



# Village of Westchester

January 2012 Newsletter

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Village President Sam Pulia, Trustee Brian Sloan, Trustee Tom Yurkovich, and others display the food collected for the Westchester Food Pantry December 2011.

### A YEAR IN REVIEW

Happy New Year...Happy New Year...Happy New Year...2012 is here. It feels like yesterday when we were welcoming in 2011. 2011 was a year filled with many positive accomplishments. We were able to continue our street replacement program, water main replacements, sewer relining, and a host of other public work initiatives.

We did experience the "blizzard" of 2011 but like all our weather related "excesses" we were able to tackle the problem head on and provided safe passable streets in very short order. Our tree trimming program started its third year with another 1500 trees trimmed.

The April election added three very community orientated elected officials, namely Trustees Paul Gattuso, Frank Perry, and Tommy Yurkovich, to

your Village Board. All three certainly go the extra mile in representing your best interests. Paul's leadership role and experience, Frank's willingness to listen, and Tommy's "I'll do anything" attitude makes it a pleasure to formulate and plan for the future of Westchester along with our veteran Trustees Nick Steker, Brian Sloan, and Wally Novak.

Memorial Day at the Westchester Park District honored a gathering of military veterans from all of our armed forces, each and every one have served our country honorably, with distinction. For that we will be forever grateful.

Fire Chief Richard Belmonte retired after 31 years of dedicated service. The appointment of James Adams to carry on the role of Chief

See **PRESIDENT**, page 5

# Westchester Seeks Membership in CRS

The Village of Westchester is currently seeking membership in the Community Ranking System (CRS) which is monitored by the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program). Joining this elite group of communities allows Westchester to accomplish the following:

1. Educate residents about how to prevent damage from disasters when possible.
2. Educate residents on what to do during and after a disaster occurs.

3. Obtain funding for Westchester to complete projects to help reduce damage to the resident's homes in case of disasters.
4. Obtain a percent discount on premiums for resident's flood insurance policies.

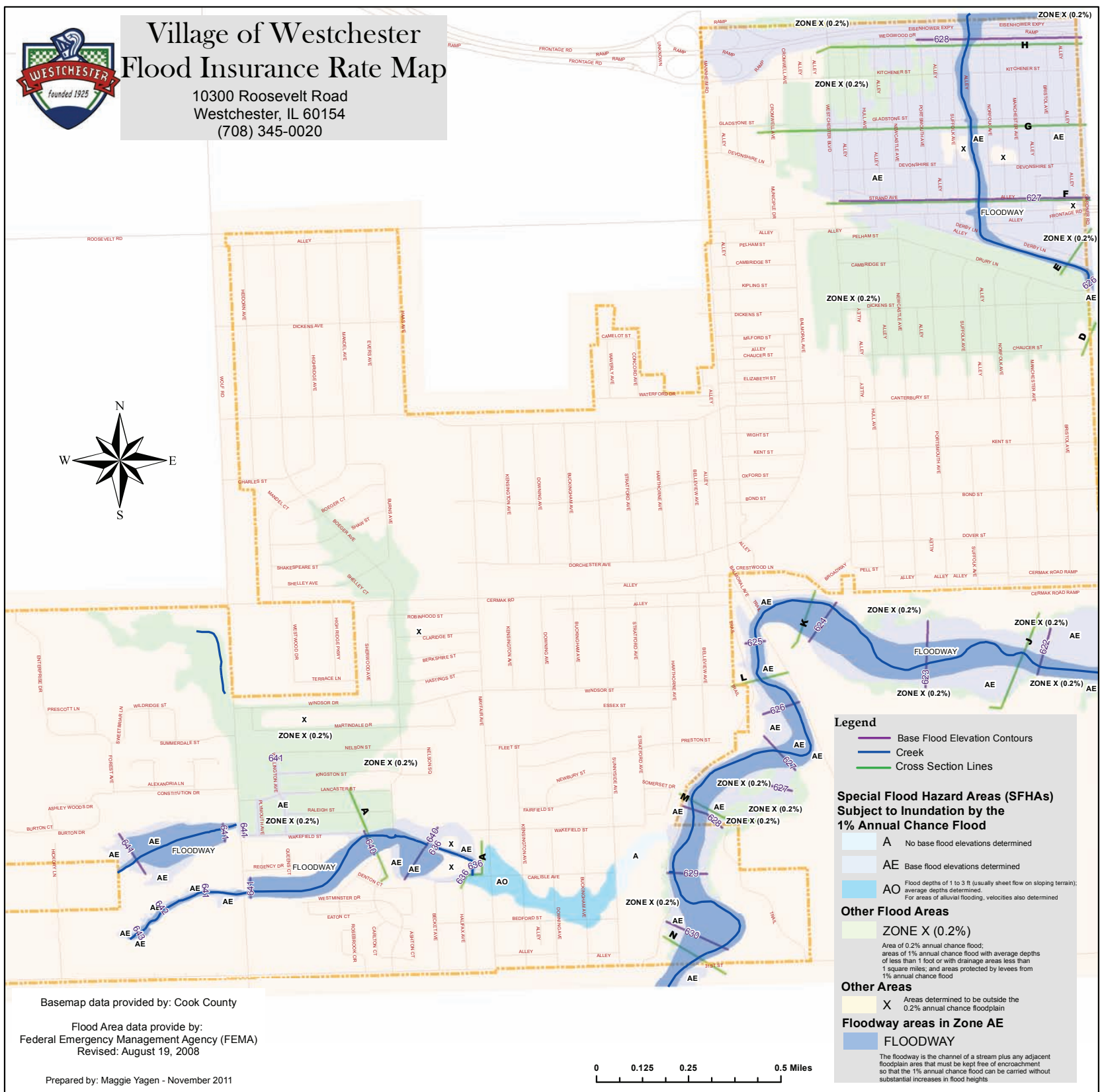
We are starting by publishing a FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) map. This shows the floodplain, as determined by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and where the floodplain overlays resident's homes. This is why some resident's require flood insurance and others do not. If your house appears in the floodplain that is the reason mortgage companies require you to have flood insurance. Please note you do not have

to be in the flood plain to have flood insurance, nor do you need to have a mortgage.

This is an ongoing commitment from the Village of Westchester to educate our residents to increase safety during a disaster and reduce damage during the same. If you have any questions please forward them to Village Hall, and we will try to answer them in a timely fashion.

Walter J Novak – *Westchester Village Trustee*

Sam Pulia – *Westchester Village President*



# Profile



## Lisa Dybas

**Rank: Senior Telecommunicator**

**Years as Telecommunicator: 19**

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

My uncle was a policeman back in the 50's, I think listening to his stories made me interested.

### Describe a good day at work.

A good day at work for me is when all of my officers go home safely.

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

The best part of my job is helping people, knowing at some point I helped someone with a problem, no matter how big or small.

### What is the downside of your job?

The downside of my job is missing out on a lot of family events and activities due to my work schedule.

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

Make sure you know what you are in for. The hours, the shift work. Working holidays and weekends. The 9-1-1 center runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

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

My perfect days off would be spending time with my kids or riding my Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

# Tips for driving in extreme weather:

- Check your fluid levels before embarking on long drives and trips
- Check your tire pressure levels and tread for safe travel
- Make sure your gas tank is always at least half full in case you become stranded
- Carry a flashlight, blanket, water, small snacks, cell phone charger, small shovel in your vehicle
- Check your windshield wipers for wear and windshield fluid for clear visibility
- Make sure you have GPS or map out your destination prior to leaving
- Don't tailgate. Make sure you have room enough to maneuver in case of sudden stops
- If you break down don't leave the car
- Call \*999 for roadside assistance
- Call 911 for emergencies

## New Seatbelt Law...

Starting at midnight on January 1, 2012, seat belt use will be mandatory for all people riding in vehicles. Previous state law required seatbelts only for front-seat passengers or for back-seat passengers under the age of 18. The new law makes seat belt use mandatory for all people riding in vehicles. This means front and back seat passengers of all ages.

Emergency vehicles, buses and taxis are exempt from the new law.

# Police Blotter

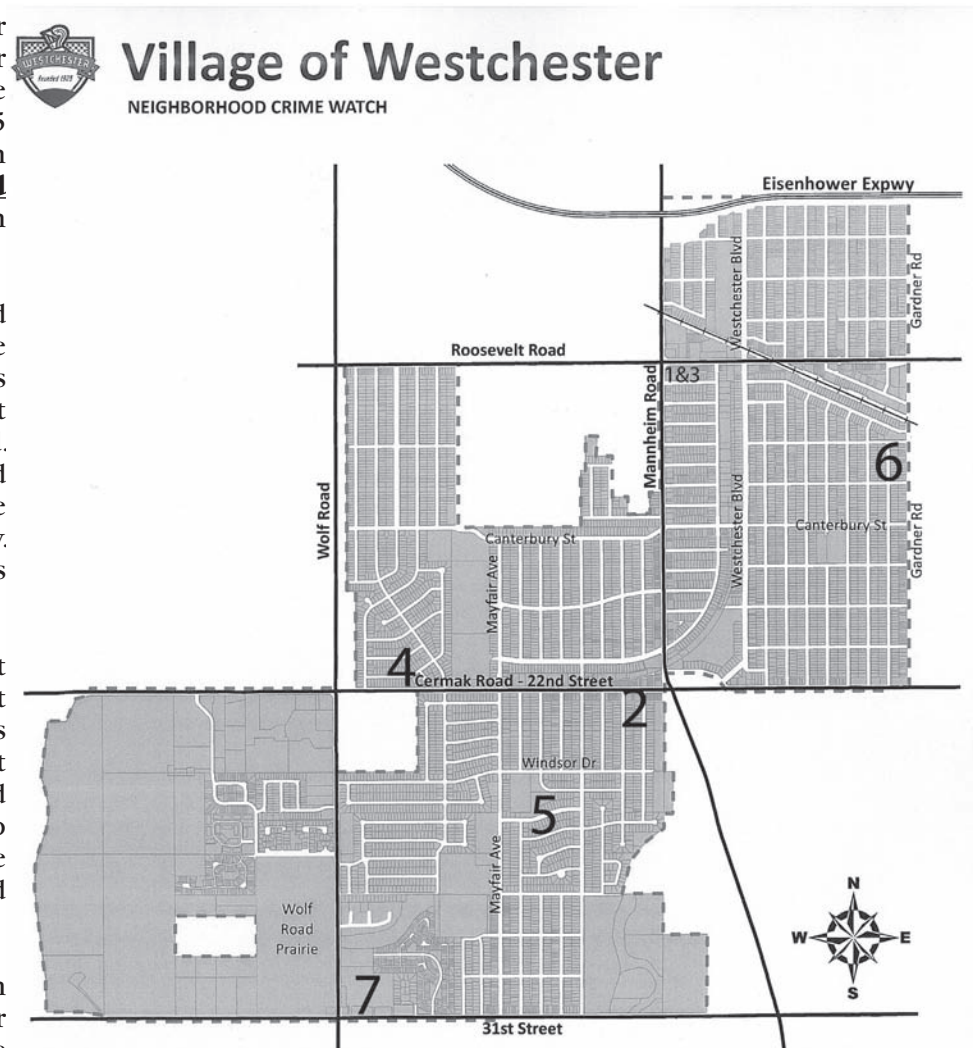
1. At 10:30 pm on November 20th 2011, a burglary to motor vehicle was reported at the Walgreens located at 10345 Roosevelt Road. Unknown person(s) entered an **unlocked** vehicle in the parking lot. Taken was a purse.

2. At 7:55pm on November 22nd 2011, a burglary to motor vehicle was reported at Conboy's Funeral Home parking lot located at 10447 Cermak Road. Unknown person(s) entered the vehicle by damaging the front passenger side window. A purse containing money was taken from the vehicle.

3. At 7:03pm on December 1st 2011, an attempted retail theft was reported at the Walgreens located at 10345 Roosevelt Road. A female was observed placing prepaid Visa cards into a bag. When confronted the subject dropped the bag and left the scene.

4. At 5:13pm on December 5th 2011, a burglary to motor vehicle was reported on the 11100 block of Shelley. The complainant advised that between 4pm and 4:45pm unknown person(s) entered their **unlocked** vehicle parked in the driveway taking a wallet containing identification.

5. At 6:36am on December 9th 2011, a burglary to garage and vehicle theft was reported on the 10600 block of Fleet. While checking on suspicious activity in the area, officers tracked footprints to a garage. Entry



was found to be made to the **unlocked** garage and their vehicle was found to be missing. The vehicle was later recovered an hour later in the 2200 block of Kensington.

6. At 10:18am on December 13 2011, a criminal damage to property was reported on the 1400 block of Bristol. A resident reports that sometime during the previous evening unknown person(s) cut the power cord

to a string of holiday lights in the front yard.

7. At 3:58pm on December 14 2011, a retail theft was reported at the Dominick's Foods store located at 3020 Wolf Road. Loss prevention reported, after review of store video tape, a male subject was observed taking a total of 18 bottles of Vodka on December 8th and December 10th 2011.

## Profile



**Name:** FF Eric Biskup  
**Rank:** Firefighter/Paramedic  
**Years as Firefighter:** 6 Years

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

Realizing that this job was for me came early in my life. Both my father and grandfather worked as Firefighters for the City of Chicago. I would always get to go to work with them and see what they did for a living. As a child I knew that this was the life for me.

### Describe a good day at work:

A good day at work is any day we can all do our jobs successfully without getting hurt and going home to our families.

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

Having a job is always the best part for me. I'm just like most Firefighters. I love helping people and working in teams to accomplish goals.

### What is one downside to your Job?

The downside to this job, before I was a father, was getting up in the middle of the night to run calls. Now it's being away from my daughter.

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

Being a Firefighter is a great job. It requires hard work, constant training, and self-sacrifice.

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

My perfect day off is being with my family enjoying a vacation.

## Home Heating and Winter Fire Safety



The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and man made logs. All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. You can prevent the loss of life and property resulting from heating fires by being able to identify potential hazards and following these safety tips.

### Wood Stoves

Wood stoves cause over 4,000 residential fires every year. Carefully follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions. Look for solid construction, such as plate steel or cast iron metal. Check for cracks and inspect legs, hinges and door seals for smooth joints and seams. Use only seasoned wood for fuel, not green wood, artificial logs, or trash. Inspect and clean your pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions. Be sure to keep combustible objects at least three feet away from your wood stove.

### Electric Space Heaters

Buy only heaters with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) safety listing. Check to make sure it has a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over. Heaters are not dryers or tables; don't dry clothes or store objects on top of your heater. Space heaters need space; keep combustibles at least three feet away from each heater. Always unplug your electric space heater when not in use.

### Fireplaces

Fireplaces regularly build up creosote in their chimneys. They need to be cleaned out frequently and chimneys should be inspected for obstructions and cracks to prevent deadly chimney and roof fires. Check to make sure the damper is open before starting any fire. Never burn trash, paper or green wood in your fireplace. These materials cause heavy creosote buildup and are difficult to control. Use a screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks. Don't wear loose-fitting clothes near any open flame. Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed. Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the home.

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

## Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas, so its level of existence in your home is not detectable. It is a by-product of the fuel burning process. Many appliances such as furnaces, kitchen stoves, hot water heaters, automobiles, etc. can produce carbon monoxide. When a faulty or unusual condition exists, carbon monoxide may be vented into areas where people are present. Carbon monoxide affects individuals differently depending on the size, age and medical history of the occupants. Therefore, young children, people with medical conditions, or aged individuals should take extra precautions in the event carbon monoxide is detected. Fire Departments across the nation are responding to a huge increase in carbon monoxide alarms. In most cases, a response is not necessary. Here's how you can help cut down calls.

- On a monthly basis, check fresh air intakes to furnaces, chimneys and dryer vents to make sure they are not plugged by bird nests, leaves and snow.
- If using a wood burning fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation and open a window slightly.
- If you are warming up your vehicle, remove it from the garage.
- Have fuel-burning household heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves, and space or portable heaters) checked every year before cold weather sets in.

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO ASSIST YOU IN PURCHASING A CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR

- Purchase a detector that plugs into the wall with battery for back-up.
- Purchase a detector that has a digital display for carbon monoxide readings. The digital display detectors are a little more expensive, but they indicate exactly how many parts per million of carbon monoxide are in your home at the time of activation.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOUR CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ACTIVATES

- If your carbon monoxide detector does not have a digital display, check individuals in the home for flu-like symptoms (nausea, headache, dizziness, etc.) If there are no symptoms, call a repair service. If there are symptoms call 911.

# PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

of the Fire Department has certainly been a very wise choice. Chief Adams has done a tremendous job in the short time he has assumed the responsibility and we are very pleased with his leadership role.

The 4th of July Parade is always a highlight of the year when we as a community, come together and celebrate our nation's birth and all of the history that has brought us to where we are today.



Residents enjoying the musical portion of the Fun Festival 2011.

2011 also brought the 20th year anniversary of the Westchester Fun Festival. Our prayers of not having a Sunday evening thunderstorm were answered and a throng of people enjoyed a wonderful evening of music, food and fireworks display courtesy of Anthony Ranerio the "Mad Bomber." Anthony produced a 1st rate show and we thank him once again.



Debris collected by the Public Works crew after the summer 2011 storms

During the summer of 2011 we boded far better than the flood ravaged summer of 2010. However, we did have severe rain and wind storms that certainly stretched our budget for tree branch pick-up, chipping, and full tree removals. Thankfully, no boat rescues were needed. Power outages strained our patience with the sheer numbers and duration of outages. In response, ComEd is being publically held accountable for explanations and solutions to the regional problem.

Our paving box got a workout late August and September with a whirlwind plan to cut, grind, and hot patch deteriorated sections of streets. Several thousand pounds



Flag raising before the Sept. 11 Silent Parade.

of asphalt were laid in town by our own employees. This program will be continued in 2012 as well.

The September 11th "Silent Parade" put together by Police Chief April Padalik and Fire Chief James Adams put our village of Westchester, Illinois "on the map." The solemn procession was very well done and culminated with a ceremony honoring those 1st responders who lost their lives 10 years ago.

The Citizens Advisory Board, made up of your friends and neighbors, partnered with Proviso Township to have a Senior Health Faire offering valuable information about services available to our senior population.

Fall leaf removal, street sweeping, and branch pickup took hold in the month of October. Crews utilized our upgraded method of removal and the streets could not have been cleared of debris any more effectively.

November's collection of food items from residents and business alike, as well as outside organizations, were well received for Thanksgiving Day. A special "kudos" to the Boy Scouts, our schools and park district staff for managing the collection of food not only for Thanksgiving but for Christmas time as well.

The University of Chicago graduate students developed a report to encompass the vision of our strategic plan for Westchester.

The 3rd annual Christmas Holiday Tree Lighting, the light pole decorations placed along Mannheim and Roosevelt Roads, and the decorations adorning the entry signs and houses throughout the village define who we are and who we represent. "At the End of the Day" we represent you.

## PERSON OF THE YEAR

John P. Fecarotta, a 42-year employee of the Village Public Works Department, was selected as the Village Person of the Year. Everybody knows and loves John. He epitomizes what we all aspire to be: a listener, knowledgeable in his craft, and willing to help solve problems with the least amount of drama and above all ... expense. Mr. Fecarotta is considered more than just an



employee ... he is a friend of many, dedicated to serving all the people of our community. Congratulations to a most deserving person.

## 2012 RESOLUTIONS

I have been asked recently what "New Year's Resolutions" I have made for our village. Quite simply ...

- Improving the customer service aspect of each village employee's day to day contacts with you. This resolution is much more than simply offering "service with a smile" but the wholesale extending of ourselves in a positive and professional manner.

- To review the current Village building codes adopted by prior administrations, and update as necessary, to better align with our community needs and goals.

- Accountability for getting the job done in the timeliest, most efficient, and cost effective manner.

- To continue replacement of our deteriorated streets, dilapidated sewer infrastructure, and water mains where necessary.

- To continue working with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District in its goal to reduce flooding through the construction of Addison Creek retention area.

- To continue development and implementation of a flood mitigation plan, and have the plan adopted by FEMA which would secure our Community Rating System and lower mandatory flood insurance premiums for residents.

- To add our community to the list of those offering an electrical power aggregation choice other than ComEd via a ballot referendum this March.

- To implement a Non-Home Rule Sales Tax of a penny on a dollar for purchases made in Westchester to fund our infrastructure improvements of streets, sewers, and water mains via a ballot referendum this March.

- To improve the business climate and push the "Shop Westchester" theme.

- To foster Economic Development and the talents of our Economic Development Committee.

- To work with our "Green" Committee on recycling initiatives, exploring alternative energy sources, and improving the overall quality of our residents lives.

- To continue to examine our purchasing practices and expenditures to make sure we receive the most "bang for our buck."

I know these are all lofty goals that will certainly keep us busy this year. However, in my heart I know that they are all obtainable if we roll up our collective sleeves and work together for the benefit of all.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES SERVICE LINE WARRANTY PROGRAM

At a recent conference we learned from the NLC of a low cost plan available to residents who want to maintain or fix broken sewer lines that attach a resident's home to the village main sewer line or water service line. Presently, any break or problems in these lines are the responsibility of the homeowner and not the village. The village is only responsible for the main sanitary line, the water service line from the resident side of the buffalo box to the water main in the street.

Under discussion is a plan to partner with a NLC backed company to offer this coverage at a cost of approximately \$4.50 a month for the water line warranty program and approximately \$5.95 a month for the sanitary sewer line warranty. The regional representative will be making a presentation at our January 24th village board meeting, and will be available to answer questions

See **PRESIDENT**, page 10

### Outlets for Laptops

More patrons can now “plug in” their laptops, tablets and other portable devices when seated at tables by the south wall of the Adult Department. In December, additional electrical outlets were installed under the shelving—the first of several anticipated changes for the department to reflect the many ways patrons are using the Library today. “More outlets” was a frequent request on the survey we conducted in 2011. We continue to welcome your suggestions and will be announcing more improvements in the future!

### Tumblebooks on iPad

TumbleBooks is an online collection of animated picture books that nurtures reading readiness in preschoolers and it is available on the Library’s website. (Patrons learning English find it a useful site, too!)

Since the online books were created using flash animation which iPads don’t support, Tumblebooks is starting a collection of non flash videos especially for the iPad. They have 44 iPad books currently available with more to come.

All users will find a link to the TumbleBookLibrary on the Library’s website: [www.westchesterpl.org](http://www.westchesterpl.org). If you use an iPad, click on the **Story books** section and just below the heading will be a link to click for iPad-compatible titles.

### NLS Goes Digital

In 2011, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)—the Library of Congress’ talking-book and braille program—celebrated 80 years of helping visually impaired and physically handicapped individuals enjoy reading books and magazines.

This free library program delivers reading materials in digital audio and braille formats straight to the homes of patrons from preschoolers to centenarians. Books on digital cartridge, digital talking-book players, and braille books are sent to patrons via the U.S. mail at no cost to users.

The Westchester Public Library has a new digital reader to demonstrate their new technology.

If you know someone who would benefit from this program, stop by the Library for a demonstration or

contact **Voices of Vision**, the talking book center serving our area (800-227-0625). An application form is available on their website: [www.vovtbc.org](http://www.vovtbc.org)

### Tax forms

While more people are filing their income taxes electronically, the Library will continue to have a selection of basic tax forms available for patrons on a first-come, first-served basis. Watch for notices in the lobby and on the Library’s website:

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

For those wanting a head start, all federal and state tax forms and publications are available online:

**Federal:** [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**State:** [www.revenue.state.il.us](http://www.revenue.state.il.us)

### Lions Club Art Display:

Stop by the Youth Department this January to see posters created by elementary school students in Westchester and Hillside for the Lions International Clubs’ World Wide Peace Poster Contest. The display is presented by the Lions Club of Westchester.

### Program Reminders:

Please register in advance to insure adequate handouts and seating the day of the program. Call 708-562-3573 to register.

### Creating Native

#### Eco-Gardens

**Saturday, January 21 at 10:30 am**

Great ideas for using native plants from master gardener Dennis Paige.

### Vintage Snacks—

#### Appetizing Creations from Decades Past

**Saturday, January 28 at 1:00 pm**

Plan your Superbowl party with Amy Allesio. This program is part of the Friends of the Library annual meeting and membership is required (signup available at door).

Note: Members should have received their renewal forms by the first week of January. You can return your renewal form by mail or leave it with circulation staff on your next visit to the Library. Renewal forms are also available online: [www.westchesterpl.org/about/friends.htm](http://www.westchesterpl.org/about/friends.htm)



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY • 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.

## Westchester seeks Referendum for Municipal Aggregation

**19** communities in Illinois are now buying their electric power from suppliers other than ComEd. The average resident is saving \$150 to \$175/year. ComEd continues to bill each resident, and continues to repair any outages. The Village will be placing a referendum on the upcoming March 2012 ballot to determine if residents would like the Village to pursue similar savings.

If approved, the referendum would allow the Village to solicit bids on behalf of residents and small business to buy electric power on the open (de-regulated) energy market. The goal is to secure lower electric supply rates for residents and small businesses in our community.

Since the State of Illinois deregulated electric power providers, 75 percent of commercial volume has switched to buy power from

suppliers other than ComEd. Conversely, few residents have moved to lower-cost energy suppliers. As a result, the State of Illinois created legislation allowing communities to leverage residential accounts by engaging in a process of “Municipal Aggregation,” thus enabling municipalities to solicit competitive bids from suppliers on behalf of the entire community. This is similar to the way a Village sets rates for garbage collection or cable suppliers.

To engage in the Municipal Aggregation process, residents must vote YES on a referendum on the March 2012 ballot.

The Municipal Aggregation process should provide us with a “win-win” scenario. Even if the resolution passes, the Village is under no obligation to switch suppliers. The resolution simply gives the

Village the right to solicit competitive bids. The Village can determine whether bid terms and pricing are compelling enough to move residents’ accounts en masse to a new, lower cost supplier. If not, all residents will remain with ComEd for the next 12 months.

ComEd service will not change. ComEd would continue to manage and maintain the network (of stations and wiring) that delivers your electric power. Residents will continue to call ComEd in the event of a power outage. Residents will still be customers of ComEd’s delivery system and receive bills from ComEd with the only difference being the name on the line item for power supplier.

Should the municipality choose a new energy supplier, the supplier will contact each electric account

to offer them the opportunity to “opt out” of the new plan. The resident can return a short form provided by the energy supplier, stating their desire to “opt out” and continue to purchase power from ComEd.

Residential electric rates are set once annually by ComEd. ComEd earns no income from the sale of electric power; they simply distribute it. As such, they are “indifferent” from what supplier a community chooses to buy its power.

The Village will be placing a Referendum on the March 2012 ballot. If the majority of voters concur, then the Village can seek lower electric rates for its residents.



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## **PAUL'S PIZZA & HOT DOG, INC.**

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*We're more than great pizza!*

We are proud to serve you the finest in fast food and Italian Cuisine. Our food is made with only the freshest vegetables, cheeses, and top quality meats available. Our pasta and sauces are homemade and have been enjoyed by Westchester residents as well as the surrounding suburbs for the past 27 years. Please come and visit us for your next lunch or dinner meal and join our family of satisfied customers. We look forward to serving you soon.

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**Happy New Year**



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## Open House

Sunday, January 29  
10:30—11:30 am

# Divine Infant Jesus

1640 Newcastle, Westchester, IL 60154  
(708) 865-0122

***Growing together...***

*Home of the*



**MIRACLES**



**... in Faith**

Gospel Values taught & modeled;  
Weekly school mass; Monthly rosary;  
Daily morning prayer.



**... Socially**

Student Council; Band; Chess Club;  
Robotics Club; Athletics; Mural Club;  
In-house Broadcasting Network, Chimes  
Ensemble; Before & after school care.



**... in Academics**

Full or half day Early Childhood;  
Full day Kindergarten; PE, Music,  
Art, Spanish & Computer classes;  
Global Language elective and the  
Greek & Latin Root Word Program.  
Standards based curriculum; Above  
average National test scores.

**Registering Now**

**Pre-School thru Gr. 8**

Come join our  Family!

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

DIVINE PROVIDENCE OVER 50 CLUBS: Hope everyone had great Holidays. The newly elected officers were installed at our Christmas Luncheon in December and will take over at our January Meeting on the 4th. Make note that the February Meeting will be on the 1st. All meetings will be held in the Mayfair room at Divine Providence. Membership is now open to all registered parishioners of Divine Providence and Divine Infant. Dues are \$12.00 annually. A trip is planned for October 14-20, 2012 to Myrtle Beach and Charleston, S.C. The cost will be \$629 per person double occupancy which includes Motor coach transportation, 6 breakfasts and 4 dinners, shows, and touring. Sounds like a lot of fun. If you are interested call Marianne @708-562-3766 for details. If you have any questions you can contact the Secretary, Corrine @708-531-9496.

December 23-January 8: No School WMS - Winter Break

Thursday, January 5: School resumes at Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

January: Registration for youth Winter Reading Club and other youth programs continue at Library. Register at Westchester Public Library 10700 Canterbury Street Westchester, IL 60154 Youth Department or call 708-562-3573

Sunday, January 1: Monday, January 2: - Library closed for New Year's holiday

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

Friday, January 6: First Friday Adoration, 8 AM - 7 PM, Divine Providence Ministry Center, 2540 Mayfair Avenue

Monday, January 9: 8th Grade Graduation pictures will be taken at Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Monday, January 9: Classes Resume, Westchester Public Schools

Monday, January 9: All School Mass, 9:00 AM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue

Wednesday, Jan. 11: All School mass at 8:00 am at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Wednesday, January 11: Teetering Tots Playgroup 9:30 AM -10:30 AM. Teetering Tots is an activity playgroup for ages 0-4 year olds. Children must be accompanied by parents or caregivers. Teetering Tots Playgroup will meet in the school gym the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from January through May. Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

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, Westchester Public Schools

Monday, January 16: Martin Luther King Holiday - No School Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

Tuesday, January 17: SMILE Illinois Mobile Dentist @ WPS

Wednesday, January 18: **America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie** - a beautifully crafted film on the history, science, and poetry of our most endangered landscape, the tall grass prairie. 2 pm at the LaGrange Park Library. Sponsored by Save The Prairie Society. A \$3 donation suggested. Call 708-354-5512 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 18: All School mass at 8:00 AM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122. Market Day pick-up from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM in Langan Hall at Divine Infant Jesus. Contact Toni Podock at 708-865-8071 for more information.

Friday, January 20: Taize Prayer, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

Saturday, January 21: "Creating

Native Eco-Gardens" with Dennis Paige 10:30 AM at Library. Register in advance at Adult reference desk or call 708-562-3573. Westchester Public Library 10700 Canterbury Street Westchester, IL 60154

Saturday January 21: Market Day Pick-up 8:30 AM -9:30AM Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

Monday, Jan. 23: The Divine Infant Jesus School student body will be Praying the Rosary - 2:10 PM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Tuesday, Jan. 24: A Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate Discussion Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue. Contact Sr. Susan Majcen at 708-865-8086 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 25: All School mass at 8:00 AM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Wednesday, January 25: @ 1:00 PM Westchester Aging Well Hands-free CPR Presentation and Demonstration by Fire Fighter Sam Stauber from the Westchester Fire Dept. Mayfair Recreation Center 10835 Wakefield Westchester, IL 60154

Wednesday, January 25: Teetering Tots Playgroup 9:30 AM-10:30AM. Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

Friday, Jan. 27: Divine Infant Jesus 2nd graders will have their First Reconciliation at 7:00 PM in Church at 1600 Newcastle Avenue. For more information, contact the Sr. Susan Majcen at 708-865-8086.

Saturday January 28, 2012: 1:30 PM GLACIERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE Presented by the Salt Creek Greenway Association. 1 Aloha Lane Meeting Room - Hickory Lane Buffer to Wolf Road Prairie at Forest Preserve District of Cook County Police Headquarters North side of 31st Street west of Wolf Road, Westchester.

The landscape around us has been sculpted by the dynamic actions of thick glacial ice sheets. Take a geologic voyage of our planet's changing climates and temperatures with Greg and learn about the role of carbon dioxide, climatic "tipping

points" and global climate trends into the next century. Hands-on viewing includes an excavated mastodon mandible and tusk. These mammals roamed our region during the last Glacial Age and elsewhere around North America until 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. This free educational program is suitable for students and adults. For more information, email [stpsspale@aol.com](mailto:stpsspale@aol.com) or call 708-865-8736 Wolf Road Prairie is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission oversees management and protection of the site.

Saturday, January 28: Friends of the Library Annual Meeting featuring "Native Snacks Appetizing Creations from Decades Past" with Amy Allesio. 1:00 PM at Library. Westchester Public Library 10700 Canterbury Street Westchester, IL 60154 Membership in Friends required (stop by Library for membership application). Register in advance at Adult Reference Desk or call 708-562-3573.

Sunday, January 29: Pancake Breakfast 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

Sunday, January 29: Open House and Registration Event 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Divine Providence School 2500 Mayfair Avenue Westchester, IL 60154

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.

Sunday, January 29: Beginning of Catholic School's Week. Family mass at 9:30 AM School Open House to follow until 11:30 AM at Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue. For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Sunday, January 29: Catholic School's Week Mass, 9:30 AM, Divine Providence Church, 2600 Mayfair Avenue

Tuesday, January 31: First Eucharist Meeting for Parents of 2nd graders at 7:00 PM at Divine Infant Jesus,

# Westchester, we want to hear from you!

Please join us on

**Thursday, February 2, 2012  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

(Registration 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.)

**Westchester Community Church  
1840 Westchester Blvd.  
Westchester, IL 60154**

The Village of Westchester is working on creating its first comprehensive plan and invites you to participate. This comprehensive plan will build upon the Village's assets to address current local issues and provide a road-map for achieving long-term goals.

All residents, business owners, community leaders, and other stakeholders from the community are invited to participate. Join us as we begin the process to create Westchester's comprehensive plan. ***What should Westchester look like in 2030?***

***Share your ideas!  
We want to hear them!***

This evening meeting is free and open to the public. At this first meeting we want to hear what you think Westchester's comprehensive plan should address. The first and most important step in planning for your community's future is to participate in creating it. **February 2** is your first opportunity to do so. Bring your friends and neighbors. ***We want to hear from everyone!***

RSVP with Ricardo Lopez at [rlopez@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:rlopez@cmap.illinois.gov) or call (312) 386-8766.



In partnership with



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program.

# PRESIDENT

Continued from page 5

about the program. Please make every effort to attend.

## SNOW RESTRICTIONS

As the weather dictates please be aware that the 2 inch snow fall restrictions are currently in effect and will be enforced should the conditions warrant. Please check the signs posted on your block to determine if you live on a snow route where parking is prohibited after 2 inches of snow, or on a side street where you have to park on one side of the street or the other depending on the day of the week, after 2 inches of snow has fallen.

Please make every effort not to push snow from your driveway into the street. Pushing the snow side to side off your driveway aprons will help keep the streets open and accessible.

The priority of snow removal is as follows: 1) Snow routes; 2) side streets, and then 3) the alleys.

## SNOW VOLUNTEERS

Residents of Westchester have always been known for their volunteer spirit. During the next few months I am asking residents to look out for their neighbors, especially with helping them with snow removal.

Many seniors are unable to clean their walks or driveways and I am certain they would appreciate the help. People helping people...Thank you

## ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT

Those residents who have a fire hydrant in front of their home are requested to adopt that hydrant and remove snow that may impede the fire department from finding or attaching to the hydrant in case of an emergency.

## TREE TRIMMING

The third year of wholesale tree trimming is scheduled to begin in early March, weather permitting. The target area this year is the area west of Mannheim to Heidorn from Cermak to Roosevelt Road.

Residents are requested to call the public works department to report dangerous hanging branches, or low hanging branches that impede normal walking on the sidewalk. Village in-house crews are presently working on lists from last year, and



The Emerald Ash Borer is a tiny green beetle that attacks ash trees.

will make every attempt to remove those dangerous branches.

During winter months village crews will be catching up on some in-house tree trimming requests that have been submitted during the past year.

## EMERALD ASH BORER

For those that have ash trees on their parkways please be aware that there was a tree in Westchester that was documented as being infected with the Emerald Ash Borer. Our in-houses arborist, as well as our contract service arborist have advised it is only a matter of time before more infected trees are located.

Several dead ash trees have been removed in the past weeks.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

The village Economic Development Committee has composed a resident survey that is designed to assist the committee and the elected officials in stimulating the economic viability and health of Westchester. The survey can be completed on line at the village web site.

Additional drop boxes have been placed at the library, park district. There are 9 questions to be answered that will help the committee focus their attention. We value your comments. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

## FORECLOSURE MEETING

On December 14th I testified before the Cook County Building and Zoning Committee in favor of Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainers Foreclosure Ordinance.

The ordinance also sponsored by our State Representative Karen Yarbrough will help streamline the process and assigns responsibility to owners of the property including mortgage companies for maintenance services.

The 30 page ordinance passed with the entire Cook County Board signing on as sponsors. Municipalities can adopt and opt into the program by passing their respective ordinances as well. This topic will be brought up on our agenda for discussion in January 2012.



Retired fire chief Richard Belmonte with newly-appointed fire chief James Adams, pictured with Village President Sam Pulia.



Public Works crew paving the streets of Westchester.

## TAX LEVY

At our December 14th meeting the village board passed our annual tax levy for the period commencing on May 1st 2011 through April. The total amount to levied is \$7,128,212. The levy covers not only the village tax levy but the Westchester Library as well. The breakdowns are listed below for both taxing entities.

### Tax Levy Summary -

#### Village:

Corporate	\$ 817,400
Police Pension	\$ 832,500
Fire Pension	\$ 686,700
IMRF Pension	\$ 174,000
Street & Bridge	\$ 46,000
Fire Protection	\$1,386,000
Police Protection	\$1,540,000
Social Security	\$ 157,000
Auditing	\$ 16,000
Liability Insurance	\$ 308,000
<b>Total Village Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$5,963,600</b>

#### Westchester Public Library

Public Library	\$1,056,737
IMRF	\$ 49,875
Social Security	\$ 48,000
Liability Insurance	\$ 10,000
<b>Total Library</b>	<b>\$1,164,612</b>

## 2012 FUN FEST

The 2012 Westchester Fun Fest is scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday July 13, 14, and 15 at the St. Joseph High School property. Special Events Chairperson Deputy Mayor Paul Gattuso is chairing the event with the assistance of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, and Westchester Park District.

The village has committed monies from our Hotel/Motel Tax collected from those persons staying at our only Hotel/Motel the Hampton Inn for the musical entertainment and fireworks as we have done in years past. The village is in the discussion phase of the purchase and distribution of the ride wristbands. The concept of

an admission charge has also been mentioned to support additional security needs.

The planning for the fest is moving forward and more communication is certainly going to be forthcoming. Our goal is to make the Festival a positive event that everyone can enjoy. Note: The Hotel/Motel Tax can only be used for tourism type events and not used to supplement construction type projects. The tax has been used to finance the Westchester Fun Fest for over a decade.

## COMED MEETING

On Wednesday December 21

See **PRESIDENT**, page 18

**“ A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes”  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Daddy Daughter Dance**

6:00-9:00pm  
for those in grades K-6<sup>th</sup>

This extraordinary event is a dance for Dads and their very special daughter(s). Come joins us for an evening that will build everlasting memories for you and your daughter(s). Fee includes a catered dinner, refreshments, D.J., a professional picture and a souvenir for each child. Early registration is recommended! This event fills up quickly! Registration deadline is January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Fee: \$48/\$58 per couple  
\$15/\$25 for each additional daughter

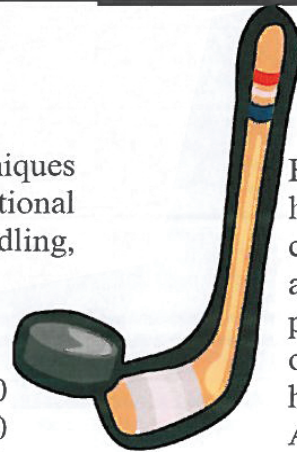


**Pilo Polo &**

**Instructional Floor Hockey**  
for children ages 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Pilo Polo students will learn skills and techniques associated with floor hockey while Instructional Floor Hockey students will learn stick handling, positioning, goal tending and more.

Ages	Date	Time	Fee
3-4	1/28-3/24	10:20-10:50am	\$30/\$40
Kdg	1/28-3/24	11:00-11:50am	\$40/\$50
1 <sup>st</sup>	1/28-3/24	12:00-12:50pm	\$40/\$50
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1/28-3/24	1:00-1:50pm	\$40/\$50



**In-House Floor Hockey League**  
for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

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

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

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

**Coming Soon...**

**Programs**

Sift and Sweet (cooking class) **ages 3-12**  
Sat., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> / times vary per age group  
\$15/\$20

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

Mystical Magic **ages 5-13**  
Wed., Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> / 5:00-5:55pm  
\$20/\$30

Creative Rhythmic Gymnastics **ages 5-11**  
Wed., Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> – Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> / 6-7pm  
\$38/\$48

Hip Hop Musical (dance) **ages 5-11**  
Wed, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> / 7-8pm  
\$38/\$48

**Fitness**

Disco Fever **ages 14 & up**  
Thur., Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>  
7:30-8:20pm / \$40/\$50

Cardio Hip Hop **ages 14 & up**  
Mon., Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup> / 6-7pm  
\$75/\$85

Cabin fever setting in?  
Join us for some fun at...

**Forest the Fox's Playbox**

Forest the Fox's Playbox is an integrated soft playground providing children hours of physical and developmental activities. The Playbox is available for use on a daily fee basis. The Playbox is also available for semi-private parties with the booking of one of our two party rooms.

**Daily Admission: \$3.00 per child**  
(children under 1 and adults are free)

Please call the Mayfair Recreation Center at 708-562-6410 for the most current Playbox schedule.



**Look out for our Spring & Summer program brochure in February 2012!**

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

# ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

## St. Joseph High School Congratulates Eight Illinois State Scholars



CONGRATS



CHARGERS

St. Joseph High School is pleased to announce eight Illinois State Scholars for 2012: Seated (left to right): **Kathryn Boehmke** (Divine Providence, Westchester), **Trinity Dent** (Divine Infant, Westchester), **Jordan Calabrese** (Divine Infant, Westchester), **Rebecca Arriola** (St. Odilo, Berwyn), Standing (left to right): Mr. Ron Hoover (Principal), **German Fonseca** (Westchester Middle School, Westchester), **Carlos Montero** (Unity Junior High School, Cicero), **Kyle Campbell** (MacArthur Middle School, Berkeley), and **Zarion Marshall** (Jackson Middle School, Villa Park).

Students are awarded this status based on a combination of criteria, including standardized test scores and class rank versus class size. Indicative of superior academic potential, St. Joseph High School is immensely proud of its Illinois State Scholars and is confident each student's future will have many successes!

<p><b>SAVE THE DATE</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>FRIDAY JANUARY 20 2012</b></p>	 <p><b>Sports Hall of Fame Induction</b></p> <p><b>St. Joseph High School North Gymnasium</b></p> <p><b>Boy's Basketball Game</b> St. Joseph vs. Gordon Tech 5:45 pm JV/7:30 pm Varsity* <i>*Induction prior to Varsity Game</i></p>	
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Stay Connected! Join the **St. Joseph—IHM Alumni & Friends Network** Today!  
Visit [www.stjoeshsalumni.org](http://www.stjoeshsalumni.org) or [www.ihmalumnae.org](http://www.ihmalumnae.org)

# i am

## ST. JOSEPH



# ENTRANCE EXAM

**Saturday,  
January 14, 2012  
8:00 a.m. to Noon**

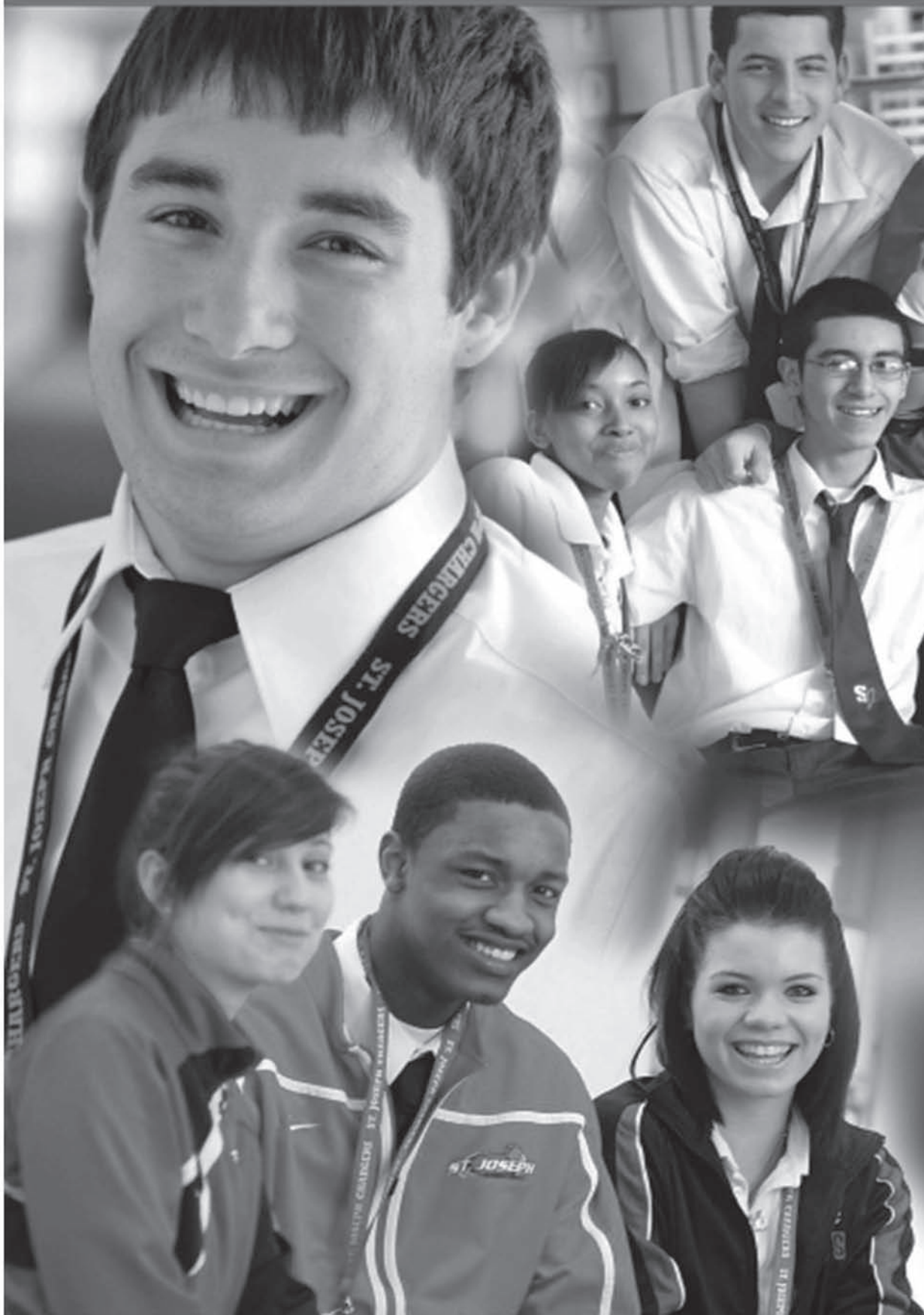
Eighth graders should bring \$25 exam fee and two #2 pencils.

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



**St. Joseph High School**

10900 W. Cermak Road,  
Westchester, IL 60154  
708•562•4433  
[www.stjoeshs.org](http://www.stjoeshs.org)





## Westchester Blood Program

The Westchester Blood Program, honored yearly as the top community blood-collection group in the area, will begin a new year of saving lives on Jan. 21.

After receiving 552 units in 2011, the WBP will sponsor its first 2012 drive at Divine Providence School, 2500 Mayfair, from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As hundreds of generous area donors know, the process of donating blood is safe and fast. And, when the procedure is over, there is an aura of satisfaction in knowing you have helped save the lives of as many as three hospital patients.

Since its founding in June 1974, the group has collected more than 23,000 units, enough to meet the needs of 60,000 patients.

Fewer than 4 per cent of eligible healthy adults donate blood regularly, meaning that the other 96 per cent of the population must depend on those few donors for their lives when there is a severe accident or the need for unscheduled surgery.

Each of the last eight years, LifeSource Blood Services has honored the WBP as the most productive program under its umbrella, which covers all of northeastern Illinois.

## Professional Women Connected

Recently, a great organization was created called the Professional Women Connected (PWC). It consists of professional women in the Westchester, Hillside and the surrounding western suburbs. The organization was created to help businesses owned by women or predominately run by women to grow by referrals while supporting the community.

The group meets every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 8:45-9:45am. The PWC is currently looking for other professional women in the community that would like to get involved. If you are interested in learning more about Professional Women Connected (PWC), please contact Kandice Jacobs (708) 236-5902 or e-mail [pwcgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:pwcgroup@yahoo.com).

### Reminder: New Vehicle Sticker Renewal Due Date

Last year, the decision was made to move the due date for renewing vehicle stickers. This was done for convenience, to allow residents to pay their vehicle license fees at a later time when weather conditions were more conducive to removing old stickers and affixing new stickers to the windshield.

The new due date is April 30th, 2012. Renewal forms will be mailed to residents during early March 2012. Vehicle license rates have not changed, and the penalty

for purchasing a vehicle license after the due date will remain the same, double the original fee.

Residents are reminded that they must purchase a vehicle license for all vehicles housed in Westchester as well as for all vehicles that are registered through the State of Illinois with a Westchester address e.g. vehicles that may be used at a second residence, but registered to the Westchester address are required to have a Westchester vehicle license.

#### 2012 Blood Drive Dates

- **April 21**, 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Community Center.
- **May 16**, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Bloodmobile at Paul's Pizza and Hot Dog, Wolf and 31<sup>st</sup> Street.
- **July 21**, 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Divine Providence School.
- **Oct. 20**, 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Community Center.
- **Nov. 14**, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Bloodmobile at Westchester Community Church, 1840 Westchester Blvd.



## WESTCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 7309 Westchester, IL 60154 708.240.8400 Fax 708.240.8400  
[www.WestchesterChamber.org](http://www.WestchesterChamber.org)

### WESTCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "CELEBRATE WESTCHESTER"! An Event for the Entire Community

You are invited to join us for dinner, drinks and Special Persons of the Year Awards  
 Saturday January 28th, 6:00pm Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres  
 Open Bar - Valet Service Available - 7:00pm Dinner  
 \$60.00 per person - Alpine Banquet Haus - Westchester

For more information and reservations contact Mary Bakas (708) 240-8400 or [mary@bakasteam.com](mailto:mary@bakasteam.com)

#### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL CHAMBER MEMBERS

**Continental & Jeannie's Hair Salon, Inc.**  
 Family Hair Care  
 Introducing Angie formally with  
 333 North Salon  
**708-531-1991**



**St Joseph High School**  
 8th Grade Entrance Exam  
 1/14/12 @ 8am  
**(708) 562-4433**

"Nobody who ever gave his best ever regretted it"  
 -GEORGE HALAS  
 FORMER OWNER  
 CHICAGO BEARS

**TNT**  
 Concrete Construction Inc.  
**Snowplowing**  
 John Taylor  
**708-243-2222**

**LAGRANGE PARK CAT CLINIC**  
 Free first exam (exp 2/29/11)  
 Feb is Dental Health Month  
 10% off Dental Services & Products  
**708-562-CATS (2287)**



PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR  
**OPEN HOUSE  
 & REGISTRATION  
 EVENT**

Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>  
 10:30am-12:30pm

**DIVINE PROVIDENCE  
 CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Divine Providence School offers an exceptional education to students from Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Our full day programs in Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten prepare our young learners for early school success.

Come see how we integrate the latest technology in our classrooms, offer academic opportunities based on individual student needs, and our affordable tuition rates.

- Before and After Care available
- Integrated technology including Smartboards, iPads and iPods
- Spanish taught in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Catholic values of respect and care
- Lots of opportunities for involvement in our school and Family School Association

For more information, please contact Karen Paulaskas, Director of Enrollment at 708.562.2258 or [diren@dprov.org](mailto:diren@dprov.org).



Divine Providence School  
 2500 Mayfair Avenue  
 Westchester, IL 60154  
 708.562.2258  
[divineprovidenceschool.org](http://divineprovidenceschool.org)



## Public Meeting on February 2 for Westchester Comprehensive Planning Project

The Village of Westchester is creating a comprehensive plan that will guide land use, transportation, development and other important quality of life decisions for decades to come. As part of this effort, the Village invites local residents, business owners, community leaders, and other stakeholders to attend a special community planning event.

Residents can have their say on Thursday, February 2, 2012, when the Village of Westchester in partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will host the first public workshop to start the process for the creation of its new comprehensive plan. From 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the event will be held at the Westchester Community Church, 1840 Westchester Blvd, Westchester, IL 60154. This session will feature a brainstorming exercise that allows participants to state their preferences regarding topics that the comprehensive plan should address and to identify issues and opportunities important to Westchester's future.

Residents will be asked to help answer questions such as: What steps can help preserve the character of Westchester? How would you like to shape Westchester's future?

A grant to CMAP from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is ena-

bling CMAP staff to provide technical assistance to Westchester to create its first comprehensive plan and support public participation in the process.

The process to create the comprehensive plan includes three phases. The first phase includes a detailed analysis of existing land uses and community facilities as well as gathering initial public input regarding the issues and opportunities in the Village. The second phase consists of creating a shared vision and identifying specific goals and recommendations to achieve it. The third phase will develop an implementation strategy to put the plan's recommendations into action.

Together the Village of Westchester, CMAP, and community stakeholders will have the opportunity to explore best practices and unique opportunities relating to land use, residential and commercial development, transportation, parks and open space, and numerous other key topics.

For information, contact:

Ricardo Lopez, Community Outreach Specialist at CMAP (312-386-8766 and [rlopez@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:rlopez@cmap.illinois.gov)) or Hope Garrett, Village of Westchester Project Manager (708-345-0020 and [HGarrett@westchester-il.org](mailto:HGarrett@westchester-il.org)).

RSVP (not necessary but appreciated) by Wednesday, February 1.

### HUD and CMAP build capacity for local planning

Especially in challenging economic times, many communities have difficulty allocating enough resources to plan as proactively as they would prefer. At the same time, proactive planning is necessary for economic prosperity and protecting community assets. The HUD-funded effort is helping fill this gap by making staff resources and grants available to assist with local planning projects that help to implement GO TO 2040, the first comprehensive plan for metropolitan Chicago in more than 100 years.

The HUD grant to CMAP was announced one day after leaders from across the seven-county region, on October 13, 2010, unanimously adopted GO TO 2040. The region's plan establishes coordinated strategies that help the region's 284 communities address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues. See [www.cmap.illinois.gov](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov) for more information.

With the three-year \$4.25 million HUD award (<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/press-release-10-14-10>), CMAP has be-

gun a new Local Technical Assistance program sponsored by HUD as part of the federal inter-agency Partnership for Sustainable Communities. CMAP issued a call for projects in early 2011, prompting more than 220 proposals from over 130 municipalities, counties, interjurisdictional groups, and nongovernmental organizations – an indication of significant unmet demand for local planning capacity.

In March 2011, CMAP began partnering with the first wave of 62 local governments, nonprofits and intergovernmental organizations selected for assistance. Like the Westchester effort, these projects address local issues at the intersection of transportation, land use, and housing, including the natural environment, economic growth, and community development. Download a full list of projects at <http://goo.gl/1nYBM>.

CMAP is the official regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

**Media contact:** Justine Reisinger, 312-386-8802 or [jreisinger@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:jreisinger@cmap.illinois.gov)

**Program contact:** Pete Saunders, 312-386-8654 or [psaunders@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:psaunders@cmap.illinois.gov)

## CALENDAR

*Continued from page 8*

1640 Newcastle Avenue. For more information, contact the Sr. Susan Majcen at 708-865-8086.

Wednesday, February 1: All School mass at 8 AM at Divine Infant Jesus Church, 1600 Newcastle Avenue. Come join us. For more information, contact the school at 708-865-0122.

Wednesday, February 1: - "Getting

Up To Speed" seminar on basic skills for job hunting on the Internet. 2:00 PM at Library. Register in advance at Adult Reference Desk 708-562-3573. Westchester Public Library 10700 Canterbury Street Westchester, IL 60154

Wednesday, February 1: - Family Film Night featuring "Soul Surfer" 6:30 PM at Library.

Wednesday, February 1: "Rockin Science" Assembly at 1:30 PM in the Gym at Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue. For more

information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122.

Thursday, February 2: - Pep Rally in the Gym at 12:30 PM with a "Knockout Contest" to follow at Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue Westchester, IL 60154 For more information, contact the school office at 708-865-0122

Friday, February 3: - First Friday Adoration, 8 AM-7 PM, Divine Providence Ministry Center, 2540 Mayfair Avenue

Saturday, February 4: - Confirmation Retreat for eighth graders at Divine Infant Jesus School, 1640 Newcastle Avenue Westchester, Illinois 60154 Contact Sr. Susan Majcen 708-865-8086 for more information.

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

Thursday, February 9: - Kindergarten Registration for 2012-2013 @ WPS, 6:30 PM 11. February 11: Market Day pick-up @ WMS, 10:00AM

# Classic Gutter Co. Inc.

"EXTERIOR REMODELING SPECIALISTS"

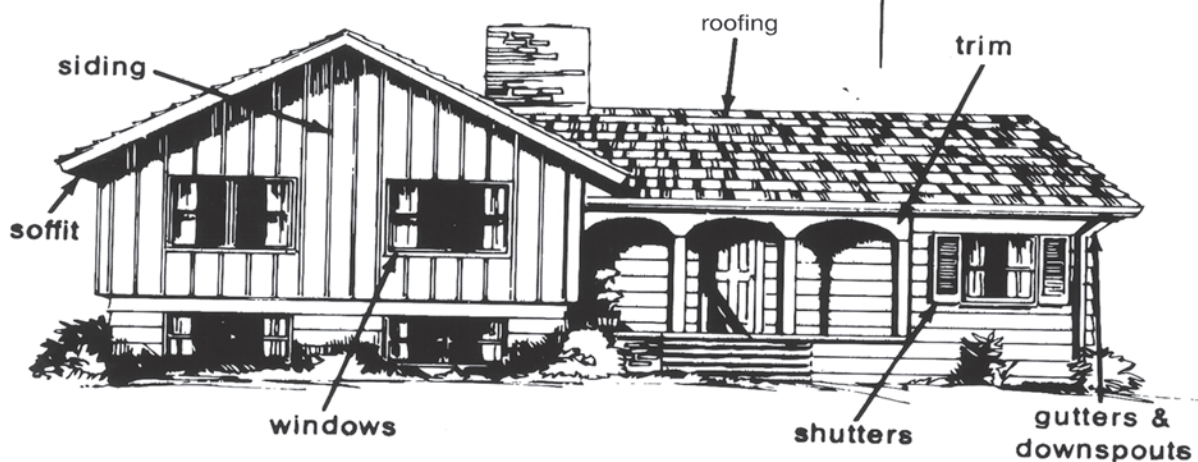


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MEMBER  
CHICAGO &  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

# Westchester Public Schools, District 92½, Budget



The budget process for the Westchester Public Schools, District 92½, is a nine month process that starts in December and ends in September when the Board of Education adopts the final budget. During that time frame, there are many meetings with stakeholders to discuss the upcoming needs of the students, operational needs (building maintenance, transportation, safety) and federal/state mandated programs. In December, enrollment for the upcoming school year is projected and staffing needs are identified based on the projections. Administrator meetings are held in February to discuss building funds, curriculum allocations, planning of small building projects, and furniture and equipment needs are identified. Budget priorities are discussed with staff and in March and April, the budget priorities are set and a draft budget prepared. The draft budget is reviewed and revised with the final draft presented to the Finance Committee in June. The draft budget is approved by the Board in June and placed on display, with the budget hearing scheduled for the September Board meeting. The Board

adopts the budget at the September Board Meeting.

The District is currently following the Fiscal Year 2012 budget (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012). School budgets are divided into eight funds, with each fund having revenue sources and expenditures. There are three main revenue sources for the school district – Federal revenue, State revenue and Local revenue. Federal sources, which represent 2% of our revenue, include Title Grants, National School Lunch Program reimbursement, Administrative Outreach/IDEA for Special Education and E-Rate Technology reimbursement. State revenue sources, which represent 21% of our revenue, include General State Aid, Special Education Reimbursement, Transportation Reimbursement and various grants. Local revenue sources, which represent 77% of our revenue, include property taxes, Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax, interest income, student fees, property rentals, and milk and lunch money.

The expenditures for the upcoming year can be categorized into six main areas. Since we are a service provider, the largest percentage of our costs is in the area of salaries and benefits, representing 74% of the budgeted expenditures. Tuition for special education and debt service represents

12% of budgeted expenditures. Purchased services, such as electrical or plumbing services, represent 6% of the District's expenditures. Total budgeted expenditures for supplies represent 5% of the total expenditures and capital outlay is 3% of the total expenditures.

During the budgeting process, various revenue assumptions were taken into account. The 2010 levy revenues budgeted used historical collection rates but could decrease due to tax objections. The revenue collected via the tax levy is limited to the CPI increase of 2.7% for the prior year levy and limited to the 1.5% CPI increase for the current year levy. General State Aid reflects a slight increase as a result of the state income tax increase but the District will receive only 95% of the entitlement as the state, for the first time, has started to prorate General State Aid. Three other revenue decreases faced by the District are the reduction of Transportation dollars (only 40% reimbursement of our Transportation claim), a reduction in the Corporate Personal Property Replacement tax which was diverted by the state to other non-education programs, and a decrease in interest income due to extremely low interest rates. We are expecting our Federal grant revenue to stay the same as last year.

There are a number of future concerns that we have to keep in mind.

First and foremost is the current state of the economy with decreasing home values leading the way and a foreclosure rate of 22% in the Village. The District is faced with various revenue erosion issues which has resulted in a projected operating fund deficit of \$166,000.

Cost pressure from future capital projects will potentially add to the deficit as we need to upgrade an aging bus fleet, replace boilers at all school buildings, repair masonry problems and upgrade technology to meet curriculum needs and online state testing requirements. Considering all of the issues that we face, it is good to note that we have one of the lowest operating costs per student of \$9,737 which is 15.6% lower than the state average of \$11,537. This shows that we are using our financial resources wisely and prudently to deliver a great education to our students. In addition, the District has received the highest form of financial recognition from the Illinois School Board of Education.

We will continue to review our budget for efficiencies and ensure that we get the most for our investment.

## PRESIDENT

*Continued from page 10*

Interim Village Manager Janet Matthys and I met with our ComEd Representative Fabiola Amezcua and ComEd engineers to discuss the plans ComEd has for maintenance in the village.

Presently Westchester is covered by 14 Feeder Circuits. Most of the Feeder Circuits do not originate in Westchester. As an example circuits D3411 and D3417 originate from

LaGrange park just off of Barnsdale and 31st Street.

Both of these circuit areas combined cover from Oxford on the north to 31st Street on the south from Beach Street in LaGrange Park to Spring Road in Oak Brook. These two circuits are in process of vegetation / tree removal that may affect the ComEd transmission lines.

The D3417 feeder should be completed by January 18 2012, D3411 by May 8 2012.

ComEd does vegetation trimming on a 4 year cycle. Out of the 14 Feeder Circuits 3 were completed

in 2011, the 2 mentioned above will be completed in 2012 and 8 are scheduled for 2013. Additional fuses, wire replacement, and spot vegetation removal has also been scheduled for this year in all of the 14 Feeder Circuits.

### RAIN BARRELS

The initial group of 18 residents who purchased Rain Barrels have had their barrels ordered and delivered to their homes. Please contact the village hall to purchase Rain Barrels from our program through the

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. (MWRD)

### ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Just a reminder that effective January 1st 2012 state law prohibits the disposal of electronic waste in landfills. These items cannot be placed out on your normal trash collection day. Our monthly Electronic Recycling drop off site will resume operation in April of 2012. The exact startup date will be provided in future issues of the newsletter.

# News from Public Works

Yard Waste pickup and branch pickup has ended for the year. Both will resume next April 2012. Watch for upcoming dates and schedule.

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

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

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

As usual, if residents see an unusual or extreme amount of water in the streets or parkways, they are asked to call the Public Works Department at 708-345-0041 or 708-345-0060 (after hours non-emergency police number). This could be a main break or water leak that requires our immediate attention.

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

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

Observe "No Parking" and "Snow Route" signs

Do not throw or block snow back into the cleared streets

The following parking restrictions WILL be enforced:

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

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

Sinnott Tree Service will be trimming trees as part of the routine Village Tree Trimming Program in February 2012. Tree trimming improves tree health,

appearance and safety. The area to be trimmed will be west of Mannheim to Wolf Road and South of Roosevelt to Cermak Rd. They will be starting on Bellevue and working west.

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

### Sanitary Sewer Lining

The village is currently coordinating a project to line all the main line sewers in an area bound by Wolf Road, Roosevelt Road, Haase Avenue, and Canterbury Street. The contractors are currently cleaning and televising the main line sanitary sewer. Some residents have experienced a little splashing in their basements. The contractors have turned down the water pressure in order to reduce this splashing. The contractors are televising right after cleaning in order to properly prepare them for lining. After all the cleaning and televising is done, the contractor will start the actual lining process. If any resident has concerns or questions regarding work being done on or around their property, 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-](mailto:hgarrett@westchester-il.org)



New bike path constructed along the north side of Cermak, between Mannheim and Westchester Blvd.

[il.org/708-446-4231](http://il.org/708-446-4231) and provide your address. The Village will keep residents advised should any project delays become necessary.

### Bike Path Construction

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



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## Do you know what your home is worth?

### Average Westchester Home Prices

*(Excluding Foreclosures and Short Sales)*

<b>All Homes:</b>	<b>\$181,044</b>
<b>2 Bedrooms:</b>	<b>\$148,110</b>
<b>3 Bedrooms:</b>	<b>\$193,039</b>
<b>4 Bedrooms:</b>	<b>\$241,640</b>

**Call one of our agents today for a free pricing analysis on your home!!**

This chart represents all detached single-family homes that closed in Westchester according to MRED data between 12/15/2010 and 12/15/2011. 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.

# What's your vision for Westchester?

What would you want to see here, to give you more local choices for shopping, entertainment or restaurants, or just a neighborhood cafe to sit with coffee? The Village of Westchester, its citizen Economic Development Committee, and the University of Illinois at Chicago Urban Planning need your ideas for your retail choices and development in Westchester.

Please take a moment to fill out the survey below and drop it off at Village Hall (you could send it back in your Westchester water payment envelope) or look for one of the many drop boxes located in various Westchester establishments, including the Westchester Public Library, the Park District offices, la Petite, Alpine Haus, Giordanos, Paul's Pizza and Hotdogs, Joe's Place, Inland Bank, Harris Bank and more. There is also an electronic survey on the Village's homepage at [www.westchester-il.org](http://www.westchester-il.org), which can be completed and emailed back to us.

You can make a difference in forward movement for Westchester, as we plan for positive changes in the economy, and begin planning for the enhancement of our retail areas and your retail options.

Thank you for your participation.



Village of Westchester

Economic Development Committee

## Resident Survey

I have been a resident of Westchester for (# of years):

0-5 ( )

6-10 ( )

11-20 ( )

over 20 ( )

What aspects of the Village are most important to maintain for your ideal quality of life in Westchester?

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Where would you prefer to see new retail development or redevelopment happen in Westchester (select one):

Roosevelt Corridor east of Mannheim

Roosevelt and Mannheim

Mannheim/Cermak(22<sup>nd</sup>)

Cermak(22<sup>nd</sup>) and Wolf

31<sup>st</sup> and Wolf

What types of retail stores would you shop if they were located in Westchester (excluding large big-box retailers)?

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What restaurants you would enjoy and dine at if they were located in Westchester?

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What kinds of family oriented businesses would you and your family like to see in Westchester?

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What medical services or urgent care do you wish were available in Westchester?

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What would encourage you to patronize Westchester businesses more frequently?

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Do you have any comments, suggestions, or ideas that you would like to share with us?

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Please return your survey by 1/30/12 to the Village Office or several drop boxes located throughout the Village or by email at [edc@westchester-il.org](mailto:edc@westchester-il.org). We thank you for your participation in this effort.