



Village of Westchester

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From the desk of Village President Greg Hribal

As we head into February, I want to extend my warmest greetings to all of you. January was an extremely cold and wet month and we can only hope that the cold weather is behind us.

Despite the winter weather, the village continues to host and partner with others to co-host events and classes for residents supporting a wide range of needs. The Village hosted a successful veteran's resource fair, senior self-defense class, and energy efficiency seminar.

In January, we saw tremendous interest in our senior self-defense class, which quickly reached full capacity, in another great partnership with our friends at the Cook County Sheriff's office.

To be a part of future classroom events, visit our website and check our weekly e-news for sign-up information. Additionally, the Souper Bowl event, hosted by the Westchester Food Pantry on January 31 brought residents together for a fun, charitable cause, raising awareness and support for the Pantry.

These activities highlight how Westchester fosters health, wellness, and giving back, and I encourage everyone to stay tuned for more such opportunities as we move forward.

Looking ahead, exciting developments are on the horizon for our village. Negotiations continue with a potential Culver's franchisee for the Mannheim and Roosevelt site, which could bring

new economic vitality and some wonderful new amenities to our area. This project aligns with our ongoing efforts to enhance local business growth while preserving the character of Westchester.

We'll keep you updated as progress unfolds.

As a reminder, winter parking restrictions are in effect through March 31 whenever we experience two inches or more of snowfall, helping our public works teams keep roads safe and clear.

Public works will not just begin to plow or lay down salt once it starts snowing, there are assessments of each predicted snowfall and each anticipated snow event is handled differently based on the time of day, predicted temperatures and anticipated total snowfall.

A localized weather service provides staff with numerous updates throughout a particular weather event to make use of our staff time, as well as our salt as efficiently as possible.

In addition to the responsibility of keeping our roadways clear during this most recent snow and frigid weather event, public works responded to three main water breaks that were reported and worked swiftly and efficiently during overnight hours in temperatures around negative 5 degrees making the repairs within a few hours of the reported leak. Thank you to the committed department, working in sub-zero temperatures to maintain our water system.

Village of Westchester

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



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

FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED FOR IN-SERVICE DAY	5 GROW ECOLOGICAL COMMISSION - 6:30PM VILLAGE HALL	6	7
8	9	10 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 6PM VILLAGE HALL	11	12	13	14
15	16 HAPPY Presidents Day VILLAGE OFFICES CLOSED	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 VILLAGE BOARD & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 6PM VILLAGE HALL	25 MAKE AI WORK FOR YOU 6PM WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY REGISTRATION REQUIRED	26 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION 6:30PM VILLAGE HALL	27	28

CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



CELEBRATORY DINNER - FEB 26
SEE FLYER INSIDE FOR DETAILS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR BLACK-OWNED BUSINESS DIRECTORY!
www.westchester-il.org



Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 6** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away** from your home as possible.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit usfa.fema.gov/winter and nfpa.org/winter.

From Curiosity to Cuisine: Patel Family Brings Wing Snob Franchise to Westchester

Starting a new business often begins with a simple question. For Kinjal and Bhumi Patel, that question led to the opening of Wing Snob in Westchester.

Kinjal brings a strong background in information technology, while Bhumi has experience working in motels and hospitals. Like many, they have also spent time doing DoorDash deliveries, which gave them a close look at the local food scene. While much of what they encountered was typical fast food, they noticed that it often lacked freshness and satisfaction. That changed when they happened upon a Wing Snob location.

The experience stood out immediately. The food was flavorful, fresh, and consistently described with one word: juicy. Curious to learn more, the Patel family began researching the brand. They discovered Wing Snob was a growing concept that originated in Michigan and had only a limited presence in Illinois. The company was actively seeking franchise partners, and the Patels saw an opportunity. Determined to learn everything they could, the family visited multiple Wing Snob locations, became regular customers, sampled the menu extensively, and spoke directly with staff. They were impressed by the quality of the food, the consistency of operations, and the overall business model. Despite having no prior experience in the food industry, their strong work ethic and belief in the product motivated them to apply.

Once accepted, Kinjal and Bhumi completed extensive training through the company, learning both kitchen operations and front-of-house management. They were trained on food preparation, temperature control, cleanliness standards, and overall business operations. When it came time to choose a location, several options were presented—but Westchester quickly stood out.

Through careful research of demographics, traffic patterns, and time spent observing the community firsthand, the Patels determined that a specific location in Westchester, the northeast corner of Roosevelt and Manheim, was the perfect fit. Working closely with the franchisor and Village staff, they built out their location. The Patels are filled with gratitude to the support the Village staff and residents have given them since opening, and explained how

Village leadership stopped by to offer their support, an experience the family continues to appreciate.

Wing Snob Westchester held a soft opening on January 20, 2025, followed by a Grand Opening celebration in March with support from the Village, the Economic Development Committee, and the Westchester Chamber of Commerce. Marketing and community involvement have been central to Wing Snob's growth strategy. Believing that investing locally is essential, the Patels partnered with more than 20 local businesses and nonprofit organizations, delivering trays of food simply to introduce themselves and build relationships. Their team of approximately ten employees is trained to create a welcoming and positive experience for every customer.

While the name "Wing Snob" may spark curiosity, the owners are clear about what sets the restaurant apart. The food is never frozen, made with fresh, halal meat, and carefully prepared and marinated in-house. Most items—especially the sauces—are made from scratch. Wings are the staple, but the sauces have earned a loyal following, including a customer favorite aptly named Awesome Sauce.

In addition to dine-in and takeout, Wing Snob offers catering, delivery, and promotional specials through coupons and mailers. The owners have quickly learned that weekends, holidays, and major events—such as the Super Bowl—require preparation for large-volume orders. Thanks to growing word-of-mouth and a loyal customer base, Wing Snob Westchester continues to build momentum.

The Patel family invites residents and visitors alike to stop by, try the food, and experience what they proudly describe as fresh, flavorful, and juicy. Visit Wing Snob today!

Wing Snob

10350 Roosevelt Road,
Westchester, IL 60154
Phone: 708/277-9464
Website: WingSnob.com -
Easy to order online!!!

Hours:

Monday through Thursday:
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Friday and Saturday:
11 a.m. to Midnight
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.



While the name "Wing Snob" may spark curiosity, the owners are clear about what sets the restaurant apart. The food is never frozen, made with fresh, halal meat, and carefully prepared and marinated in-house. Photo courtesy of yelp.com/wingsnob_westchester

Building Strong Connections in a Digital Age

In today's world, we can clearly see how society is changing in many ways, often making life more challenging for families and communities.

Many years ago, I said that the internet can be a good thing—whether it's shopping, using GPS, researching historical events, or even completing homework. Today, with the rise of AI (Artificial Intelligence), people can use technology in new ways, from productivity tools to virtual assistance.

However, while the internet offers many benefits, it also has darker sides that can negatively impact children, compromise personal information, and, in some cases, be used to

harm others.

There are individuals online who prey on those who are emotionally or psychologically vulnerable, promote extreme ideologies, or target people facing financial hardship. In some instances, harmful online content can encourage dangerous behaviors, including violence or self-harm.

During these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to maintain strong relationships and open communication with our children.

As parents and caregivers, we should let them know we are aware of the risks that exist

online and take an active role in guiding them. Monitoring what children are doing on home computers and, especially, on their cell phones is critical, as today's online threats are far more sophisticated than in years past.

Our children need to know they can always come to us, that honesty is encouraged, and that they will be supported through any challenges they may face.

Life can feel more overwhelming for kids today, as they are exposed to far more information—and misinformation—than previous generations. Social media and anonymous online platforms can contribute to stress, anxiety, and depression, particularly when

false narratives or conspiracy theories spread unchecked.

Parents are encouraged to take time to educate themselves about online risks and emerging technologies. While these conversations may not always be easy, they are essential.

By having them, we show our children that we understand their world and that we are committed to protecting and supporting them throughout their lives—even as they grow into adulthood.

Stay safe,
Chief Daniel Babich

WESTCHESTER POLICE BLOTTER

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

**26-00077 01/07/2026 8:36AM
TRAFFIC STOP
MANNHEIM RD & PELHAM ST**

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 30 year old female from Ottumwa, IA was cited for Improper Lane Usage, and

Driving while License Suspended. The 30 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

**26-00146 01/11/2026 6:35PM
DOMESTIC BATTERY
WESTCHESTER, IL**

A 28-year-old male from Westchester

has been charged with Domestic Battery in Cook County Circuit Court following a recent incident. The 28-year-old male was taken into custody, processed, and subsequently transported to the Fourth District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood for a bond hearing.

**26-00162 01/12/2026 5:12PM
TRAFFIC STOP
MANNHEIM RD & DORCHESTER ST**

WPD Officer on patrol observed a vehicle perform a traffic infraction. A 38 year old female from Cicero, IL was cited for Operating vehicle with Suspended Registration for Insurance and No Valid Drivers License. The 38 year old was released with a Citation & Notice and given a court date at the 4th District Cook County Courthouse in Maywood, IL.

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

BLUES 101 WITH FRUTELAND JACKSON LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE

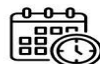
Bring the blues to life with storyteller, educator, and passionate keeper of the blues tradition, Frutelnd Jackson. Explore the roots and rhythms of this powerful art form, and learn about the cultural heritage of the blues. Suitable for all ages; families are welcome. Registration required.



Frutelnd Jackson
Blues Musician



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER



THU, FEBRUARY 12, 6:30 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Adult Book Discussion**Tue, Feb 17 | 6:30 PM**

Join us to discuss **We'll Prescribe You a Cat** by Syou Ishida. Discover the award-winning, bestselling Japanese novel that has become an international sensation. Copies are available now at the Circulation Desk.

Late Opening February 6**Library hours 12-5 PM**

The library will **open at 12 PM on Friday, February 6th** for a staff inservice training. Thank you for your understanding.

Friends of the Library Half Price Sale

It's time for the biannual Friends of the Library half price book sale! All books, DVDs, CDs, and Magazines are half price throughout the month of February!

Embroidery Journaling**Thursday, February 12th | 6 PM****Community Room**

Stop by to learn this month's embroidery stitch satin stitch, and a related stitch, the fishbone stitch! If you can't make it, ask the librarians at the Reference Desk for a handout to take home. **Registration is required.**

Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine**Tuesday, February 24th | 7 PM | Zoom**

Witty, creepy, and compulsively readable, bestselling author R.L. Stine defined horror for a generation of young readers. The generation that grew up with the Goosebumps franchise may be grown, but Stine keeps finding ways to keep us afraid of the dark! **Registration is required.**

Learn to Weave**Thursdays | February 19th & 26th | 6 PM**

Learn basic weaving on a simple frame loom. Over the course of two weeks, you'll learn how to set up the loom for weaving, one or two different weaving patterns, and you'll create two small textiles to take home. All materials are provided. **Registration Opens February 2nd at 9:30 AM**

Adult Take-and-Make: Felt Teacup Bookmark**Monday, February 16th | Adult Department While Supplies Last**

Pick up a kit in the Adult Department to make a cute teacup bookmark out of felt. **While supplies Last**

Make AI Work For You**Wednesday, February 25th | 6 PM****Community Room**

There are many options for generative AI websites and apps, from ChatGPT to Google Gemini to Apple Intelligence. This class led by Mike Gershbein of Very Smart People will discuss all the best options as well as how to create prompts that will give you the answers that you need. **Registration is required.**

Sit and Stitch Group**Wednesday, February 4th | 6 PM | Community Room**

Join fellow crafters for a relaxing craft session at the library. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or any portable handwork project and enjoy time to create, chat, and share tips. All skill levels are welcome—just bring your supplies and enjoy the company!

Qigong and Sound Meditation**Saturday, February 21st | 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.**

Blues 101 with Frutelnd Jackson**Thursday, February 12 | 6:30 PM | Community Room**

Bring the blues to life with storyteller, educator, and passionate keeper of the blues tradition Frutelnd Jackson. Explore the roots and rhythms of this powerful art form, and learn about the cultural heritage of the blues. Suitable for all ages; families are welcome. **Registration required.**

**There's Still time to Cozy up with a Good Book This Winter!****Until February 14th | Adult Department**

Warm up your winter with our Adult Winter Reading Program: Cozy Up with a Good Book! From January 5th through February 14th, join us for six weeks of reading fun and relaxation. Play Book Bingo on your Beanstack app or pick up a paper bingo card from the library.

A completed bingo earns you a limited-edition Westchester Public Library travel mug, perfect for sipping something warm while you read. You can only get bingo once, but keep playing because if you turn in a fully covered bingo card before February 14th, you'll be entered into a grand prize raffle drawing. Talk to the Adult Librarians to learn more!



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, & Kristen Jacobson • 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.

Storytime at the Library

Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime

Wednesdays | 10:15 AM | February 4th & 11th

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, February 12th | 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.

Winter Storytime with Brookfield Zoo!

Tuesday, February 17th | 11 AM | Community Room

Join us for this special winter storytime provided by Brookfield Zoo staff! You'll hear stories, participate in activities, and try out some interactive, play-based stations! **For PreK - 2nd grade.** (Please note: no live animals will be at this program).

Teen Programs

Blind Date With a Book

Monday, February 9th | Teen Room

Find love at first page! The Teen Room will have wrapped books on display for you to choose from. Each one has a blurb describing the book to give you an idea of what it's about. Check it out and unwrap to meet your date! If it's not to your tastes, no worries! Just return and try something else; either a new blind date, or a tried and true favorite.

Teen Take & Make

Monday, February 9th | Teen Room

Drop by the teen room for a snowy owl craft, rescheduled from January. Take it home or stay in the library and create it. **For grades 6-12 while supplies last.**

Teen Volunteer Help

Saturday, February 14th | 10 AM - 12 PM

Volunteer to help out our Teen Department with a variety of tasks! 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.**

Junk Journaling

Tuesday, February 10th | 6 PM | Community Room

Make your own journal using everyday items to preserve memories and your day-to-day life. Supplies provided but bring anything you might want to add (photos, etc). **Registration is required.**

Teen Winter Reading Challenge

Until February 14th

Get ready for Teen Winter Reading with Bingo! Sign up on Beanstack or visit the library to get your Bingo card. You'll have six weeks to complete the challenge. Every time you make Bingo, come into the library for a free book. Complete the entire Bingo board and win a final prize of a \$20 Amazon gift card! **For grades 6th - 12th.**

Youth Programs

Candy Hearts: Youth Scavenger Hunt

All Month | Youth Department

Be sweet this month and find all the candy hearts hidden in the Youth Services department. When you find them all, stop at the Youth Services desk for a prize! Limit one (1) sheet per participant

Imagination Station

Monday, February 9th | 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 workout! **Best for grades K - 5, while supplies last.**

Lego Club

Friday, February 6th & 20th | 3:30 PM

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

Kindness Rocks

Wednesday, February 11th | 6 PM

Paint a kind phrase on a rock to leave in the library or in nature for someone to find. You will make some lucky person's day! **Best for Grades 2-5.** Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. **Registration is required.**

Youth Winter Reading Club Until February 14th

This winter, snuggle up with your favorite puppy (or dog, or cat, or dinosaur) and read! Sign up at the Youth Services desk to receive your book log and incentive prize. When you complete your challenge, visit the Youth Services department again for your finishing prize!

- PreK - Second grade: Read a total of 25 books. Each time you read a book, color in one of Sandra Boynton's snuggly character!
- 3rd - 5th grade - Challenge yourself by read 5 books (or 5 chapters) in six weeks!



DONATION DROP-OFF DAYS!

Saturdays

March 7

April 4

May 2

9:00 am - 11:00 am
Westchester Community Church
1840 Westchester Blvd.

WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY



WET NOSE PANTRY

Do you have any unwanted items after cleaning out your closets? We'd love your help! The **Westchester Food Pantry** is seeking unwanted, gently used items to sell at our annual **Yard Sale Extravaganza!** Your donations help turn unused items into meals for our community.

Please ensure all donations are clean and in working order.

Bag or box all donations. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

What We're Looking For:

- ✓ Children's books
- ✓ Toys, games and puzzles
- ✓ Baby items (small items)
- ✓ CDs, DVDs, Vinyl
- ✓ Video consoles and games
- ✓ Small electronics (Bluetooth speakers, radios, etc.)
- ✓ Entertainment devices (DVD players, tablets, etc.)
- ✓ Home decor, picture frames & artwork
- ✓ Tools (manual and power)
- ✓ Antiques, collectibles, memorabilia
- ✓ Purses, wallets, backpacks and luggage
- ✓ Jewelry, vases and candles
- ✓ Gardening supplies
- ✓ Craft/hobby items and party supplies
- ✓ Pet items/equipment
- ✓ Sporting goods
- ✓ Compact exercise equipment
- ✓ Kitchen items and utensils
- ✓ Small Kitchen appliances (mixers, bread makers, etc.)

We **CANNOT** accept the following:

- ✗ All furniture (couches, tables, mattresses, etc.)
- ✗ Clothing or shoes
- ✗ Stuffed animals
- ✗ Adult books
- ✗ Reference books, encyclopedias or magazines
- ✗ Televisions
- ✗ Computers and related equipment
- ✗ Automobile parts
- ✗ Construction materials
- ✗ Car seats, cribs or baby swings
- ✗ Large appliances (refrigerators, water heaters, etc.)
- ✗ Camping equipment and golf clubs/bags
- ✗ Lamps and mirrors
- ✗ Fine China/Dishes
- ✗ Christmas trees
- ✗ VHS or cassette tapes
- ✗ Skis and related equipment
- ✗ Hazardous materials

Join Us for the Yard Sale Extravaganza!!

May 28, 29 and 30

Did you know you can support the pantry in other ways? Scan the QR code for drop off locations and volunteer opportunities!





Black Excellence

RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Join us as we honor and celebrate the achievements of outstanding Black residents, business owners, and community leaders who have made a lasting impact in Westchester.

A brief program will be followed by a casual dinner.

Know someone who deserves recognition? Nominate an unsung hero of Black Excellence by emailing info@westchester-il.gov!



THURS, FEBRUARY 26



6:30 PM



VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

10300 W ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY FEBRUARY 16
PLEASE EMAIL:

INFO@WESTCHESTER-IL.GOV

2026 President's Day Holiday Garbage Schedule

There will be **no change** to the garbage collection schedule the week of February 16, 2026.

S.B.C yard waste collection will resume the week of April 2nd.

Village branch collection will resume the week of April 6th - 10th.

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.

Join a
VILLAGE COMMISSION!
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR:

VETERANS COMMISSION

Support our local veterans!

SENIOR COMMISSION

Advocate for our senior community!

Get Involved & Make a Difference!
To apply, visit: www.westchester-il.org/commissions

SUMMIT ROOFING



- 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

**SIGN UP FOR
WESTCHESTER
WEEKLY E-NEWS**



OVER 4,500 SUBSCRIBERS!
JOIN US TO STAY INFORMED



Stay informed with our weekly Village e-newsletter, bringing you the latest updates on Village operations and projects, as well as exciting community events, activities, resources and news. Don't miss out—sign up today by visiting our website: www.westchester-il.org/newsletter
Thank you for staying connected with us!



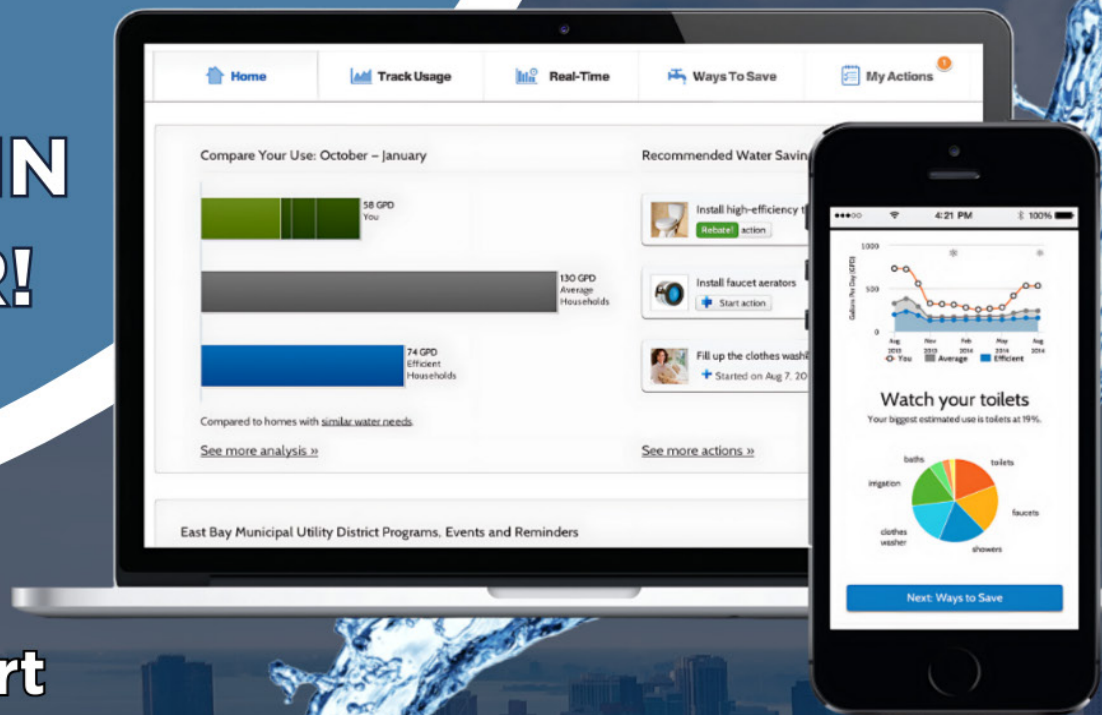
JEN & JIM CAVANAUGH
REALTORS®/Brokers

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One Parkview Plaza, Suite 100
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181



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

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www.westchester-il.org/waterportal





A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the new year, I hope you and your family enjoyed a restful winter break. Whether it was time spent together, a chance to slow down, or simply getting back into a routine, I hope the break allowed students and families to recharge.

With students back in school, this is a good time to refocus on a few things that make a real difference in how students perform. Attendance behavior and learning are closely connected, and when students are supported in all three areas, they are more likely to be successful.

Being in school consistently helps students stay connected to their teachers, classmates, and daily learning. We understand that families face real-life challenges and that attendance can be difficult at times. Communicating with the school when issues come up helps us support students. Whenever possible, regular attendance sets students up for a stronger start and a smoother return after breaks.

Positive behavior is also crucial as routines return to place. Clear expectations and consistent follow-through help classrooms stay calm, focused, and productive. When schools and families work together and send the same message, students benefit from that consistency.

Academics remain the heart of our work. Teachers are focused on helping students build skills step by step and regain momentum after time away from school. Learning takes effort and encouragement, and steady routines help students get back into the rhythm of school.

Thank you for being such a valuable part of our school community. Your partnership makes a big difference in your child's success. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at psalemi@sd925.org or call me at 708-670-1927. Don't forget to check out our Community Links on the school website for more updates and resources.

Sincerely,
Philip Salemi, Ed.D
Superintendent, Westchester SD 921/2

Westchester Primary School

On January 5, Westchester Primary School began the new year by revisiting its Dolphin Pride Expectations: *Be Ready. Be Caring. Be Safe*. Students participated in activities designed to reinforce positive behavior and strengthen the school's culture, climate, and community of learning following the winter break. Westchester Primary School emphasizes the importance of explicitly teaching expectations and holding students to high standards to prepare them for success. Students who demonstrated their commitment to doing their best were formally recognized.

During the past month, kindergarten, first-grade, and second-grade students at Westchester Primary School participated in benchmark assessments to evaluate academic progress, including the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). MAP is a state-aligned, computerized adaptive assessment that provides educators with data to support instructional planning and informed, student-centered decision-making. Students complete MAP assessments three times annually—in the fall, winter, and spring—in both reading and mathematics. Teachers use achievement and growth data from MAP and other assessments to develop targeted instructional strategies and to guide school improvement planning for the remainder of the academic year.

Each January, students identified as English Language Learners participate in the ACCESS assessment, a state-required evaluation of English language proficiency and growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The assessment measures both social and academic language development. Students complete reading, writing, and listening assessments in group settings, as well as individual speaking assessments. Results from ACCESS support teachers in designing effective and appropriate instructional practices. Students began the assessment period with an informational assembly that reviewed the assessment components and emphasized the importance of effort and perseverance.

With winter benchmark assessments completed, Westchester Primary School continues to engage students in meaningful learning experiences throughout February. The school recognizes Black History Month through classroom-based instructional activities. In addition, students will participate in Valentine's Day activities organized by the Westchester Parents and Teachers for Children (WPTC), as well as schoolwide celebrations marking the 100th day of school and the mid-year point of the academic year.

Families with children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2026, are encouraged to note that kindergarten pre-registration will begin in April. Westchester Primary School will offer online Kindergarten Pre-Registration for the 2026–2027 school year during the second week of April. Additional information will be available on the district website at sd925.org beginning in March.

Westchester Intermediate School

Our first few weeks back have been very busy. We completed our Winter Assessments. These help us as educators to identify areas in which we need to both support and enrich the learning opportunities for our students. We are able to establish individualized goals for students and guide them towards reaching those new goals. We also refocused on social emotional learning by getting back to the basics with our students. We review expectations regularly, consistently encouraging them to grow each day.

We are excited to have our Beginner and Cadet Bands performing this month for the Solo and Ensemble contest. This contest is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their growth as musicians and how their hard work and practice pays off. Mr. Collins, our Band Director, does amazing work with them and we are very proud of them.

We are thankful to the WPTC for their continued support throughout the year. In February we celebrate Valentine's Day with classroom activities and crafts. Our parent volunteers continue to be wonderful with our students. It is good to have our students relax and enjoy some time together as we do focus so much on their academic work each day.

We are very pleased with our growth this year but know we still have opportunities to continue to grow and improve our WIS learning community. We will continue throughout the rest of the year to build on our successes and stress that hard work and sustained effort will bring us amazing growth.

Go Huskies!

Westchester Middle School

Congratulations to our December Warriors of the Month! 6th Grade: Melissa Barajas and Camila Leos Serrato, 7th Grade: Jordan Henderson and Abigail Ulysse, 8th Grade: Jo'vona Jones and Belisa Vences. Warriors of the Month are selected by their teachers for setting a strong example and exceeding the expectations of the 4 Bs: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be There/Be Ready.



Please join us for our Spring Choir Concert on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:30 PM. Please enter door #11 off the parking lot for this event. We look forward to a celebration of all of the musical talents of our choir for this evening.

The District Band Solo and Ensemble Contest will take place on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Westchester Intermediate School. This is another opportunity for our musicians to showcase their talents this year. We wish them the best for this event. Event times will be shared with each musician as the event gets closer.

We are pleased to announce that Little Mermaid Jr. will be our musical this year. Auditions will take place in March and performances will take place on May 7th (7:00 pm), 8th (7:00 pm), and 9th (2:00 pm), 2026. Information regarding purchasing tickets will be released closer to the show dates.

We continue to send our weekly updates each Friday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Please review them for important information about WMS and make sure that we have the most current contact information for you in our records. Please contact the office with any updates.



Hines Outreach Veteran Resource Event



Hines Outreach will help Veterans with new health care enrollments and share VA resources.



No appointment necessary. Walk-ins are welcome!



10:00am-2:00pm



Westchester Village Hall
10300 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Westchester IL, 60154



1st Monday each month
(excluding holidays)



Please email
HinesOutreach@va.gov
with any questions.



A Sustainably Sweet Valentine's Day

Alexandra Silva
GROW Commissioner,
M.S. Ecology & Evolution

Dark chocolate bonbons. White chocolate truffles. Milk chocolate squares with a gooey caramel filling. Whether layered into a s'more, unwrapped from a tinfoil hug, or popped out of a heart-shaped box, chocolate is one of life's joys to many of us.

Each February alone, an estimated 58 million pounds of chocolate are purchased by Americans, though Valentine's Day is just one of many reasons to indulge throughout the year. (Mark your calendar: July 7 is World Chocolate Day). While Americans can't claim to consume the most chocolate per capita - that title is usually claimed by the Swedes - we are a driving force in the global chocolate industry.

Many of the chocolates we do adore - think Lindor truffles, Ferrero Rocher, and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups - contain a special ingredient beyond cocoa: Palm Oil. Within chocolates, palm oil, or its derivations, can improve texture, reduce chances of melting in warmer climates, and increase shelf-life, meaning less goes to waste. It is such a versatile and useful ingredient, in fact, that an estimated 50% of packaged goods found in grocery stores contain it, from Oreos to lipstick. Though it's known by a variety of names - palmityl alcohol, sodium lauryl sulfate, or calcium stearate just to name a few - all palm oil is extracted from the fruit of the African oil palm tree.

As a crop, palm oil is more efficient than other vegetable oils, meaning higher quantities can be produced from smaller areas of land. This efficiency makes it a more environmentally-friendly ingredient than other oils, so long as it is grown sustainably. Unfortunately, much of it is produced using slash-and-

burn agriculture, in which virgin rainforest is cut and burned to make way for palm oil plantations. The result has been large-scale deforestation in Southeast Asia, imperiling resident orangutans, rhinos, and tigers, with similar impacts sprouting across Africa and South America as more and more land is converted to plantations.

So how can we help ensure a Sustainably Sweet Valentine's Day?

- Consider using the Valentine's Day Shopping Guide featured here to select chocolates produced by companies committed to sustainable palm oil production.

- Wondering about a sweet treat that isn't listed on the guide? Use the PalmOil Scan mobile app "to scan your favorite products and learn if the companies who make them are members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and committed to sustainable palm oil." (And you can scan more than just chocolate!)

- Look for the RSPO certified logo while shopping (though not all certified products currently include the logo on their packaging).

Your purchases can help drive change, prompting companies to use only certified sustainable palm oil. With awareness and small changes to our purchasing habits, we can have an orangutan-friendly, sustainably sweet, Valentine's Day.



Download the PalmOil Scan app to learn if the company is committed to sourcing sustainable palm oil.



Valentine's Day Shopping Guide

Green Fact of the Month

"Palm oil grown without sustainability standards is a leading cause of tropical deforestation worldwide. Choose products made with sustainably sourced palm oil whenever possible."

Source: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization — www.fao.org

Recipe of the Month

A bit of comfort in the winter months and easy on the budget. For a vegan option simply omit the parmesan rind from the broth and the grated cheese from the pesto sauce.

Italian Green Minestrone

makes 4 servings

Ingredients

- 1 onion - diced (small)
- 4 cloves garlic -sliced
- 1 carrot -diced
- 1 stick celery -diced
- 2 cups green cabbage -shredded
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 8 sprigs thyme
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1.5 qt low sodium vegetable stock + more as needed
- 1.5 cups golden potatoes -diced into 1/2 inch

cubes

- 1.5 tsp sea salt + more to taste
- 15 oz canned borlotti or cannellini beans - drained and rinsed well
- 1 cup baby arugula or spinach
- 1 tsp black peppercorns
- 4 inches Parmesan rind (optional)

Pesto

- 1 bunch fresh basil (leaves only)
- 1/4 cup toasted pine nuts, walnuts or hazelnuts
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lemon -juiced
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese -grated
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 pinch sea salt - to taste

Instructions

- Heat up a soup pot on medium flame with a lug of olive oil.
- Add the onion, celery and carrot and sauté together with a pinch of salt for about 10 minutes.
- Add the garlic, rosemary, thyme and peppercorns and toss to coat.

- Stir in the cabbage and cook another 5 to 10 minutes until wilted.
- Add the diced potatoes, Parmesan rind and vegetable stock and bring to a simmer. Cook together until the potatoes are cooked through, another 10 minutes.
- Stir in the cooked beans and spinach/arugula and adjust seasonings to taste with more sea salt. While the minestrone is cooking make the pesto.

Pesto

- Add the basil, olive oil, garlic, nuts and half of the lemon juice to a food processor and puree until smooth. Adjust seasonings to taste with sea salt and more lemon juice.
- Ladle the minestrone into bowls and serve with spoonfuls of the pesto on top.

Source: <http://ciaoflorentina.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.

NEW YEAR, NEW JOB?

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

Thursday, February 19th from 7-9 pm

"Put Free Career Tools & Services to Work - How College of DuPage Can Empower Your Job Search"

Christine Kickels, Presenter

Expand your job search at the College of DuPage Library, a resource available to the entire community as well as current students. Hear about the top-notch tools they offer for researching industries, identifying local employers, and job searching in the age of AI. From accessing these resources to how to get help with your questions, you'll leave this session with a new set of tools to advance your job search.

Christine Kickels is a Professor and Reference Librarian at the College of DuPage with over 25 years of experience connecting people with high-level business and legal resources that are often difficult to access. She enjoys showing others how to navigate these specialized tools to find a competitive edge in their research and career goals.

We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Road, in Western Springs on 2/19 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend.

For additional resources visit www.interfaithcareernetwork.com

WESTCHESTER PARK DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 21
COMMUNITY CENTER - 10201 BOND STREET

Swap It

Like It's

HOT!

Community Swap

1pm VIP Set Up . 1:30-2pm VIP Swap . 2-3PM Open to Public
VIP (registered participant) no items to be brought in - only items going out

Register . Bring clean, like new items & 6ft table to display . Min. 20 Max. 40 items
Swap Categories: Kitchen Items . Clothing . Tools . Craft Supplies . Plants . Home Decor

DON'T MISS OUT - STAY CONNECTED

@wpdparks @wpdparks www.wpdparks.org @wpdparks



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





SUMMER DAY CAMP 2026



SESSION 1 JUNE 8-26
 SESSION 2 JUNE 29 - JULY 17
 SESSION 3 JULY 20 - AUGUST 7

RESIDENT REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 23RD
 NON-RESIDENT REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 2ND



PER SESSION OPTIONS

7:00am-3:00pm	\$379/\$453
10:00am-6:30pm	\$400/\$475
7:00am-6:30pm	\$470/\$539
10:00am-3:00pm	\$271/\$323
10:00am-3:00pm	\$141/\$167 T/TH
10:00am-3:00pm	\$203/\$241 M/W/F

A 40% deposit is required for EACH camp session enrolled at the time of registration. Please see full brochure flyer for balance due requirements & additional information

OUTDOOR PLAY,
 THEMED WEEKS,
 CRAFTS, SPORTS,
 POOL TIME,
 NATURE ACTIVITIES,
 FIELD TRIPS &
 MORE

ENTERING
**KINDERGARTEN
 - 6TH GRADE**

FOR MORE INFO
708-865-8200

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.WDPARKS.ORG

DON'T MISS OUT - STAY CONNECTED





Proviso Handyman Department

February 2026

Do you know that ceiling fans help distribute heat evenly to your rooms.

Are yours in good working order? When was the last time you changed the filters in your furnace?

Give our Handyman office a call to schedule an appointment or to register for our program.

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**



Make AI Work For You

WITH MIKE GERSHBEIN OF VERY SMART PEOPLE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | 6 PM



Do you want to learn more about how to use AI?

There are many options for generative AI websites and apps, from ChatGPT to Google Gemini to Apple Intelligence. This class led by Mike Gershbein of Very Smart People will discuss all the best options as well as how to create prompts that will give you the answers that you need.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



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



We hope that Westchester School district's students, families, and friends were able to come out for the WPTC Family Day with the Chicago Wolves.

It was a wonderful opportunity to see some hockey with friends and family.

February is upon us, and we have some exciting events coming up this month for our students.

WIS and WPS will be having their Mid-Year celebration, popcorn day, and their Valentine's Day parties this month.

WMS will be enjoying their February After school Hangout, and School store..

We are in need of volunteers to help to make these special events happen, we cannot have these events for the students without the help of our amazing volunteers.

WMS After School Hangout February 13

WPS/WIS Valentine's Day Parties February 13

WMS School Store February 26 (Cash only)

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.

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



Westchester
Lions Club

WINTERFEST FUNDRAISER

Saturday, February 21, 2026

8:00 to 11:00 pm

JOE'S SALOON

9220 47th Street • Brookfield



\$40 donation includes

**Appetizers • Beer
Well Drinks • Wine**

RAFFLE PRIZES !

**Purchase your ticket from a
Lions Club member**

**For more information, contact
Don Prignano at 708 / 207 - 3004
or donp63@sbcglobal.net**

Net proceeds benefit the needs of local communities



STAY INFORMED!

SIGN UP FOR

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY ALERTS

POWERED BY 

Get Important, Time-Sensitive Notifications!



Emergency alerts



Water main breaks
& boil orders



Severe weather



Road closures
...and more!

**NEW SYSTEM! EVEN IF YOU PREVIOUSLY SIGNED UP FOR CODERED
PLEASE REGISTER FOR NEW SYSTEM!**

REGISTER:

SCAN ME 



**Why am I already getting alerts
without signing up?** 

Everbridge utilizes a publicly available database to alert as many people as possible for public safety purposes.

We still strongly encourage all residents to register directly so you can complete your profile and select your preferred delivery methods (call, text, email).

www.westchester-il.org