



Village of Westchester

Inside this Issue

Fire Department	4
Business Spotlight	5
Police Department	6
Library	7
Public Works	11
New Water & Sewer Rates	15
School District	16

From the desk of Village President Greg Hribal

Welcome to winter, although it might not yet feel like it. We once again anticipate a mild weather pattern in December and instead of working on snow removal, public works will be focused on keeping the streets clear of leaves and other debris which will help prevent flooding in addition to reducing hazardous conditions for drivers.

SBC will continue to collect yard waste through the end of December on normal pick-up days, and we remind residents not to rake or blow leaves into the street.

On December 9th, the Village Board will discuss options of an offer for the property located at Mannheim and Roosevelt. Xceed Commercial Real Estate and a Culver's franchisee have partnered to redevelop the three-acre parcel that previously housed several three-story office buildings.

This is not the sale of the property; rather, it is the first step toward negotiating a redevelopment agreement that would ultimately lead to a sale. While selling the property is important, ensuring that its future use positively impacts the community has been a top priority.

The Village is currently reviewing the format and delivery method of this newsletter. We've received concerns about the timeliness of the information it contains, as well as delays and occasional lapses in delivery with the current system.

Because the newsletter must be prepared up to 20 days before it is printed and hand-delivered, some residents have reported not receiving their copy at all.

To address these issues, we are exploring several options, including mailing the newsletter directly and using a new printer that can produce and distribute content within just a few days. Discussions are still ongoing, but our priority remains the same: ensuring that every resident receives timely, reliable information each month.

Jalapeno Taco has now opened at 10229 Roosevelt across from the Westchester Fire Station on Roosevelt Road. It is the former location of Pepe's II Hot Dogs.

A family-owned business serving authentic Mexican cuisine, it is currently open from 11am to 7pm and anticipate expanding the hours in the future. Please help me welcome them to the community.

With the upcoming holidays, please visit our website for the most current information on items such as village holiday closures and hours and SBC waste collection schedule changes or modifications.

The Village does its best to post all changes to our website, on Facebook and in our weekly e-news brief.

Our website also contains links to information on all the services provided by SBC Waste Solutions, such as electronic waste, bulk items and appliance disposal procedures.

In addition to weekly collection, there are many services that they provide free of charge.

Happy Holidays and here's to a Happy New Year!!

Village of Westchester

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



Village Officials

President Greg Hribal ghribal@westchester-il.gov	Clerk Sophia Collins scollins@westchester-il.gov	Treasurer Barbara Brandt bbrandt@westchester-il.gov
---	---	--

Trustees

Gia Marie Benline gmbenline@westchester-il.gov	Brian Cross bcross@westchester-il.gov	Terrance Jones tjones@westchester-il.gov
Peter Marzano pmarzano@westchester-il.gov	Evie Slavic eslavic@westchester-il.gov	Victoria M. Vann vvann@westchester-il.gov

Staff

Village Hall - (708) 345-0020 Barry Krumstok, Manager bkrumstok@westchester-il.gov John Schwarz, Assistant Manager jschwarz@westchester-il.gov	Community Development/ Building - (708) 345-0199 Jim Novosel, Director jnovosel@westchester-il.gov	Public Works - (708) 345-0041 Steve Crowley, Supervisor scrowley@westchester-il.gov
Police Department - (708) 345-0060 Daniel Babich, Police Chief dbabich@westchester-il.gov	Fire Department - (708) 345-0433 Daniel Manning, Fire Chief dmanning@westchester-il.gov	General Questions/Information info@westchester-il.gov



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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED FOR IN-SERVICE DAY WINTER WONDERLAND - 6-8PM - COMMUNITY PARK	4	5 CLAUS & PAWS 6-8PM COMMUNITY PARK	6 HOLIDAY BAZAAR 9AM-3PM LIBERTY CULTURAL CENTER
7 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 9AM DIVINE PROVIDENCE HOLIDAY BAZAAR 11AM-3PM LIBERTY CULTURAL CENTER	8	9 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 6PM VILLAGE HALL	10 AGING CARE PARTY 11:15AM MAYFAIR REC CENTER WINTER BAND CONCERT 6:30PM WESTCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL	11 GROW ECOLOGICAL COMMISSION - 6:30PM VILLAGE HALL	12	13
14	15	16 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 6PM VILLAGE HALL (RESCHEDULED)	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED	25 VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED Merry Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31 VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED	1 VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED Happy New Year	2	3

• VILLAGE MEETINGS • VILLAGE EVENTS • OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

thank You

TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS!



join us!

www.westchester-il.org/sponsors



Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.



ALPINE BANQUET HAUS
ANN & VICTOR POKORNY MEMORIAL FUND
BEAR FAMILY RESTAURANTS
BELLWOOD STRAY CREW
BERTUCCI'S AUTOMOTIVE WASH
BETHANNY ALEXANDER
BLAINE CARRAGHER STATE FARM
THE BRANDT & SPAHN FAMILIES
BYLINE BANK
CERAMIC ART CAFE
CHRIS NYBO
COMED
CONBOY WESTCHESTER FUNERAL HOME
EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH
THE GORDON FAMILY
GRACE CENTRAL CHURCH
GRASSROOTS GARDEN GROUP
HILLCHESTER ANIMAL HOSPITAL
IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
J4 EVENTS, TENTS & RENTALS
JEANNIE'S HAIR COMPANY
JULIE WHITE, BROKER
KIND CAFE & CATERING
KLEIN, THORPE & JENKINS

LAGRANGE POINTE
LAS DELICIAS DE MICHOACAN
LEGACY PROFESSIONALS LLP
LIVING FRESH MARKET
LYONS & PINNER ELECTRIC
MARY, MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE
MIRACLES IN PROGRESS
MOHR OIL CO.
NOBS TOWING
OAK LEYDEN
PANDA DANCE STUDIOS
PAUL'S PIZZA & HOT DOGS
RUSSO'S HILLSIDE CHAPELS
SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY
SHA-POPPIN' GOURMET POPCORN
SUPER ONE HOUR CLEANERS
TRITON COLLEGE
THE WATSON FAMILY
WEST40
WESTCHESTER CHAMBER
WESTCHESTER MASONIC TEMPLE
WESTCHESTER PARK DISTRICT
WESTCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WINTRUST
ZIEBELL WATER SERVICE PRODUCTS

Celebrating Our Community

The Village of Westchester was happy to recognize two Westchester Fire Department supporters at a recent board meeting.

Ben Adelman

Ben Adelman was recognized for his nearly twenty years of service as an honorary member of the Westchester Fire Department.

Every Wednesday—affectionately known among staff as “Bensday”—Ben reports for duty, always ready to lend a helping hand with any task, whether assisting with rig checks, office work, or preparing for community events.

In addition to his weekly volunteer service, Ben plays an active role in the Fire Department’s annual Open House and other public outreach events throughout the year. Ben has also served for many years with Superior Ambulance, where he has excelled in both customer service and dispatch roles, and recently achieved his CPR certification.

Beyond his professional and volunteer commitments, Ben is a passionate advocate for individuals with disabilities, inspiring others through his speaking engagements and dedication to living life to the fullest.

The Village of Westchester and the Westchester Fire Department extend their heartfelt appreciation to Ben for his outstanding contributions, positivity, and service to our community.

His commitment and spirit exemplify the very best of what it means to serve others.

Lauren Chayka

Lauren was recognized for her enthusiastic support of the Westchester Fire Department and the greater fire service community.

Lauren is well known for her passion for the fire service and her active role in highlighting the work of the Westchester Fire Department and neighboring agencies within MABAS Division 20.

She manages the MABAS Division 20 Facebook Page, sharing her remarkable photographs and keeping followers informed about department activities, calls, promotions, and milestones.

She is also a dedicated supporter of The Yard Foundation and Project Fire Buddies, and her ongoing volunteerism, positivity, and pride in local firefighters make her an outstanding friend and advocate of the Westchester Fire Department.



The Village of Westchester was happy to recognize two Westchester Fire Department supporters at a recent board meeting.

Celebrating 75 Years of the Westchester Community Church

While not a traditional business, the Westchester Community Church has long served as an important pillar in our community.

For 75 years, the church has played a meaningful role in Westchester's development, civic life, and sense of togetherness. In recognition of its lasting impact and continued service to our residents, we are proud to feature the Westchester Community Church in this month's Community Spotlight.

The Westchester Community Church (WCC) was formed in October/November of 1949. The church was founded by residents of Westchester from a wide range of Protestant backgrounds. Josephine and Chuck Field are credited as the originators and played a significant role in canvassing the community and inviting others to help establish WCC.

Unlike many Protestant churches of the time—which were placed in communities through denominational or ecumenical assignments—WCC's early members met together to determine their own theology and governance.

The church was originally Congregational and later joined the United Church of Christ. Today, the Westchester Community Church remains a truly community-minded church, grounded in the belief that "Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey of faith, you are welcome at the Westchester Community Church."

In 2025, the church celebrates 75 years of worship, service, and dedication to the Village of Westchester. The church has long been committed to caring for all people—Christian and non-Christian alike—and strongly believes in the unity of Christ's church, working together for peace, justice, and healing.

From its earliest days, members of WCC were instrumental in helping establish the Westchester Public Library, LaGrange Hospital, and the Westchester Chamber of Commerce. Their hallmark has always been caring for the entire community and finding ways to bring people together. Over the years, WCC has

hosted public forums on local schools, community issues, and prospective elected officials. The church proudly supports

groups and organizations such as the Westchester Food Pantry, scouting programs, Brownies, two A.A. groups, multiple theatre groups, and numerous community meetings, senior events, and youth sports activities.

They also help host multiple blood drives and are known for their annual Craft Fair, Bible studies, weddings, and funerals. Weekly activities are posted on the church's website.

WCC is also home to a vibrant preschool called Sticks and Stones. Additionally, the church quietly supports the community by allowing parking for Park District events and offering facility rentals to non-members for important family gatherings.

The church is active seven days a week, frequently hosting forums and discussions that address community issues, encourage dialogue, and foster collaboration. Since 1997, WCC has helped create and sustain the Chicago Tamil United Church of Christ, a Tamil-speaking Indian congregation.

WCC also serves as the host site for the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, which oversees UCC churches in northern and central Illinois. The church additionally houses a counseling center for clergy of various denominations known as Midwest Careers.

Pastor Joe Mills has served as Senior Pastor since 1994. He is active in the area's United Church of Christ cluster and supports many regional mission efforts.

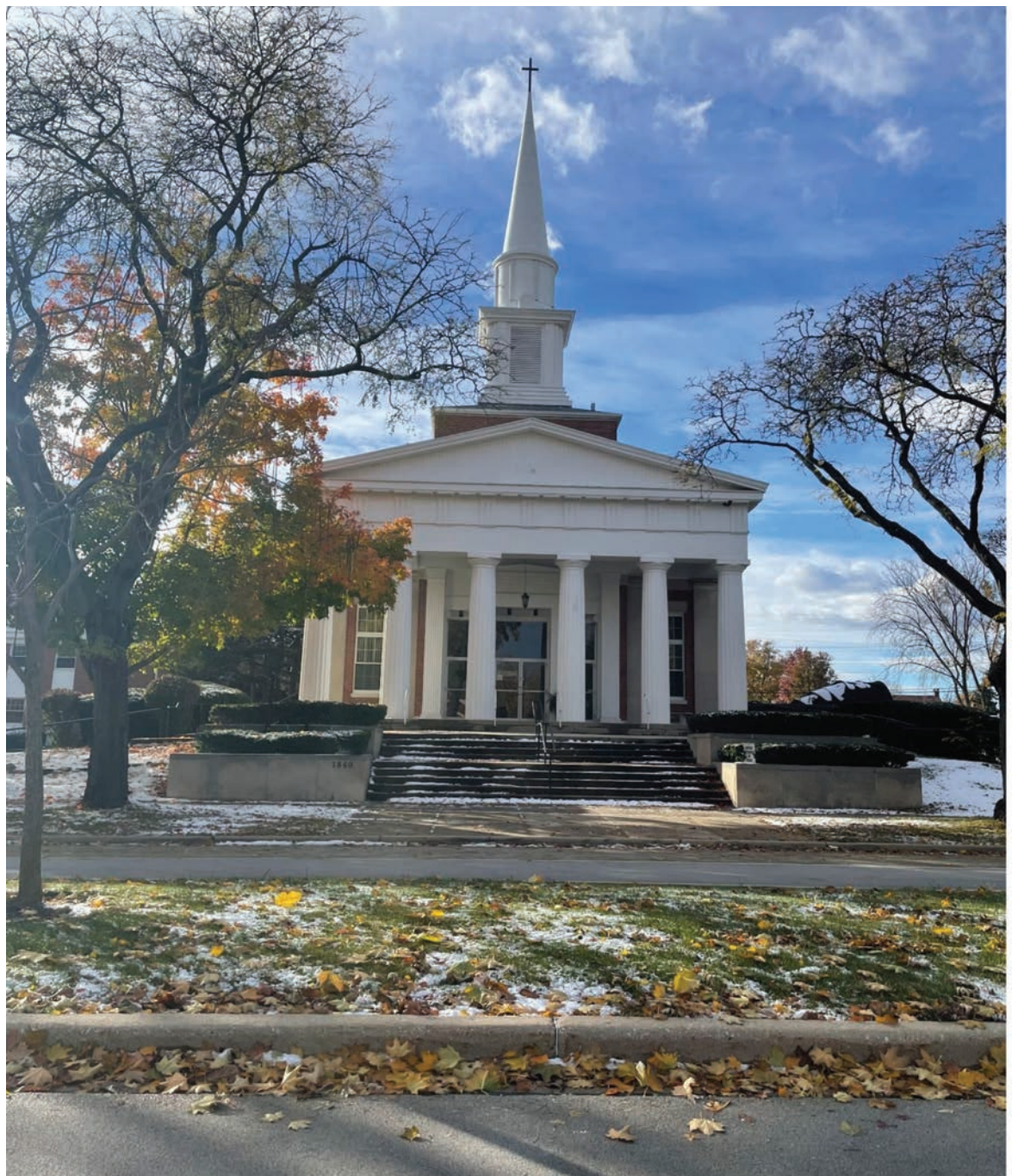
He is married to Barb, who recently retired after serving as a kindergarten teacher at Lindop School in Broadview. They have two adult children—one a physical therapist for children with multiple special needs, and the other a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Pastor Joe is also deeply involved in the local community as Police and Fire Chaplain, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, and a board member of the Westches-

ter Chamber of Commerce.

He is active in the Theatre of Western Springs and supports two theatre groups in Westchester.

WCC's dedicated staff includes longtime Executive Administrator Joyce, who has served alongside Pastor Joe for many years, as well as a custodian, music director, Bell Choir director, and numerous member volunteers. For more information on the many activities and opportunities to participate, please visit the Westchester Community Church website.

Westchester Community Church
1840 Westchester Blvd
Westchester, IL 60154
(708) 865-1282
www.westchesterucc.org
westcomchurch@hotmail.com



While not a traditional business, the Westchester Community Church has long served as an important pillar in our community.

Happy Holidays

I wanted to take a moment to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year. It's amazing how quickly each year seems to pass.

As time moves along, many of us feel the natural wear and tear of life, but I've always believed that if your feet hit the floor in the morning, it's already a great day—everything else is a bonus.

I can truly say that some of the best times in my life have been spent working here for the Village of Westchester and serving our residents.

In today's world, things can feel divided and overwhelming, and it's easy to become discouraged or frustrated. During these moments, it's important to remain calm, think things through, and treat one another with patience and respect.

Along with that, we must also stay vigilant when it comes to protecting our personal information.

Scammers continue to find new ways to impersonate financial institutions, delivery services, or other trusted companies in hopes of gaining access to your accounts.

These individuals are highly skilled, so please remain cautious of unsolicited calls, texts, or emails asking for money, gift cards, or personal details.

During the holiday season, please be especially careful when using credit cards or carrying cash. Set up alerts on your phone for all transactions, monitor your accounts regularly, and ensure you have the ability to freeze your card quickly if needed.

Keep important documents secure, and consider using a home safe and a doorbell camera for added protection.

Most importantly, enjoy this special time of year. Be safe, take care of one another, and remember that the holiday season is a wonderful time for both giving and forgiving.

Sincerely,
Chief Daniel Babich



WESTCHESTER POLICE BLOTTER

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

25-4059 10/22/2025 5:39PM TRAFFIC ARREST 10300 BLK ROOSEVELT RD WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 18 year old male from River Grove, IL was cited for Speeding, and No Valid Driver's License. The 18 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

25-4178 10/31/2025 7:18PM DOMESTIC BATTERY WESTCHESTER, IL A 34-year-old female from Berwyn has been charged with Domestic Battery and Criminal Damage to Property in Cook County Circuit Court following a recent incident. The 34-year-old female was taken into custody, processed, and subsequently transported to the Fourth District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood for a bond hearing.

*This is not a comprehensive list. Please visit www.westchester-il.org/blotter for more information.



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Winter Holiday Closure Dates

Wednesday, December 24th - Closed
Thursday, December 25th - Closed
Wednesday, December 31st - Closed
Thursday, January 1st - Closed

Winter Reading Starts January 5th

Get cozy with a good book this winter and enjoy our Winter Reading Programs designed for every age group! See details below.

New Sit and Stitch Group
Wed, Jan 7 | 6 PM | Community Room

Join fellow crafters for a relaxing craft session at the library. Bring a knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or any portable handwork project!

Knitting Group

Thursday, December 4th | 6 PM
Conference Room
Drop in to hang out with other Westchester knitters! All levels are welcome, and instruction can be (happily!) provided if requested, but this is a sit-and-stitch, rather than a class.

Embroidery Journaling

Thursday, December 11th | 6 PM
Conference Room
Stop by to learn this month's embroidery stitch the Woven Wheel. If you can't make it, ask the librarians at the reference desk for a handout to take home. **Registration is required.**

Adult Take-and-Make: Mini Teracotta Snowman

Monday, December 15th | Adult Department
While Supplies Last
Pick up a kit in the Adult Department and make a cute snowman out of a mini teracotta pot. **While Supplies Last**

December Adult Book Discussion Celebration

Tuesday, December 16th | 6:30 PM
Community Room
Join us to celebrate another year of reading and share your favorite books from 2025. Bring a book to give away and discover something new in a fun book swap game!

ILP: Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig

Tuesday, January 13th | 7 PM | Zoom
Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jonathan Eig discusses King: A Life, the first major biography of Martin Luther King Jr. in decades and the first to draw on declassified FBI files. Vivid and deeply researched, the book offers a powerful new portrait of the preacher and activist who transformed American race relations. **Registration is required.**

Gift Wrapping Station

Monday, December 15th - Friday, December 19th
Conference Room

Stop by and use our supplies all week to wrap your presents! Make your own wrapping paper, get creative with bows, and make fun gift tags. Some examples will be provided, drop in anytime the library is open to get wrapping!

Winter Reading for Adults

Monday, January 5th - Saturday, February 14th
Warm up this winter with our 6-week Winter Reading Program for adults! Track your reading and play Book Bingo on Beanstack, or pick up a traditional bingo card at the library. It's a fun way to discover new titles, challenge yourself, and celebrate your love of reading all season long.

Qigong and Sound Meditation

Saturday, January 17th | 11 AM | Community Room
Join Gail Morales for this beginner-friendly workshop that is a combination of qigong and beautiful sounds. Qigong involves a series of slow flowing movements and deep measured breathing while in a chair or standing. The workshop ends with soothing sounds from seven crystal singing bowls, chimes, handheld gongs, and other sound instruments. **Registration is required.**



Holiday Classics with Celeste Martino

Thursday, December 18th | 6:30 PM | Community Room
Celeste Martino, local lyric coloratura soprano, will perform holiday classics for the Westchester Public Library. She has sung in numerous professional performances throughout the U.S. and Europe. **Registration is required.**



Holidays at the Library!

Holiday Pets: Youth Scavenger Hunt

All Month | Youth Department

Can you find all the adorable holiday pets hidden in Youth Services? Collect a sheet and find them all! Then come to the Youth Services desk for a prize! One (1) sheet per participant

Deck the Halls Holiday Program

Thursday, December 11th | 6 PM | Community Room

Don't miss this special holiday program! We'll read festive books, sing songs, have treats --- and welcome a very special guest!!

Hint: his heart is two sizes too small! **Registration required; best for PreK - 3rd grade.**

Holiday Greeting Cards

Monday, December 15th | Youth Department

Make a festive greeting card for someone special!

Best for grade K - 5, while supplies last.

Teen Programs

Teen Take & Make

December 8th | Teen Room

Drop by the Teen Room for a craft kit--take it home or stay in the library and create it!

For grades 6-12 while supplies last.

Volunteer Decorating Help!

Saturday, December 13th | 10 AM - 12 PM

Come in to create winter holiday decorations for the teen room! Each participant will receive two (2) volunteer hours. Volunteers need to have a volunteer application filled out and signed by a parent/guardian at least one day before the event. Please call the teen librarian for more information at **708-562-3573 X3.**

Glass Caligraphy for Teens

Tuesday, January 27th | 6 PM | Community Room

Samra Bashir, a visual artist and educator, leads a beginner-friendly workshop on painting traditional Islamic geometric patterns on framed glass. Participants learn step-by-step techniques and explore the cultural significance of the designs. No prior artistic experience is required! **For teens in grades 6-12; registration is required.**

Youth Programs

Imagination Station

Monday, December 8th | 10 AM - 7 PM

Once a month, stop by our Imagination Station where you'll find everything you need to make a cool craft, pick up books on a specific topic, and more! What a great way to give your creativity a work out! **Best for grades K - 5, while supplies last.**

Lego Club

Friday, December 12th & 26th | 3:30 PM

Don't miss this fun club where you can show off your building skills and get to put your creations on display! **Best for grades K-5.**

Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime

Wednesdays | 10:15 AM | Starting January 7th

Get ready to sing, hear stories, and make a craft based on the theme of the day! **Best for babies - PreK.**

Tales and Treats

Thursday, January 8th | 4 PM | Community Room

Calling all kids in Kindergarten - 2nd grade. Join us once a month for this special storytime just for you! Listen to fun stories while you munch on a delicious snack! **Registration is required; for grades K - 2.**

Squirrely Storytime

Tuesday, January 20th | 10:15 AM

Youth Department

Scurry into the library for a fun National Squirrel Appreciation day storytime! We'll read silly squirrel stories, sing songs, and more! **For birth - PreK.**



Youth Winter Reading Club

Monday, January 5th - Saturday, February 14th

Snuggle up with a good book this winter with our 6-week reading challenge! **For babies to grade 5.**

Stop by the Youth Services desk for more information.



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

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

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

Library Director Patrick Callaghan • Board of Trustees John Lamberti-president, Greg Christoff, Shannon Flint, Christine Kuffel, Darla Woods & Stephanie Pedersen • Board

Meetings on 4th Monday of every month 7 PM.

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services please contact us at least 7 days before the event.

Deck the Halls

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
6 PM | COMMUNITY ROOM

We'll read festive books, sing songs, have treats --- and welcome a very special guest!!
 Hint: his heart is two sizes too small!



**BEST FOR
 PREK-
 GRADE 3**



WESTCHESTER
 PUBLIC LIBRARY

10700 CANTERBURY STREET, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154
 ASKUS@WESTCHESTERPL.ORG
 708.562.3573
 WWW.WESTCHESTERPL.ORG

WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY



WET NOSE PANTRY



Donations of funds and food are greatly appreciated!



Donations of money help us to:
Buy fresh produce, dairy products, eggs, meat and more at wholesale prices. Use the QR code on the left to donate via Paypal, or send a donation via Zelle to Info@WestchesterFoodPantry.org.

Food items most needed:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Condiments | Cereal |
| Meals in a can | Jelly |
| Toilet paper | Pasta sauce |
| Rice/pasta/potato sides | Dried fruit |
| Cake/brownie mix | Dog food |
| Family-size juice | Cat food |



Scan the QR code on the right for drop-off locations and volunteer opportunities!

2025 Christmas & 2026 New Year’s Day
Holiday Rubbish Schedule

- Thursday, December 25th’s collection will be on Friday, December 26th
- Friday, December 26th’s collection will be on Saturday, December 27th
- Thursday, January 1st’s collection will be on Friday, January 2nd
- Friday, January 2nd’s collection will be on Saturday, January 3rd

Live Christmas trees up to 5 feet long will be collected on your regular rubbish day December 26, 2025 through January 16, 2026.

Yard waste collection ends December 30th and will resume April 2nd, 2026. Village branch collection will resume the week of April 6th – 10th 2026.

The Village Hall will be collecting non-working holiday lights for recycling until February 2nd

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

sbcwastesolutions.com/westchester

- If your garbage, recycling, and/or yard waste was at the curb by 6am but was not collected by 6pm on your regular day, please call S.B.C. directly to report a missed collection.
- You may place two (2) large items that will not fit in your receptacle (couch, chair, table, etc.,) at the curb every week for collection.

Please call S.B.C. directly to inform them of large items.

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

Leaf Reminders As leaves fall, please remember **DO NOT** pile, blow, or rake your leaves into the street. This causes storm sewer problems which leads to flooding, and it is against Village Code. Yard waste is collected by S.B.C. through the end of December.

Village Snow Restrictions

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

Please assist us by observing the following:

- Place garbage cans 3 feet behind the curb line- **do not place them in the street.**
- **Do not shovel or blow snow back into the cleared streets.**
- Please observe the “NO PARKING SNOW ROUTE” signs.
- The snow portion of the signs will be enforced after 2 inches of snowfall between December 1st and March 31st. If you reside on a Primary designated SNOW

ROUTE, after 2 inches of snowfall you must remove all vehicles from the snow route. Vehicles must stay off the street until the streets are cleared thoroughly by the plows by Public Works.

If the snowfall is continuing, the restriction is in place until Public Works completes the plowing for the day. Please check the signs at the corners of your block.

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

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

Westchester Tree Replacement Program

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

be planted, sooner rather than later, on any parkway.

2. If you would prefer to choose the species of the tree to be planted, this can be achieved through the 50/50 program.

The resident may choose the tree(s) from a list provided by the Village, and shares half of the cost of the tree(s) and planting with the Village. To request the list of 50/50 trees, please call the Public Works Department at 708-345-0041.

As always, residents are asked to call Public Works at 708-345-0041 if an unusual amount of water is visible in the street or parkway. This could be a main break or water leak that requires our immediate attention.

If after 3:30pm M-F or on weekends and holidays, please call the non-emergency number at 708-593-3830.

As always, residents are asked to call Public Works at 708-345-0041 if an unusual amount of water is visible in the street or parkway. This could be a main break or water leak that requires our immediate attention.

If after 3:30pm M-F or on weekends and holidays, please call the non- emergency number at **708-593-3830.**

HOLIDAY CLASSICS

LIVE OPERATIC PERFORMANCE

Celeste Martino, local lyric coloratura soprano, will perform holiday classics for the Westchester Public Library. She has sung in numerous professional performances throughout the U.S. and Europe.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



Celeste Martino
Lyric Coloratura Soprano



THU, DECEMBER 18, 6:30 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

Holiday Ornaments: History and Traditions

Presenter: Patricia Reaves

Sunday – December 14, 2025
1 pm

Wolf Road Prairie House
11225 Constitution Drive, Westchester

Come learn about the origin and practices
of decorating trees for the holidays



Walter S. Baltus: Westchester Developer

If one drives down many of the Westchester streets, one will invariably encounter Baltis Built Homes. Driving down Westchester Blvd., Manchester, Hawthorne, Kensington or Balmoral, even Mannheim Road, one will find homes built by Walter S. Baltus.

He built Georgians, colonials, spit-levels, two-flats, and larger apartment units, but he is probably best known for the mid-century Baltis Built ranches strewn throughout the village.

Walter S. Baltis began his life in Poland on September 19, 1904 with the last name Baltruszajtis. He emigrated to the U.S. when he was ten years old and grew up in Chicago. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen at the age of 32. He was married to Marie R. Nejdlik and had four daughters: Joan, Rita, Bonnie and Phyllis. They were residents of Riverside.

He started building homes in Westchester in 1941 and was a driving force behind the Westchester housing boom after World War II. The Williamsburg-inspired colonials he had been building did not really take off in Westchester, as new residents wanted modern, efficient housing with ample space.

His ranch-style homes included multiple entrances, large living room and dining room areas, two to four bedrooms, ceramic-tiled bathrooms, hardwood birch trim throughout, large windows for brighter interiors, ample storage, basements, and attached garages, which were not common with standard colonials.

By 1959, added family and utility rooms provided more square footage in his bi-level homes.

He constructed model homes that prospective buyers could visit on Westchester Boulevard and on Dorchester Avenue.

One lucky prospective buyer won a 1965 Mustang car as a Moen Fawcett sweepstakes prize for visiting a model home in Westchester as part of the Chicago Tribune's Spring Festival of Homes. Baltis Built Homes developed the area around Mayfair with custom-designed houses.

Their aim was to build homes solidly, with good quality serving as a source of pride. Walter Baltis had an amazing and lucrative career.

He started in the 1920s as sales manager at Cicero Motor Sales. He became the owner of Arrow Motor Sales from 1930 to 1935. He was a member of the Cermak Road Business Men's Association in the early 1930s. Then he became the manager of Stastny Builders in Berwyn. In Westchester, he became president of Baltis Built Homes in 1941.

He had a sales office in Berwyn before moving his main office to 1905 Mannheim Road in Westchester. Besides building over 2000 homes in Westchester by 1956, he developed suburbs in North Riverside, Stickney, and Forest View.

He also built houses and apartments in Berwyn. Thus, his company became a major developing firm of the western suburbs.

In 1956 he made an unsuccessful bid to become the state senator from the second Senatorial District on the Democratic ticket.

From 1953 into the 1960s he was president of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association in Westchester.

He was also president of the Globe Savings and Loan Association and was head of the Baltis Plaza Shopping Center. From the late fifties until 1964, Baltis served as a trustee for Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago.

In the 1960s he became president of a credit union. One other noteworthy service to Westchester was donating 7.75 acres to the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, which deeded that land to the Divine Providence Parish to build the Catholic church and school on Mayfair Avenue.

At the age of 86, Walter Stanley Baltis passed away in Florida. He lies buried at the Queen of Heaven Cemetery along with his wife, who outlived him for several years.



Walter S. Baltis began his life in Poland on September 19, 1904 with the last name Baltruszajtis. He emigrated to the U.S. when he was ten years old and grew up in Chicago.

Perhaps most representative of his legacy are the many houses that shape the mid-century vibe that the Village

of Westchester boasts, enabling many young families to rediscover and appreciate well-built homes to bring up to date for lasting value today.



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



Scott Hopman
773-655-8529

Giordano Manfredini
708-363-6789

Save the Date!

Join us for the Veterans Stability Initiative:
A day of unity, service, and support for those who served. ♥

Jan 10, 2026
11AM - 3 PM

VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER
10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL
ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE INVITED

Register at:
www.TopFlightDefenseInc.org/VeteransInitiative



JEN & JIM CAVANAUGH
REALTORS®/Brokers

Jen: 708.408.9910

Jim: 630.215.8202

jen.cavanaugh@cbexchange.com

jim.cavanaugh@cbexchange.com

CavanaughTeam.com

One Parkview Plaza, Suite 100
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181



Owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC.

WaterSmart Portal is Now Live – Sign Up Now!

We're excited to announce the launch of Westchester's new Water Usage Portal! This new tool will allow residents to view real-time water usage, receive automated alerts for leaks or unusual activity, access billing information, and more — all in one convenient place.

Don't miss this opportunity to take control of your water usage, avoid surprises on your bill, and help us build a more efficient, responsive utility system.

SIGN UP FOR THE WATERSMART PORTAL NOW:

www.westchester-il.org/waterportal

New Water & Sewer Rates

These changes took effect July 1, 2025, following a professional rate study, and represent the next phase of the Village's multi-year plan to address aging infrastructure, comply with the State's Lead Service Line Replacement Mandate, and maintain long-term financial sustainability of our water and sewer systems.

New Rates Effective July 1, 2025:

- **Water usage:** \$19.21 per 1,000 gallons
- **Sewer usage:** \$4.03 per 1,000 gallons
- **Water infrastructure fee:** \$22 per month (\$44 per bill)
- **Sewer infrastructure fee:** \$15 per month (\$30 per bill)

The approved ordinance also includes a 10% increase in July 2026, a 5% increase in July 2027, and then annual increases of 3–5% to keep pace with infrastructure maintenance and water delivery costs.

Learn More:

www.westchester-il.org/waterrates

Water Fixture Efficiency Reimbursement Grant Program

The Village of Westchester is offering a Water Fixture Efficiency Reimbursement Grant to assist low-income residents in reducing water usage and offsetting the cost of high-efficiency fixtures. Eligible residents can receive up to 90% reimbursement on the purchase and installation of lead-free toilets, faucets, and showerheads—with a lifetime household maximum of \$500.

Highlights:

✓ Covers up to:

- \$200 per toilet
 - \$100 per faucet
 - \$75 per showerhead
- Must meet water-efficiency standards

(e.g. 1.28 gallons per flush for toilets)

- ✓ Must obtain a free plumbing permit
- ✓ Income eligibility required (e.g. Medicaid, SNAP, LIHEAP, or unemployment letter)

Utility Bill Hardship Program

The Village of Westchester offers a Utility Bill Hardship Program to assist residents who are experiencing financial difficulty in keeping up with their water and sewer bill. This program allows eligible account

holders to apply for a payment arrangement through a formal hardship hearing.

Program Details:

- ✓ Account must not be delinquent at the time of application
- ✓ Residents must apply in writing using the official application
- ✓ Only one hardship arrangement allowed every 6 months
- ✓ Applicants must attend a scheduled hardship hearing – missing it counts as your one chance for the 6-month period
- ✓ If approved, failure to follow the

payment plan will result in termination and the full balance becoming due

Submit completed applications to:

Village of Westchester
Utility Billing Department
10300 Roosevelt Road,
Westchester, IL 60154

A SMARTER WATER EXPERIENCE HAS ARRIVED IN WESTCHESTER!

With the WaterSmart Customer Portal, you'll be able to:

- View hourly water usage
- Detect potential leaks
- Track usage trends
- Discover conservation tips to help save money

SIGN UP NOW!

SCAN HERE:



www.westchester-il.org/waterportal

SIGN UP NOW







A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

December is always a busy and meaningful month in our schools. It’s a time to reflect, give thanks, and stay connected as a community. I want to thank the parents who attended our recent Strategic Plan Stakeholder Meeting and shared valuable feedback. Your input is helping us shape the future direction of our district. In the coming weeks, we’ll share a draft of the plan and invite additional feedback before it’s finalized.

We’re continuing to strengthen our partnership with families and make sure every parent feels welcome and informed. I encourage you to take time to connect with your child’s teachers, talk about their progress, and set goals for the months ahead.

Please note these important dates for December:

- Friday, December 19 – School Improvement Early Release Day
- December 22– January 2, 2026 – Winter Break for Students
- Monday, January 5, 2026– Classes Resume

As we move into colder weather, we often see more seasonal illnesses. If your child isn’t feeling well, please keep them home to help prevent the spread to classmates and staff.

If you have ideas, feedback, or questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me by phone (708-670-1927) or email (psalemi@sd925.org). Thank you for your continued support, trust, and commitment to our school district. I hope you and your family enjoy a restful winter break and Happy holidays.

Sincerely,

Philip Salemi, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools District 92½

Westchester Primary School

WPS celebrated fall with fun-filled classroom activities, thanks to the WPTC and staff. On Thursday, October 30th, our Early Childhood and Preschool Classrooms celebrated, and on Friday, October 31st, our Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade students participated in a costume parade outside. Following the parade, the children returned to their classrooms to participate in the parties sponsored by WPTC. Pictured below Hannah Feldbauer, Jordan Colon, and Hazel Carmon - Veronika Savonchak, Oliver Nagl, and Dreanna McGrew.



On November 6th, Westchester Primary School participated in our annual WPTC McTeacher Night with Westchester Intermediate School. So many of our families came out to support our schools, and many staff members volunteered their time. We are so grateful to all who made the event a huge success! Pictured below: Mrs. McDowell, Ms. Coglianese, Mrs. Hagstrom, and Ms. Roger - Mr. Barrett and Mrs. Lafin.



Westchester Primary School

Westchester Primary School showed gratitude in several ways in November. Students listened to and read books about being grateful and showing thankfulness to others. WPS was especially appreciative when we honored our active and retired service members on Veterans' Day. Students learned that we celebrate all Veterans, alive and deceased, for their honorable service to our country. On Veterans' Day, we celebrated our veterans with an all-school assembly. Several of our second graders read in the assembly, and Staff Sergeant Johnathan Ulin spoke to our students, staff, and guests.



Lastly, as the first trimester ended in November, Parent-Teacher conferences were held in person on November 24th and virtually on November 25th to accommodate our WPS families. Parents and Guardians were invited to WPS to meet with their child's teacher to discuss their child's progress. WPS values our strong parent partnerships to support student learning in and out of the classroom.

Westchester Intermediate School

This is a busy time of year for our students. We were able to celebrate Veteran's Day this year with an assembly. Nearly eighty families joined us for some songs, student poems, letters, and a slide show commemorating our family members who have served in the military. We welcomed Ms. Martinez as our guest speaker to share her experiences with our students and staff. We appreciated her joining us. She was amazing with our kiddos.

We held our parent teacher conferences on November 24th and 25th. They were very well attended by our parents and provided an opportunity for our teachers and families to connect on how the year is going. These meetings give us the chance to continue fostering a positive working relationship with our families to support continuous growth for all of our students.

We will continue to be busy in December. On December 2nd we have our Winter Chorus Concert from 6:30 to 7:00. Our WPTC sponsored Winter Shop will be December 8th and 9th during the school day. Our Beginner and Cadet Bands have been practicing and preparing for our Winter Concert which will be December 17th from 6:30 - 8:00. Our Beginner Band will perform from 6:30 to 7:00 and our Cadet Band will perform from 7:30 to 8:00. Our Winter Parties with the help of the WPTC will be on December 20th. Then it is time for Winter Break.

As we get into this time of year, it can be difficult for students to stay focused. We have to continue to work together to keep our children centered and on task so they can be their best selves. I hope everyone has a wonderful winter break.

Go Huskies!

Westchester Middle School

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

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

Congratulations to our September Warriors of the Month! 6th Grade: Dez Gallardo and Isis Hill, 7th Grade: Jacob Leisten and Emilia Wiktorzak, 8th Grade: Grace Lazaro, Aaliyah Sims, and Samantha Wyckoff. Warriors of the Month are selected by their teachers for setting a strong example and exceeding the expectations of the 4 Bs: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be There



Our Boys Basketball teams and our Cheer and Dance team are near the midpoint of their season. Check the weekly message or with one of the team members about the dates you can join us for a game.

Upcoming Events

Please join us on Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 PM for our Winter Band Concert. We look forward to sharing our student's musical talents with you during this evening.

Our Winter Dance will take place after school from 3:00 to 4:30 on Friday, December 12. Please look in the weekly message for the permission slip and its due date.

We will have our Winter MAP testing on Monday, December 15 and Tuesday, December 16. We hope to then complete our makeups on December 17 and December 18.

Our final day before Winter Break will be Friday, December 19. We will have our Winter Assembly on this day and will conclude it with our musical announcement. Dismissal will be at 11:15.

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



Westchester Chamber of Commerce
“We mean business.”

Welcome New Members!



Sal Alvarez, Zivra Technology Co.

Zivra: Driving Digital Transformation Through AI, Cloud, DevSecOps, and Managed IT Services

In today’s fast-evolving technology landscape, Zivra, LLC helps organizations modernize, automate, and operate smarter. Founded by experienced technology executives, Zivra combines strategic insight with deep technical expertise to deliver measurable business results in AI, cloud, DevSecOps, and IT Managed Services.

Zivra’s AI and automation solutions empower enterprises to streamline workflows, reduce manual effort, and improve decision-making. From custom AI models to workflow orchestration and intelligent AI agents, the firm helps clients unlock new efficiencies across departments.

Through its cloud strategy and migration services, Zivra designs and implements scalable, secure, and cost-optimized cloud environments that drive agility and resilience. Its DevSecOps practice integrates automation and security into every stage of development, enabling faster, more reliable software delivery.

Zivra’s IT Support and Managed Services offering provides proactive monitoring, troubleshooting, and optimization across infrastructure and productivity platforms — ensuring uptime, stability, and user satisfaction while freeing internal teams to focus on growth.

Clients choose Zivra for its senior-led model and outcome-driven approach. Every engagement begins with discovery and assessment, followed by prioritized implementation and ongoing optimization. Recognized on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest-growing companies and an Atlassian Silver Solution Partner, Zivra continues to help organizations turn technology into a competitive advantage.

For more information, contact Sal Alvarez, Director of Managed Services, at salvarez@zivra.com
Or visit www.zivra.com



Dominic Gerace
(708) 860-7423

Strikes Baseball & Softball Academy
3100 S 25th Ave., Broadview, IL 60155
Visit us at: StrikesBaseball.com

MEMBER BENEFITS

The Westchester Chamber of Commerce is committed to providing businesses with the opportunities and services they need to excel in the community. As an organization of committed businesses, the chamber of commerce works to bring members together to create meaningful and profitable business relationships. Members of the WCC will also profit from the following benefits:

- *Quarterly networking events
- *New member recognition within the chamber ad of the monthly *Village of Westchester Newsletter* mailed to over 7,000 homes and businesses
- *Advertisement opportunities in WCC’s E-blast promotion
- *Opportunities to present at local small-business workshops
- *Opportunities to host a chamber event
- *Business listed in the Chamber Member Directory & on our ebsite
- *Ribbon cuttings for businesses
- *Monthly events opportunities
- *Chamber decal to display at place of business
- *Governmental representation
- *Business referrals
- *Chamber Directory in the new resident packet & available at the Village
- *Promote your business on social media with a Director or past/current President of the Chamber



Scan here to
Join us today ----->



Theresa Catrambone-Gerace*
Oak Park, IL 60302
(773) 413-8398

Available Servies:

Light/Basic Cleaning - Deep Cleaning - Move In/Out Cleaning

Gift Cards Available! Make someone’s special day Real happy!

Attention Real Estate Agents

- * Licensed RE Agent (with SentiLock /MLS access) *
- Need help cleaning your listings? Call me!
- Need a closing gift for a client? Call me!

ECO FRIENDLY PRODUCTS UPON REQUEST



VILLAGE OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Village Offices will be closed on December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1.

SBC WASTE SOLUTIONS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be no garbage/recycling collection on Thursday, December 25. Thursday collections will take place on Friday, December 26. Friday collections will take place on Saturday, December 27.

There will be no garbage/recycling collection on Thursday, January 1. Thursday collections will take place on Friday, January 2. Friday collections will take place on Saturday, January 3.

SBC will pick up Christmas trees on your regular garbage day through January 16.



Village of Westchester

ENERGY PLAN



The Village of Westchester is creating its first Energy Plan to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase sustainability in our community.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED NOW:

1

TAKE THE ENERGY PLAN SURVEY

Take the Energy Plan Survey to help set our priorities, and share it with your Westchester friends, family, and neighbors!



2



Stay Informed

Follow the development of the Village’s Energy Plan by visiting the plan’s webpage at <https://palebluedot.llc/westchester-energy-plan>

Scan the QR code

Take the survey and follow the planning progress by visiting the Energy Plan webpage.

<https://palebluedot.llc/westchester-energy-plan>





OPEN ENROLLMENT

4-5 YEAR OLD DAY CARE

Join us for the start of your child's lifelong learning experience. Our facility is designed to provide your child with a high quality, loving environment with families and faculty working together to meet your child's individual needs.

- * Complies and enforces DCFS regulations
- * Nutritious lunch and snacks served daily
- * Teachers trained in first-aid/CPR
- * Child care available for ages 2-5 years old

WHY ENROLL? ✓

It is our goal to give peace of mind to parents by giving careful and personal attention to your child in a clean, safe and nurturing environment. Our program allows children to explore and experience success through developmentally appropriate activities.

Curriculum

The classrooms are designed to encourage active learning. Curriculum planning emphasizes learning as an interactive process. Caregivers prepare the environment for children to learn through active exploration and interaction with adults, other children and materials.

Staff

Smart Start is staffed by professionally qualified teachers and caregivers. They follow rules and regulations put forth by the Department of Children and Family Services.

Price

Days/Week	Weekly Fee	Hours
2	\$ 152	7:00am-6:30pm . Monday-Friday
3	\$ 200	
5	\$ 258	708-862-8200 x216



We look forward to the opportunity to show you why SMART START is truly a special place for your child(ren).

SMART START EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

DON'T MISS OUT - STAY CONNECTED



@WDPARKS



@WDPARKS



WWW.WDPARKS.ORG



@WDPARKS



Aging Well in Westchester - Upcoming Event Schedule



Mayfair Recreation Center
10835 Wakefield Street
Westchester, IL 60154



Wednesdays, 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM



Dec. 10 - Holiday Party*

*RSVP to Gia Marie Benline giabenline@gmail.com or awn@agingcareconnections.org
MayFair Recreation Center, 10835 Wakefield St., Westchester 60154

These programs are brought to you by the:

The Westchester Aging Well Team is a group of volunteers working to make Westchester a great place to age well. Through a series of free informational programs, we help to promote lifelong wellness, support aging at home, raise awareness of available resources, provide a sense of community, and support healthy, informed, and safe aging.

Anti-Discrimination Statement
Aging Care Connections does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate state and federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call 708-354-1323.

Aging Care Connections
111 W. Harris Ave., La Grange, Illinois 60525 | Tel.: 708-354-1323
W:AgingCareConnections.org | E: awn@agingcareconnections.org



Proviso Handyman Department

December 2025

Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother’s house we go....
Are you ready for the holidays? Give us a call and we will help bring out your boxes of decorations! It is also a good time to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Call 708-547-4001

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



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

+ Only Homeowners within the boundaries of the Proviso Township+

Michael A. Corrigan
Supervisor

Anthony “Tony” Williams
Clerk

Steven J. Zawaski
Assessor

Gay F. Chase · Evelyn Chavez · Joseph Christopher · Tommy Olson
Trustees

VOICES OF WESTCHESTER

SHARE YOUR STORY –
BE PART OF OUR CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

As part of Westchester’s 100th Anniversary, we are collecting stories and memories from residents past and present. The Voices of Westchester project will feature interviews that capture the people, history, and spirit of our community—preserving them for generations to come.

Interested in participating? Email:
info@westchester-il.gov





A HUGE THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped at all of the events last month!

We had two successful book fairs at WPS and WIS, along with Math and Reading Night in October.

We were thrilled to have our Fall Family Dance and WMS's first dance this year. And we cannot forget our fun fall classroom parties at WPS and WIS.

The WPTC board is looking forward to WPS and WIS McTeacher Night on November 6. School staff will be serving orders and selling \$1 apple pies. This is always a fun night for the kids!

The next WPTC Meeting is November 5, in the WIS cafe beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Our events can only take place with the help of our volunteers.

Thank you to those who have taken the time to help out at our past events.

We have many more coming up and will need help. There are plenty more opportunities to help out!

We have some fun events coming up!

Be on the lookout for these events and volunteer opportunities:

***November 6th- WPS and WIS McTeacher Night**

***November 5th- WPTC Meeting 6pm WIS Cafe**



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

www.wptc.membershiptoolkit.com

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

You can also reach the WPTC via email at wptc925@gmail.com.

Our Facebook page is useful to stay up to date with us. You are always welcome to contact any of the WPTC Board members at wptc925@gmail.com with any questions, concerns or feedback that you may have.

Joyful and Waste-Free: Your Guide to Zero-Waste Holidays

The holiday season is a time for celebration, but it also sees a significant spike in waste—from wrapping paper and single-use dishware to uneaten food.

Whether a family gathering at home, annual work party, or other gathering, hosting a **zero-waste holiday event** is a fantastic way to spread cheer without spreading trash, proving that a truly festive gathering can be both spectacular and sustainable. And it’s a great way to save money!

Here’s your step-by-step guide to planning low-impact, high-joy December events. Choose what works for you!

Food: Local, Planned, and Loved

Food waste accounts for a huge portion of holiday waste, but smart planning can eliminate it.

- **Plan Portions Accurately:** Use an online “Guest-imator” or similar tool to accurately calculate how much food you need based on your head-count.
- **Source Locally:** Shop at **local farmers’ markets or co-ops** to find seasonal, unpackaged ingredients, reducing both packaging waste and your meal’s carbon footprint. Consider incorporating more **plant-based options**, which generally have a lower environmental impact.

• **Embrace Leftovers:** Have a plan for uneaten food. Encourage guests to **bring their own reusable containers** to take home leftovers—make it a fun “doggie bag” station! Donate non-perishable or unopened excess food to a local food bank. Compost any unavoidable food scraps.

Gifts & Wrapping

• **Gift Memories, Not Things:** Go **gift free** and focus on creating memories. If you are gifting, choose experiences (like event tickets, classes, services), shop second hand, or give something homemade.



• **Conscious Wrapping:** Wrap gifts using **reusable fabric bags, scarves, dishcloths, or newspaper** instead of conventional, non-recyclable wrapping paper or plastic ribbon.

Say No to Disposables

• **Use Reusables:** Choose **real plates, glasses, and silverware**. If you don’t own enough, borrow from neighbors, friends, or rent them. Thrift shops can make for great finds. And mismatched tableware can add a charming, eclectic flair!

• **Cloth Napkins:** Swap paper napkins for **washable**

cloth napkins and tablecloths.

• **Bulk Beverages:** Buy drinks in large containers instead of individual bottles or cans. Set up a water station with tap water infused with fruit or herbs, and encourage guests to **bring their own reusable water bottles** or use your glassware.

Simple & Natural Decor

• **Natural Elements:** Decorate with natural greenery like pinecones, branches, or dried citrus garlands. These items are beautiful and compostable.

• **DIY & Secondhand:** Use existing ornaments or

make new ones from natural materials. **Thrift stores** are also excellent sources for unique, pre-loved holiday decorations.

• **Reusable Lights:** Choose **LED lights** for maximum energy efficiency, check light strands for dead bulbs before disposing of the set, and recycle old light strands at collection sites throughout the area.

Choose the changes that work for you and remember small changes add up for big impact. With a few mindful choices, events and gatherings are a great time for making memorable and beautiful moments that are a gift to your guests and the planet.

Green Fact of the Month

A 2021 analysis showed “Americans generate 23% more tons of waste in December than in other months of the year”. “In 2017 nearly one-third of people who accepted a gift they didn’t like threw it in the trash.

Recipe of the Month

This month’s recipe makes for an easy on-the-go lunch during the holiday season or a veggie-packed snack to fuel your day. Try sprinkling everything bagel seasoning or other herbs/spices on the sweet potato for an added burst of flavor.

Collard Green Wraps

makes 2 servings

Ingredients

- 2 collard green leaves
- 1 small or medium sweet potato
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon pink sea salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- ¼ cup sprouts or shredded cabbage
- ¼ cup bell pepper, diced
- ¼ cups shredded (or diced) carrots

- ¼ cup cucumber, chopped or cut in thin, length-wise strips
- ½ an avocado, cubed (optional)

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Wash and peel the sweet potato, then slice it into rounds about ¼-inch thick. Place the rounds in a single layer on a baking sheet and lightly coat them with sesame oil, salt and pepper. Bake for 25–30 minutes, turning over halfway through the cook time.
3. Place collard greens in a large pan with an inch of water. Cover and steam the greens over medium heat until wilted, about 2 minutes. Remove the greens from heat, drain the water and set the softened leaves aside.
4. Divide all prepped ingredients into two portions before beginning to assemble the wraps.
5. To assemble a wrap, fill a collard green leaf

starting with the roasted sweet potato, followed by carrots, bell pepper, cucumber, sprouts (or cabbage) and avocado (if using). Be careful not to overfill. This will help to prevent tearing the leaf.

6. If desired, add 1–2 tablespoons of sriracha, chutney, peanut sauce, tahini or another condiment of your choosing.

7. Fold in the long sides of the leaf first. Then fold over the edge of the leaf closest to you. Keep rolling to fully seal the wrap. Repeat with the second leaf.

Source: www.pickuplimes.com

Have a plant-based recipe you’d like to share with the community?

Send it to GROW@westchester-il.gov for consideration for future newsletters.



PARTNERS FOR
ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Energy
Efficiency



Energy
Efficiency
Program



Save Money and Energy this Winter

Presented by Tori Woolbright,
Energy Efficiency Outreach
Specialist with the Metropolitan
Mayors Caucus — here to help
you save energy *and* lower your
monthly bills!

Saturday, January 17
9:00 AM

Westchester Village Hall
Board Room (east side of bldg)
10300 W Roosevelt Rd
Westchester, IL

(Inclement weather date: Jan. 24)

- ★ Free home energy assessment
- ★ Fun energy-efficiency **games** and **tips**
- ★ **Free** or low-cost **energy-saving products**
- ★ Income-eligible residents may qualify for **home efficiency upgrades** such as insulation, air sealing, and more!

www.westchester-il.org/grow



SAVE THE DATE

SPRING CLEAN-UP COLLECTION

**SATURDAY
APRIL 25, 2026**

Collection Details

The **Village of Westchester** and **SBC Waste Solutions** are excited to announce our annual **Spring Clean-Up!** Please read all of the **details** below:

- Items must be placed at the curb by **6:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 25.**
- Do not set items out until the **day before** the event.
- Regular **refuse** and **small items** must be contained in **bags, cans, or boxes** (maximum 50 lbs each).
- There will **not** be a separate recycling collection truck. Any **recyclables** set out would be collected with regular refuse.
- **Yard waste** is **not** included but is collected on your regular service day April-December.
- **Hazardous and electronic waste** are **not** included, but a separate pickup can be arranged by contacting SBC.

ACCEPTABLE Items

- Appliances (refrigerator, dishwasher, etc.)
- Bulk items (mattress, piano, etc.)
- Carpet (must be rolled, maximum 5' long, 2' diameter)
- Construction and demolition debris from DIY home improvements
- Furniture
- Fixtures
- Landscape timbers (cut to 3' lengths)
- Regular refuse (properly contained)

Items NOT Accepted

- Car batteries, tires, and automobile parts
- Concrete, bricks, cement, and asphalt
- **Electronics**
- Explosives and ammunition
- Paint, fluids, radioactive materials, and hazardous or medical waste
- Riding lawnmowers, boats, snowmobiles, and snow blowers

QUESTIONS? CALL SBC (312) 522-1115

EMAIL SBC WESTCHESTER@SBCWASTESOLUTIONS.COM

SAVE THE DATE



Divine Providence Family School Association's

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

9:30 AM UNTIL NOON **7th** DIVINE PROVIDENCE SCHOOL GYM

DECEMBER

Featuring our Secret Santa Shop & Local Artisans!

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!



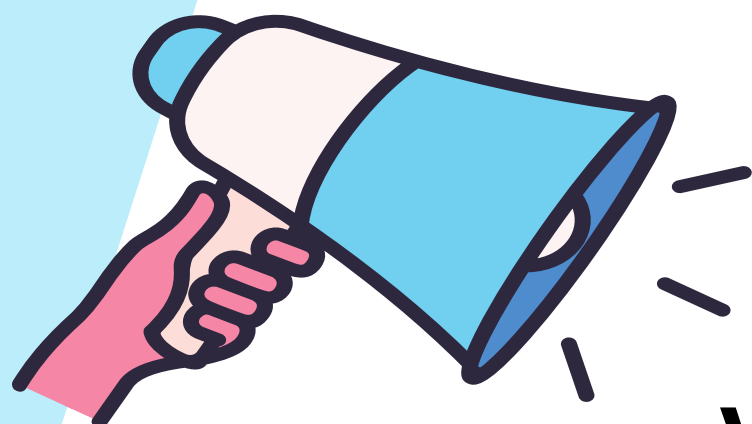
Snow Removal Rebate Program for Low-Income Seniors & Low-Income Disabled Residents

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. INCOME REQUIREMENTS:**
 - ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ENROLLED IN A QUALIFYING STATE LOW-INCOME PROGRAM, SUCH AS SNAP, MEDICAID, OR LIHEAP.
- 2. AGE OR DISABILITY REQUIREMENTS:**
 - PARTICIPANTS MUST BE 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, OR
 - HAVE A QUALIFYING DISABILITY AND AN ILLINOIS PERSON WITH A DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION CARD
- 3. NO PERSONS CAPABLE OF REMOVING SNOW CAN RESIDE IN THE HOUSEHOLD**

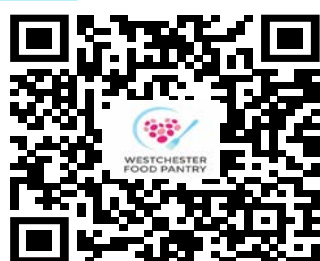
VISIT WWW.WESTCHESTER-IL.ORG/SNOWPROGRAM FOR ALL DETAILS AND APPLICATION




WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY

WET NOSE PANTRY

NEED FOOD? WE CAN HELP!



The Westchester Food Pantry serves the residents of Westchester, Berkeley, Bellwood, Broadview, Hines, Hillside, La Grange Park and Western Springs. Clients can come to the Pantry once each calendar month. Please bring reusable shopping bags. WestchesterFoodPantry.org

**THE PANTRY IS OPEN
WEDNESDAYS 4:30-7PM
AND SATURDAYS 9-11AM**

**1938 S. MANNHEIM ROAD,
WESTCHESTER, IL 60154
708-927-4826**

¿NECESITAS COMIDA? NOSOTROS PODEMOS AYUDAR!

Westchester Food Pantry atiende a los residentes de Westchester, Berkeley, Bellwood, Broadview, Hines, Hillside, La Grange Park y Western Springs. Los clientes pueden acudir al Pantry una vez al mes natural. Por favor traiga bolsas de compras reutilizables. WestchesterFoodPantry.org



**LA DESPENSA ESTÁ ABIERTA
MIÉRCOLES 4:30-7PM Y
SÁBADOS 9-11AM**

**1938 S. MANNHEIM ROAD,
WESTCHESTER, IL 60154
708-927-4826**

WESTCHESTER PARK DISTRICT
in cooperation with the
VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER
present

WINTER WONDERLAND WALK

• DECEMBER 3rd & 4th | 6-8PM •

10201 BOND STREET • COMMUNITY PARK

two evenings filled with memories, magic and wonder

SANTA'S ARRIVAL & TREE LIGHTING *Wednesday*
VISIT WITH SANTA

MRS. CLAUS

COMMUNITY TREE DISPLAYS

BONFIRES

S'MORES

SELFIE STATIONS

LIVE REINDEER *Wednesday*

CAMEL RIDES *Thursday*

THE GRINCH

BEDTIME STORIES

DJ

ENTERTAINMENT

CARICATURE ARTISTS

HOT CHOCOLATE

COOKIES & POPCORN

and more

Claus & Paws
Friday, December 5th
6:00-8:00pm

Bring your furry, four-legged friends to have photos taken with the big man himself. All pets must be leashed at all times.

DON'T MISS OUT - STAY CONNECTED



@WPD PARKS



@WPD PARKS



WWW.WPD PARKS.ORG



@WPD PARKS