



# Village of Westchester

December 2011 Newsletter

## From the Desk of The President

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President Pulia and Anthony Saviano pose with the "baskets of love" that were donated to residents this holiday season.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Here we are smack dab in the middle of the Holiday Season. I hope you had a wonderful, peaceful, and family orientated Thanksgiving Day and were able to reflect on all you are thankful for. I also hope all of you warriors who ventured out on Black Friday got some great deals, and even more important, made it home safe and sound.

Thanksgiving is also a time when many reach out to help those who may need our assistance. I want to personally thank those Westchester groups, organizations, and individuals who came together to bring a little Thanksgiving Day Spirit to those who were in need of assistance this year.

### A TIME FOR GIVING

On November 19th Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout Troops 73 and 172; the Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scout Troops; and Indian Guides and Princesses, worked alongside Village Officials and Members of the Westchester Citizens Advisory Board collecting, sorting and picking up donated food items for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Westchester Community Church on Westchester Blvd. was transformed into

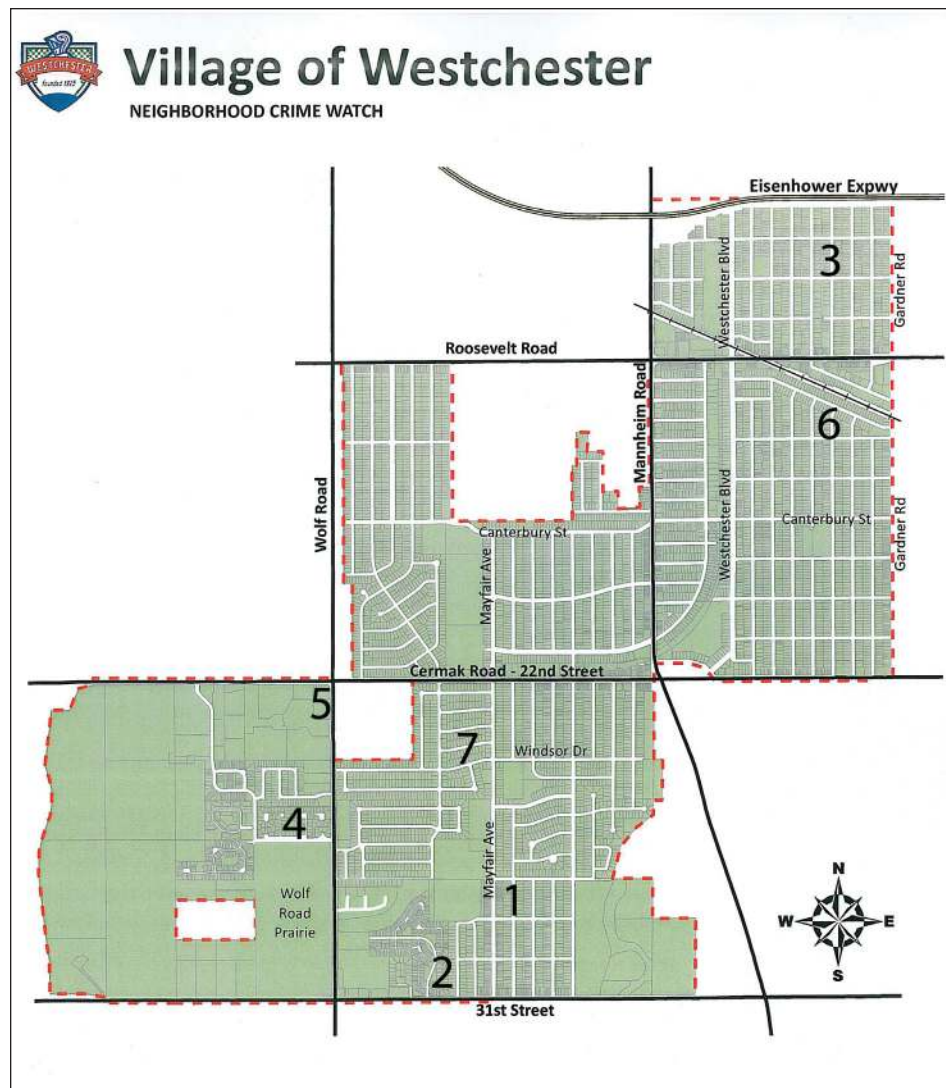
a giant depository. I would like to give a special thank you to Reverend Joseph Mills, and Scout Leaders Horst Kniesel and Edward Colaiani. Horst has been organizing the event for the past 15 years through both good and bad times. He believes that "No matter how tough things are, we can always count on the generosity of Westchester residents to help those who are less fortunate." Edward added "It's great to see all of the other organizations, and especially the children, help out."

In addition to food donations, several hundred pairs of eyeglasses were collected to support the LIONS CLUB recycle program. The glasses are delivered to a regional Lions Eyeglass recycling Center where they are cleaned, sorted by prescription strength, packaged, and distributed to people in need.

This endeavor would not have been made possible without the help of Murane Paper Company, Luis Printing Company and the Members of the Lodge Yankee-Jungmann #77, CSA who annually make a financial donation in addition to donating an excess of 100 pounds of food to the cause.

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**Police reports**



1. At 6:06pm on October 21st 2011, a residential burglary was reported on the 2800 block of Kensington. The resident reported while attempting to enter the house, a male approached and advised that he needed to look in the backyard at their bushes. While the resident was with that subject, another unknown subject entered the house from the front and took various jewelry from the bedroom.

2. At 9:11pm on October 25th 2011, a residential burglary was reported on the 3000 block of Ashton Court. The resident reported that on October 17 or 18th male subject approximately 30 years of age advised that he was from the water department and needed access to their water meter. It was later discovered that jewelry and a checkbook was taken from the residence.

3. At 4:29pm on October 27th 2011, an attempted burglary to garage was reported on the 800 block of Norfolk. The resident reported that two male juveniles were observed leaving the rear of the garage. The resident reported that pry marks were found on the service door of the garage. There was no entry to the garage

observed.

4. At 2:05pm on October 29th 2011, a residential burglary was reported on the 11200 block of Alexandria that occurred between 12 and 12:15pm. Unknown person(s) gained entry by prying open a first floor window. U.S. currency and jewelry was taken.

5. At 6:14pm on November 5th 2011, a retail theft was reported at the B.P. Amoco located at 11201 Cermak. A male subject reportedly walked out of the store with a 12 pack of beer without paying.

6. At 7:51am on November 9th 2011, a burglary to vehicle was reported on the 1300 block of Norfolk. Sometime during the previous night an unknown person(s) pried open the rear door of their vehicle. \$3,500 in tools were taken from the vehicle.

7. At 9:57am on November 13th 2011, a theft of motor vehicle was reported on the 10800 block of Hastings. Sometime during the previous night unknown person(s) entered their unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway and used the keys that were located in the cup holder to leave with the vehicle.

**Holiday safety tips**

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

**LOCK YOUR DOORS!** This applies to your home as well as your automobiles and garages.

Keep valuables out of sight. Don't leave your GPS, radar detector, laptop computer, purse, briefcase, wallet etc... in open view in your vehicle.

When out shopping, make sure you carry only the credit card or only amount of cash you plan on using. Report any lost or stolen card immediately to your bank and police.

Ladies please don't hang your purse on the back of a chair in a restaurant or leave it in the child's seat section of the store shopping carts. Pick pockets love those who do...

Practice ATM safety. Avoid ATM's that look like they've been tampered with. Keep your PIN number secret and don't write it on the card. Put cash away immediately. Surrender your wallet, purse, etc... if confronted. Don't resist or struggle. Report the crime to the police immediately.

Shop safely on the internet. Buy from companies you are familiar with and trust. Look for the "padlock" sign on the website. NEVER give out personal information online or on the phone such as your social security number, driver's license or bank account information.

And last but not least "Drive Smart and Drive Sober". Always appoint a designated driver or call a taxi when out celebrating and indulging in alcoholic beverages.

Have a Happy Holiday Season and a safe New Year !



**Pictured are: Village President Sam Pulia, Ofc. Ron Miklas, His mother, Chief April Padalik and Sgt. Vince La Manna.**

On November 16, 2011, Police Officers from all areas of Cook County were on hand at Morraine Valley Community College for The Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Ceremony. Officers were honored in two categories, Award of Valor and Award of Merit. Westchester Police Officer Ronald Miklas was issued The Cook County Sheriff Law Enforcement Award of Merit. He was nominated by Police Chief April Padalik. In her letter to Cook County Sheriff Dart, Chief Padalik stated, "Officer Miklas is the kind of officer every chief wishes he could clone. He goes above and beyond his daily assignments doing everything that is asked of him without complaint. He is always the first to volunteer often doing tasks and projects on his own time. He often responds to a project or request with "sure, no problem. I love to keep busy." Officer Miklas recently built a custom truck scale storage unit for the rear of a department Truck Unit SUV. The project was done over a weekend on his own time.

Padalik further stated, "Officer Miklas is an exemplary officer who takes every assignment or detail to heart. As an officer, employee, and human being, Officer Miklas is most thorough, dependable, and professional as one could be."

# Profile



**Name:** Richard Mahoney  
**Rank:** Firefighter  
**Years as Firefighter:**  
 I have been a firefighter with Westchester for over 12 years.

**Describe a good day at work:**  
 A good day at work would be a day with a few minor calls and a good dinner with the guys on my shift.

**What is the best part about your job?**  
 The best part of our job is helping the people in town.

**What is one downside to your Job?**  
 Being away from my family for 24 hours at a time sometimes working holidays.

**What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow your career path?**  
 Get an early start in the education for EMS and the fire service and learn a trade for you're off duty days.

**What would occur on your perfect day off?**  
 Going skiing with the family for a long weekend or not doing anything but relaxing in the yard.



## Keeping the Wreath Red



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Fire Safety Tips

The Holidays are a time for celebration and that means cooking and with cooking regrettably home fires and injuries. Unattended cooking fires account for 33% of these fires. Other leading causes are placing combustible items to close to the heat source and various electrical defects. The most common reason for unattended cooking fires is when the cook becomes distracted and leaves the kitchen. To increase your safety when cooking follow these safety tips.

- Stay in the kitchen: don’t leave cooking unattended (stand by your pan!)
- Wear short or tight fitting sleeves loose clothing is more likely to catch on fire or get caught on pot handles
- Enforce a kid free zone of three feet around stove
- Keep area around stove clear of all combustible items papers, pot holders, dish towels
- Cook at indicated temperature settings rather than higher settings
- Keep pot lid handy to smother pan fires do not attempt to pick up a pot or pan that is on fire turn off heat and cover with lid

### DO NOT USE WATER!!

It will cause splashing and spread fire.

- Treat burns immediately with cool running water and seek medical care if needed.

## PRESIDENT

*Continued from page 1*

Westchester's own Judy Saraceno-Swenson, who manages the Village Food Pantry, organized the outreach program for Westchester families that were in need. The Westchester Citizens Advisory Board and several volunteers who helped collect, stock, deliver, and organize all of the donated items also deserve our gratitude.

This year we reached out beyond the borders of our Village to help our Westchester residents in need. We added another dimension to our holiday giving by joining the Chicagoland Italian American Charitable Organization (C.I.A.C.O) with their annual "Feed the Families Day." Since 1995 this charitable organization began giving away 50 turkeys every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year 500 crate boxes of food weighing about 50 pounds and including a frozen turkey, donated by Meijer were delivered to families in need throughout Chicagoland. Westchester was able to secure 15 of these crates that were delivered to those families identified through our churches as those who could use a little assistance this year. Anthony Saviano, an electrical and code inspector for the village spearheaded the drive through his numerous contacts. He and I waited in line behind the Buona Beef Commissary in Berwyn as the "Baskets of Love" were loaded into our van. The baskets were well received by all of the local residents whose homes we stopped at. At one of the homes, we met a wonderful family who were very moved by the gift. The husband and wife made sure we met and were thanked by their two young children. We will always remember the smile on the young boy's face when we brought all the makings for a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner to his family. As Tony and I walked away from that home we could not help but feel touched by the joy one can bring by just taking some time out of our busy schedules and reaching out to help. As the saying goes "There is no greater joy than helping others."

## SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED WATER RATES TO SUBURBS

If you have been following the economic climate all over the world, you are aware that we are not alone in our economic struggles. Some foreign countries are on the brink of a financial crisis at the same we here in the United States are dealing with our own financial woes. Most recently, our own Super Committee,



Westchester Middle School National Junior Honor Society members Sarah Wiener, Grace Wiener, Eddie Colaianni, and Tommy Wiener (not pictured), along with their friend Justin Schoenhardt, stock the Village food pantry with items provided by the Scouting for Food Thanksgiving Food Drive.

comprised of both Democratic and Republican elected officials, were unable to come to agreement on how to cut 1.2 Trillion dollars in spending over the next ten years. This is expected to result in sharp cuts in 2013 that will affect us all either directly or indirectly. Let's hope our leaders in Washington can put aside their partisan politics and come together and do the work they were sent there for ... to work for the people.

As we all know, no one appears to be immune from the reach of this economic crisis we are currently in, including us. On November 16 the city of Chicago unanimously passed their 6.3 billion budget that included a host of fee and tax increases, including an increase in the water rates for all recipients of Lake Michigan water, which in case you did not know, includes each and every one of us. On November 7, 10 Mayors, including myself, attended a meeting with Mayor Emanuel who briefly explained his rationale for the 90% increase in the water rate over the next 4 years. He explained that these additional funds would be used to convert 4 steam operated pump stations that currently cost 26 million a year to operate a year to electric systems that will only cost 11 million dollars a year to operate. He also stated that these additional monies would be used to replace hundreds of miles of water mains and sewer lines. The City of Chicago's Water Commissioner Thomas Powers stressed that these repairs need to be made since any failure to the city's water system would be catastrophic to all users including the suburbs. It was obvious based on the comments and questions of all the attendees that the news of such an exorbitant increase is not something the municipalities themselves can

absorb.

As a result, on Friday November 18th over 50 mayors and village presidents from Cook, DuPage, and Will County met at the Village of Melrose Park to discuss our options. The meeting was chaired by Richard Pelligrino, Executive Director of the West Central Municipal Conference. Executive Director Richard Pellegrino convened a meeting Co-Chaired by Mayors Ron Serpico of Melrose Park and Anthony Calderone from Forest Park. State Senator Steven Landek, who is also the Mayor of Bridgeview, was present and took part in the discussion as well. All agreed that we were totally against the imposition of the rate increase which will be 25% beginning on January 1, 2012, follow by annual increases of 15% each January through 2015.

A 1977 lawsuit filed by the Village of Niles, and two Appellate Court Decisions on this issue were reviewed. Our WCMC Attorneys gave an overview of the facts of these cases. Several steps for consideration were offered. Litigation and Legislation were discussed as possible options. As of this printing no definitive course of action has been determined. Pending a definitive course of action and the ultimate outcome of the same, the water rate increase will be passed on to the Broadview -Westchester Water Agency on January 1st 2012. No decision has yet been made by the Westchester-Broadview Water Agency regarding where the monies to pay for this increase would come from. This topic will again appear on this month's agenda. I will keep you posted as we continue to look at our options.

At our Water Agency Meeting three agreements were entered into with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Public Water Supply Loan Program for three projects that

were long overdue, and that we had applied for over the past few years. The first Loan Program is for the long awaited replacement of the main water pump station located at 11th Avenue and Roosevelt Road in Broadview. The 84 year old station has out lived its life span and has been a priority for a number of years. The state of the art scaled down building that was designed by Baxter and Woodman, an engineering firm that specializes in water pump facilities, will be both extremely efficient and functional. The price tag for this project will be just shy of 5 million dollars. The ground breaking for this historic building will take place sometime in March 2012. Two additional low interest loans were also approved by the IEPA. A rehabilitation project to our underground storage tank at the 10th Avenue pump station, and a third IEPA loan to have a generator placed at the Cuyler Avenue pump station located in Oak Park, Illinois. Presently there is no emergency generator at this facility. The interest rate for these projects is currently 2.5%. However, we are hoping that upon completion of the loan documents the rate may fall lower.

Since 1927 when the then Broadview -Westchester Water Commission was formed 4 pumps, (two for Westchester and two for Broadview) have served us well pumping billions and billions of gallons of drinking water each year. In fact, over the last 12 months Westchester residents and businesses used 572 million gallons of water.

Water conservation must be a priority to keep the spiraling cost of this precious commodity down. There are several things we as homeowners can do to reduce the costs we pay every quarter. Public Works Superintendent John Fecarotta offered these tips. 1) As the weather gets toward freezing levels make sure your outside spigots are turned off. Some homes have inside shut off valves that can be closed and bled off to prevent water from freezing and splitting the pipe. 2) The main toilets with flap valve should be checked to make sure it is making a good seal against the base. These flappers do get rigid over time and even though they look fine water can pass through virtually undetected until a large water bill hits your door. 3) The valve body should also be checked to make sure it is not leaking. Many a toilet has a rod and ball assembly that can leak as well.

Most hardware stores have a small colored tablet that can be put in your tank overnight. This will help you determine if you have a leaky

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## PRESIDENT

Continued from page 4

situation that needs to be addressed.

One of the most overlooked water usage that occurs primarily in the winter months is the furnace mounted water line fed HUMIDIFIER. To prevent static electricity during the winter months a humidifier takes water from your water pipes and injects it into your home through the ductwork. The humidifier has a solenoid switch that opens and closes to allow the water to be accepted into the system. This switch can and does malfunction causing a steady stream of water to bypass the system and drain off into a floor or sink drain. Take a minute to see if your humidifier drain hose is leaking water when the furnace is not operating. If it is, you are virtually throwing money down the drain. I reported recently that I inadvertently left a sink running and over the course of a day and wasted 10 thousand gallons !!!

(NOTE: a humidifier drain should not be draining into your sanitary sewer stack. Sewer gas can and does get sucked back into your furnace which can cause health problems. Additionally, you should know that this is against the plumbing code and must be rectified immediately for your safety.)

**PUSH, SCOOP AND SWEEP**

The Public Works department has worked diligently to pick up as many leaves as possible this season. Our "PUSH; SCOOP; and SWEEP" process has worked very well for the third year in a row. Our waste hauler Waste Management could be seen almost a daily picking up 40 yard dumpsters full of leaves. The 40 yard dumpsters were emptied 18 times which totaled 185 tons of leaves from the back of the Public Works Department. This program, in conjunction with our Leaf Bag Program has worked extremely well again this year. By implementing this program, Waste Management rebates \$10,000 to the village. Other private entities also donated to this program this year. We thank them for helping us keep this program afloat. Thanks also to all of the volunteers who delivered bags again this year.

**WATER LINE BREAKS**

The Public Works Department has been hard at work completing water line break repairs over the past few weeks. As I mentioned above, conserving water should be a priority to all of us. Repairing these leaks from the service lines to our resident's home reduces the amount of water that is lost and we ultimately pay for.



The winners of the Youth Service Medal of Merit were honored at the Nov. 22 Board meeting.

**STORM SEWER REPLACEMENT**

Last month I, along with Public Works laborer Vinnie Smith, personally checked the main storm sewer line that runs down Carlisle Street, to the Salt Creek, and through the forest preserve. During our hour adventure, we came upon a broken 18 inch pipe leading into the sewer at Downing Ave. During the week of Thanksgiving the Public Works crew broke open the street only to find that over 20 feet of clay sewer line needed to be replaced. Thankfully, the line was not totally collapsed, but certainly restrictive and the flow south toward Carlisle from Wakefield Street was impacted. The crew replaced the line in record time. JOB WELL DONE!!

**LOCAL REFERENDUM QUESTIONS ON MARCH 20, 2012 BALLOT**

On March 20, 2012 the Village of Westchester will have two referendum questions on the ballot for our citizens to vote on. The 1st referendum question will be asking to institute a 1% Non-Home-Rule Sales Tax. The monies collected will be spent on "Public Infrastructure" meaning municipal roads, streets, sewer and storm water drainage systems. Over the past two years we have embarked on an aggressive street repaving/replacement objective. Additional revenue sources are needed for the repayment of the bonds that are necessary to continue these long overdue projects. Many surrounding municipalities, where Westchester residents shop have already passed such a sales tax and are benefitting from it. If this sales tax is approved, all those who shop in Westchester, including those who do not reside in Westchester, will be contributing to the improved of the public infrastructure they use when they come into Westchester.

The second referendum has to do with the giving the Village the ability to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small business customers. This is called "Municipal Aggregation". Illinois law, The Illinois Power Agency Act, was changed

in 2007 to allow the purchase of electricity. Over the past few months I am sure you have received letters from companies asking you to opt out of ComEd and enter their program. A number of communities have already passed referendums, including our neighbors in Oak Brook and Oak Park. These communities are now in the process of saving their residents hard earned dollars on their electrical usage. Oak Park's new rate of 5.79 Cent per kilowatt hour is far less than the current ComEd rate of 7.73 Cents. Please visit [www.nimec.org](http://www.nimec.org) for more information on how Municipal Aggregation works.

**PARKING RESTRICTIONS/CHANGES**

A change to two parking ordinances has been approved by the Village Board. One change is on Heidorn Avenue between Roosevelt and Dickens. It is now unlawful for any non-resident of the village to park any vehicle on the east and west side of Heidorn between Roosevelt and Dickens overnight between the hours of 2am and 6 am.

The second is a new restriction on Westminster Drive in the Westchester Place Subdivision off of 31st Street. The homeowners association has requested and received approval to designate the NORTH, NORTHEAST, and EAST side of Westminster as NO PARKING AREAS.

**HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING**

On December 2nd the Village of Westchester will be hosting its Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. The large evergreen tree estimated at approximately 60-65 feet was selected from several that were submitted this year. Height, Fullness, and most importantly, ease of access for removal, were the basic criteria. The tree was donated by the family of the late Anna Mizerka, a long time resident of Westchester. The family will be present to flip the switch and light up the tree for all to see. Ann would have been very proud to see her tree showcased for all to see and enjoy. Many of you knew Ann, who worked at the Walgreens store

when it was in the 31st and Wolf Road Plaza next to Dominicks. Our Holiday Tree Lighting program was made possible by the generosity of our contract tree service "SINNOTT TREE SERVICE" who has been our contract vendor for our tree trimming program for the past 3 years. The selected tree weighed in at 8 thousand pounds, which I am told is about the maximum that their equipment can manage. Our Public Works Department, assisted by our Police Department safely transported the tree to Village Fire Department site. It was quite a sight to see the tree on the back of a trailer covering both lanes of traffic down Cermak, Mannheim, and Roosevelt Roads. Once in place, the Holiday Tree was decorated by our own Public Works employees Eric Detente and Steve Crowley. The "Green" Red and White LED lights used last year were reused and additional lights were added to give the tree a well lit look.

I have written letters to the North Pole asking if a certain chubby, white bearded gentleman in a bright red suit and possibly some of his elves would be able to stop by for a quick visit for some cookies and hot chocolate...I'm sure he won't let us down....

This year we have also decorated a smaller tree just west of the Post Office doorway. The ornaments donning this tree were donated and made by the children of Westchester. There is a drop box in the lobby of the village hall for more decorations. Feel free to drop them off in time to be put on the tree.

**YOUTH SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT**

At our November 22 Board Meeting, Certificates of Appreciation were issued to Westchester's recipients of Sheriff Thomas Dart's Youth Service Medal of Merit Award Program. On behalf of the Village Board it was my honor to provide certificates to the following high school youths who participated in the program this year. Sean Lorenzen, Kyle Wilson, Jose Espin, Fay Domokos, Ava Raddatz, and Jacqueline Nowicki. All volunteered over 100 hours of work in and around our community. The Westchester recipients joined a youth work force of 375 youths from 65 Cook County Municipalities who received this prestigious award. Congratulations to our Westchester award winners as well as the youth throughout Cook County who took the time to give back to their respective communities.

**LIGHT POLE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**

You have probably noticed the additional light pole holiday

See PRESIDENT, page 9

The Westchester Public Library Board of Trustees would like to remind everyone that their meetings are open to the public and that the minutes of those meetings can be found at [www.westchesterpl.org](http://www.westchesterpl.org). Furthermore, "The Westchester Whistleblower" is not a library publication nor is it sanctioned or endorsed by the Westchester Public Library.

**Library Welcomes New Director Fidencio Marbella**

In October, the Board of Trustees named Fidencio Marbella the new director of the Westchester Public Library. A long-time resident of the western suburbs, he began his professional career as an accountant and worked in several corporate settings before reading an article about the library profession that sparked his interest and eventually launched a career change. He earned his masters' degree in library science from Dominican University and has been adult services manager at the Melrose Park Public Library the last 5 years.

While most directors are avid readers, Mr. Marbella is also a published author listed in the SWAN catalog! He coauthored the book "Melrose Park" with colleague Margaret Flanagan which was published in 2009 by Arcadia Press. The book is one of several in the publisher's popular series "Images of America" on local histories of suburban communities in the Chicago area.

Mr. Marbella looks forward to working with the staff to ensure Westchester patrons have ready access to an excellent collection of books, CDs, DVDs, databases, digital offerings and, of course, friendly and helpful customer service.

**Winter Safety Reminders**

Please drive slowly in the parking lot for the safety of all patrons, especially children, elderly, and the handicapped—particularly when snow is on the ground. When waiting for someone, park the car in a parking space so you don't block the entrance for others. And you can help protect library books and media by checking out one of our canvas bags for carrying materials home during bad weather.

**The Library is available as a warming center during normal library hours.** If you lose power in the night, the village hall and both firehouses serve as 24-hour warming centers.

**Make a Difference Day**

On Tuesday, October 25, Mrs. Shouse of Westchester Middle School brought 15 students from her 6th grade class to volunteer two hours at the Library. Students raked leaves, cleaned youth toys and play area, pulled outdated videos for re-evaluation by staff, and prepared materials for upcoming children's craft programs.

Thank you to Caitlin Seegers, Matthew Staerke, Eric Starzec, Mya Morris, Xavier Terry, Angelo Torres, Sonia Velazquez, Jazmin Verdin, Anthony Waters, Jacob White, Donniece Williams, Ciera Wilson, Abigail Wojtynek, Michael Wright, and Omar Zepeda. Job well done!

**Email Notices**

Did you know you can receive courtesy reminders and overdue notices in your email? Stop by the Circulation Desk for details.

For patrons using this email service, remember to update your SWAN record whenever you change your email address. Simply logon at: <https://swan.mls.lib.il.us/patroninfo>

**Last Minute Holiday Craft**

When a member of the staff wore a pretty necklace crocheted from a novelty yarn, we knew it would be a clever program to offer "crafty" high school students and adult patrons. Stop in on **Tuesday evening, December 6 at 7:00 pm** and learn to crochet an easy, elegant, and inexpensive necklace, suitable for gift-giving this holiday season.

**Creating Native Eco-Gardens**

Gardeners and landscapers are discovering grasses, wildflowers and other native plants are hardy, low-maintenance plants that enrich the soil, promote biodiversity, reduce pollution and provide shelter and

food for local wildlife. On **Saturday, January 21 at 10:30 am** (and let's hope it doesn't snow!) master gardener Dennis Paige will show how one community in the suburbs transformed their lawn into a lush spread of wildflowers, sedges, and grasses.

**Friends of the Library**

The Friends will hold their annual meeting for the membership on **Saturday, January 28 at 1:00 pm**. The meeting will feature author/blogger/crafter Amy Alessio, who will present a program on recipes for entertaining entitled "**Vintage Snacks—Appetizing Creations from Decades Past**" that highlights recipes and samples of tasty nibbles just in time for your holiday party preparations.

The program is for **members of the Friends only**, however, a membership table will be available the day of the program. Advance registration is required—call the Adult Reference Desk to register (708-562-3573).

**Chess & Scrabble Club Update:** The last session of the Club will be held Tuesday, December 13 in the Community Room.

Interested in joining the Friends? You can find an application form at the Library or on our website: [www.westchesterpl.org/about/friends.htm](http://www.westchesterpl.org/about/friends.htm)

*On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Library, and library staff, we wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. We also thank the Friends of the Library for the beautiful poinsettia plants that adorn the Library during the holiday season.*



**Applause for Aspiring Authors!** Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Library's Write-A-Book Contest. Winners were honored at the Awards Ceremony in November in front of families and friends. Winning entries will be added to the Library's collection.

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
Grade 1	Tom Kintz - WPS	—	—	—
Grade 2	Brian "Matty" Twomey -DP	Katherine Dziak - WPS	—	—
Grade 3	Jennifer Hou - WIS	Ryan Smith - WIS	—	—
Grade 4	Katie Pancotto - DP	Gabriel Mikowski - DP	Justine Rodriguez - DP	Jannitzy Rico - DP
Grade 5	George Lambesis - DP	Henry Lambesis - DP	Eddie Olewinski - DP	Luke Morrill - DP
Grade 6	Kyle Moten - WMS	Alex Guerin - DP	Caitlin Seegers - WMS	Sarah Labellarte - WMS
Grade 7	Jake Panek - DI	Samantha Caruso - DP	Grace Laszkiewicz - DI	Lauren Nortier - DI
Grade 8	Bryanna Crouch - DP	Julia Nowicki - DP	Francesco Ricchio - DP	Amelia Castillo - DI

WPS - Westchester Primary School, WMS - Westchester Middle School, WIS - Westchester Intermediate School, DI - Divine Infant School, DP - Divine Providence School



**WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY** ▪ 10700 Canterbury ▪ Westchester, IL 60154  
 708-562-3573 ▪ TTY/TDD 708-562-9364 ▪ [askus@westchesterpl.org](mailto:askus@westchesterpl.org) ▪ [www.westchesterpl.org](http://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.**  
**Library Director** Fidencio Marbella ▪ **Board of Trustees** Donna Malecki, president, Steve Cerasuolo, Timothy Hinsdale, Phyllis Kastle, Carole E. Levy, Allison Muzal, and Celestine T. Reda ▪ **Board Meetings on 4th Monday of every month.**

## Adult Programs

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE  
so we can prepare adequate seating & handouts  
Call 708-562-3573 or stop by the Adult Reference Desk.

### “Last Minute Holiday Craft: Crochet Necklace” with members of the staff

For adults and high school students—learn one crochet stitch to make easy yet elegant necklaces.  
Tuesday, Dec 6 7:00 pm

### “Creating Native Eco-Gardens” with master gardener Dennis Paige

Saturday, January 21 10:30 am

### “Vintage Snacks—Appetizing Creations From Decades Past” with Amy Allesio

Friends of the Library annual meeting—membership required (signup available at door)  
Saturday, Jan 28 1:00 pm

**Holiday Closings:** The Library will be closed Saturday, Sunday & Monday, December 24, 25 & 26 for Christmas and closed Saturday, Sunday & Monday, December 31, January 1 & 2 for New Year’s

**Book Discussion Group** The Group meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm and during the afternoon at 2:00 pm in January, February & March.

Dec 15 *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie  
Jan 19 *Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand* by Helen Simonson  
Feb 16 *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

**Getting Up to Speed** Seminar on basic skills for job hunting on the Internet.

Meets on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm. Two sessions are scheduled for the winter:  
Wednesday, Dec 28 Wednesday, Feb 1

## INTERNET CLASSES

- Classes meet Wednesdays at 1:30 pm.
- Valid library card required.
- Registration for residents begins on 1st day of the month in which the class is held (the day after for non-residents).
- Beginner’s Class requires mouse skills  
\* indicates classes in Conference Room

December - Registration begins Dec 1

Mouse Mania	Dec 7
Beginner’s Internet	Dec 14
Email Class*	Dec 21

January - Registration begins Jan 3

Mouse Mania	Jan 11
Beginner’s Internet	Jan 18
Email Class*	Jan 25

February - Registration begins Feb 1

Beginner’s Internet	Feb 8
Email Class*	Feb 15
Intermediate Class*	Feb 22

If you are unable to attend our classes, ask a reference librarian about tutorials on our website  
[www.westchesterpl.org](http://www.westchesterpl.org)

Note: Photographs taken at Library events may be used for promotional purposes. Library programs are open to the public and patrons with disabilities are welcome. Please call 562-3573 (TTY/TDD 562-9364), visit or write us to discuss accommodations at least five (5) working days prior to a scheduled program.

# YOUTH PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Registration for Youth programs begins December 1 and is ongoing.  
Call 708-562-3573 or visit the Youth Department to register.

### WINTER READING CLUB:

## READ YOUR SOCKS OFF!

December 1 — February 25  
For Preschool and Grades 1 – 8



Join today so you can win prizes in our winter reading club. We are pleased to welcome back McDonald’s as a sponsor. Registration packets are available in the Youth Department.

The first date for turning in your log is  
Monday, December 12.

**READ-TO-ME CLUB** For young children who can’t read on their own—they earn credit by listening to books read to them.

**BEGINNING READERS CLUB** For kids just beginning to read on their own.

**READERS CLUB** For kids who are reading chapter books.

### DROP-IN CRAFTS & HOLIDAY COLORING SHEETS

Friday, December 1—Friday, December 30



Feeling creative? Throughout the month of December, the craft table in the Youth Department will be stocked with coloring sheets, craft paper and holiday craft projects.

### VALENTINE DROP-IN CRAFT

Saturday, February 11 & Sunday, February 12



Stop by the craft table and make your very own Valentines for family and friends!

### TODDLER STORYTIME

For children up to age 3-1/2 and their parents/caregivers

Wednesdays	9:45 - 10:00 am	OR	Thursdays	9:45 - 10:00 am
Jan 18 - Feb 22			Jan 19 - Feb 23	

### PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

For children age 3 1/2 – pre-K (not yet in K)

Wednesdays	10:30 - 11:00 am	OR	Thursdays	10:30 - 11:00 am
Jan 18 - Feb 22			Jan 19 - Feb 23	

### MAGIC CARPET CLUB

For children in grades K-2

Wednesdays	4:00 - 4:45 pm
Jan 18 - Feb 22	

### READING ROUND TABLE

For children in grades 3-8

Tuesdays	4:00 - 5:30 pm
Jan 31 - Feb 21	

Reminder to parents and caregivers: please remain with your children under the age of nine whenever in the Library.



### FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm

Feb 1	Soul Surfer	106 min
Feb 8	Cars 2	106 min
Feb 15	Captain America: The First Avenger	123 min
Feb 22	Judy Moody & the Not Bummer Summer	91 min
Feb 29	Thor	114 min

# Life is just a bowl of Jerrries!

The family of Jerry Spahn would like to thank all those that have blessed us with the most amazing outpouring of support and prayers at his passing. Jerry will long be remembered for the contributions he made and his affect on so many peoples' lives, even those who never knew him.

His love of this town of Westchester, where he resided for 57 years, was unparalleled. Whether it was sponsoring a baseball team, or donating for the Veteran Memorial at the Park District, he was always proud of his town. St. Joseph's and IHM were very dear to his heart, as could be seen by his wonderful support there. He truly believed that real happiness comes from helping others.

He was a dedicated Chamber of Commerce member, which just last January honored him with a lifetime membership because of his service to the community. In 1993, the Chamber also named Jerry Person of the Year. He was President of the Rotary Club, whose motto was "Service Above Self." That is how he lived



his life; giving 110% and asking nothing in return. He was also President of the Proviso Association for Retarded Citizens in 1974-1975.

Divine Infant was his home. He helped build the dream that Father Langan first inspired. He will be missed at the 8 am daily mass, holding the door open for the school children, being a Eucharistic minister, which he did so reverently, and walking around church praying his rosary. His smile and jokes will never be forgotten. He was also an active member and supported the ministry of Divine Infant's St. Vincent de Paul.

Jerry was devoted to St. Giles, Fenwick High School and the University of Notre Dame, all which he attended. He served his country faithfully in the Army during World War II.

Jerry was a devoted family man, married for 61 years to the love of his life. His 4 children and 6 grandchildren will forever take with them his knowledge, wisdom, love and his incredible display of faith. He was a great man, who had a "Fantastic Life" that ended fittingly on the Feast of the Faithful Departed. This was his final honor to a life devoted to his family, his village, and his God. He will be greatly missed.

## PRESIDENT

*Continued from page 6*

decorations placed not only along Mannheim Road but on Roosevelt Road east of Mannheim as well. 16 additional decorations were added this year. Hopefully, we can add others on additional light poles throughout the village next year. The Citizens Advisory Board selected the decorations like they did last year. I hope you enjoy the festive atmosphere, while still keeping your eyes on the road.

## FEMA LETTER

I recently received a letter from FEMA regarding a program Trustee Walter Novak has been working on as the village liaison. Westchester has been notified that we are eligible for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. Trustee Novak has been working with FEMA, the State of Illinois, and the Department of Natural Resources to obtain the necessary documents to receive a village wide rating for those who are forced to pay for additional flood insurance because they are living in

See **PRESIDENT**, page 17

## A WORD FROM THE WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY.....

*Thank you to all the great volunteers that came out to help the Westchester Food Pantry during the holiday season. If you need food or would like to volunteer to help out, please call Village Hall (708) 345-0020.*

*With sincere thanks,  
Judy Saraceno-Swenson*

Donate to the Food Pantry through  
December 31, 2011 at the following locations:





**Continental & Jeannie's  
Hair Salon, Inc.**

Family Hair Care & Custom Wigs



50% off Haircut & Style  
For 1st Time Clients, with this Ad

**708-531-1991**

3 Westbrook Corporate Center & Westchester, IL 60154  
Tower 3 Entrance, 1st Floor, Facing Wolf Road

Hairstylist with Clientele Wanted or Chair Rental Available.

## ELECTRONICS

## RECYCLING

The Electronic Recycling program has concluded for the year. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make this event possible for the community. The program will resume in the Spring of 2012. Please remember that beginning January 1, 2012, electronics can no longer be disposed of in your regular garbage.



## District 92.5 highlights students' ISAT results

Westchester Public Schools has posted the annual District and School Report Cards on their website. School Report Card data is important in that it is used to provide data on student background, instructional setting, teacher information, finances, and student performance on the state assessments - the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Illinois Alternative Assessment (IAA).

While the data in the state report cards is used to fulfill the requirements and to determine the status of schools as defined by the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the data presented does not report the entire picture of student achievement in the Westchester Public Schools. State assessments are just one snapshot of student achievement. Schools, and students, deserve to be evaluated using more than one measure. Additional assessments such as NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), Curriculum-based Measures and criterion reference assessments provide additional information on student growth and achievement and are part of the Westchester

Public Schools assessment plan. Parents are encouraged to discuss assessment results with their child's teacher(s) and to discuss district and school results with the principals or Director of Curriculum.

To fulfill the requirements of the NCLB, the Illinois State Board of Education requires that students in grades three through eight are assessed each year in reading and math. In addition, students in grades four and seven are assessed in science. During the 2010-2011 school year 817 students were assessed. Of the fourteen areas assessed, scores are at or above the state average in eleven. In the three areas below the state average, one score indicates a five point increase over last year and the other two scores are close to the state average.

While there are still challenges and more work to do, the Westchester Schools' faculties are responding to students, differentiating to meet their needs and students are learning at increased levels in many areas.

Highlights for the reading scores:

The percent of students who meet or exceed standards in third grade

### Percent of Students at each grade level who meet or exceed Illinois Learning Standards

	Reading		Math	
	Westchester	State	Westchester	State
Grade 3	83%	75%	90%	87%
Grade 4	80%	75%	86%	88%
Grade 5	76%	76%	80%	84%
Grade 6	90%	84%	87%	84%
Grade 7	89%	79%	86%	84%
Grade 8	90%	85%	83%	86%

reading increased four percentage points and are the highest achieved in that grade level for reading.

The fourth grade reading scores increased eleven points and bounced back to pass the state average.

Middle school reading achievement is the highest ever and the seventh grade scores increased nine percentage points.

Highlights for the math scores:

While the fourth grade math scores are below the state average, they did

increase from last year.

Scores in grades six and seven increased over last year's scores.

Highlights for the science scores:

Science scores increased in both grades four and seven.

Students in the "all" group are meeting the Board's goal of 90% meeting or exceeding standards in several areas and some of the subgroups are also meeting the 90% target. Overall, students performed above the state average.

## Middle school students honor troops, veterans at school assembly

On Friday, November 11, the students at Westchester Middle School gathered in the gym to honor all of those individuals who have served and continue to serve our country in the military. The Boy Scouts of Troops 73 and 172 were joined by staff members Mr. Ken Scheel and Mr. John Tomczak as they presented and retrieved the flags of Westchester, Illinois, and the United States of America. Mr. Kluge and the concert band performed the National Anthem as all students stood to show their respect. Student Council officers assisted in setting "America's White Table." This table, also known as The Missing Man Table, began in Vietnam by the Red River Valley

Fighter Pilots Association. This table is set to honor those individuals who are unable to be with their families at dinner. It also remembers those who are missing in action, prisoners of war, and those who have died while defending our country.

Officer Robert Verber of the Westchester Police Department was the guest of honor and spoke to the students about Veteran's Day and his role in the service. He talked to the students about what Veteran's Day means to him and his experiences while serving. He also asked the students a favor—this favor was to simply extend their hands in friendship and say "Welcome Home" to any veteran they come upon.



## Honoring Veterans

On November 11th, students, families and community members participated in a special assembly to honor those who served in the United States armed forces. The Cub Scouts, Brownies and Daisies led the school in a flag ceremony. Students shared their writing and drawings about honoring Veterans. Everyone sang patriotic songs for our guest Veterans. This special ceremony helped the young children of WPS understand and appreciate the courage and loyalty of the brave soldiers that protect our country and our freedom. We are deeply thankful to the Veterans who joined us.

*Get a head start on your New Year's Resolution!*

Whether you want to loose weight, gain muscle, increase endurance or begin a healthier lifestyle, Mayfair Fitness Center can help you achieve your goals.

Stop by and see for yourself why we are your destination for overall health and fitness.

Type of Membership	Monthly	Annual
Individual	\$20.00	\$225.00
Couple (same household)	\$35.00	\$390.00
Family of Three (same household)	\$45.00	\$480.00

*\*additional information available on our website, [wpdparks.org](http://wpdparks.org) or by calling 708-562-6410*



**Mom & Me: Princess & Pirates  
Hidden Treasure Adventure**

*Friday, January 13th  
ages 3-9*

Celebrate fantasy fun with your mom. Dress up your little ones as a princess/pirate and get read for a craft adventure. The whole class will go on a treasure hunt and reveal clues to a hidden treasure. Each couple will then decorate their very own treasure boxes with sparkle paints, stamps/personalization and fun embellishments like gold coins and more. Our other project is a personalized beaded jewel treasure complete with themes like safari, girl power, cowboy, bugs, sports, princess and more. At the end of class we will eat our treasures and pick out of a real chest filled with goodies!

**6:00 – 7:00pm**  
**\$26/\$36 per couple (\$24/\$34 ea. additional sibling)**  
*registration required*

*Need a Clever Gift?*  
**Give A  
Gift Certificate!**

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  - ◆ An energizing Zumba-Step Class
  - ◆ An Individual or Family Pool Pass
  - ◆ Parent/Tot Classes
  - ◆ Visits to the Playbox
  - ◆ Babysitting
  - ◆ Party Rentals
- & Much More!**



A great gift idea for teachers, children, moms and dads or that "hard to buy" friend or relative.

Must be redeemed within one year of purchase date and are non-refundable.

**Coming Soon...**

**Programs**

- Chess Camp **ages 5-12**  
 Mon-Fri, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> / 9am-Noon  
 \$140/\$150
- Video Game Animation **ages 7-12**  
 Mon., Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> / 4:30-6pm  
 \$72/\$82
- Eww, Gross **ages 7-10**  
 Thur., Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> / 6:30-7:15pm  
 \$20/\$30
- Mural Painting for Kids **ages 3-13**  
 Sat., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> / 11am-12pm  
 \$50/\$60

**Special Event**

Daddy Daughter Dance **ages K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
 Fri., Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> / 6– 9pm / \$48/\$58 per couple

**Fitness**

- This Ain't No Rest Camp, It's Boot Camp **ages 14 & up**  
 M/T/W/H/F Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> / 6-6:50am / \$140/\$150
- Cardio Hip Hop **ages 14 & up**  
 Mon., Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup> / 6-7:00pm / \$75/\$85



Congratulations to the champions of the 2011 **Tip Off Classic.**  
 Divine Providence/  
 Divine Infant  
 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls & Boys



# **SJ** ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

**Reggie Johnson, Senior Basketball Player, Signed with Tennessee State on 11/9/11!**



Pictured left to right: Ron Hoover, SJ Principal; David McCreery, SJ President; Reggie Johnson; Gene Pingatore, SJ Head Basketball Coach and Director of Alumni Relations.

*"Reggie is a hard worker in the classroom and on the basketball court. He will do very well at the next level."* - Gene Pingatore, SJ Head Basketball Coach

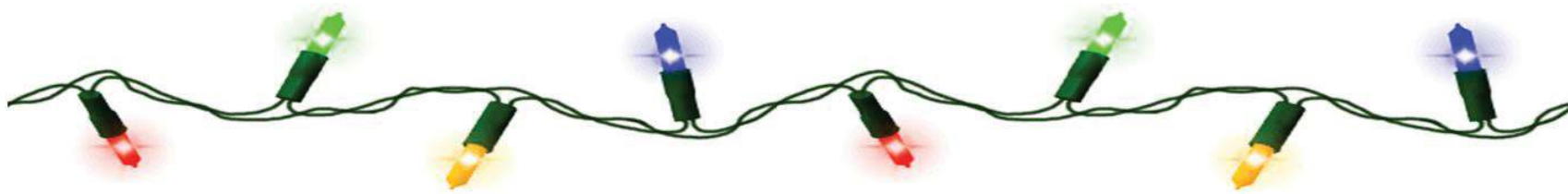
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Reggie Johnson (left) pictured with Gene Pingatore, SJ Head Basketball Coach (right).



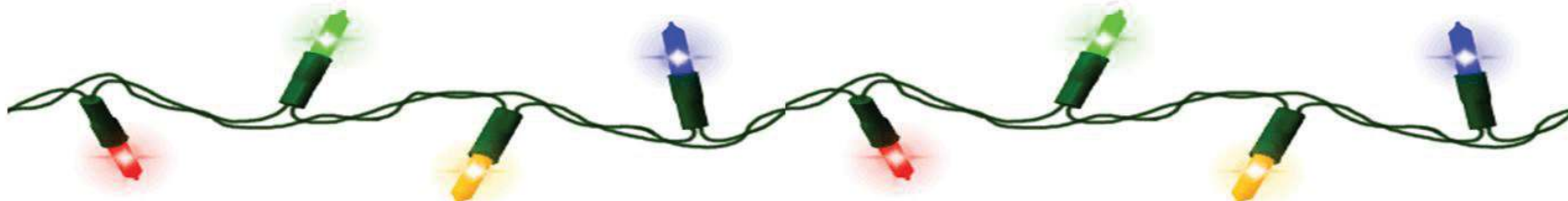
Reggie pictured with his family.



*From our St. Joseph Family to yours...*

*We wish you peace, love, and joy this holiday season and always!*

Love,  
The St. Joseph students, faculty and staff



**Stay Connected! Join the *St. Joseph—IHM Alumni & Friend Network* Today!**

Visit [www.stjoeshsalumni.org](http://www.stjoeshsalumni.org) or [www.ihmalumnae.org](http://www.ihmalumnae.org)

# OPEN HOUSE: Wednesday, December 14th

# i am

## ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL



## OPEN HOUSES

Sunday,  
**October 23**  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday,  
**November 20**  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday,  
**December 14**  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### SHADOW DAYS

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

### ENTRANCE EXAM

Saturday, January 14, 2012  
8:00 a.m.



### 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)



# CALENDAR

14 DECEMBER 2011

## Thursday, December 1

Registration for Youth Winter Reading Club and other youth programs begins at Library. Register in Youth Department or call 708-562-3573.

## Friday, December 2

Westchester Community Church will be hosting a Fish/Chicken Fry from 4:30 PM -7:30 PM 1840 Westchester Blvd. 708-865-1282

## Monday, December 5

Advent Evening with Deacon Ed DeLorenzo, 7:00 PM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Tuesday, December 6

"Last Minute Holiday Craft" 7:00 PM at Library. Register in advance at Adult Reference Desk or call 708-562-3573.

## Tuesday, December 6

"Last Minute Holiday Craft" 7:00 PM at Library. Register in advance at Adult Reference Desk or call 708-562-3573.

## Tuesday, December 6

Bilingual PAC Meeting @ WPS, 7:00PM

## Wednesday, December 7

Winter Band Concert @ WMS, 7:00PM

## Thursday, December 8

Holiday Band & Choral Concert @ WMS for Seniors, 10:00AM

## Thursday, December 8

Immaculate Conception Holyday, Masses at 6:30 and 9:00 AM, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Friday, December 9

WMS Holiday Dance, 2:50PM-5:15PM

## Friday, December 9

Westchester Community Church's "An Evening of Traditional Christmas Cheer" Concert by Sarah VanDrunen begins at 7:00 PM, Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$5 Children, \$30 Family.

## Saturday/Sunday, December 10/11

Our Lady of Guadalupe Hospitality

after 5:00 PM Saturday and 7:30 AM, 9:30AM, and 11:30AM Masses, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Sunday December 10

Market Day Pick-up 8:30 AM-9:30AM Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154

## Sunday, December 11

3:00 PM-4:00 PM, Advent Individual Reconciliation, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Sunday, December 11

A traditional German Christmas from 2:00 PM -4:00 PM at the Westchester Library. Experience Christmas the way early German settlers celebrated it. Many of our own Christmas traditions had their origin in Germany. Learn their meaning while experiencing seasonal lore, Christmas stollen, cookies, and handmade ornaments. Call 708-354-5512 or visit [savetheprairiesociety.org](http://savetheprairiesociety.org) for more information.

## Sunday, December 11

Westchester Bible Church presents "Bethlehem's Love" at 6:00 PM. Bring your whole family to this beautiful celebration of the true Reason for the Season! Free nursery provided. Call 708-562-3040 for details, or visit [www.westchesterbiblechurch.org](http://www.westchesterbiblechurch.org).

## Monday, December 12

7:00 PM, Advent Evening Prayer, Divine Providence Ministry Center Chapel, 2540 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Tuesday, December 13

Friends of the Library Chess and Scrabble Game Night 6:30 PM-8:45 PM at Library. Membership in Friends required. Membership table available on game nights.

## Tuesday, December 13

Winter Band Concert @ WIS, 7:00PM

## Thursday, December 15

Early Childhood Screening @ WPS, Call 708-450-2700 x649 for an appointment

## Friday, December 16

7:30 PM, Taize Prayer, Divine

Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Saturday, December 17

Individual Reconciliation, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Saturday, December 17

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

## Monday, December 19

7:00 PM, Advent Evening Prayer, Divine Providence Ministry Center Chapel, 2540 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Tuesday, December 20

Christmas Program 7:00PM Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Dec 23 - Jan 4

Christmas Break - No School Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Friday, December 23-January 8

No School, Westchester Public Schools- Winter Break

## Saturday, December 24

Westchester Community Church's Christmas Eve Early Worship Service at 7:00 pm.

## Saturday, December 24

Westchester Community Church, Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service at 10:30 PM.

## Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Masses at 3:45 PM, 5:30 PM and 10:30 PM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Dec. 24 - Dec. 26

Library closed for Christmas holiday.

## Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Saturday, December 31

New Year's Eve Mass at 5:00 PM,

Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Saturday, December 31 - Monday, January 2

Library closed for New Year's holiday.

## Sunday, January 1

New Year's Day Masses, 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Thursday, January 5

Classes Resume 8:20 AM Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue, Westchester, IL 60154

## Friday, January 6

Eucharistic Adoration, 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Divine Providence Ministry Center Chapel, 2540 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

## Monday, January 9

Classes Resume, Westchester Public Schools

## Wednesday, January 11

SMILE Illinois Mobile Dentist @ WMS

## Friday, January 13

SMILE Illinois Mobile Dentist @ WIS

## Saturday, January 14

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

## Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School for Westchester Public Schools

## Tuesday, January 17

SMILE Illinois Mobile Dentist @ WPS

## Sunday, January 29

Divine Providence Athletic Association Annual Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM . Pancakes, Sausage, Breakfast Burritos, Muffins and Bagels, Juice, Coffee, Tea, Milk and Chocolate Milk all for only \$6 for Adults and \$4 for Students up to 8th Grade. 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154 708-562-2258.

## Groom's Carpet Cleaning

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Groom



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paid out at the end of the  
level premium period.

### Bruce Horek, Agent

10440 Cermak Rd  
Westchester, IL 60154  
Bus: 708-562-2424

[bruce.horek.bz4d@statefarm.com](mailto:bruce.horek.bz4d@statefarm.com)



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P092015.2



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**Homes Sold in Westchester**

Real Living Gobber Realty	46
Coldwell Banker Residential (LaGrange)	11
Coldwell Banker Stratford	10
Re/Max Action	9
Baird & Warner	7

This chart represents all detached and attached single-family homes that closed in Westchester according to MRED data between 1/1/2011 and 11/15/2011. The chart reflects offices with 7 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.

# PRESIDENT

*Continued from page 9*

a flood plain area. Having this rating will hopefully reduce some of those premiums for those residents.

## WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

It is very easy to become a victim of a scam, particularly during this holiday season when we are all so busy and tend to be a bit off guard. It is also a great time to be taken advantage of since it also a time we tend to be a bit more charitable. I know for certain, I, like many of you, have a problem saying "I can't" or the word "NO" to people who appear down and out. Unfortunately, there are some unscrupulous people out just waiting to take advantage us and our generosity.

Recently, in a community that borders Westchester, an elderly woman received a phone call telling her she won \$500 thousand dollars in Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes. She was told to send a Western Union telegram money order for \$2,300 dollars to North Dakota to cover the taxes, processing fees, and legal fees associated with her 3rd place prize. The woman, believing this call was authentic, would have become a victim of this "SCAM," had it not been for the concerned teller at her local bank.

The teller, having received training in these type of scams, recognized this deceptive practice, contacted the branch manager who contacted the police, and the scam was averted. I personally handled this case 2 weeks ago and in the woman's presence verified through Publishers Clearing House that this was in fact a "SCAM." Publisher Clearing House wants each and every one of you to know that their company does not charge any fee associated with being a winner.

### TIP: NO ONE IS GOING TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING FOR FREE.

There is a constant threat of being a victim of Consumer Fraud. Scams are everywhere and there never seems to be an end of what the criminal mind will think of next. The best defense is a good offense, and someone who is trying to perpetrate a scam will not get far when you, the consumer, are well informed.

Protect Yourself. Do your homework when making purchases or before deciding to sign any contracts. In this tight economy that we are in, more and more people are turning to at-home jobs and "business opportunities" to supplement their income.

There are many legitimate companies that offer these opportunities in customer service

and other areas. However, be aware of scams that have one thing in common: "Something has to be purchased before work can begin". Envelope stuffing is a common work at home scheme. Promoters usually advertise that for a small fee, they will tell you how to earn money stuffing envelopes. Usually all the consumer gets is a list of business to contact about potential jobs. Investigate these companies thoroughly with the Better Business Bureau before committing yourself.

## TEXT MESSAGE SCAMS

The latest "PHISHING" scam involves you receiving a text message telling you your bank account has been suspended. You are given a telephone number to call, when called, a recorded message asks you to enter your bank account number. These messages are fraudulent and are an attempt to steal personal indentifying information as well as financial information. Never respond to a text mail of this type. If you are not sure call your bank directly at the number you have for the bank, not the number in the text.

## GRANDPARENT SCAM

Seniors need to be cautious if they receive a telephone call from someone who claims to be their grandchild and requests money for an urgent situation. The caller poses as their grandchild saying that they are in a bad accident or need money immediately for some type of trouble they are in. The caller asks for the money to be sent via a money order or through a wire service such as MoneyGram or Western Union.

## PHONY FORECLOSURE SCHEMES

Desperate homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage payments and are on the verge of foreclosure may turn to these companies hoping to prevent the loss of their home. Be very careful! These schemes are designed to take your home and steal any equity you have built up.

In one common foreclosure prevention scheme the "rescue company" will lend the homeowner money at a high rate of interest to make back payments owed to the mortgage lender. The homeowner will be required to make monthly payments to the rescue company that includes the original payment, plus a payment on the new loan. The homeowner will also be required to sign a deed transferring the property to the rescue company. The homeowner ends up renting the home from the rescue company that they formerly had title to.

If the homeowner fails to make a

payment on time, the rescue company evicts the former homeowner. All rights and equity in the home have been lost.

Lisa Madigan the Illinois Attorney General has a host of information on many consumer related topics. Visit [www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov) for more information.

## ECONOMICS FOR WESTCHESTER

During this Holiday Season I would like to Introduce the 3/50 project. The project pertains to the spending of money locally to support the businesses in Westchester. If half of the employed population spent \$50 each month in locally owned independent businesses, it would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue. Imagine the positive impact if ¾ of the employed population did that. For every \$100 spent in locally owned independent stores, \$68.00 returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays here. Spend it on line and Nothing Comes Home.

Spend \$50 in Westchester to help save our local economy. Shop Westchester! For more information see [www.the350project.net](http://www.the350project.net)

## WESTCHESTER NEWSLETTER

It seems everywhere I go people seem to really appreciate the Westchester Newsletter. Just last week I was approached by a person at the post office, at the Scout food donation drop off at the Westchester Community Church, and at the front counter at the village hall, and of course through emails.

I know our entire staff and in particular, Ms. Molly Keane, deserves a "Job Well Done Award" for putting this labor of love together each and every month. Each month we work very hard to keep you abreast of all the things that are happening in our "beautiful" Village.

Please know that we will continue to do our best to provide information to you in 2012. To our advertisers, thank you for advertising in the newsletter. We could not function without your support. I know there are many companies that do not know about our newsletter. That became apparent when Molly and I were at the Westbrook Corporate Towers dropping off extra copies to businesses. We plan to do a better job getting the word out. Supporting our local businesses is a goal of all of the members of the Village Board, and hopefully for the residents as well. Please support our local businesses whenever you can.

## PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

I am pleased to report that two Westchester residents were recently

honored at a celebration for their contributions to the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo. John and Mary Scalera were honored by the Sisters and a host of Italian dignitaries on November 19. John and Mary have hosted the "St. Joseph Sweet Table" for more years that anyone can count. They also were responsible for numerous "Spagehetti Dinners" at the Villa Scalibrini home for the senior citizens in Northlake Illinois.

It takes a special person to attend to our senior citizens, many of whom have resided from Westchester before taking residence at the Villa. John, formerly the head chef at the Ferrara Manor, and Mary are the best providers of Italian food I have ever had the pleasure to meet. I have also had the pleasure of sampling this delectable fare. Manga! At the Scalera home food is plentiful 24/7. Congratulations to Mary and John for your selflessness in helping and feeding the masses. It is a well deserved honor.

## SORROW

It is with a very heavy heart that I inform you of the recent death of two people who touched numerous lives in Westchester for decades. Jerry "Life is a box of Jerries" Spahn was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and benefactor of the Divine Infant family. Jerry always had a smile on his face. As a member of numerous groups Jerry shaped the formation of what Westchester is today. He will be missed.

Mrs. Carolyn Zanoni was an avid outdoor hunter and with her husband George "the Mayor of Becket Street." Carolyn and George were inseparable. Their outdoor adventures are what legends are made of. She will also be missed. I know that both of them are looking down from heaven ensuring that Westchester remains a good place to live.

## YEAR'S END

December brings a close to this year but it is one of the most festive months. Holiday decorations can be seen throughout our village. Much thought and expression can be seen on every street, whether your displays are large or small, thank you for "dressing up" the town and spreading holiday cheer. Hopes and dreams do come true.

Celebrating the Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas holidays with friends and family will strengthen our resolve in these very difficult economic and violent times. Remember to keep our military forces in your prayers. We at the Village of Westchester want to wish you a very safe and merry holiday season. We are looking forward to serving you again as we cross into January 2012.



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# Public Works Notes

Please note that branch pickup has ended for the year. Branch pickup will resume April 2012.

The last pickup for yard waste by Waste Management will be Friday, Dec. 2, 2011.

The cold weather has arrived so please remember to turn off your outside water spigots in the house to prevent pipes from cracking or freezing during the winter months. 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 the Fire Department can easily identify and access the hydrant in case of an emergency and ensure snow plows can easily see the hydrants.

As always, Village residents are asked to call Public Works at 708/345-0041 or 708/345-0060 (the Police non-emergency number) if you see an unusual amount of water in the street or parkways. This could be a main

break or water leak that requires our immediate attention.

Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter we will have completed leaf pickup for the year...

## Snow season is here

When it does begin to snow Village crews work long and hard to keep our streets clear and safe.

Please assist us by observing the following:

- 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 parking restrictions WILL be enforced:

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



Twelve-foot deep hole needed for sanitary sewer repair in a resident's backyard.



Donated Village Christmas tree being moved by truck to the Westchester Fire Station.

the street (south and east sides of streets) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on even-numbered sides of the street (north and west sides of the streets) 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 the 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.

## Tree trimming

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 Belleview and working west.

50/50 Shared Cost Sidewalk Program- if you have sidewalk squares that need to be replaced the Village will share the cost with you! Call Public Works at 708-345-0041 to register.

## Interior Lighting for Village Hall

The Village received a grant to replace all of the outdated lighting in the Village Hall building with efficient T-8 fluorescent lighting. The grants received covered the total cost of materials and installation. The new lighting is brighter than the old

bulbs and uses far less electricity.

In most cases, we were able to replace four bulbs with two, not only increasing efficiency, but also reducing the number of bulbs. The new bulbs will also last longer, further reducing costs to the village.

## Sanitary Sewer Lining

Before beginning the lining process, the contractor needed to repair some areas that were collapsed or otherwise damaged. These are called point repairs. Each location had to be dug up to a depth of about 12 feet down. A small section of sewer was then replaced and then the hole was filled back in with dirt. Since the repairs were done in people's back yards, there was a fair amount of inconvenience to the affected residents. The village is very grateful to those residents that allowed us to work in their back yards and put up with the machinery and mud that accompanied the work.

The next step is televising and cleaning the lines to properly prepare them for lining. 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.



### Village Hall Hours of Operation

Effective December 1, 2011

The Village Hall will be open to serve you Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. We will also be open on the second Saturday of each month from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 PM. For your convenience, utility bill payments can be made online through our website. Additionally, there is a drop box located in the lobby of the Village Hall for after hour payments.

**Please note that the Building Department will be closed from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 PM daily.**

The Police lobby will remain open 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions at (708) 345-0020 or visit our website [www.westchester-il.org](http://www.westchester-il.org).

### Village of Westchester [www.westchester-il.org](http://www.westchester-il.org)



- Emergency Number: 9-1-1
- Police Department (Non-emergency): 708-345-0060
- Fire Department (Non-emergency): 708-345-0433
- Administration: 708-345-0020
- Building Department: 708-345-0199
- Public Works Department: 708-345-0041

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Panama Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990	WWII Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946
Lebanon/Grenada Aug. 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984	WWII April 6, 1917 - Nov. 11, 1918
Vietnam War Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975	* if currently serving on active duty today, <b>you are eligible.</b>

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