experience to lead the Village of

Westchester well into the future. Janet is surely on-board with our philosophy to be the best stewards of your tax dollars and getting the needed projects done correctly in the shortest period of time. Our unanimous vote demonstrates our confidence in her ability to lead the Village.

### PUBLIC WORKS NEWS:

During the month of January there were 7 water main breaks. Three breaks occurred on Saturday January 14th alone. Public Works crews braved the harsh elements and completed the repairs beginning at 5am and completing by 4pm. Keep in mind that before any repairs can be made we are required to contact JULIE before we break open the ground, and there are a number of "all clears" that have to be received for other utilities such as; gas, cable, telephone lines, sewers, and additional underground utilities. JULIE has a 2 hour window to respond to marking out the affected area.

No sooner did we get past our first snow fall, when our second major snow fall was knocking at the door. Between the afternoon and evening of Friday January 20, we had a 5 inch snowfall that was handled efficiently by the Public Works Department following our snow procedures. Throughout the afternoon, salt was spread on our streets to melt the bottom layer of snow before additional snow accumulated. During the evening hours snow was able to be cleared to street level as a result of the lower street layer being melted by the prior salt application. By Saturday morning, we awoke to clear and safe roadways throughout Westchester, for all to travel.

Just when we thought the Public Works staff was going to catch a break, a water main break occurred on Mannheim Road near Elizabeth Street at 1:30 am on the morning of January 21st. This repair was much more difficult to access given that the concrete on the state highway is 18 inches thick. The street had to be cut open by a private contractor using a diamond cut blade through reinforced steel rebar. The repair was completed by mid morning with the replacement of the patch of concrete to be completed several days later.

Since December 2011, the Public Works Department has used 574 tons of salt. The state contract purchase price is \$64.50 per ton. The usage is continually monitored and replenished when necessary.

### FROM THE BOARD



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## Changes @ Library

During the holiday break, additional electrical outlets were installed on the south wall of the Adult Department for the convenience of laptop users. As one St. Joseph student remarked “Now we won’t have to battle over who can plug in their computer!”

In the first week of January, adult reference staff completed a major weeding of the reference collection, removing outdated volumes and shifting more than 200 books into the circulating collection for patron checkout.

As a result, the empty shelving units are being dismantled to make room for tables that will be wired with outlets to support laptop users and, in time, more SAM computer workstations.

These and other changes planned are in response to patron comments and suggestions.

## New Features on SWAN

This February, the SWAN online catalog will be adding three new features that patrons are sure to find handy whenever they log into their

SWAN accounts. Handouts detailing the new features will be coming soon, but here are the basics so you can start using some of these new enhancements as soon as they are available.

### Email preferred searches

Patrons can now receive periodic email notifications when new titles matching a “preferred search” are added to the SWAN catalog.

Preferred searches allow a patron to create a simple or complex routine search of favorite materials and then “save” the search for repeating at a later time—a handy option if you have a hobby, subject interest or favorite author you like to follow. You do need to log into “My Account” on SWAN to create and save a search.

Once you save a preferred search, and providing you have an email address on your account, you can check “Mark for email” to have search results delivered to you weekly whenever new materials matching your search criteria are added to SWAN.

### Freeze Holds

Going on vacation but fearful of losing your turn when a copy of a bestseller becomes available for loan?

Patrons can log into their SWAN account and now “freeze” their hold request to keep their position in the queue; when they are ready to receive the item, they can “unfreeze” it, at which time the next available copy will be sent to them. (Note: the feature does not freeze items marked “in transit” “on hold” or if the patron’s request is first in the hold queue.)

### My Lists

Have you ever discovered a number of titles you are interested in reading, but you don’t want to request them all at once? The new “My Lists” feature lets you build and save a list of authors, titles, or subjects that you would like to read at a later date. The list will be saved in your patron account so you can easily refer to it whenever you are searching SWAN.

To utilize any of these new features, you will want to log into your patron account on SWAN before you begin your search—and remember to log out of your account afterwards, especially if you are on a public computer.

If you have questions or would like to see how these features work,

ask for a demo from one of our librarians in the Adult or Youth Departments on your next visit.

## Chilton Links to EBAY

Fixing a car often requires finding the right replacement part. Chilton’s Library, the online version of the popular car repair manuals, now enables users to move seamlessly from their online repair instructions to an Ebay search for locating the necessary replacement part for the make and model of the vehicle being repaired.

The link to Ebay further enriches the already extensive repair and maintenance information that includes photos, diagrams, schematics and even select videos.

Access Chilton on the Library’s website with your Westchester Public Library card.

## Program Reminders:

**Valentine Drop-In Craft** in Youth Dept: Saturday, February 11 & Sunday, February 12

See Village Calendar (this issue) for **Family Film Night** offerings during February.



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY • 708-562-3573 (TTY/TDD 708-562-9364) • askus@westchesterpl.org • www.westchesterpl.org  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-9:00 pm, Friday 9:30 am-6:00 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-5:00 pm, Sunday 1:00-5:00 pm.



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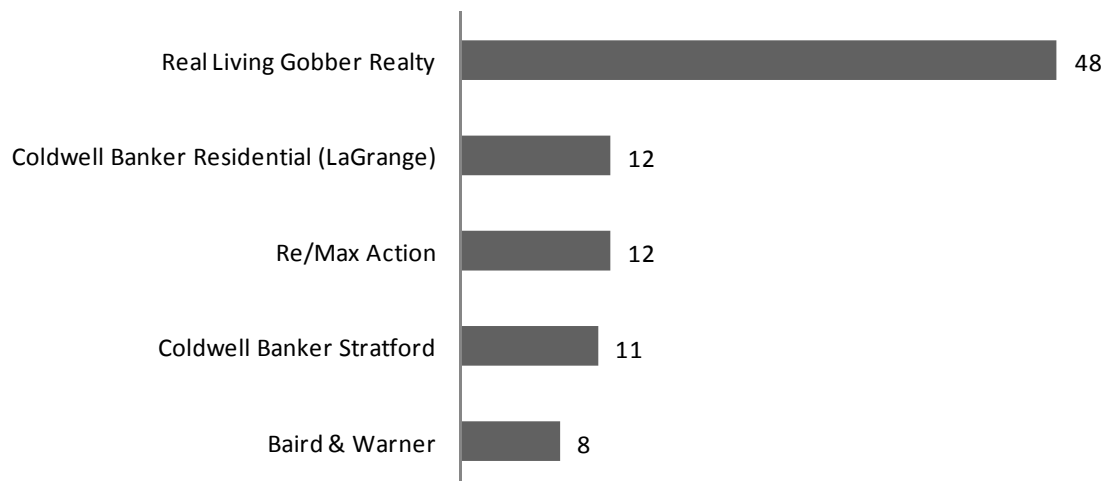
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## Westchester’s #1 Real Estate Office Why Settle for Less - Work with the *BEST!!!*

### Homes Sold in Westchester in 2011



*This chart represents all detached and attached single-family homes that closed in Westchester according to MRED data between 1/1/2011 and 12/31/2011. The chart reflects offices with 8 or more deals and represents the total # of sides for each office. Data supplied by MRED may not reflect all real estate activity in the market. MRED is not responsible for the accuracy of the data supplied.*

## LOCAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS

### Proviso Township Senior Referral Office

The Proviso Township Senior Referral Office provides information and services to seniors. Some of these services include Free rides for Seniors to doctors appointments, Meals on Wheels for eligible Seniors, Free Blood pressure testing at their office, as well as a wheelchairs for loan.

For information visit  
<http://provisotownship.illinois.gov/>

Or contact Proviso Township Office  
4565 W. Harrison St.  
Hillside, Il 60162  
(708) 449-4307

### West Suburban Senior Services

West Suburban Senior Services has provided community based services for elderly residents in the near West Cook County suburbs since 1973. West Suburban Senior Services, a non-profit organization, assists senior citizens and their families to remain healthy, secure and independent for as long as feasible. A number of different services are available to assist senior citizens

For information visit  
<http://wsseniors.org/>

Or contact West Suburban Senior Services  
712 East Elm  
La Grange, Il 60525  
(708) 547-5600

### Aging Care Connections

Aging Care Connections is a non-profit organization which is the connection to the most comprehensive, expert information, programs and services enabling older adults to remain independent and their families to make the best, most informed decisions regarding needed care in their lives.

For information visit  
<http://www.swscoa.org/index.html>

Or contact Aging Care Connections  
111 West Harris Ave.  
La Grange, IL 60525  
(708) 354-1323

## WEST SUBURBAN SENIOR SERVICES OPENS NEW SENIOR LUNCH SITE

Seniors age 60 and older, juice, milk, and graham crackers. may enjoy lunch between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM, Monday through Friday, for the suggested donation of \$2.00 at Salerno Pincente Ristorante, 9301 West 63rd Street in Hodgkins.

The new Senior Lunch Site will open Wednesday, February 1st serving tuna noodle casserole, mixed vegetables, salad, The theme for this lunch is “Color ME Pink”-wear pink and enter a raffle. Reservations are needed by noon on the business day before seniors plan to eat and may be made by calling 708-547-5600. The site is operated by West Suburban Senior Services.

## WESTCHESTER DP OVER 50 CLUB PLANS TRIP TO S.C.

Divine Providence Over 50 Club was organized in 1974. The Club is open to registered parishioners of Divine Providence and Divine Infant who are over 50. The purpose of the Club is to meet the needs of older adults for friendship growth and to keep members informed on matters of personal and community welfare. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30p.m. at Divine Providence School.

Our meetings are brief. We invite speakers occasionally, have coffee and rolls, hold a raffle, and have five luncheons a year. Two are held at DP as well as our Picnic in June and two are at restaurants. Day trips are planned as well as week-long trips (you need not be a member to join in the trips). Membership is now open to all registered parishioners of Divine Providence and Divine Infant. Dues are \$12.00 annually. Guests are welcome for a \$1.00 donation. For further information you may call Corrine @708-531-9496 or Ruth @708-947-9020.

### DP Over 50 Club Trip to S.C.

A trip is planned for October 14-20, 2012 to Myrtle Beach and Charleston, S.C.. The cost will be \$629 per person, for double occupancy which includes motor coach transportation, 6 breakfasts and 4 dinners, shows, and touring. Sounds like a lot of fun! If you are interested call Marianne @ 708-947-3766 for details.

## FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS OFFERED BY ADVENTIST HOSPITALS

Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital offers many free programs to residents of the area. On February 28th, “Know Your Heart’s Health” will be presented at the Dixon Education Center, 5101 S. Willow Springs Road, LaGrange, IL 60525. To register for this event please call Karen Lambert, M.D. from 6:30-8:30 PM. Dr. Lambert will discuss how simple lifestyle changes can help decrease the risks associated with heart disease. This event will be held at the Dixon Education Center, 5101 S. Willow Springs Road, LaGrange, IL 60525. To register for this event please call 630-856-7525 or online at [www.keepingyouwell.com](http://www.keepingyouwell.com)

# CALENDAR

## 8 FEBRUARY 2012

Wednesday, February 8: Family Film Night featuring "Cars 2" 6:30 PM at Library.

Wednesday, February 8: Teetering Tots Playgroup 9:30-10:30AM. Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154 708-562-2258. [www.divineprovidenceschool.org](http://www.divineprovidenceschool.org) Teetering Tots is an activity playgroup for ages 0-4 years olds. Children must be accompanied by parents or caregivers. Teetering Tots Playgroup will meet in the school gym the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from January through May.

Wednesday, February 8: All school mass at 8:00AM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Thursday, February 9: Kindergarten Registration for 2012-2013 @ WPS, 6:30PM

Friday, February 10: WMS Valentine's Day Dance, 2:50-5:15PM

Saturday, February 11: Market Day pick-up @ WMS, 10:00AM

Saturday, February 11 & Sunday, February 12: "Valentine Drop-In Craft" for children in Youth Department at Library. No registration required.

Saturday, February 11 & Sunday, February 12: Wedding Anniversary celebration after the 5:00 PM Saturday Mass and the 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 AM Sunday Masses, Divine Providence Church 2600 Mayfair

Sunday, February 12: Volunteers Needed for Workday - Weather permitting, Save The Prairie Society will be cutting buckthorn from 10 AM to 1 PM near the Prairie House at 11225 Constitution Dr. Please join us. Hot refreshments will be served. Call 708-562-3280 for more information.

Wednesday February 15: All school mass at 8:00AM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Wednesday February 15: Market Day pick-up from 5:30-6:30 PM in Langan Hall at Divine Infant Jesus, 1640 Newcastle Avenue For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Wednesday, February 15: Family Film Night featuring "Captain America: the First Avenger" 6:30 PM at Library.

Friday, February 17: 8th Graders from Divine Infant Jesus Parish will be making their Confirmation at 7:00 PM, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Contact Sr. Susan Majcen 708-865-8086 for more information.

Friday, February 17: Faculty Inservice, No School Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154, 708-562-2258. [www.divineprovidenceschool.org](http://www.divineprovidenceschool.org)

Saturday, February 18: Market Day Pick-up 8:30-9:30AM, Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154, 708-562-2258. [www.divineprovidenceschool.org](http://www.divineprovidenceschool.org)

Saturday, February 18: Band Solo & Ensemble Contest @ WIS, 8:00AM

Saturday, February 18: Teen Mass at 11:30AM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair

Saturday, February 18: Band and piano solo contest will be held at 9:00AM at Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue. For more information contact Carolyn Rife at 708-865-0122.

Monday, February 20: No School - President's Day, Westchester Public

Schools

Monday, February 20: President's Day - No School, Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154, 708-562-2258. [www.divineprovidenceschool.org](http://www.divineprovidenceschool.org)

Tuesday February 21: The Divine Infant Jesus School student body will be praying the rosary-1:40PM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Afterward, Fr. Michael will burn palms in the Church Courtyard to be used on Ash Wednesday. For more information please contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Tuesday, February 21: Teacher Institute Day - No School for Students, Westchester Public Schools

Tuesday, February 21: Bury the Alleluia Celebration at 7:00 PM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair

Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday, all school mass at 8:00AM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Wednesday, February 22: Distribution of Ashes, 6:30 AM and 12:00 Noon Ceremony only; 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM Masses, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair

Wednesday, February 22: Family Film Night featuring "Judy Moody & the Not Bummer Summer" 6:30 PM at Library.

Wednesday, February 22: Teetering Tots Playgroup 9:30-10:30AM. Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154, 708-562-2258. [www.divineprovidenceschool.org](http://www.divineprovidenceschool.org)

Friday, February 24: Stations of the Cross, 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM, Divine

Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair

Saturday, February 25: The Lion's Club is holding a Chicago Wolves Hockey fundraiser. For \$30, supporters get a 100 level seat, transportation to and from the game at the Rosemont Horizon, free Wolves Hockey hat, and refreshments on the bus to the game. To purchase a ticket, call Barry Kerstein at 630.824.7468.

Sunday, February 26: Family Mass at 9:30 AM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair

Monday, February 27: Lenten Evening Mass at 7:00 PM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair

Wednesday, February 29: Family Film Night featuring "Thor" 6:30 PM at Library.

Wednesday, February 29: Winter Choral Concert @ WMS, 7:00PM

Wednesday, February 29: All school mass at 8:00AM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information please contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Thursday, March 1: Family Science Night @ WMS, 6:00PM

Friday, March 2: Fish Fry at Westchester Community Church, 1840 Westchester Blvd. from 4:30 - 7:30. Adult meals are \$10.00, for menu details call the church office (708)865-1282.

Monday, March 5: Lenten Evening Mass at 7:00 PM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair

Monday, March 5-16: ISAT Testing for Grades 3-8, Westchester Public Schools

Saturday, March 10: Market Day pick-up @ WMS, 10:00AM

## PRESIDENT

*Continued from page 4*

### TIF DISTRICT

During the first Board Meeting of 2012 held on January 10 several items were discussed. A resolution approving a TIF Feasibility Study was voted on. TIF is an acronym for Tax Increment Financing. A TIF is a municipal financial incentive tool created by the Illinois State Legislature in the late 1970's to assist communities in implementing economic development. TIF monies

can be used to acquire property, to provide infrastructure and other public improvements pay for consultants, engineering, attorneys, etc, as well as assist in the rehabilitation of private and public improvements. Several areas within our commercial areas that may benefit from the influx of available monies to spur re-development or beautification were mentioned. The fiscal impact of creating a TIF District is significant. As property values increase as a result of re-development, TIF enables the municipality to capture increased tax revenue and utilize it for public improvements.

A feasibility study, which will determine whether tax increment financing and /or other related economic development programs would be recommended for the redevelopment and /or improvement of one or more of the 4 study areas identified by the village, was approved and awarded to Kane McKenna and Associates in an amount not to exceed \$12,500.

### ST JOSEPH H.S. PROPERTY

At our Jan 24th Board Meeting Kane McKenna, our TIF consultant, was authorized to begin Phase Two

of the TIF eligibility process. As you are probably aware, the property where the old St. Joseph H.S. is located has been up for sale for several years. As of late, developers have been interested in the site and have been discussing ideas for the site. As explained earlier, a TIF designation on this property that currently is not on the tax roles will certainly generate tax revenue for our village and hopefully stimulate other economic development.

### EMERALD ASH BORER

See PRESIDENT, page 9

## PRESIDENT

Continued from page 8

An Ash tree in Westchester was found to have been infected when removing storm damage last summer.

A presentation by our in house arborist Steve Crowley and our contract tree service, Rick Sinnott, was made regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. For the past three years, Sinnott Tree Service has been trimming trees section by section. The 4th section to be completed this year is West of Mannheim to Heidorn, between Cermak and Roosevelt Rd. There are approximately 150 Ash Trees located on village parkways that may become infected by the Emerald Ash Borer in the area to be trimmed. The section has approximately 1700 trees. Our contract with Sinnott calls for the trimming of 1500 trees this season. It was decided that the Ash Trees on public property would be trimmed by Public Works crews when necessary for safety concerns. They will be bypassed by Sinnott. Mr. Sinnott, based on his experience, the available information, and work in other municipalities, believes it will only be a matter of time before the Ash trees become infected in a manner similar to when the Dutch Elm Disease struck our village many years ago, causing many trees to be cut down.

### TREE TRIMMING

While on the topic of tree trimming, beginning in February, weather permitting, Sinnott Tree Service will begin the tree trimming process in the area mentioned above. The trees are trimmed to strict professional standards set forth within the tree care industry. Most visible is the fact that the trees are trimmed to a minimum standard of 14 feet especially on the street side. This allows for safe clearance by all vehicular and pedestrian traffic. It also ensures any signs on the parkway are clearly visible. The remaining trimming is done to remove diseased limbs, broken or hanging limbs, dead wood, and sucker growth, limbs that come in contact with other limbs, and street lights. Public safety is the village's first priority when trimming the village owned trees located on public parkways, followed by the health of the trees, and then the aesthetic appearance.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

On January 10th Matt Hernandez, Westchester's Waste Management Representative, appeared before the



The Emerald Ash Borer (pictured) is a small, green insect wreaking havoc on the midwestern ash tree population.

Board. He requested that the Board approve a contract extension until 2017. Presently the village contract with Waste Management expires June 30th 2012. Since 1997 Waste Management has served Westchester with many "no charge" features in the past years, and will continue these in the future.

These No Charge Services Include: Commercial refuse and recycling services at the village hall, and Mayfair Firehouse.

- Collecting 25- 96 Gallon refuse carts twice a week from Westchester's Commercial corridor.

- Twenty 40 yard roll off boxes per year.

- Twenty five 20 cubic yard roll off boxes each year.

- Refuse and Port-O-Let portable sanitation services for Westchester Fest:

- 60 Port-O-Let restrooms,
- 10 handicapped restrooms,
- 60 portable sinks,
- 50- 96 gallon recycling containers,
- 100- 96 gallon refuse containers,
- 18-2 yard refuse containers, and
- 3-6 yard refuse containers,
- 10 Port-O-Let units for the Westchester Little League for all season use.

Port-O-Let hand washing, and refuse container for the Park District's sponsored Softball Tournament,

Financial sponsors to Westchester Fest of \$1,000.

Financial support for the Westchester Chamber of Commerce, Annual Financial contribution of \$10,000 to the village leaf bag program,

Financial contribution of \$10,000 to support our recycling efforts at our recycling center, and

Provide- 4 solar powered compactors in high traffic areas throughout the village.

During the Flood event of July 2010 Waste Management provided more than 400 roll off boxes throughout the community collecting over 4000 tons of debris. These were provided just a few days after the storm.

Although these were not provided for free, just getting them in place and in a timely manner benefitted our community greatly. I can remember hosting an emergency meeting at the Village Hall with a Waste Management representative Jim Kales and being told "Mayor whatever you need from us we will be there".

Presently we are paying \$22.57 per month/ \$20.35 senior.

Beginning July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 the rate will be \$23.47 regular/ \$21.16 senior.

July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014 will be \$24.04 regular/\$21.69 senior.

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015 will be \$24.76 regular/\$22.34 senior.

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 will be \$25.62 regular/\$23.12 senior.

July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 will be \$26.65 regular/\$24.05 senior.

### WATER RATE INCREASE

As a direct result of Mayor Rahm Emmanuel and the Chicago City Council unanimously passing Mayor Emmanuel's budget, an increase of 25% was added to the cost of Lake Michigan drinking water beginning January 1, 2012. The cost of the water from the City of Chicago is passed onto the Broadview-Westchester Water Agency, of which both Mayor Sherman Jones from Broadview and I are Co-Directors. After considerable discussion, both Mayor Jones and I agreed that we should only pass on the direct cost of .50 cents per thousand gallons to our participating municipalities and our contract customers, Hines Hospital, Madden Mental Health Center, and Loyola Hospital. The amount was approved at our January 24, 2012 Board Meeting. Effective January 1st the cost of 1,000 gallons, which will be reflected beginning in the February billing cycle, will increase from \$6.36 per thousand gallons to \$6.86 per thousand gallons of water.

Mayor Emmanuel has also approved increases of 15% each year through 2015. These increases have been

brought to the attention of our West Suburban Municipal Group (WCMC), and a meeting protesting the future rate increases has been discussed with representatives of the city. As of Saturday January 21st, the City of Chicago is standing by their decision to raise the rates each of the next 3 years. The WCMC and individual municipalities are in the process of exploring other options. Some of the options presented included filing a lawsuit against the City of Chicago, and contacting our legislators for changes in the state law. I will keep you informed of any updates, as they become available.

### FLOOD MITIGATION PLAN

Since being elected to office we have been working diligently to assist our residents in reducing the cost of their mandated flood insurance by obtaining a "Community Rating Number" from FEMA. Up until this time Westchester has not received such a rating.

Trustee Novak has been working diligently with representatives from IDNR and FEMA to obtain such a rating. Additionally there may be monies available to communities that have gone the distance and produced a Comprehensive Emergency Disaster Plan. Cook County was unable to avail themselves a percent of the money FEMA spent, because it did not have a Disaster Plan in place. That is changing with the hiring of Michael Masters as the Director of the Cook County Department of Homeland Security.

Westchester is moving forward with its own Disaster Plan and has started with a Flood Mitigation Plan.

The plan encompasses many topics including the following:

- Possible expansion of the Mayfair Reservoir
- Review of Sanitation/Storm lines where streets are being replaced
- Rain Barrel Program

See **PRESIDENT**, page 11

**Michael Manzo, MBA**  
Principal/Owner

**M.A.M.**  
Insurance & Financial Services LLC

10307 W. Roosevelt Rd  
Westchester, IL 60154  
708 344 1600  
708 865 5757 fax

1415 West 22nd Street  
Tower Floor  
Oak Brook, IL 60523  
630 794 0906  
708 268 4050 cell  
michaelamanzo@comcast.net

 "WE WORK FOR YOU" 

## Mother & Daughter Hearts to Hold Boutique February 10th

6:00-7:15pm  
ages 3-11 with Mom  
Pre-registration required!



Join us and put your hearts together for this special jewelry class. As a couple you will be designing beautiful jewelry pieces in a necklace, bracelet, zipper pull and keychain ensemble. We will provide a full array of Czech faceted crystals, fimo clay beads, designer pattern beads, silver accent beads and charms. Our theme is hearts and love. Each couple will receive a pair of heart charm dangles to match each other along with other charms. After our jewelry design we will decorate cookies together with all the fixins like frosting, sprinkles and candy. Don't miss out on this special mother and daughter class.

Fee: \$30/\$40 per couple  
\$26/\$36 for each additional daughter

The Westchester Park District is currently seeking Certified Lifeguards for this coming summer season. If you are currently certified or obtaining your certification this spring and looking for employment, stop by the Community Center, Mayfair Recreation Center, or online for an application.



### Coming Soon...

#### Programs

Sweet Valentine (cooking class) *ages 3-12*  
Thur., Feb. 9th / times vary per age group  
\$15/\$20

Razzle Dazzle Robotics (computer class) *ages 7-12*  
Mon., Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> - Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> / 4:30-6:00pm  
\$72/\$82

#### Fitness

Foam Roller Workout *ages 14 & up*  
Tues., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>  
9:00-10:45am / \$40/\$50  
7:00-8:45pm / \$40/\$50



### In-House Floor Hockey League

for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

Boys and girls will work on the fundamentals of floor hockey for the first week while being evaluated by the coaches. The following week, coaches will conduct a draft and pick teams. Coaches will notify players of their practice time for the following week. Teams will play each other in the league. Officials referee, but players are taught how to correct errors made during game situation.

Ages	Date	Time	Fee
3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2/24-5/4	5:00-7:00pm	\$60/\$70
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2/24-5/4	7:00-9:00pm	\$60/\$70
*7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3/2-5/4	9:00-10:00pm	\$40/\$50

\*Teams will be chosen on a nightly basis but participants must be registered for the program.



## Spring & Summer Program Registration Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> doors open @ 8:00am



Look out for our Spring & Summer program brochure at your doorstep during the week of February 6<sup>th</sup>!



## SUMMER DAY CAMP

Entering Grades K-5

Session I: June 11 - June 29  
Session II: July 2 - July 20 \*  
Session III: July 23 - August 10

Time	Fee Per Session
7:00am-3:00pm	\$267/\$320
10:00am-6:30pm	\$299/\$365
7:00am-6:30pm	\$378/\$451
10:00am-3:00pm	\$189/\$220
10:00am-3:00pm	\$105/\$119 T/TH

\*No Day Camp July 4th

## CLUB 6

Entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Session I: June 11 - June 29  
Session II: July 2 - July 20 \*  
Session III: July 23 - August 10

	Time	Fee Per Session
Boys	10:00am-3:00pm	\$229/\$260
Girls	10:00am-3:00pm	\$229/\$260
	7:00am-10:00am	\$100/\$130

\*No Club 6 on July 4th

© Camp Registration forms are available in the main office.  
© The Park District must have a completed registration form for all campers at the start of camp.  
© A birth certificate may be required to show proof of age.

#### Deposit

\* Payment for one session and deposit(s) for any following sessions are due upon registration. Payment in full is required for the first session attended. A deposit of \$20.00 will be accepted for each additional session to guarantee your camper's spot in the session. Day Camp balances are due for Session II and Session III according to the following payment schedule:  
Balance for Session II is due on the first day of Session I.  
Balance for Session III is due on the first day of Session II.



Please visit our website, [www.wpdparks.org](http://www.wpdparks.org) or call the park district at 708.865.8200 for additional information on any of the above programs. (fees are listed Resident/Non-Resident)

# PRESIDENT

Continued from page 9

- Funding Overhead Sewer Program
- Scope Sanitation/Storm lines
- Preventive Maintenance for Sewer/Sanitation Lines
- Continue Street Sweeping and Leaf Bag Programs
- Continue the investment in sewer/sanitation line infrastructure
- Appointing a Mitigation Officer
- Maintain an active role in the Addison Creek Restoration Act Commission
- Public Outreach- Flood Mitigation Education
- Implement Homeowner Insurance Program
- Construction/Renovation in the Flood Plain

## MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGGREGATION REFERENDUM

Just a reminder that on March 20, 2012, the Village of Westchester has a referendum on the ballot. This referendum if passed may reduce the cost of electricity to residents and small businesses by allowing them to purchase electric power from suppliers other than ComEd. This could result in savings between \$150.00 and \$175.00 annually. A more detailed information sheet with Frequently Asked Questions is enclosed in this edition of the February Newsletter. Please make every effort to review the information and ultimately be informed before entering the voting booth and casting your vote.

## NON-HOME RULE SALES TAX REFERENDUM

Also on the March 20th ballot is a referendum on which Westchester voters will be asked to vote on a Non-Home Rule Sales Tax. The "penny on the dollar" tax will be applied to certain purchases made in Westchester and will support the replacement and repair to our aging infrastructure. As you have learned by reading this newsletter, the recent breakages and repairs the public works department has been engaged in becoming more frequent and utilizing additional financial resources every year.

## VILLAGE HALL CHANGE

Those entering the front office will now see two added signs at the front counter of Village Hall. One is for the Building Department, the other for utility payments and general information. It has been

brought our attention that those wishing to make payments or address other issues were waiting in line behind contractors, and those asking questions pertaining to more involved building issues. We hope this process will streamline your visit and improve customer service.

## VILLAGE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

As you are probably aware, Effective January 1, 2012, Illinois State Law prohibits disposing of electronic equipment in our weekly trash. The following electronic items must be recycled.

- televisions, monitors
- printers, fax machines, scanners
- computers, electronic keyboards and mice
- digital converter boxes, cable & satellite receivers/recorders
- video game consoles & video recorders
- video disc recorders and players

The village electronic recycling center is scheduled to open for business Saturday, April 14th. This past year, over the course of eight separate events, we collected over 52,000 pounds of electronic equipment.

## SANITARY AND WATER LINE MAINTENANCE

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Mr. Oscar Arras the regional account manager from the UtilityServicePartnersInc., a program partner of the National League of Cities, presented information to the board and audience regarding the Service Line Warranty Program. The program allows residents to purchase a low cost warranty on your water and sanitary sewer line connections to the village lines that are located on your property are not serviced by the village. Mr. Arras answered a number of questions that were asked by the board and residents in attendance. The Village Attorney Mr. Durkin was asked to review the participation agreement. Board approval is necessary for a marketing agreement sought by the company. If approved, residents will receive more information on the program by mail in March. A springtime enrollment is planned.

## COMED NEWS

During the month of January ComEd contracted the Tree Trimming Services from the Asplund. Orange colored Asplund trucks could be seen in force in several areas around the Village. Tree limbs and branches knocking down power lines is one of the most identified reasons why power in our area has been out.

Hopefully, we will not experience any blackouts this year. At the least, power outages should be reduced considerably due to the trimming being done in a host of areas in our community.

On January 6, 2012 ComEd filed its 10 year 2.6 billion Infrastructure Investment Plan with the ICC for Implementing a New Grid Modernization Program. Their plan for 2012 outlines \$139 million dollars in capital investments dedicated to improving the systems reliability and \$94 million in smart grid investments. ComEd provides service to approximately 3.8 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70% of the state's population. Rest assured, I have been in contact with our representatives and ComEd Vice Presidents keeping Westchester's and issues in focus.

## CUB ENERGY SAVING PROGRAMS

I recently came across a web site that can assist our residents in reducing energy consumption and cut utility bills, [www.CubEnergySaver.com](http://www.CubEnergySaver.com). This site can be visited for a myriad of tips and suggestions on how to reduce your energy costs and utility bills. Cub Illinois was created by the Illinois legislature as a non-profit utility watchdog group.

## SCAMS, SCAMS, and more SCAMS:

For the past year, I along with our Police Chief April Padalik and her staff, have been forwarding information regarding Scams, and ruses being perpetrated against our residents by unscrupulous individuals who are taking advantage of our trusting nature. In a recent scam where jewelry and a large amount of cash were stolen, the "Thief" posed as someone who lived in the area as a former neighbor and had recently moved back into the area. The trusting residents both felt the other knew the "Thief" but were unable to ask the question between themselves, in the presence of the "Thief." The "Thief" posed as a construction worker who said he had done odd jobs. The "Thief" even wanted the residents to meet his wife. The "Thief" hardly let the couple get a word in edgewise but was able to get them to go outside their home. The "Motor-mouth Thief" alerted his accomplices by phone and subterfuge and they entered the home without being detected. The residents discovered the theft after the "Thief" had left the area in a black colored van.

Please take heed that there are "Thieves" in our midst, and it is not impolite to ask questions and scrutinize persons or situations we

come in contact with. As always call 9-1-1 to report suspicious persons/ or activities you may observe. Don't ever feel silly calling. Better safe than sorry.

## SORROW IN OUR MIDST

It is with a very heavy heart that I report the passing of several people who have touched the hearts and souls of countless Westchester residents. Mrs. Lenore Vitek, a very long time resident who's large family left an indelible mark on the village. Most of us grew up with one or more of the Vitek clan. Lenore was a fixture at the IHM High School and worked many days and nights at Bingo.

Mr. Richard Mihel passed suddenly and unexpectedly "Dickie", as he was known to his friends and lovely wife Nancy, could always be found lending assistance, and counsel, as well as sound advice to solve any problems. As a semi-permanent fixture at the Westchester Pool, Dickie loved riding his Harley Davidson Motorcycle on many excursions.

Drew Xenakis passed away in the prime of his life. Drew, an avid runner, could always be seen jogging on Westchester Streets. As a great husband, parent, and family man he was very respected in our community and by the people he worked with at CPS.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Paul Gattuso and his children, Anthony and Christina for their loss of Angie Gattuso. The family would appreciate donations to the American Cancer Society in Angie's memory.

Last, but not least, Scott Kebby, a dear husband to Lisa, father to Carli and Kyle, community servant, and GREAT neighbor. Scott was very active in Westchester Baseball, where he was a coach and role model to not only his son Kyle, but to all the kids. Scott always encouraged them to give 100%, and have fun. Scott was also a dedicated member of the Westchester Lions Club. He was often seen working endless hours at the Fun Fest making "blooming onions". Scott also spent many hours volunteering at Villa Scalabrini, in addition to his own parish, Divine Infant.

We are all saddened at the passing of these individuals that were a big part of the patchwork of our community. Let their passions, leadership, and zest for life in Westchester be an inspiration to each of us. One person can make a big difference to a community. God's speed to you all.

## PERSON OF THE YEAR

On Saturday, January 28, 2012 the Village of Westchester, Chamber of

See **PRESIDENT**, page 18

# ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

## Recent Alum Gains Valuable Experiences in Trips to Maywood and Washington, D.C.

Written by: Tony Quattrochi, Faculty Member



*All the love to Jaswant Singh  
Carl Levin*

Jaswant pictured above with Senator Carl Levin

Jaswant Singh, Class of 2007, was never one to shy away from work. Salutatorian of his class and recipient of the Principal's Awards for Excellence in Foreign Language and Science, Jaswant left St. Joe's for the academic challenges of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Having decided early that he would tackle majors in both Political Science and Africana Studies, Jaswant also opted to spend his summers interning in order to gain valuable experiences.

During the summers of 2009 and 2010, Jaswant clerked for the Honorable Edmund Ponce de Leon (formerly Presiding Judge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Municipal District in Maywood, Illinois and currently Presiding Judge, County Division at Circuit Court of Cook County). Jaswant researched case law, worked with law students, learned computer programs written specifically for legal research and he also wrote interdepartmental memos; in short, he learned the behind-the-scenes requirements for part of the judicial system, especially in preparation for what would take place in the felony courtrooms. But it wasn't exactly what Jaswant was looking for relative to his future.

*"The clerkship was fascinating and a great learning experience, but it became a little too routine once you got the hang of it. I understood that criminal law was not an area that I wanted to pursue in a legal career because it wasn't as engaging as I would have liked and, for me, it wasn't too intellectually stimulating."*

On the other hand, the summer of 2011 saw Jaswant on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., working for United States Senator Carl Levin (from Michigan). *"That was a captivating experience. Senator Levin is Chair of the PSI (Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations). I worked with others reviewing all of the subpoenaed documents of either companies or individuals that were suspected of illegal actions, such as tax evasion or money laundering. I would question the lawyers representing those people to clarify the accusations against them."*

While the work was plentiful and concentrated, there were also light moments. *"I would open up the office in the morning and occasionally the phone for PSI would be ringing and some of the things the public wanted investigated led to some interesting conversations. I remember one time picking up the phone and before I could indicate who I was, the caller addressed me as if I was John Boehner (Speaker of the House of Representatives) and he was chastising me for not doing a good job as Speaker."*

After returning from Washington, Jaswant began his pursuit of a degree in law from the University of Chicago. *"The students there are very serious and competitive and I love it. I just finished my course work in Civil Procedure I and Elements of the Law. My two other courses, Property and Contracts, will carry over into the next quarter, when I'll also pick up Torts and Criminal Law. Taking final exams is very different from both high school and college. My Civil Procedure final was online and eight hours long. The clock started as soon as I downloaded the exam. And unlike many exams where you just regurgitate what was taught in class, our tests at U of C are more hypothetical so that you have to apply what was taught in class to theoretical situations."*

Jaswant enjoys returning to the Chicago area after four years on the east coast but where his life will lead after law school is too early to say right now. In the immediate future – the summer of 2012 – Jaswant will be in Iowa, having accepted an associate position with David Brown, a large law firm. Summer Associate positions are quite rare for a first year law student which really makes the upcoming adventure all the more exciting. Summer Associates are prestigious positions because the firm treats the student the same as a practicing lawyer for the firm which means they pay summer associates on the same scale as a junior associate and provide the person with an official office in the firm.

**St. Joseph High School is very proud of this Charger! Congratulations, Jaswant!!**

### SJHS Cheerleaders Place 3rd at ICCA Challenge

Written by: Kristin Kalal, Faculty Member and Cheerleading Coach



St. Joseph's varsity cheerleaders traveled down to Bloomington, Illinois on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> to compete in the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association (ICCA) Challenge. After a two hour bus ride, warm-ups, and competition the girls waited in anticipation- hoping to either place in the top 3 or qualify for the ICCA State Championships.

All of their hard work paid off- the Charger Cheerleaders placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 8 teams at the competition and hit state qualifying scores!

*"It's the best feeling in the world knowing that two years ago we were just starting out as a competitive team and in such a short amount of time being able to accomplish so much!" - Kathryn Boehmke '12, Captain*

This is the first competitive cheerleading team from St. Joseph to qualify for the ICCA State Championships, which will be held on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, Illinois.

*"It feels good to prove people wrong about us- we are a good team and now having qualified for ICCA State proves it!" - Alexis Boddy '13.*

**Congratulations Charger Cheerleaders! Good Luck on February 11th!**

Check out our school newspaper website...

*The Lance*



for articles written by our very own students

[www.sjhs lance.org](http://www.sjhs lance.org)

# i am

## ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL



# SHADOW DAYS

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

Reserve a spot today to meet the St. Joseph Family!



**St. Joseph High School**

10900 West Cermak Road,  
Westchester, IL 60154

708•562•4433

[www.stjoeshs.org](http://www.stjoeshs.org)



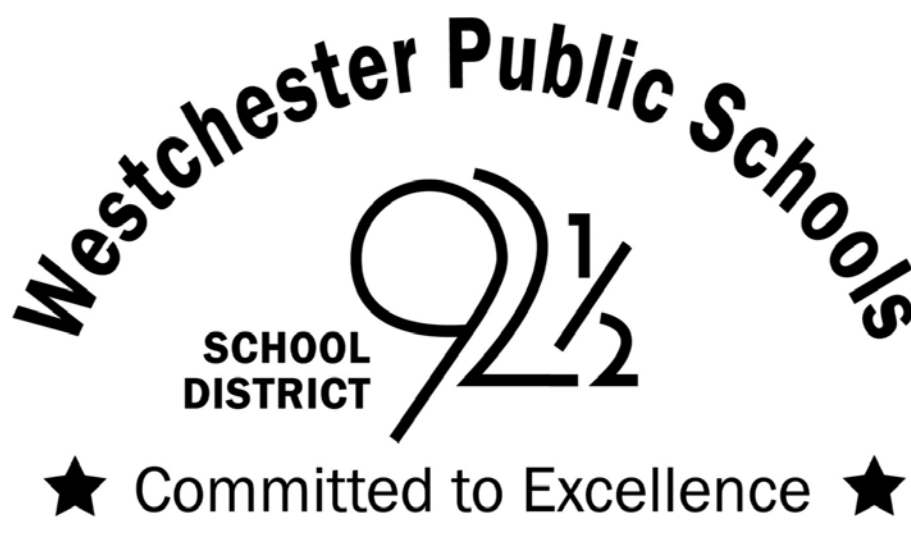
[www.stjoeshs.org](http://www.stjoeshs.org)



## Food Service and Wellness at Westchester Public Schools

The food service program at the Westchester Public Schools currently serves over 500 students per day which is about 40% of our enrollment. The District uses Preferred Meal Systems out of Berkeley to prepare our meals. We are part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) that is a voluntary program available to all public schools which agree to operate a non-profit program offering lunches meeting federal requirements to all children in attendance. Through the NSLP, the District receives cash reimbursement for each meal served. Under NSLP, we serve meals that meet federal nutritional requirements, offer free or reduced-price meals to eligible children based on household income, and operate our food service for all students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Students are offered food and beverage choices consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Food Guidance System published jointly by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture. Federal regulations establish a standard for school lunches to provide one-third of the Recommended Daily Allowances (RDA) of protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron, and calcium. In addition, an adequate amount of calories must be provided for students. In order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity, the Superintendent established administrative procedures to control food sales that compete with the District's non-profit food service in compliance with the Child Nutrition Act. Food service rules shall restrict the sale of foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the food



service areas during the meal periods.

In conjunction with meeting Federal nutritional guidelines, the District has a wellness policy that encompasses the students and employees. Student wellness, including good nutrition and physical activity, is promoted in the District's educational program, school activities, and meal programs. This policy is interpreted consistently with Section 204 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. The goals for addressing nutrition education include the schools supporting and promoting good nutrition for students, fostering the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity, and the capacity of students to develop and learn. In addition, nutrition education is part of the District's comprehensive health education curriculum.

The District's goals for addressing physical activity include supporting and promoting an active lifestyle for students; physical education is taught in all grades and includes a developmentally planned and sequential curriculum that fosters the development of movement skills, enhances health-related fitness, increases students' knowledge, offers direct opportunities to learn how to work cooperatively in a group setting, and

encourages healthy habits and attitudes for a healthy lifestyle; unless otherwise exempted, all students are required to engage daily during the school day in a physical education course; and the District's curriculum is consistent with and incorporates relevant Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health as established by the Illinois State Board of Education.

There are many examples within the District that reflect our commitment to healthy eating and living. For instance, we offer free annual wellness screenings for all employees. Staff is also encouraged to join the District pedometer program that tracks miles walked. For students, all schools are visited by the Mobile Dentist from Smile Illinois during January in order to do oral health exams, clean teeth and apply sealants where appropriate for students who qualify for the program. At the school level, there are other health and wellness initiatives.

### At Westchester Primary School the following occurs:

- Dolphin Pride assembly in January focuses on wellness and healthy choices. Each class and grade level works on a routine or activity to be done during random movement breaks; these are short breaks for physical activity when stu-

dents can't go outdoors for recess due to inclement weather.

- February is National Heart Health month. Staff is asked to wear red on February 3, the American Heart Association designated day to promote women's heart health awareness, as heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women. Blood pressure checks are always available in the health office before or after student hours and sometimes in between.

- The Jump Rope for Heart Charity fundraiser for students and staff will be held in March. Parents donate hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to help students and staff stay healthy during flu season. Everyone practices the 3 c's: clean, cover and contain. That is, wash your hands well and frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home when you are ill.

### At Westchester Intermediate School the following occurs:

- Every student gets vision and hearing screening yearly.
- Nurses work with teachers to make sure students are eating breakfast and provide lunches for students who forget one.
- Students are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather.
- All classrooms have hand sanitizers.

Faculty also participates by walking together when they can as well as support each other to reach ideal weights and maintain healthy eating habits. The Intermediate School has a Biggest Loser group with weigh-ins each week.

As you can see, Westchester Public Schools District 92½ takes the wellness of its students and staff very seriously.

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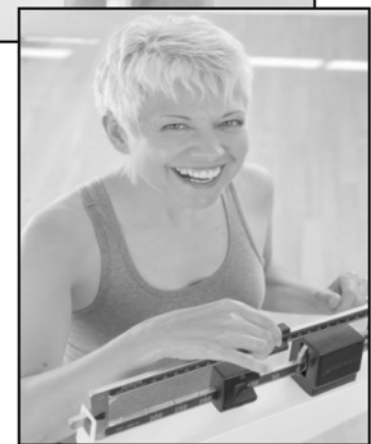


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# Municipal Aggregation Program Referendum

Appearing on the March 20, 2012 ballot will be a referendum regarding the Village's aggregation of residential Commonwealth Edison accounts. The referendum would allow the municipality to seek competitive quotes for its residents' power costs, to see if they can beat the ComEd rate.

If a lower rate is available, residents would then purchase their power through a new supplier. The power would continue to be billed and delivered by ComEd.

## What is municipal aggregation of electricity?

Aggregation in general refers to many customers joining together to form a buying group. Municipal aggregation refers specifically to the situation where a municipality organizes the pooling of its citizens to become the buying group.

The municipality then seeks out offers on behalf of its constituents to get better pricing, terms and services than would be available to an individual. Similar to garbage collection contracts; the municipality will have the authority to negotiate on behalf of its entire community.

## How is this possible?

The State of Illinois amended deregulation legislation, allowing municipalities to aggregate their residential and small business. Through deregulation, municipalities can seek competitive bids for the energy and move to other suppliers if their pricing is more attractive. ComEd is no longer the only company that supplies electricity, but everyone continues to use ComEd to deliver the power, even if it is purchased by other suppliers.

## How does it work?

In order for the Village to create a municipal aggregation program, a referendum must be approved by a majority of voters. The Village Board approved a resolution providing for the referendum question to appear on the next ballot, March 20, 2012.

## The referendum asks:

"Shall the Village have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers

who have not opted out of such program?"

If the referendum is approved, the Village may create a Plan of Operation and Governance, and hold at least two public hearings to discuss this plan. Once the plan is in place, the Village can solicit proposals and bids from suppliers who are licensed as alternative electric suppliers in the state of Illinois. Bids are reviewed, and the Village determines if and who it will enter into an agreement with for energy supply. If favorable pricing does not exist, the Village will not enter into an agreement, and remain with ComEd.

Based on the timing of the above process, a Village aggregation program would become effective in the summer or fall of 2012.

## Why is the Village doing this?

In these difficult economic times, municipalities want to take advantage of the new law that was enacted to benefit their residents and small businesses. If a savings of \$100 to \$200 per household can be achieved per year, residents would be free to spend those funds on other expenditures.

## How will this affect ComEd?

ComEd will continue to bill you. ComEd will continue to respond to power outages.

## How Do I Enroll?

You do not have to do anything to enroll. All eligible residents and small businesses will be automatically included in the program unless they choose to "opt-out."

A letter will be sent with details of the price and terms prior to any enrollment. If you do not respond to the letter sent to you, Commonwealth Edison will complete the enrollment process. However, if you do not want to enroll in the program, you have until a specific date, to opt-out.

## How will this affect me?

If an aggregation program is created, all residents and small businesses will be automatically enrolled in the program unless they "opt-out." Before

the aggregation program begins, all residents would receive notice to opt out of the program.

Regardless of whichever option residents and businesses chose, ComEd remains the utility provider delivering electricity to homes and businesses. Residents would continue to receive a ComEd bill and would continue to call ComEd in case of an outage or service need. The only difference would be a change in the supply rate of the electricity bill.

## History of aggregation

19 Illinois municipalities passed referenda on the April 2011 ballot to begin the aggregation process (see attached list of communities). Estimates of 100+ other communities, drawn by lower supplier pricing, are considering putting referenda on the March 2012 ballot to continue in the process of establishing a municipal aggregate program with the hope of providing savings for residential and small business consumers.

## Will I get two bills?

No, you will continue to get one bill from ComEd. You will continue to send your monthly payment to ComEd.

## Will the aggregation program affect the reliability of ComEd service?

No. The aggregation program will have no impact upon the reliability of service you receive from ComEd.

## Will I still be a ComEd customer?

Yes. ComEd still provides the distribution of electricity and will still be responsible for delivery services: reading meters, maintaining equipment, responding to outages, etc.

## What if I have already selected another electric supplier?

If you have already signed up for

another power supplier on your own, you will not be included in the aggregation program. You may, however, opt-out of your current program and then join the Village's program. You should first determine if your current supplier would charge an early termination fee to move.

## If I heat my home with electricity, will I be included in the aggregation program?

No. ComEd provides a subsidized rate for homes and businesses with electric heat. These customers will be excluded from the aggregation. For more information on electric heat, visit: [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org), and click on "Utility Space Heating Rate".

## What constitutes a small commercial business?

Currently, "small commercial" is defined as an account having a peak demand of 100kW. A typical McDonalds is about 50kW. But this definition is being challenged at the ICC currently and may be re-defined by the ICC at a much smaller level.

## Are there any downsides to municipal aggregation?

A municipality is not obligated to accept unfavorable bids, and any individual account holder could opt out of the program. If bids do not realize savings, they could be rejected and the residents would remain unchanged at ComEd. There is no obligation for the municipality to accept any bid.

## Resources

Public Act 096-0176 - Amendment to Illinois Power Agency Act (PDF)

<http://trib.in/swWiOL>

Plug In Illinois

Citizen's Utility Board

List of Communities with an Opt-Out Municipal Aggregation Program

For more information about electricity aggregation, contact: 1-800-856-3404 or call Village Hall at 708-345-0020

## FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

There are two main areas in Westchester that are in the 100-year floodplain. The northern area of town is in the 100-year floodplain for Addison Creek.

There is another 100-year flood plain area on the south end of town that is tributary to Salt Creek. This area runs roughly west to east a few blocks north of 31st Street. The storms that have occurred that cause flooding to occur are generally storms that produce a lot of rain. For example, the main event in July of 2010 that caused Addison Creek and Salt Creek to overflow their banks was over seven inches of rain in a 12 hour period. Flooding has occurred along each of the creeks in 2006, 2008, and 2010.

## FLOOD SAFETY

The following common sense guidelines can help you from the dangers of flooding:

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around barriers.

Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is about to be flooded, turn off the power at the service box. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocution is the second leading cause of death during floods.

Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. If you smell gas, report it to a Village official or your gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns or open flames if you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off.

Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Flood waters can carry unimaginable items that have dislodged themselves. Culverts may suck smaller people into them rendering them helpless.

Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water will be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals which pose severe health threats.

Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their home may seek shelter in yours.

Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

## PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

If your property is susceptible

to flooding, there are many flood damage reduction measures you can employ.

Watertight seals can be applied to brick and block walls to protect against low-level flooding.

Utilities such as heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters and other major appliances can be elevated to higher floors in the structure or on raised platforms.

Temporary measures such as moving furniture and other valuables to higher floors or sandbagging exterior opening will also help.

Elevating or relocating the entire structure may also be a feasible option.

## FLOODPLAIN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

All development within the 100-yr. floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) is required to obtain a Village Permit.

Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. Please contact the Building Department to receive all the information you will need in order to properly develop in the floodplain at (708)-345-0199. You may report any illegal development activities to the above number as well.

## SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT/DAMAGE

The NFIP requires that if the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages (from any cause) to a building exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land value), the entire building must be brought up to current floodplain management standards.

Building improvement projects include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, additions and repair and reconstruction projects. Additionally, the cost of currently planned improvements will be added to the cost of previously made improvements and compared to the existing market value to determine if the improvements exceed 50% of the structure's value. Please contact the Village Building Department at (708)-345-0199 for further information.

## FLOOD INSURANCE

If you do not have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is only available to those participating communities in the National Flood Insurance Program

**Flood Insurance Rate Map**

The Village of Westchester offers a Flood Insurance Rate Map information service. Please call 708-345-0020 and ask to speak to Hope Garrett or Dennis DiPasquale.

The Map Information Service for a specific address includes:

1. Whether the property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and any mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements.
2. The community number, panel number, suffix and date of the FIRM's index.
3. The FIRM zone and base flood elevation.
4. Any other questions the caller may have in regards to floodplain management.

The village has elevation certificates on file for all new construction starting with 2012. The maps used for this service are kept up-to-date annually, and reflect new subdivisions, annexations, flood insurance restudies, map revisions, and map amendments (including Letters of Map Amendment (LOMSa) and Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs)).

Basemap data provided by: Co  
Flood Area data provide  
Federal Emergency Management A  
Revised: August 19, 20

(NFIP). Because of our floodplain management programs that attempt to protect us from multiple flooding hazards, Westchester is part of the NFIP and thus, residents are able to obtain flood insurance. Additionally, because the Village participates in FEMA's CRS program, flood insurance premiums are discounted.

Be sure to check your policy to ensure you have adequate coverage. Usually these policies cover the building structure, but not the contents. Contents coverage can also be obtained by asking. There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage becomes effective. Plan ahead; do not wait until a flood is predicted before purchasing flood insurance. If you are building inside the floodplain, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory if using a federally regulated/insured bank for a loan.

## NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Flood plains play a valuable role in providing natural and beneficial functions to the area around, and including, Westchester.

Floodplains that are relatively undisturbed provide a wide range of benefits to both human and

natural systems. These benefits provide aesthetic pleasure as well as function to provide active processes such as filtering nutrients. The Forest Preserve property along Sunnyside Avenue is used as a means to filter road debris and oil run-off from streets so that these areas can maintain bio-diversity and ecosystem sustainability.

Both floodplains contain historic and archeological sites that provide opportunity for education and study. Both enhance waterfowl, fish and other wildlife habitats and provide feeding/breeding grounds. And lastly, both floodplains provide natural erosion control and open space so further flooding damage does not occur.

## DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

As simple as it may sound, simply keeping smaller ditches and steams free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity of low-lying areas, as well as greatly reduce the occurrence blockage that significantly contributes to flooding.

It is illegal to dump materials into a required waterway and violators may

## Notes from Public Works

### Sanitary Sewer Lining

The village is currently coordinating a project to line all the main line sewers in an area bound by Wolf Road, Roosevelt Road, Haase Avenue, and Canterbury Street. The contractors are currently cleaning and televising the main line sanitary sewer. Some residents have experienced a little splashing in their basements. The contractors have turned down the water pressure in order to reduce this splashing. The contractors are televising right after cleaning in order to properly prepare them for lining. After all the cleaning and televising is done, the contractor will start the actual lining process. If any resident has concerns or questions regarding work being done on or around their property, please do not hesitate to contact the Resident Engineer, Christopher Faust at [cfaust@cbbel.com](mailto:cfaust@cbbel.com) / 847-954-9766 or the Project Manager, Hope Garrett at [hgarrett@westchester-il.org](mailto:hgarrett@westchester-il.org) / 708-446-4231 and provide your address. The Village will keep residents advised should any project delays become necessary.

### Bike Path Construction

Recently, an outside contractor constructed a private fiber optic line along Cermak Road. Part of this installation ran under the forest preserve property at Mannheim and Cermak. As part of the project, the contractor also constructed a short segment of bike path along the north side of Cermak Road from Mannheim to Westchester Blvd. This is a great addition to the Village and helps keep pedestrians safe.



Meet the Westchester Public Works Department.

### Snow Plan in Effect

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 "NO PARKING" and "SNOW ROUTE" signs

Do not throw or blow snow back into the cleared streets

The following snow related parking restrictions WILL be enforced:

After a two-inch snowfall and except as otherwise posted, it is unlawful to park any vehicle, or to permit any vehicle to remain parked, between the hours of eight-thirty a.m. and four-thirty p.m., on odd-numbered sides of the streets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on even-numbered sides of the street on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Odd sides of the street are defined as the south side of east and west streets, and the

east side of north and south streets. Even sides of the street are defined as the north side of east and west streets and the west side of north and south streets.

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

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.

As usual, if residents see an unusual or extreme amount of water in the streets or parkways, please call the Public Works department at 708-345-0041 or 708-345-0060 (after hour's non-emergency police number) immediately as this could be a possible main break.

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 Public Works Dept has been filling potholes with cold patch throughout the winter months, weather permitting. Please call the Public Works Dept. at 708-345-0041 to report a pothole.

Register now for the 50/50 shared cost sidewalk replacement program- if you need your sidewalk squares replaced the Village will share the cost with you. Call 708-345-0041 for more information or to register.

New Parkway Tree Program- The Village offers a 50/50 shared cost program that includes the purchase and planting of a new parkway tree. Residents have a choice of 4-5 types of trees indigenous to the area. Beautify your yard and add curb appeal to your home! The trees will be planted in the fall of 2012. Call 708-345-0041 for more information.

Sinnott Tree Service will be trimming trees as part of the routine Village Tree Trimming Program in February 2012. Tree trimming improves tree health, appearance and safety. The area to be trimmed will be west of Mannheim to Wolf Road and South of Roosevelt to Cermak Rd. They will be starting on Bellevue and working west.

## FLOOD

*Continued from page 18*

be fined. If you see someone in the act of dumping or see debris in one of our watercourses, please contact the Village at 708-345-0020.

### FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

Many times, flooding along the Addison and Salt Creeks within the Village of Westchester can be predicted in advance, giving ample warning for preparation and evacuation.

However, in the event of a flash flood due to a large rain event, you may be the first to notice the oncoming situation and have only hours to execute your plan. Notify

the Village Police Department (911). The Village's Emergency Alert System will be activated. Tune in your radio for local and National Weather Service Updates. You will also see regular interruption on local radio and television stations advising you of the situation.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you should require further or more detailed information regarding flood-related issues in Westchester, here are some additional sources:

FEMA.gov website  
Westchester Village Hall  
708-345-0020  
10300 Roosevelt Rd.  
Westchester, IL 60154  
Floodplain FAQ page on the [www.westchester-il.org](http://www.westchester-il.org) website.  
Westchester Public Library.

## PRESIDENT

*Continued from page 11*

Commerce, and Westchester School District 92.5 honored their Persons of the Year. For 2011 the Village Board selected Mr. John P. Fecarotta a 42 year employee of the Westchester Public Works Department. John continues to serve the village each day as the Superintendent. He wears many hats that were filled by several other employees over the years. John acts as the Public Works Director, and supervises the Water Department, and Street Department and all their employees. John was selected not only for his tenure in the department, but also for his dedication to not only the village government, but to the residents he

serves. I have known John for over for 37 years. I was on the job when he was buried in a trench cave that almost ended his life. I have seen him in action supervising his department and observed firsthand the respect he has for his men, and the respect they have for him. Recently I subbed in for him for a month while he attended to a personal matter out of state. I can tell you it is no small task having to fill his shoes assign jobs, supervise the work, make the call out on a rotating basis, keep the equipment in good working order, and log the sick, vacation, and personal time off. John, thank god you are back, those 4 am calls are a killer. Congratulations on a well deserved award for a person who really cares about the Village and its residents as you do...

Sam



NEWS RELEASE  
 From the Office of Commissioner Dan Patlak  
 COOK COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW  
 "...to provide fair and timely review of property tax assessment appeals..."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY, 25, 2012

CONTACT: ELLY DRAKE  
 PHONE: (312) 603-3644

**BOARD OF REVIEW TO CONDUCT PROPERTY TAX APPEAL  
 SEMINAR IN WESTCHESTER  
 Concerned Taxpayers are Invited**

Taxpayers of Westchester can learn more about appealing their property taxes at a seminar hosted by Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak, along with Proviso Township Assessor Steven J. Zawaski and Village of Westchester President Sam D. Pulia.

The Board hopes that the seminars will educate taxpayers on how to file a successful tax appeal at a time when the economy is putting added pressures on home and business owners.

The hour-long session includes a presentation by Commissioner Patlak that explains how property taxes are calculated and the appeal procedure of the Board of Review. Before the end of the evening, taxpayers will have an opportunity to work with analysts from the Board to address specific questions about their tax bills.

**The event will be held at the Westchester Village Hall located at 10300 Roosevelt Road at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 21, 2012.**

The event is free to the public and there is no fee to appeal. Taxpayers are asked to bring a copy of their most recent tax bill. Please contact the Commissioner Patlak's office at (312) 603-3644 with any questions.

**WBP Volunteers Saluted at Holiday Party**



Pictured  
 Back row:  
 WBP Chair-  
 man, Joan  
 Steinhauer &  
 Director Carl  
 Panek  
 Front row L  
 to R: Director  
 Ruth Dugo &  
 Vice-Chair/  
 Historian  
 Nadine  
 Trumbull

More than fifty volunteers who help maintain the Westchester Blood Program were recognized at a holiday party on Dec 10th, hosted by Chairman Joan Steinhauer and the WBP Board of Directors.

The open house was held in a room donated by the Hampton Inn of Westchester. Officers of the program donated all of the decorations and their time.

Paul's Pizza and Hot Dogs, which donated most of the food; Albano's Deli; Prima La Pizza; Mattone's restaurant, and Tipsters Village Pub. The WBP, the most productive community blood collection group in the area, will mark its 38th birthday this year. Please join us at the next scheduled blood drive. Saturday, April 21, 2012; Community Center from 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m. generously donated by area businesses, including:

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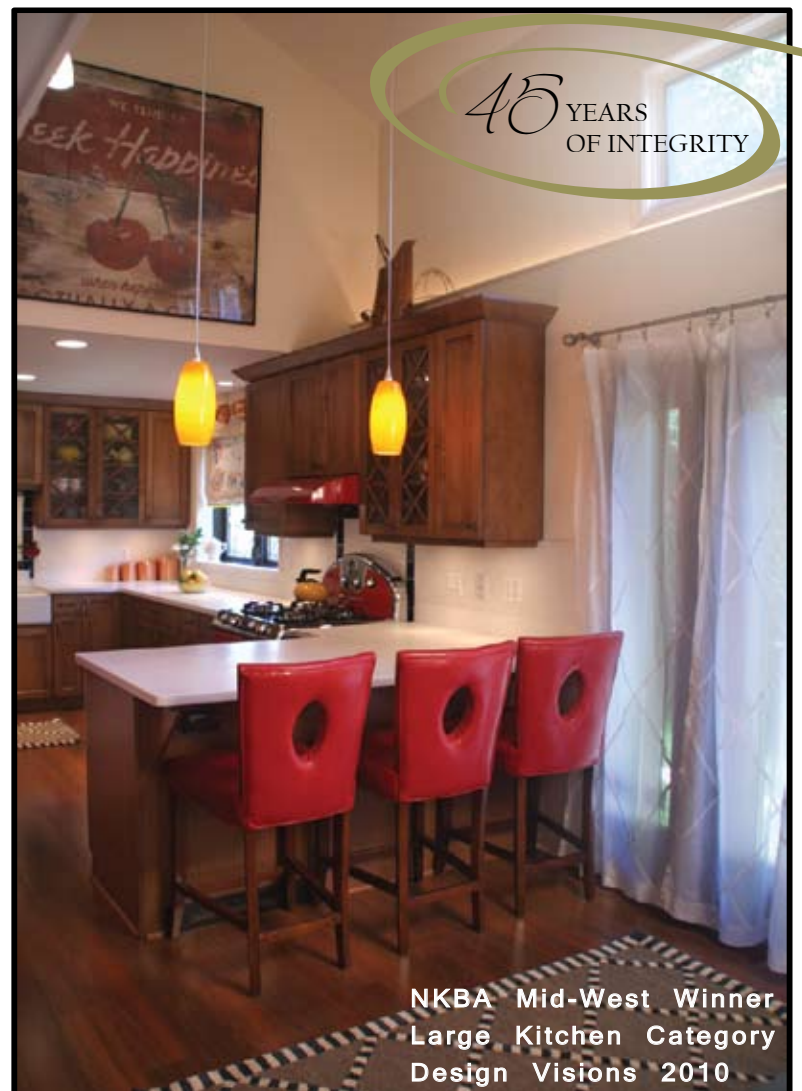
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