



# Village of Westchester

JANUARY, 2025

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*From the desk of Village President Greg Hribal*



Happy New Year and Happy Birthday Westchester!!! I hope everyone had a happy and healthy end to 2024 as we look forward to an exciting 2025.

Westchester is rooted in deep history from its humble beginnings in 1925 to where we are today in 2025 with almost 7000 households. Throughout the year expect to hear or see some of that history as we celebrate the 100th anniversary. A 100th-anniversary committee has recently been established to bring forward plans to celebrate the centennial throughout the year.

On October 3rd 1925, residents residing within the boundaries of Westchester voted in favor of formally incorporating the community. Although a lawsuit was formally filed in an effort to claim that the vote was not legal, the judge saw otherwise. On November 8th 1925 developers George Nixon and William Zelosky closed a deal acquiring 2000 acres of Westchester land for a record breaking \$5,000,000 (90 million in 2024 dollars) and began marketing the future home building in the community. Although a few hundred homes were built in the 1920's, the Great Depression completely halted building until the 1950's when a housing boom spurred thousands of homes that nearly all continue to exist today.

Before we get too far into 2025, I wish to take a moment to thank everyone who donated and provided support towards the various holiday gift giving activities the Village of Westchester participated in this season. Shop-with-a-Cop, Toys for Tots and Christmas in Proviso were all extremely successful in bringing joys to families in need.

Residents have been asking what might be happen if a proposed merger of Jewel and Mariano's were to happen as previously reported in the news. The Village was contacted in the fall about the two brands that were to combine and advised the Mariano's brand would be sold to C&S Wholesale Grocers who would take over the operations of the Mariano's but not be making any changes to the name or appearance of the store. On December 18th the Village was notified that the sale between the parties involved would not occur and that the two grocery brands would continue to operate independently.

The Westchester Police Department has asked that inform residents of various scams involving text messages. In this era of online ordering where home deliveries are commonplace, there are various scams involving text messages reportedly being from the U.S. Customs Office and the United States Postal Service claiming that a package cannot be delivered. Please do not respond to any of these messages and ignore them.

As a reminder, Proviso Township continues its handyman program that can help homeowners with minor repairs around the house in addition to providing referral services for larger home maintenance issues. Residents that are 60 and older or disabled qualify for the \$5.00 per visit (not including parts) to assist with various minor repairs such as assistance with door repairs, window caulking and much more. Visit the Proviso Township website for an entire list of what services they provide or call 708-449-4307.

Join us in congratulating Sergeant Brian Lamphere on his retirement after 20 years of dedicated service to Westchester. A former Army Sergeant with deployments during the Iraq War, Brian's contributions to our community and country are deeply appreciated. Best wishes in your retirement!

We also welcome Officer Ryan McCarthy, who begins his police academy training. If you know someone interested in serving Westchester, visit our website for open positions in the police and fire departments.

And finally, this month we have been fortunate to have avoided heavy snowfalls this winter but wish to remind residents of the restrictions to parking in the event 2 inches or more of snow does fall. The following provides the best information to help understand how the parking restrictions work.

Winter Parking Restrictions are between December 1st, 2024 and March 31st, 2025, after 2" or more of snowfall. It is unlawful to park any vehicle, on odd numbered sides of the street on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and on even numbered sides of the street on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays until snow has been removed.

# Village of Westchester

10300 W Roosevelt Rd, Westchester, IL 60154  
[www.westchester-il.org](http://www.westchester-il.org) • (708) 345-0020



## Village Officials

### President

Greg Hribal  
[ghribal@westchester-il.gov](mailto:ghribal@westchester-il.gov)

### Clerk

Sophia Collins  
[scollins@westchester-il.gov](mailto:scollins@westchester-il.gov)

### Treasurer

Barbara Brandt  
[bbrandt@westchester-il.gov](mailto:bbrandt@westchester-il.gov)

## Trustees

### Gia Marie Benline

[gmbenline@westchester-il.gov](mailto:gmbenline@westchester-il.gov)

### Peter Marzano

[pmarzano@westchester-il.gov](mailto:pmarzano@westchester-il.gov)

### Robert Morales

[rmorales@westchester-il.gov](mailto:rmorales@westchester-il.gov)

### Evie Slavic

[eslavic@westchester-il.gov](mailto:eslavic@westchester-il.gov)

### Nick Steker

[nsteker@westchester-il.gov](mailto:nsteker@westchester-il.gov)

### Victoria M. Vann

[vvann@westchester-il.gov](mailto:vvann@westchester-il.gov)

## Staff

### Village Hall - (708) 345-0020

Barry Krumstok, Manager  
[bkrumstok@westchester-il.gov](mailto:bkrumstok@westchester-il.gov)

John Schwarz, Assistant Manager  
[jschwarz@westchester-il.gov](mailto:jschwarz@westchester-il.gov)

### Community Development/ Building - (708) 345-0199

Jim Novosel, Director  
[jnovosel@westchester-il.gov](mailto:jnovosel@westchester-il.gov)

### Public Works - (708) 345-0041

Steve Crowley, Supervisor  
[scrowley@westchester-il.gov](mailto:scrowley@westchester-il.gov)

### Police Department - (708) 345-0060

Daniel Babich, Police Chief  
[dbabich@westchester-il.gov](mailto:dbabich@westchester-il.gov)

### Fire Department - (708) 345-0433

Daniel Manning, Fire Chief  
[dmanning@westchester-il.gov](mailto:dmanning@westchester-il.gov)

### General Questions/Information

[info@westchester-il.gov](mailto:info@westchester-il.gov)



THE ONLINE VILLAGE CALENDAR IS CONTINUALLY UPDATED AND INCLUDES MANY MORE LIBRARY & PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITIES. SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG/CALENDAR FOR ALL THE DETAILS!

# January



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	SBC WILL COLLECT LIVE TREES ON YOUR REGULAR PICKUP DAY THROUGH JANUARY 17 - OVER 5' IN LENGTH MUST BE CUT DOWN	<b>HAPPY New Year</b>		2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 GROW ECOLOGICAL COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM VILLAGE HALL	10	11
12	13	14 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING 6PM - VILLAGE HALL	15	16 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30 PM VILLAGE HALL	17	18
19	20 	21	22	23 GROW MOVIE NIGHT 6:30PM VILLAGE HALL 	24	25
26	27	28 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING 6PM - VILLAGE HALL	29	30	31 	

Doing The Job Right The First Time

## SABECKIS SERVICES LLC

Call Us- We Answer  
STEVE SABECKIS  
708-975-0948

General Home Services

# SNOW REMOVAL

## STANDARD PRICING

## \*SENIOR PRICING

Sabeckis Services is local and based in LaGrange Park. We strive to provide on time and quality service to our clients. Insured. 22 Years Exp.

	1.5 - 3 Inches	3-5 Inches	5-7 Inches	7-9 Inches	9-12 Inches
<b>Driveway Front Walkways Public Sidewalk Porch &amp; Stairs NO SALTING</b>	Standard 75.00  *Senior 60.00	Standard 85.00  *Senior 70.00	Standard 95.00  *Senior 80.00	Standard 105.00  *Senior 90.00	Standard 115.00  *Senior 100.00
<b>Front Walkway Front Porch Public Sidewalk NO DRIVEWAY NO SALTING</b>	Standard 45.00  *Senior 35.00	Standard 55.00  *Senior 45.00	Standard 65.00  *Senior 55.00	Standard 75.00  *Senior 65.00	Standard 85.00  *Senior 75.00

REGISTERED WITH THE VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER

## *Stay Safe This Holiday Season:* **Tips from the Westchester Fire Department**

We hope you had a wonderful December! As we move into the cold months, the Westchester Fire Department wants to remind you to be mindful of carbon monoxide safety. Carbon monoxide is a gas that remains after incomplete burning of materials containing carbon, such as gasoline, natural gas, propane, charcoal, firewood, etc. While our homes are designed to vent CO to the outside, there are some safe practices you can do to ensure a safe and healthy home. Think about all the appliances you have that run on natural gas or use burning to create heat and keep them maintained properly. Some apartments that have electric stoves and heaters will still have gas-fed boilers in the basement—that is why we have adopted into our municipal code that a residence shall have properly located and operating carbon monoxide detectors located within fifteen feet (15') of each sleeping room/area and outside of the furnace room. Another reminder is to keep key fobs away from children to avoid automatic starting of vehicles in attached garages which can cause a CO emergency. If your CO detector activates and you need assistance, call 911 and we will come to your home to check your CO levels.

Please check out the following safety sheet from The National Fire Protection Association on CO safety.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Fire Chief Daniel Manning





WESTCHESTER  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# NEWSLETTER

January 2025

## Groundhog Youth Scavenger Hunt

**All Month | Youth Department**  
Complete the scavenger hunt in the Youth Services department. When you finish, come to the YS desk for a prize!

## January Book Discussion

**January 21st | 6:30 PM**  
This month we're reading *Real Americans* by Rachel Khong. Copies are available now at the circulation desk.

## Bingo is Back Baby!

Get ready to shout "BINGO" at **11 AM on January 25th** as our beloved program is back! Registration is required, call **708-562-3573 ext 2** or visit our website.

## Illinois Libraries Presents: The Chicago Pizza - Past, Present & Future with Steve Dolinsky Online

**January 9th | 7 PM | Zoom**

Join author Steve Dolinsky to dish on *The Ultimate Chicago Pizza Guide: A History of Squares & Slices in the Windy City*, his comprehensive guide to the styles, locales and people that make the Windy City a prime destination for slices and pies.

## Movie Matinee: Fly Me To the Moon (2024)

**January 15th | 1 PM | Community Room**

Starring Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, *Fly Me To The Moon* is a sharp, stylish romantic comedy set against the high-stakes backdrop of NASA's historic Apollo 11 moon landing.

## Adult Take & Make

**January 20th | While Supplies Last**

Grab a kit to make a snake scaled greeting card to celebrate the Lunar New Year!

## Illinois Libraries Presents: Love and Laughs with Michelle Buteau Online

**January 23rd | 7 PM | Zoom**

Join comedian, actress, and producer Michelle Buteau in conversation with Greta Johnsen.

## Adult Winter Reading Program

**January 6th - February 10th**

This year we're playing Book Bingo! The first 35 people who turn in their Bingo Card at the Library will win a cozy prize!

## Learn to Sew for Adults

**Thursdays, January 9th - 30th | 6 PM | Community Room**

Impressed by the fabulous home-sewn creations you see on IG? Learn the basics of sewing and complete a newbie project of your choice to get you started on the path to sewing greatness! **Registration is required.**

## Adult Craft: Book Wreaths

**Monday, Jan 28th | 2 PM & 6 PM | Community Room**

Learn how to turn old book pages into beautiful decorative wreaths! **Two sessions available! Registration is required.**

## Qigong and Sound Meditation

**Saturday, February 1st | 11 AM | Community Room**

Sign up for our **LAST** Qigong program this season! Join our beginner-friendly workshop to experience Qigong, featuring slow, flowing movements and deep breathing, either seated or standing. The session concludes with calming sounds from crystal bowls and chimes, helping to reduce stress, calm the mind, and improve sleep. **Registration is required,**

## Budget Cooking With Chef Dave

**Wednesday, January 22nd | 6 - 7 PM | Community Room**

This evening's theme is Healthy Cooking on a Budget—while healthy is the easy part, staying on budget can be the challenge! The menu features seared lamb loin with apple chutney, sautéed shredded Brussels sprouts with dried cranberries, and angel food cake with strawberry sauce. A lively demo will be followed by generous tastings of these delicious dishes!



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY • 10700 Canterbury Street • Westchester, IL 60154

708-562-3573 • askus@westchesterpl.org • www.westchesterpl.org

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-8:00 pm; Friday-Saturday 9:30 am-5:00 pm; Sunday: Closed.

Library Director Fidencio Marbella • Board of Trustees John Lamberti-president, Elizabeth Hunter, Greg Christoff, Shannon Flint, Christine Kuffel, Darla Woods & Stephanie Pedersen • Board Meetings on 4th Monday of every month 7 PM.

If special accommodations are required to attend a library program, please contact us at least seven days in advance.

## STORYTIMES

### Once Upon a Time

Tuesdays | 4 PM | Starting January 7th  
Don't miss this storytime especially for kids in Kindergarten to 2nd grade! We'll read some stories, have fun activities, and maybe a craft or two!

### Mother Goose on the Loose

Wednesdays | 10:15 AM | Starting January 8th  
Get ready to sing, hear stories, and make a craft based on the theme of the day! Best for babies – PreK.

### Pajama Storytime

Thursday, January 9th | 6 PM | Youth Department  
Let's get ready for sweet dreams with this fun Mo Willems-themed storytime! Feel free to wear your pjs. Best for PreK - 2nd grade. Registration required.

### Winnie the Pooh Birthday Party

Saturday, January 18th | 10:30 AM | Community Room  
Join us in celebrating the author of Winnie-the-Pooh's birthday! We'll have games, stories, trivia, and cake! Best for PreK - 2nd grade. **Registration is required.**

## Teen Programs

### Teen Winter Reading Club

January 6th - February 10th  
Stop by the Teen Room to grab your winter reading prompts bookmark! Each completed prompt counts as one raffle entry Grand Prize Drawing!

### Teen Treats: Snickerdoodle

January 7th | 6 PM | Community Room  
Join us to make yummy Snickerdoodle cookies! **For grades 6 - 12.**

### Teen Craft & Chill

January 13th | 4 PM | Teen Room  
Join us in the Teen Room for this low-key craft program. Can't stay? Take one to go! **For grades 6-12.** While supplies last.

### Teen Game Night

January 20th | 6 PM | Community Room  
Don't miss this special gaming event just for teens! Play Mario Kart, Smashbros and more! Pizza will be served. Feel free to bring your own controller. **For grades 6-12, no exceptions. Registration is required.**

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### Kids Craft Corner

January 7th | All Day | While Supplies Last  
Drop in once a month for our craft corner. Take a craft to go or put it together in the library! Best for grades K- 5th grade. While supplies last.

### Kids' Crochet Club

Wednesdays | 4 PM | Starting January 8th  
Come learn basic crochet!. All skill levels are welcome. Materials will be supplied! For grades 3 – 5.

### Art Explorers

Thursdays | 4 PM | Starting January 9th  
Learn about different types of art and make a fun creation! For grades 2 - 5th.

### Lego Club

Friday | January 10th & 24th | 3:30 PM  
Don't miss this fun club where you can show off your building skills and get to put your creations on display! Best for grades K-5.

## Read Mo' Books With Our Winter Reading Club!

Starting January 6th | Youth Department

Don't let the pigeon join the reading club! Sign up for our Mo Willems-themed 6-week winter reading club this year, starting **January 6 in the Youth Department.** Meet specific reading goals, and win *fabulous* prizes! Look out for a celebration storytime on Mo Willem's birthday in February.





The WPTC hopes that everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season. Happy 2025!

We have had a very busy first half of the school year, and would like to give everyone a mid-year recap.

In September, we had a terrific Meet and Greet for our families and school staff. We also had our annual Walk-a-thon that was enjoyed by all! The Westchester Police and Fire Departments kept everyone safe during the outing, and we thank them.

In October, WIS and WPS had their Math and Reading Night, many families came out to enjoy the terrific games, and treats provided by staff and WPTC. WPS and WIS also had their first book fairs of the school year, along with the Fall Family Dance. Both events were a success and our students and families had

a wonderful time. WMS also enjoyed their first “Hang-out” of the school year. Last, but certainly not least, WPS and WIS McTeacher Night was held in October. It is always great fun to see students and their families at one of our favorite restaurant fundraisers. Both WPS and WIS celebrated fall with classroom parties, we so appreciate the parents that volunteered, we can’t do this without you!

November and December were very busy! WPTC hosted our first of two Flying High, the kids had a great time and our parents had a night to themselves! We hosted a Winter and Holiday Shop for students at WIS and WPS, the kids were given a chance to shop for loved ones for the holiday season. WMS got to enjoy a winter themed school store as well. Along with all of these events there were also the winter parties for students at WPS and WIS and our Winter Hang-out at WMS.

In January, WMS students will have another opportunity to shop at the school store.

Trivia Night will be held in February, don’t forget to reserve your table. Also be on the lookout for the opportunity to purchase Chicago Wolves tickets for the February 1st game.

**Keep an eye out for upcoming events!**

**January 30** WMS School store (cash only)

**February 1** Chicago Wolves Game

**February 28** Trivia Night

Please continue to check our Facebook page and website for any updates!

[www.wptc.membershiptoolkit.com](http://www.wptc.membershiptoolkit.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/WPTC92.5>

You can also reach the WPTC via email at [wptc925@gmail.com](mailto:wptc925@gmail.com).



## Happy New Year 2025

As we leave 2024 behind, I think we can all agree it was one of the most challenging years we've seen in a long time.

My hope and prayer for 2025 is that it brings more stability to the world—along with peace, prosperity, and unity for all. Every night, the news highlights another person being victimized or another police officer losing their life while protecting others. Stress and tension seem to be at an all-time high, leading to incidents that might have been avoided if people could pause and remain calm in difficult moments.

While our officers write plenty of traffic tickets each year, people continue to drive at high speeds, putting innocent lives at risk.

In residential areas especially, we all need to slow down and stay alert. In 2024, our local police departments saw a rise in serious weapons violations and shooting victims.

Across the country, 130 police officers were tragically killed in the line of duty, and an average of 180 officers took their own lives. These statistics are sobering, and they remind us of the risks officers take every day to keep our communities safe.

One year, as a young officer, I wrote 632 speeding tickets—and even then, I could have written 10 more each day in the same location. The issue persists, and it's a reminder for all of us to be more mindful of our surroundings, whether we're driving, walking, or simply going about our day. The members of the Westchester Police Department remain dedicated to protecting our residents, ready to put our lives on the line to shield the innocent from harm.

As we start this new year, I encourage everyone to take a moment to connect with their neighbors.

It's disheartening to hear from residents who've lived here for decades and don't even know the people next door.

While not every neighbor will be friendly right away, taking that first step can make a big difference. In a time when division seems to grow, we need to come together, look out for each other, and strengthen our community.

Working together, we can make a difference. As a man with strong faith, I see the challenges in our world today as reminders to stay vigilant and work toward positive change. Let's make 2025 a year of unity, safety, and kindness.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Chief Daniel Babich



## WESTCHESTER POLICE BLOTTER

**All defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**

**24-04716**  
**11/02/2024 11:48PM**  
**TRAFFIC STOP**

**600 BLK WESTCHESTER BLVD**

WPD Officers were dispatched to the 600 block of Westchester Blvd reporting a vehicle parked on her front lawn and running. A 29 year old male from Desplaines was cited for Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident and Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. The 29 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

**24-04793**  
**11/08/2024 9:16PM**  
**DOMESTIC BATTERY**  
**WESTCHESTER, IL**

A 25 year old male finds himself charged in Cook County Circuit Court with one count of Domestic Battery following an incident. The 25 year old was taken into custody, and transported to the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL for a bond hearing.

**24-04839**  
**11/13/2024 7:41AM**  
**TRAFFIC STOP**  
**10000 BLK CERMAK RD**

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 47 year old male from Bloomingdale, IL was cited for Operating a Vehicle with Expired Registration, No Valid

Registration, Operating a Motor Vehicle without Evidence of Registration and Broken Windshield. The 47 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

**24-04964**  
**11/22/2024 5:17PM**  
**TRAFFIC STOP**  
**1100 BLK MANNHEIM RD**

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 67 year old male from Chicago, IL was cited for Disobeying a Traffic Control Signal, No Valid Registration, Driving while License Suspended and Operating a Vehicle without Valid Insurance. The 67 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the

4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

**24-05176**  
**12/08/2024 3:28PM**  
**TRAFFIC STOP**  
**MANNHEIM RD & ROOSEVELT RD**

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 30 year old female from Chicago, IL was cited for Speeding, Operation of Uninsured Motor Vehicle, and Driving with Suspended License. The 30 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

**This is not a comprehensive list. Please visit [www.westchester-il.org/blotter](http://www.westchester-il.org/blotter) for more information.**

# PUBLIC WORKS

## 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday Garbage Schedule

There will be no change to the garbage collection schedule.

**Live Christmas trees** up to 5 feet long will be collected on your regular rubbish day through January 17, 2025. Trees over 5 feet in length must be cut down for collection.

**SBC yard waste collection** will resume your first collection day in April

**Village branch collection** will resume the week of April 7th - 11th

**The Village Hall will be collecting non-working holiday lights for recycling until February 3rd**

### **S.B.C. Waste Solutions, Inc. – 312-522-1115**

- If your garbage, recycling, and/or yard waste was at the curb by 6am but was not collected by 6pm on your regular day, please call S.B.C. directly to report a missed collection.

- You may place two (2) large items that will not fit in your receptacle (couch, chair, table, etc.,) at the curb every week for collection. Please call S.B.C. directly to inform them of large items.

- S.B.C. will collect household hazardous waste and electronic waste (e-waste), at no additional charge, including household chemicals, automotive products, paint products, garden chemicals, universal materials, batteries, long fluorescent lightbulbs, and swimming pool chemicals. This separate collection must be pre-scheduled by calling 312-522-1115.

### **Village Snow Restrictions**

Public Works crews keep our streets free of snow and ice during the winter months.

Please assist us by observing the following:

- Place garbage cans 3 feet behind the curb line-

**do not place them in the street.**

- **Do not shovel or blow snow back into the cleared streets.**

- Please observe the “NO PARKING SNOW ROUTE” signs.

-The snow portion of the signs will be enforced after 2 inches of snowfall between December 1st and March 31st.

If you reside on a Primary designated SNOW ROUTE, after 2 inches of snowfall you must remove all vehicles from the snow route. Vehicles must stay off the street until the streets are cleared thoroughly by the plows by Public Works. If the snowfall is continuing, the restriction is in place until Public Works completes the plowing for the day. Please check the signs at the corners of your block.

If you reside on a Secondary route, there is no parking Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the even numbered house side and no parking Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday on the odd numbered house side after 2 inches of snowfall. Please check the signs at the corners and center of your block for guidance. (This includes ALL side streets not designated a Primary snow route.)

If you have a Fire Hydrant on your parkway, please help keep the hydrant clear of snow so that the Fire Department may easily access the hydrant in case of an emergency, and so that the snow plows may quickly identify the hydrants while plowing.

### **Westchester Tree Replacement Program**

1. The Village has been planting trees on eligible parkways at no cost to the resident. This replacement program does not allow for residents to choose the species of tree planted, the location, the number of trees planted, nor are residents able to opt-out of having a tree planted in the Village parkway in front and/or side of their residence. Please call Public Works if you would like to request a tree be planted, sooner rather than later, on any

parkway.

2. If you would prefer to choose the species of the tree to be planted, this can be achieved through the 50/50 program. The resident may choose the tree(s) from a list provided by the Village, and shares half of the cost of the tree(s) and planting with the Village. To request the list of 50/50 trees, please call the Public Works Department at 708-345-0041.

### **2025 Construction News**

- Water Main/Service Line Replacements, Sewer Lining, and Street Program

- Norfolk Ave from Wedgwood Dr to

- Roosevelt Rd

- Pelham St from Westchester Blvd to

- Newcastle Ave

- Drury Ln from Newcastle Ave to Gardne Rd

- Canterbury St from Mannheim Rd to Westchester Blvd

- Balmoral Ave from Canterbury St to Wight St- WM & SL Replacements only

- Street Program

- Waterford St from Mannheim Rd to cul-de-sac

- Kitchner St from Westchester Blvd to

- Worcester Ave

- Canterbury St from Suffolk Ave to

- Gardner Rd

As always, residents are asked to call Public Works at 708-345-0041 if an unusual amount of water is visible in the street or parkway. This could be a main break or water leak that requires our immediate attention. If after 3:30pm M-F or on weekends and holidays, please call the non-emergency number at 708-345-0060.

### **Participate in Water Sample Survey**

The Village is requesting your participation in a water sample survey. Please scan the QR code (or visit <https://bit.ly/3NwnQCC>) and submit the form with either YES or NO to indicate your participation. The Village would like to thank you in advance for doing your part to keep the quality of the water safe for you and your neighbors.



# Improving Your Indoor Environment

BY ELIZABETH WISEMAN-CHASE  
GROW Commissioner

Did you know we spend about 90% of our time indoors?

Levels of air pollution indoors can be as high, and sometimes higher, than outdoor levels. Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) can affect anyone's health, but older adults, children, and people with health conditions like asthma and heart disease can be more vulnerable. Learn about indoor air pollution and the steps that you can take to improve your indoor environment.

### Indoor Air and Health are Connected - Take Action

- Learn how reducing indoor contaminants may improve health. Tour the IAQ Demo House at <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/interactive-tour-indoor-air-quality-demo-house>

- Ventilate! When outdoor air quality and weather permit, open doors and windows. Run kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans when cooking and showering.

- Consider a high-efficiency air filter for your HVAC system and/ or a portable air cleaner that does not intentionally emit ozone.

- Control indoor moisture to prevent mold. Fix water leaks and keep humidity levels between 30-50% by ventilating or using a dehumidifier if necessary.

- Install and inspect carbon monoxide and smoke alarms.

- Declutter, wipe dust with a damp rag, and vacuum to help reduce asthma triggers, allergens, pests, and pollutants.

- If you rent, inform your landlord right away about indoor air quality or water concerns. You may also consult Environmental Law Institute's Indoor Air Quality Guide for Tenants at <https://www.eli.org/buildings/indoor-air-quality-guide-tenants-2017>

### Vent Your Combustion Appliances

- Vent all combustion appliances to the outside. Combustion appliances like heaters, stoves, and dryers can produce dangerous pollutants in your indoor air. See: Literature Review on the Impacts of Residential Combustion Final Report July 2022 (American Lung Association) at [https://www.lung.org/getmedia/2786f983-d971-43ad-962b-8370c950cbd6/ICF\\_Impacts-of-Residential-Combustion\\_FINAL\\_071022.pdf](https://www.lung.org/getmedia/2786f983-d971-43ad-962b-8370c950cbd6/ICF_Impacts-of-Residential-Combustion_FINAL_071022.pdf)

- Have your combustion appliances (like wood heaters and gas stoves) inspected annually and follow manufacturer instructions. Appliances that are not working properly can produce dangerous pollutants like carbon monoxide.

- Never use a cooking stove to heat indoors and never use a fuel powered generator indoors, even during power outages.

### Consider Outdoor Air Quality

- Learn about pollution in your community and check outdoor air quality at AirNow.gov. Outdoor air pollution can impact IAQ.

- Be smoke ready. Purchase air cleaners and extra filters before wildfires start and create a clean air room. see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8DqzogXcVg>

- During fires, check air quality at [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) or local news.

### Reduce Chemical Pollution Indoors

- Minimize the indoor use of cleaners, pesticides, perfumes, and other household and personal chemical products.

- Use less toxic cleaning products like mild soap and water. Look for products with EPA's Safer Choice label.

- Follow product label instructions, don't mix chemicals, and ventilate when painting, cleaning, sanitizing or disinfecting.

- Use non-chemical methods like integrated pest management whenever possible to manage pests. Avoid using pesticide sprays and foggers.

- Avoid smoking or using e-cigarettes



indoors. If you live in multi-unit housing, consider advocating for a smoke-free policy in your building.

### Check for Lead and Radon

- Test for lead in your home or school if it was built before 1978 and consult with your child's healthcare provider for advice on blood lead testing. See: Cook County Public Health resources that may be available to you at <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/environmental-health/lead-poisoning/grant/>

- Test your home or school for radon and fix if needed. Homeowners and renters can get a free radon test kit at: <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/environmental-health/radon-test-kit->

request/

- Exposure to radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.

Sources: US Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Law Institute, American Lung Association, Cook County Department of Public Health

For additional information email: [ewchase@westchester-il.gov](mailto:ewchase@westchester-il.gov)

### Green Fact of the Month

"To produce a pound of steak, which provides us with 500 calories of food energy, takes 20,000 calories of fossil fuel, expended mainly in producing the crops fed to livestock." Lappe Diet for a Small Planet, p.10, 2021.

## Recipe of the Month

Welcome to 2025! This month's recipe works well for breakfast, a snack, and even a light dessert. This sweet, vegan treat is packed with flavor and takes only minutes to prepare. A great one to add to the weekly rotation.

### Strawberry Chia Seed Pudding

makes about 6 servings

#### Ingredients

2 cups of frozen organic strawberries  
¼ cup of white chia seeds

2 tablespoons of maple syrup  
½ teaspoon of vanilla extract  
1 can (13 ounce) of coconut milk  
½ cup of non-dairy coconut milk  
1 cup of fresh organic blueberries and/or sliced organic strawberries

#### Instructions

- Blend first 6 ingredients in a blender for 15 seconds, wait 3-4 minutes before blending for an additional 15 seconds.
- Refrigerate covered for 6 hours to overnight.
- Serve with fresh blueberries and/or sliced strawberries.

Each serving contains about 150 calories, 3g protein, 6g fiber, 12g carbohydrates (5g sugar), and 2g fat.

Source: Slightly modified recipe by Dreena Burton (online) and The Vegan Starter Kit (2018, by Neal D. Barnard, MD)

Submitted by Walt Wojcik, GROW

Have a plant-based recipe you'd like to share with the community? Send it to [GROW@westchester-il.gov](mailto:GROW@westchester-il.gov) for consideration for future newsletters.



# Movie Night

**BEING THE  
CHANGE**

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**

6:30 P.M. ★ VILLAGE BOARD ROOM

10300 W ROOSEVELT RD, WESTCHESTER

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GROW invites residents to a free screening of this enlightening documentary, which explores the life of atmospheric scientist Peter Kalmus and his journey to reduce his fossil fuel use to just one-tenth of the average American. This one-hour film will be followed by a thoughtful discussion.

While all ages are welcome, this film is best suited for viewers aged 13 and older. No registration required.

## Celebrating 100 Years of Westchester: 1925–2025

Westchester, located in Cook County, 13 miles west of the Chicago Loop, has a rich history that reflects its transformation from farmland to a distinctive suburban community. In the mid-19th century, German farmers settled in the area, leaving behind a few old farmhouses and streets named after them. These remnants hint at the nearly 150-year history of farming that preceded the Village's development.

The name "Westchester," along with the predominantly English street names and several homes built in the 1920s, reflects the vision of its founders. Utilities tycoon Samuel Insull, a native of London, purchased approximately 2,200 acres of farmland in 1924, envisioning a model English-style town. The planned extension of the Garfield Park rapid transit line from Chicago made this location ideal for suburban development.

On October 3, 1925, residents voted to incorporate the community, and Westchester was officially incorporated on December 16, 1925. Developers George Nixon and William Zelosky acquired significant portions of the land, investing in infrastructure such as paved streets, sidewalks, sewers, street lamps, and water mains, as well as the planting of parkway trees. The distinct English-style architecture, featuring brick, stucco, and hand-hewn timbers, set Westchester apart from many other suburbs. The rapid transit line, completed to 12th Street (Roosevelt Road) in 1926 and to 22nd Street (Cermak Road) in 1930, enabled prospective buyers to view properties in the burgeoning Village.

However, the Great Depression brought construction to a halt in the 1930s, with many properties tied up in contract and tax delinquencies. After World War II, Westchester began to clear these delinquent properties, and the postwar housing boom between 1950 and 1960 spurred a dramatic population increase from 4,308 to 18,092 residents. The few English-style homes built before the Depression were soon surrounded by Georgians, ranches, and split-levels. As the rapid transit line was removed and expressways such as the Eisenhower Expressway and Tri-State Tollway reshaped transportation in the 1950s, Westchester's location became increasingly advantageous.

In the 1980s, some of the village's remaining farmland was developed into the Westbrook Corporate Center, a cluster of five 10-story office buildings near Cermak Road and Wolf Road, expanding the Village's commercial tax base. Residential development in the 1990s consumed nearly all remaining

open land, except for the 85-acre Wolf Road Prairie. Preserved largely through the efforts of the Save the Prairie Society, active since 1975, this Illinois State Nature Preserve remains a rare remnant of the prairies that once covered much of Illinois.

As Westchester approaches its centennial in 2025, the village reflects on a history marked by visionary planning, resilience through challenges, a commitment to preserving its natural heritage, and unwavering community spirit. Throughout the centennial year, residents can look forward to events and stories celebrating the journey that brought us to this milestone.

The Village extends a special acknowledgement to our 100th Anniversary Committee—Bethanny Alexander, Bill Ernst, Jeannie Helgesen, Julie Jordan, Magdalene Ladas, Rosann Nicholson, and Andrew Roback—who have worked diligently to brainstorm creative ways to acknowledge and celebrate Westchester's history. Their

dedication ensures this milestone year will be memorable for the entire community.

### **A Special Commemoration: Our New Centennial Logo Unveiled**

As part of our year-long celebration of Westchester's 100th anniversary, we are thrilled to introduce our official centennial logo. This emblem was envisioned by our 100th Anniversary Committee and brought to life by Westchester business owner Kapreshia Linzy of Perfect Image Transfers.

The logo pays homage to Westchester's rich history and unique character. At its heart is a knight, symbolizing the Village founders' vision of a model English-style town. Surrounding the knight, you'll find the vibrant cone flowers of the Wolf Road Prairie, a cherished natural landmark and a beautiful reminder of our roots.

We hope this logo inspires pride in our past, appreciation for the present, and excitement for Westchester's bright future as we celebrate this milestone year together.



### **Partner with Us to Celebrate Westchester's Centennial!**

This is a special time to join us as we celebrate 100 years of Westchester! We invite you to partner with us during this milestone year. For centennial sponsorship opportunities and details on how to get involved, please visit [westchester-il.org/centennial](http://westchester-il.org/centennial).

Be sure to check the website regularly for updates on centennial celebrations and ways to participate as we honor our past and look forward to an exciting future together!

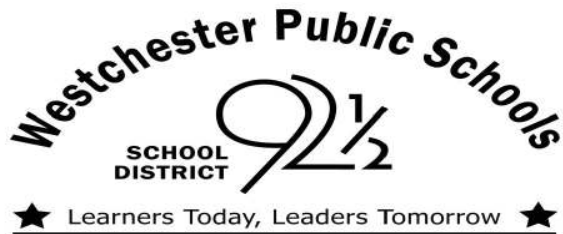
### **THANK YOU TO OUR CENTENNIAL SPONSORS:**

Gold Sponsor: Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

Silver Sponsor: Burke Beverage, Inc.

Bronze Sponsor: Montana & Welch, LLC

General Sponsor: Legacy Professionals LLP



## Westchester Primary School

Westchester Primary Community is dedicated to social-emotional and academic growth. During December, our students focused on “Being the Light” through their kind actions and following Dolphin Pride: Be Ready. Be Caring, Be Safe. Through our activities our students shined bright at WPS!

Additionally, all kindergarten-second grade students revisited their goals for academic learning. Our students will demonstrate their progress through a variety of assessments including the NWEA Math and Reading Map Assessment for first and second graders. When our students returned to school in January, Westchester Primary School gathered additional student growth data using other district benchmark assessments. These assessments provide our educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning, make student-focused and data-driven decisions and provide our families with student growth information. Students in grades one and two are tested three times each year (fall, winter, and spring) in the areas of reading and math on NWEA MAP. All kindergarten, first, and second graders are also assessed using Fastbridge and other grade-level assessments to determine their growth from fall to winter and then again in the spring. Our staff uses this growth and achievement data to develop targeted instructional strategies, differentiate instruction, and plan school wide curricular improvements.

Additionally, at the end of each January, students who have been identified as English Language Learners will participate in ACCESS, the State-assessment designed to measure students’ proficiency and growth in English in all four domains of language- reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This test is also designed to measure student performance with both social languages used every day and more complex academic language. Students will participate in whole-group reading, writing, and listening tests and individual speaking assessments. Information gathered from this assessment assists teachers with designing effective instruction.

In December, the Westchester Primary School Student Council created ornaments and decorated our Westchester Park District tree that was sponsored by the Westchester Parents & Teachers for Children (WPTC) Organization. WPS would like to thank the WPTC for sponsoring this tree as part of the Westchester Community Trim-A-Tree event. Our WPS students participated in the WPTC classroom winter parties and an all-school sing-along with songs to celebrate the diverse holidays before winter break. Also, WPS celebrated with a spirit week created by the Student Council to bring extra joy to our last week of school in 2024! (Pictured: Student Council and the WPS Tree with ornaments created by the WPS Student Council)



## **A Letter from the Superintendent**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was great seeing so many families at our Parent Teacher Conferences. I hope all families had the opportunity to connect with their child’s teacher to celebrate progress and discuss ways to support continued growth. As the winter season settles in, we want to remind families to ensure their children are dressed warmly for the cold weather. Pre-K through 5th grade students continue to enjoy outdoor recess, and proper winter clothing, including coats, hats, and gloves, is essential. Additionally, please ensure that the school has your most up-to-date contact information so we can effectively communicate any changes to the daily schedule. For instructions on how to update your contact information, please click [here](#) or contact your school’s administrative assistant. Notifications will be sent through our call-out system and text alerts. Updates will also be posted on the district’s website and social media channels. Should inclement weather require school closures, we will shift to E-Learning Days, with Kindergarten through eighth-grade students attending remotely via Google Meet, while teachers will share PreK/EC procedures. You can find more details about our plan [here](#).

As the year winded down and we prepared for the holiday season, December was a time for reflection, celebration, and planning ahead. Our students and staff have achieved so much in these past months. I am proud of the dedication and effort they have shown. This month, we remain focused on key priorities, including supporting student achievement and fostering a culture of continuous improvement. As we celebrated the successes of 2024, we also set our sights on opportunities for growth in 2025. Thank you to our teachers, staff, families, and students for your continued commitment to our shared vision. Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday season!

If you have questions or need updates, feel free to email me at [psalemi@sd925.org](mailto:psalemi@sd925.org) or call 708-670-1927. Also, remember to explore our Community Link on the website for more resources and updates.

Sincerely,  
Philip Salemi, Ed.D

## Westchester Intermediate School

Happy New Year to all our WIS families. We have had an exciting first half of the year. It is great to see our students growing each and every day. It is great to see the small groups working together to enhance their learning and to see them enjoying hands-on activities more and more frequently. We continue to focus on the social emotional needs of our kiddos as well. We will continue to focus on respect and kindness towards each other. Those attributes are the foundation that so many life skills come from.

With the start of the new year comes fresh energy after some time off. We will continue our mid-year benchmark assessments for both reading and math. Teachers will use this new information coupled with classroom data collected throughout the first half of the year to focus on skills for which students continue to need support. We will also be able to celebrate the academic growth for students who demonstrate success due to their hard work and effort through the first half of the year.

As the second half of our year begins we set new goals for ourselves. We have made progress in the first half of the year but we still have work to do to build our learning community. Both teachers and students will continue to push themselves to be successful. With the continued support of our parents and families, we have what we need to drive ourselves to the next level of success. I hope everyone has an awesome remainder of the school year.

Go Huskies!

## Westchester Middle School

As a school we will continue to reinforce our Warrior Expectations for everyone in the WMS learning community. Students and staff should:

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe
- Be There, Be Ready

Congratulations to our November Warriors of the Month! 6th Grade: Declan Halpin and Naomi Reed, 7th Grade: Melanie Melendez and Savanna Williams, 8th Grade: Nolan Jawor and Isabella Zarco. Warriors of the Month are selected by their teachers for setting a strong example and exceeding the expectations of the 4 Bs: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be There/Be Ready.



**Career Day is Back!** We are looking for alumni, parents, friends, etc. to join us on February 5, 2025 from 8:00 to 11:15 AM for our event. Please contact Ms. Sells, [esells@sd925.org](mailto:esells@sd925.org) if you are interested in participating.

8th Grade Parents!! Please make sure that you complete the PMSA application (Admissions window closes January 15, 2025 at 11:59 AM) or check with any of the private high schools for their application process.. It is important that you meet all deadlines.

Please make sure that your current phone numbers and emails are in our system. If you have any updates, please contact Mrs. Cerasuolo in the main office to make any changes.

We send our weekly updates each Friday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Please review them for important information about WMS.



- Specialists with insurance claims  
- Free storm damage inspections  
- Licensed, Bonded, & Insured  
- Roofing, Siding, & Gutters  
- Westchester resident  
- Divine Providence Parishioner



Scott Hopman  
773-655-8529

Giordano Manfredini  
708-363-6789

# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## State Farm Insurance, Blaine Carragher

Imagine knowing what you want to do since you were a child. Many of you can tell stories about wanting to be a firefighter or a teacher or a nurse. Blaine Carragher had a sense of call from very early days, since both of her parents were deeply connected with State Farm Insurance in the Rockford area. Blaine will tell you that she has always remembered a family connected to wanting to help people realize dreams and overcome crises. But she will also admit that her journey to State Farm was interesting.

Blaine went to college at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio for a degree in journalism. If you speak with her, you will quickly see that she has a sense of both presence and command of language. She did TV news reporting in West Virginia, and could easily have had a career doing that. But over time, interviewing people facing various accidents and troubles, she had a constant thought of "I couldn't help them." She knew she wanted to help people. That desire to help people is what brought Blaine back to Illinois and connected with State Farm. She was initially a consultant to agents to help them with systems and business processes. But then, after learning by teaching, she became an agency intern.

State Farm is fairly unique in that each agent is an independent contractor. Each agent is initially placed in an area with a number of clients based upon geography. Blaine was fortunate enough to be placed here in Westchester. State Farm Insurance has had a presence in Westchester since roughly 1940. Many of you will remember either Ted or Bruce Horek, both great examples of being part of our community and helping with our local Chamber of Commerce. Blaine started at State Farm in Westchester on April 1, 2022, taking over for Bruce Horek upon his retirement. This was a bust and exciting time for Blaine as she was planning her own wedding that summer with her spouse Sean, who she had met while in journalism school, and starting her own insurance agency. When first establishing herself, Blaine was fortunate enough to be able to use the same location Bruce had been at, with her own clients, and also had some of Bruce's staff stay on. Since then, Blaine has been able to grow her business and she now has five employees that she loves to work with.

Blaine loves serving her clients, both new and old – with some of them being third and fourth generation State Farm families. They come from all walks of life and face small to large crises. Crises ranging from the obvious steps of beginning a family,

buying a first car or house, to the interesting challenges of car accidents and illnesses, and all the way to the "I've never faced this issue before" such as what happens if your client hits another person with a stray golf ball. Blaine is even there for those in the hardest times such as the very difficult moments of what happens when someone dies. Blaine's compassion is evident and she wants to be that person who makes a difference so that someone can move through a difficult time with some help. Blaine takes pride in those moments when someone tells her, "You made this time so much easier for me", and more so when she hears that her employees have been that person that did something amazing for a client.

Every day has been a new moment for Blaine. Every day brings its own joys and its own challenges. Blaine has learned that being deliberate about how to use time and how to delegate is an important skill. No one can do everything and be everywhere at once. And yet, by doing the above, she has been able to do much more than when she started.

Blaine makes it clear that she loves Westchester. She sees our community as so central to the Chicago area, and that it is so accessible to everywhere. She is thankful that Bruce Horek invited her to the Chamber of Commerce Christmas luncheon back in 2021, and planted a seed that being part of the Chamber allows you to know that you are never alone in business. You always have someone else to listen, to give support, to network and sometimes make very helpful suggestions. And being together helps create community. Blaine loves the community of Westchester and continues to help in anyway she can. In fact, Blaine not only joined the local Westchester Chamber of Commerce, but then the Board of Directors, and was just elected President this last month!

We want to celebrate Blaine being part of our Westchester community, and the fact that she has taken so much interest in Westchester. Get to know Blaine and her staff Daisy, Susy, Deyanira, Jessica, and Corinne.

And as always, the Westchester Economic Development Committee encourages everyone continue to support our local businesses!

**State Farm Insurance,  
Blaine Carragher, Agent**

10440 W Cermak Road  
Westchester IL 60154-5201  
Phone: 708-562-2772

Email: [blaine@insurewithblaine.com](mailto:blaine@insurewithblaine.com)





# Proviso Handyman Department

## January 2025

Are your holiday boxes ready to be stored in your attic or basement?

Call and we will help put them away! Is it a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms?

If you haven't winterized your doors and windows our handyman can do that for you also!

**Call 708-547-4001**

The Proviso Township Handyman Program serves homeowners over the age of 60 and disabled homeowners who are residents of Proviso Township



**Bellwood · Berkeley · Broadview · Brookfield · Forest Park · Hillside ·  
LaGrange Park · Maywood · Melrose Park · North Riverside ·  
Northlake · Stone Park · Westchester · Western Springs**

**+ Only Homeowners within the boundaries of the Proviso Township +**

**Michael A. Corrigan  
Supervisor**

**Anthony "Tony" Williams**

Clerk

**Steven J. Zawaski**

Assessor

**Evelyn Chavez · Joseph Christopher · Gay Chase · Clarence E Thomas**

Trustees

# PROVISO TOWNSHIP HANDYMAN PROGRAM



\*Bellwood \* Berkeley \* Broadview \* Brookfield \*Forest Park \* Hillside  
\*LaGrange Park \* Maywood \* Melrose Park \* Northlake \*North Riverside  
\* Stone Park \*Westchester \* Western Springs

\*Only Homeowners within the boundaries of Proviso Township.

**Handyman Program for homeowners over the age of 60 and/or disabled residents of Proviso Township**

- Minor repairs only
- \$5.00 per visit plus the cost of parts, if needed
- Provide referrals on a variety of home maintenance issues
- Appointments are 45 minutes or less

**Please call us if you have any questions and schedule your appointment at 708-547-4001**

<b>WE DO .....</b>	<b>WE DO .....</b>
Blinds/Curtain Rods - Install/Repair	Mailboxes - Install/Repair/Replace
Boxes Stored (50 lbs. limit)	Outdoor Furniture - Put Away/Take Out (small items)
Carpentry-Minor repairs i.e.: Replace loose/rotten boards	Outdoor Lighting - Repair or Replace (Height Limit of 6 feet)
Caulking - Minor interior only - No removal of existing caulk	Outdoor Water Spigot - Shut Off/Turn On
Ceiling Fans - Repair Switches Only	Picture - Hang Only
Decks - Minor Repairs Only	Referrals for Tradesperson - Referrals Only Not Recommendations
Doorbells - Repair/Replace Buttons	Screens - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Door Locks - Repair/Replace	Shower Heads - Repair/Replace/Install
Door Sweeps - Repair/Replace/Install	Shower Wands - Repair/Replace/Install
Doors - Repair/Replace Hinges	Sink Drains Pipes & Stoppers - Repair or Replace
Electrical Outlets & Switches - Replace	Smoke Detectors/CO Detectors - Install or Replace Batteries
Electrical GFCI Outlets - Replace & Install	Storm Doors - Repair (No Installations)
Kitchen and Bathroom Faucets - Repair or Replace No Tub faucets	Storm Windows - Put In/Take Out (Limit 6 feet)
Furniture Assembly (Small pieces only) (no IKEA)	Supply Valves - Replace, Kitchen & Bath Only
Furniture Moving - 50 lbs. limit	Threshold - Repairs & Replacement
Furniture Repair - Minor Only	Toilets - Minor Repairs - No Rodding
Grab Bars - Install or Replace	TV/TV Converter Box - Install & Program (NO Comcast)
Handrails - Install or Replace	Weather Stripping - Doors & Windows
Light Bulbs - Change	
Light Fixtures - Repair or Replace	



**TOWNSHIP OF PROVISO**  
4565 Harrison St.  
Hillside, IL 60162  
P : 708-449-4307  
[www.provisotownship.com](http://www.provisotownship.com)



# Miracles In Progress Very Merry Holiday Party–2024

On December 6, 2024, Miracles In Progress (MIP) held their annual Very Merry Holiday Party! It was held at the Mayfair Recreational Center. This annual event is designed to celebrate the holidays, serving those with brain injuries and other special needs. Our Grand Event Sponsor was Midwest Cargo Systems, Inc. Our Dinner Sponsor was Paul & Andrea Gattuso of Paul's Pizza & Hotdogs @ 31st and Wolf Road. Paul and Andrea's generosity is boundless and they have continued their support of MIP since its inception in 2002, and since 2013 specifically in memory of the late Joe Woss, who was a dedicated MIP volunteer for many years. Everyone raved about the amazing dinner catered from Paul's which included assorted pizzas, dinner salad, antipasto salad, mostaccioli, sausage/peppers and meatballs.

Families enjoyed dinner, desserts, decorated gingerbread houses made by Krispies, enjoyed holiday music from DJ SkinnyBakaBrianMellinthin, played Name that Tune, Bingo and more. Attendees spent time talking with and taking pictures with Superheroes, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus! MIP gave each special attendee and their siblings a gift bag of great surprises! Gift bags were sponsored by MIP, Rainbow Cone, Buona Beef, Buddy Bear Car Wash, Culvers, Lyons, Brookfield Zoo Chicago, Morton Dental of Berwyn, McDonalds (JJC Family Restaurants) and other anonymous donors. Other sponsors and donors included: Betty Rous and Family, Building Blocks Toy Store, Derek & Lisa Gordon and Family, Drury Lane, Oak Brook, Edward & Elizabeth Lezza, Gia Marie Benline, Heroes Sports Cards & More, Jeannie Helgesen of Jeannie's Hair Company, Mike Gobber, Century 21 Circle (Westchester), Nancy Herman, Peter Marzano, The Smithsonian Institute, Jackie Vossler and The SSA Group.

This year, the MIP kids and young adults were honored to receive unwrapped presents that they could choose from. These presents were a very generous gift from the Illinois Police Association Tri-County Division, (ipacops.org). Thank you to Brian Kuratko and Stephanie Wilson-Muniz for organizing and coordinating this! Another generous surprise we received this year was from the Tri-County Heroes United. Everyone was thrilled to see and take photos with their favorite superhero! The desserts and array of abundant fresh fruits were donated by Paisan's Pizzeria and Bar, Berwyn. MIP would also like to thank Ea Bell and her awesome team from 3E Event Planning & Balloon Artistry, Westchester for her Santa Claus and Superhero backdrops, Santa Throne and amazing balloon creations! Thank you to Peter Marzano for being our event photographer. The pictures he took were phenomenal. The families appreciate these photos so much and prefer this compassionate setting to visiting Santa at a mall. Thank you to this year's event

volunteers: Febie Cabanlit, Sheila Cunningham, Sofia Arroya, Courtney Arroya, Izzy Strnic, Annabella Rychetsky, Emmett Bleskin, Matt Friend, Emmett Akkeron, Alexander Akkeron, Barbara Akkeron, Mary Murray, Evie Slavic, Linda Sargent, Edward Lezza, Elizabeth Lezza, LeeAnn Coniglio, Eddie Olewinski, Robert Benline, Michael Benline, Phyllis Orlando, Bridget Rowan, Rebecca Watson, Rachel Watson, Bryan McQuaid, Patricia Hylard, Nazareth Academy Baseball Coaches, Lee Milano, Jim Thome and the awesome Nazareth Academy baseball team. These young men did a great job again this year! And, the MIP Santa Claus, Derek Gordon - we thank you for your love and patience and for the extra care and time needed for our MIP kids who look forward to seeing Santa Claus every year! Thank you to Evie Slavic as Mrs. Claus. We appreciate you! Thank you to John Watson and Judy Saraceno-Swenson for everything you do for this event and MIP throughout the year - which is way too much to mention! Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers! MIP Families who attended had a wonderful evening thanks to you! Since 2002, Miracles In Progress is a volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to maximizing the lifetime potential of those with brain injuries and other special needs. If you wish to contact MIP, you can call 708-531-1616 or email [susan@miraclesinprogress.org](mailto:susan@miraclesinprogress.org).





WESTCHESTER  
FOOD PANTRY



**SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 1  
4:30-8:00pm**

Westchester Community Center  
10201 Bond Street Westchester, IL

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SOUP  
RAFFLES · MUSIC · SILENT AUCTIONS · DESSERTS**



FOR MORE INFO  
OR TO  
PURCHASE  
TICKETS

[WestchesterFoodPantry.org](http://WestchesterFoodPantry.org)

<b>ADMISSION</b>	
ADULTS (13+)	\$30
KIDS (6-12)	\$15
KIDS 5 & UNDER	FREE

**FEATURING SOUPS FROM**

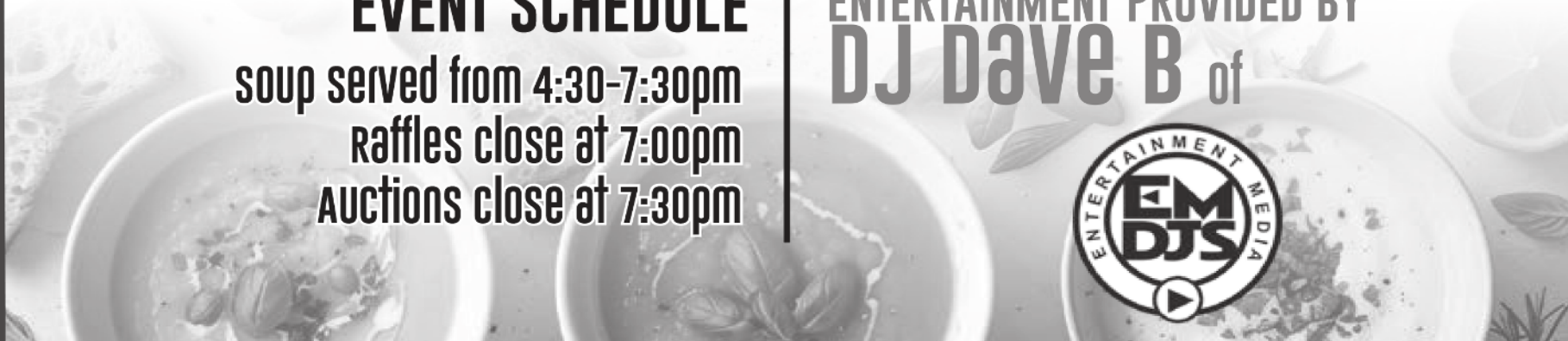
Al's Pizzeria • Alpine Banquets • Benjarong Thai Cuisine • Chai Yo Thai  
Broadview Family Restaurant • Cuomo • The Original Chickie's Beef • Emilio's Tapas  
Hillgrove Tap • Kind Cafe & Catering • Mary's Morning Mix-Up • Mattone  
Paul's Pizza and Hot Dogs • Tony's Breakfast Cafe  
Westchester Inn • Sawa's Old Warsaw

*ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY AND OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED*

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

soup served from 4:30-7:30pm  
raffles close at 7:00pm  
auctions close at 7:30pm

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY  
**DJ DAVE B** of





**JEN & JIM CAVANAUGH**  
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[jim.cavanaugh@cbexchange.com](mailto:jim.cavanaugh@cbexchange.com)  
[CavanaughTeam.com](http://CavanaughTeam.com)

One Parkview Plaza, Suite 100  
 Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181



**COLDWELL BANKER**  
REALTY

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## 8 Winter Home Improvement Tips

1



Seal your windows and doors

2



Have your furnace checked

3



Prep your pipes

4



Install a smart thermostat

5



Testing your Detectors

6



Remove all attached Garden Hoses

7



Stock Up on Snow Supplies

8



Clean the Gutters

## LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?

Interfaith Career Network offers **FREE** assistance - Open to all!

**Thursday, January 16, 2025, 7-9 pm**

### **“Revolutionizing the Job Search – How AI Can Help You Stand Out”:**

**Tiffany Sharkey, Presenter**

Unlock your job search potential by harnessing AI creatively. This dynamic presentation will guide job seekers on how to leverage AI for success. Covering essential AI skills for seekers, it will delve into crafting AI-enhanced resumes and maximizing AI tools to streamline the job hunt, empowering individuals to navigate the modern employment landscape with confidence and innovation.

Tiffany Sharkey brings a wealth of expertise to the table as an HR Consultant at Acrisure, specializing in managing the full spectrum of the employee lifecycle. With a background spanning recruitment, onboarding, terminations, and offboarding, she has provided invaluable support to companies of all sizes and stages across multiple states. A member of the local chapter of Society for Human Resources Management, Tiffany serves as Social Media Chair. Leveraging her enthusiasm for technology and marketing, she spearheads transformative initiatives that advance the organization’s mission with enduring impact.

We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross-, 5005 Wolf Road in Western Springs. Everyone is welcome

*Visit [interfaithcareernetwork.com](https://interfaithcareernetwork.com) for additional resources.*

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WE MEAN  
BUSINESS



# Breaking News



SINCE  
1954

VOL. 1, NO. 1

JOIN OUR MISSION

SPECIAL EDITION

# Westchester CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



*We're thrilled to share the exciting news that our membership*

*for the chamber continues to grow! In 2024, we saw a 30% increase in local businesses and entrepreneur's alike join the mission to help each other thrive and grow. Together, we donated over \$5,000 dollars to our local charities to support their needs. We can't wait to see all that we can do together in 2025. Thank you to all of our members!*



*The Chamber is looking forward to Celebrating 100 years of Westchester*

*in 2025. We are excited to bring back "Party in the Park" this summer, as well as our annual events such as "The State of Westchester" and our "Holiday Luncheon". The WCC is working closely with the Economic Development Committee to support educational events to help you grow your business. Follow us on Facebook to stay informed on all 2025 activities.*



## EMAIL

[info@westchesterchamber.org](mailto:info@westchesterchamber.org)

**TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN JOIN  
THE WESTCHESTER CHAMBER  
TODAY!**



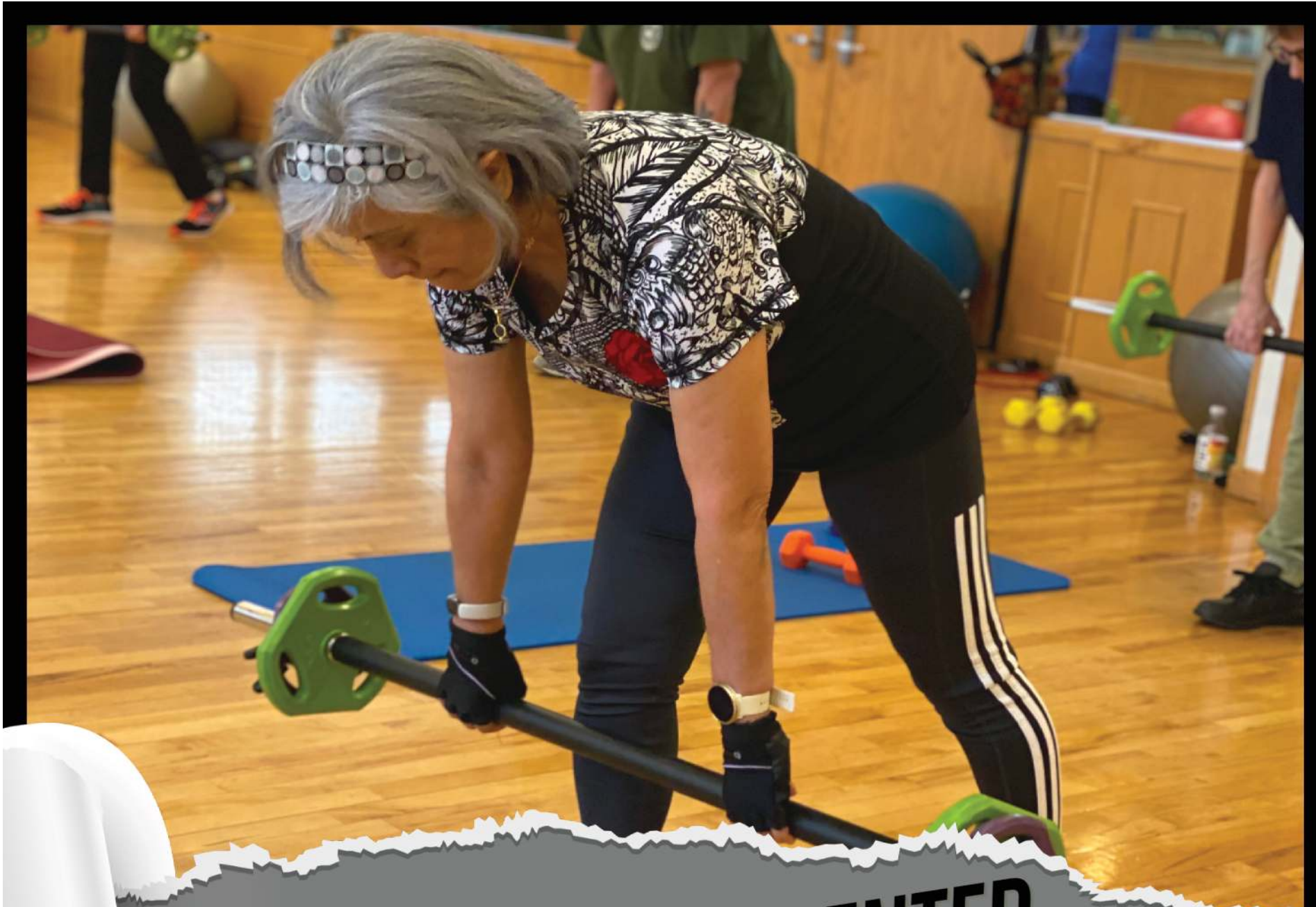
OVER 65 YEARS



JANUARY 2025



COMMUNITY



YOUR GOAL IS OUR GOAL

# MAYFAIR FITNESS CENTER

HEALTH & FITNESS

2025

10835 WAKEFIELD ST. ←

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS, GROUP FITNESS  
& PERSONAL TRAINING  
708-562-6410



# WALK THE GYM

9 - 10 AM . TUESDAY - FRIDAY



COMMUNITY CENTER . 10201 BOND ST.  
708-865-8200

mornings

DON'T MISS OUT - STAY CONNECTED



@WDPARKS



@WDPARKS



WWW.WDPARKS.ORG

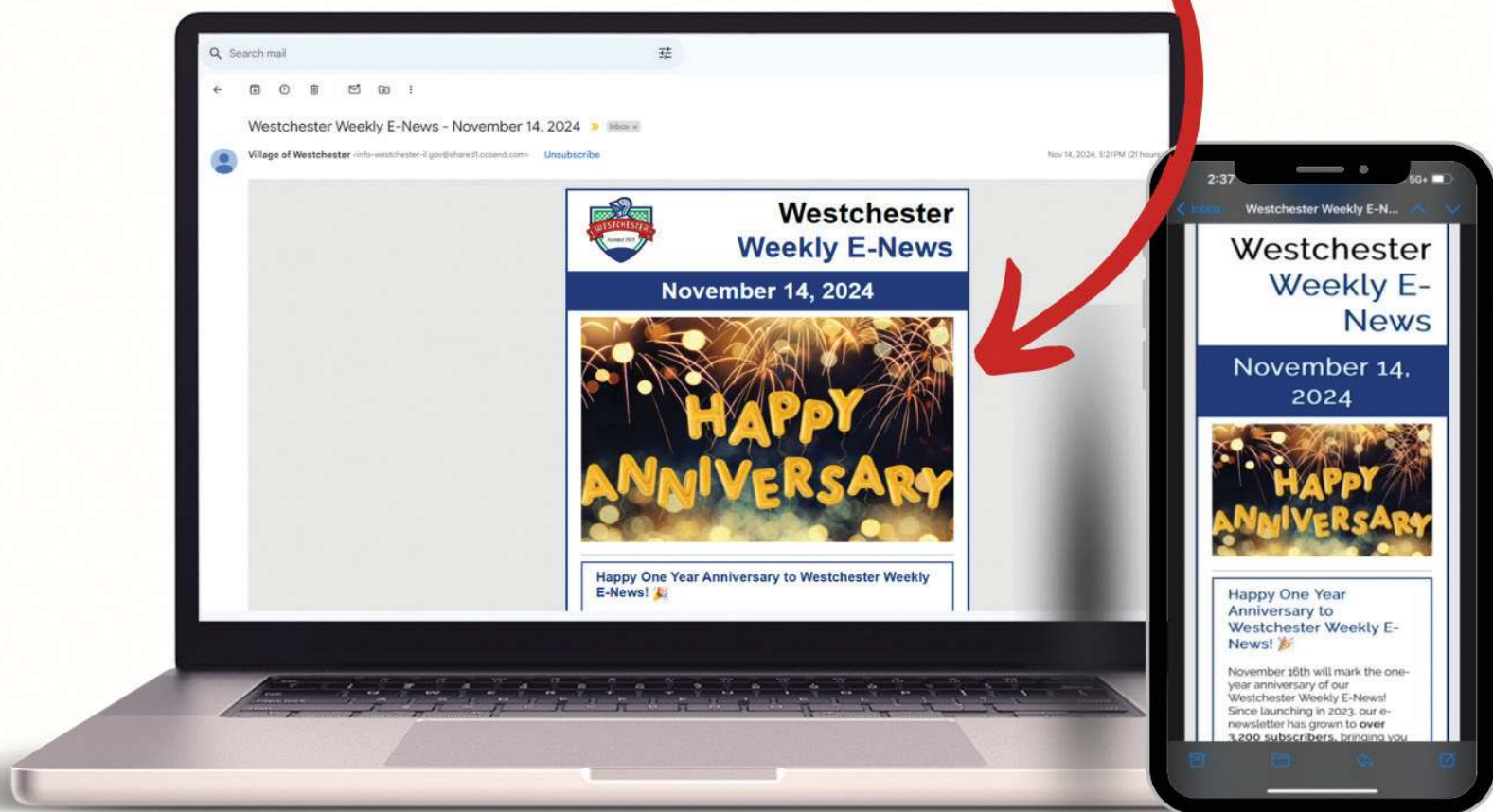


@WDPARKS

# SIGN UP FOR WESTCHESTER WEEKLY E-NEWS



**OVER 3,200 SUBSCRIBERS!**  
JOIN US TO STAY INFORMED



Stay informed with our weekly Village e-newsletter, bringing you the latest updates on Village business, operations, and projects, as well as exciting community events, activities, resources and news. Don't miss out—sign up today by visiting our website and scrolling to the bottom of the page:

[www.westchester-il.org/community/village-newsletter](http://www.westchester-il.org/community/village-newsletter).

Thank you for staying connected with us!