

The Oak Leaf

www.OakwoodHA.org

Volume 32 Number 1 - March, 2016

President's Message



Legacies.

My wife, son, and I moved to Oakwood back in 2003. This wasn't by chance. We'd seen a number of homes here, and we loved the community. We were from the area. I grew up in Western Springs, and we had a house in LaGrange we were

rapidly outgrowing, so our sights were set on this community. When the right house popped up, we were there, and we knew it was the house for us. Three hours after the house was listed, we had a tentative contract in place. The sign wasn't even in the ground yet, and the prior owner wasn't sure what had just happened.

I've shared before what drew me to the OHA. I've always been one to get involved, believing firmly that you have no right to complain if you can't make the effort to help improve things. That's not to say I had anything to complain about, but there were a lot of things I wanted to see happen. I've shared before the Oak Leaf article Jerry Harlow wrote that really drew me in. It talked about the way things used to be in Oakwood, and I wanted to see some of those things come back for the next and future generations.

In 2006, an OHA Board Member invited me to the monthly

meeting to see what the Board does, and I attended the Annual meeting shortly thereafter, where I was elected to the Board. **{NOTE: the Annual Meeting this year will be on Monday, April 18th! More on that to come}** Roger Westman was made President, and I stepped up as Vice President, roles that we decided we would swap out a year later, if the Board so chose.

At this point, I might risk losing some of you as the events of my life might not be all that terribly interesting, but there's a point to this, so bear with me here.

Several years later I also ran for the Westmont Community Unit School District (CUSD) 201 Board. At the same time, my roles and responsibilities at my job were increasing, and my kids (my daughter was introduced to the world in 2004) were getting older, all of which took more and more time. What I did not expect was how much each of my endeavors would benefit each of the others. Experiences with the OHA were applicable at work and with the School Board, while what I learned for School Board was applicable with the OHA and with my career, and so on. To this day I get excited when I'm playing one of these roles, and I learn skills or information I can apply to one or both of the other two.

One such lesson that I learned had to do with our legacy. In a training session for my role as a School Board member, I was asked what I want my legacy to be. This isn't something I'd put any thought to. I did not join the School Board because I wanted to correct anything necessarily. I had been asked to join by people who felt I could bring an ability to communicate well and be counted on to present a fair

(continued on page 15)

OHA Board:

Matt Johnson — President	630.455.6022
Lynette Tuggle — Treasurer	708.404.8155
Laura Connolly — Secretary	630.789.2078
Mark Nelson — Director	630.742.3457
Lou Ricciardi — Director	630.325.5989
Monika Rodriguez — Director	847.913.6279
Jeanie Smith — Director	630.921.1493

Board e-mail: info@oakwoodha.org

Oakwood Homeowners Association
4 East Ogden Avenue # 313
Westmont, IL 60559

www.Oakwoodha.org

Oakwood - Updates

In This Issue:

We have a LOT of material this month! Here's a summary of what to look forward to in this issue:

President's Message	1
Oakwood Updates	2
Dining Around Town	5
Social Committee	6
Landscape Committee	6
Welcoming Committee	6
Communication Committee	8
From the Village Board	10
From the Planning & Zoning Commission	12
From School District 201	14
Let's Not Forget	16
OHA 2015 Audit	17

Illinois License Renewals:

For those not aware, citing budgetary constraints, in December of 2015 the State of Illinois stopped mailing out license plate renewal or emission testing notices. This is catching many residents off-guard, so we wanted to share this with you to make sure you were informed. Residents can sign up for e-mail notifications by visiting the following websites:

For State info:

<https://www.ilsos.gov/greenmail>

For emission testing:

<http://epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/mobile-sources/vehicle-emissions-testing/faqs/notice/index>

Oakwood Day Care!

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References happily furnished by request.



Mom and Tot Group Update

The Mom and Tot Group has continued its efforts to meet occasionally. The most recent Saturday play date was quite the turnout with seven toddlers enjoying each other's company. The kids really enjoyed themselves. Some new families were even able to join us! Just a reminder that some of the families have been meeting up on Thursday's at the library, registration is now required! March is already here, and we have scheduled play dates and a family dinner planned!

We are always open to new families that are interested in joining our group, please contact chrzaszcz66@hotmail.com if you are interested in getting on our email and communication list. We also have started a Facebook page, so find us at Mom & Tots of Oakwood. Wanted to also mention that dad's are also always invited and do attend our play dates/events, so please do not hesitate joining our group.

-Monika Rodriguez

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Oakwood - Updates

Westmont 2016 Brush Pick-Up & Yard Waste Programs Begin In April

Village of Westmont

Date Issued: February 26, 2016

Waste Management will begin their weekly brush pick-up and yard waste collection for single-family homes starting the week of April 4 and ending in early December. Following are details regarding both programs.

BRUSH PICK-UP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- * The brush pick-up program does NOT require a sticker.
- * Brush should be placed alongside your refuse on your usual garbage pickup day.
- * Brush that is acceptable for pick-up includes smaller twigs, branches and tree limbs that are no more than 4 feet long and no wider than 2 inches in diameter.
- * Brush must be tied with twine or string into bundles prior to being placed out for pick-up.
- * Bundles must be no more than 4 feet long and 2 feet in diameter.
- * Each bundle of brush must weigh less than fifty (50) pounds.
- * Brush pick-up requirements must be followed or items will not be picked up and be subject to a fine.
- * Per Village ordinance, open burning of brush and leaves is not allowed.
- * Brush larger than 2 inches in diameter up to 6 inches may be collected through the Yard Waste Program.

YARD WASTE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- * Each bag of yard waste REQUIRES a Westmont Yard Waste Sticker.
- * Yard waste should be placed out with your refuse on your usual garbage pickup day.* Yard waste must be placed in appropriate yard waste bags or appropriate containers clearly marked yard waste.
- * Items that are acceptable for the yard waste program include grass clippings, weeds, leaves, smaller branches and bushes, and other organic matter that grows outside.
- * Items that are NOT acceptable for the yard waste

program include rocks, dirt, soil, sod, mulch, holiday wreaths, pumpkins, apples, hay or straw bales, corn stalks, as well as trees, stumps, and branches larger than six (6) inches in diameter cannot be collected as yard waste. Residents may use a landscape service for such items.

For more information regarding these program, please contact Waste Management at wm.com or 800-796-9696.

###

Contact: Larry McIntyre

Village of Westmont Communications Director
630-981-6245, lmcintyre@westmont.il.gov

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Oakwood - Updates

Westmont Pet Promenade at Ty Warner Park

-Gregg Pill

The Westmont Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau in partnership with the Westmont Park District will host the 5th annual Pet Promenade and Party in the Park on Sunday, May 15th from 11:00am – 3:00pm.

All events are free of charge and residents are encouraged to bring their pets – both 2 and 4 legged variety – to compete for Best in Show, Best Costume, Smallest Pet, Largest Pet and Most Unusual Pet. Registration takes place that day and the event includes a judging parade.

Last year, the Pet Promenade drew over 100 contestants! This family activity will feature vendors, events and Bubba the Alligator (fantastic show last year). Food will be available all families are encouraged to make a half day of it, perhaps bringing out a picnic.

For more information visit the Westmont Chamber website at - www.westmontchamber.com.

Discounted Lawn Cutting for Oakwood Residents

TJ's landscaping is offering the following volume discount rates to Oakwood residents:

Service	Non-Corner	Corner Lot
Cutting for < 8 Homes	\$22.00	\$25.00
8 - 15 Homes	\$20.00	\$22.00
16 - 29 Homes	\$18.00	\$20.00
30 + Homes	\$15.00	\$18.00
Fertilizer Treatment Option	\$39.00	\$47.00
Grub Control Treatment Option	\$59.00	\$72.00

Last year we hit the 30+ home range. Watch our Sponsors page at www.oakwoodha.org for updates on the number of participants to this program.

To sign up for the service, e-mail John at TJ's at tjslandcare@sbcglobal.net

March, 2016

Westmont Dining Readers Choice Awards

-Gregg Pill

Welcome to the *Readers Choice Awards for Dining in Westmont*, brought to you by Suburban Life Media and the Westmont Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau. It is your chance to recognize the breadth and scope of dining in Westmont and vote for your favorites.

Voting will take place from March 7th through March 27th 2016. To choose your favorite local dining, catering and banquet options in Westmont, click on the ballot link below.

Each person is allotted one vote per day for the duration of the contest.

The winning businesses will be recognized at the Westmont Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Dinner in April at the Oak Brook Hills Hilton. For more information about the contest, check back at the end of the voting period.

If you have any questions, visit the "Rules" page or email Laura at lburke@shawmedia.com.

<http://contests.mysuburbanlife.com/l/Westmonts-Best-Restaurants/Welcome>

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Oakwood - Dining Around Town



Dining Around Town

With over 90 dining options around our town, I am introducing a "Dining Around Town" column in our quarterly Oak Leaf publication to call attention to new developments, hidden gems and the ethnic diversity of our restaurants while sharing some home grown reviews.

Up and Coming:

Anna's Place has received the necessary approvals to begin build out for a new restaurant and video gaming establishment on Ogden Ave, in the Pizza Hut strip mall just west of Cass Ave. While most video gaming places have no real kitchen and minimal menus, Anna's with an established location in Westchester will have a full kitchen build out. Plans call for opening prior to receiving the video license which will clearly emphasize the food.

Partners in the **Ditka Restaurant** group will open two restaurants at 800 East Ogden Avenue in the St. James Crossing shopping center. Splitting the former site of the **Jimmy's Island Grill**, we'll see two new concepts. **Route 89** will develop a Sport's Bar themed menu and drink selection while **Cucinova** will include pizza, pasta and salads.

Mariano's, slated to open in Mid-March near 63rd Street and Cass Ave. will feature several in-store dining options along with a wide selection of dinners to go. This specific **Mariano's** is not a **Dominick's** conversion but rather a newly constructed state of the art grocery center.

Stepping Out:

A great way to get out and try several different Westmont restaurants is to purchase a ticket for the Westmont Chamber's Progressive Dinner. Hosted 2-4 times per year, the Progressive Dinner is a great opportunity to sample food at several establishments, get in a bit of walking and meet other Westmont residents. Offered on Tuesday, March 15th and priced at \$45/person, this progressive features green beer at the **Uptown** followed by food stops at

Uncle Bubs, **Vincitori's**, **J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious** and **Neat kitchen + bar**. There will be live music at **Neat** to cap the night off. Check out the link below for all the details and to order tickets.

<http://westmontchamber.chambermaster.com/events/details/spring-downtown-westmont-progressive-dinner-st-patrick-s-day-9706>

Easter Brunch as well as Mother's Day Brunch will be offered at the **Oak Brook Hills Hilton**, **J Flemings Absolutely Delicious**, **Amber Café**, **Bakersfield Wood-Fired Grill** and **Vincitori's**. All require reservations....enjoy!

Up and Running: (last six months):

Pompei – 200 W. Ogden Ave. – New ownership and a return to good food and service. Most Taylor Street specialties are available including the Herb Chicken Ravioli.

Woodgrain Pizza – 19 W. Ogden Ave. – former Connie's owners and location offers fast (90 secs) casual pizza and salads in a warm setting.

Potbelly Sandwich Works – 19 W. Ogden Ave. – better than average national chain sandwich shop with subs, shakes, soups, salad and even a few more items.

Recently Reviewed:

An abbreviated version of these reviews is published in the Westmont edition of the Suburban Life and appears the first Wednesday of each month. The online version below is released the day before and doubles content, photos and information.

Amber Café – <http://shawurl.com/2ftu>
Yu's Mandarin - <http://shawurl.com/2dw9>
Neat kitchen + bar - <http://shawurl.com/2c4k>

Looking for more restaurant ideas, follow the #chitowndiner on **Instagram**.

-Gregg Pill
Oakwood Resident

Oakwood - Social Committee

2016 FUN!

We are lining up the calendar already for this year's social events, so be sure to note all the following dates:

Saturday, March 26: Egg Hunt at Ty Warner Park (see back of this issue for details)

Saturday, June 4th: Fishing Derby / Beach Party at Westman Beach.

Sunday, August 21: End of Summer BBQ at Ty Warner Park

Also, for the 2016 holidays there has been quite a bit of interested expressed in Oakwood having our own decorating contest. We would very much like to do this, but we will need ideas/judges/etc. If you have any interest, contact us by e-mail at info@oakwoodha.org.

Oakwood - Landscape Committee

Looking for Volunteers to Plant Flowers at the Oakwood Entrances!

The OHA board is trying to form a flower planting committee to plant flowers at the Oakwood entrances in the spring/summer and again in the Fall. We are looking for volunteers. The planting date is TBD and we will try to work with the schedules of the volunteers. We are looking for someone to chair the flower planting committee. Ideally this would be someone that knows a few things about flowers and is willing to order and pick up the flowers and instruct volunteers on flower placement. If you have any interest, please contact me by e-mail at mneon79@hotmail.com. Please let me know if you'd like to be the chair person or a "worker bee" (i.e. willing to help plant flowers where instructed by the chair person). Snacks, drinks and basic tools will be provided. Just need some volunteers willing to get their hands dirty!

Thanks,
Mark Nelson (OHA Landscape Chair)

March, 2016

Oakwood - Welcoming Committee

WELCOME! WELCOME!

Braving the cold, the Welcome Committee welcomed six new homeowners to our subdivision recently. We hope that all of you enjoy Oakwood as much as we do. Hopefully we will see many of you at one of our next events. If we for some reason missed visiting your home, please contact us so we can make sure you receive our welcome package. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Welcome Committee is in the planning stages of facilitating a New Neighbor activity so new residents here in Oakwood can meet others in the neighborhood. If you are new to Oakwood and interested in such an event, please contact us by e-mail at: info@OakwoodHA.org.

If anyone is interested in donating items to be included in our welcome package for new residents here in Oakwood, please contact us. The Welcoming Committee is always looking for additional items that would be helpful for new residents. If you are a new resident and can think of additional information that you think would be helpful to be included in our welcome packages, please also contact us!

-Monika Rodriguez

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Oakwood - Communications Committee

Staying in Touch

This newsletter is the quarterly responsibility of the Communications Committee, but it's a compilation of the efforts of numerous contributors from our community. I want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributes, and to remind all residents that they can submit articles and ideas at any time by e-mailing us at info@oakwoodha.org. A very special thanks to resident Gregg Pill who contributed multiple articles this month, including a new on-going contribution: *Dining Around Town*. Look for it in this issue on page 5. I have wanted to have reviews of local restaurants in the Oak Leaf since I've been involved, but we've never gotten it off the ground. What's Gregg's taken on here is wonderful, and we thank him for it!

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE!!

It's that time of year again!

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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

The Oakwood Homeowners Association Annual Meeting is primed and ready for Monday, April 18th. The meeting will start promptly at 7, with sign-up and light refreshments at 6:45. A notice will go out, but mark your calendars now.

Stay in touch, Oakwood!

-Matt Johnson

OHA Communications Chair



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Oakwood to Host 5K Race in Support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



On Sunday, May 29th at 8am, Oakwood will once again play host to the 7th annual Race to The Flag 5K Race. This the year, the race will support People's Resource Center located right here in Westmont. The race is part of the Red, White and BBQ Event hosted at TY that weekend featuring premier BBQ contestants in a sanctioned National BBQ Event.

About the Event...

The 7th annual Race to The Flag 5K Run/Walk will once again begin and end at beautiful TY Warner Park and travel throughout the Oakwood subdivision. Part of the Red, White and BBQ weekend, race participants join the Lion's club pancake breakfast in the park immediately following the race. The event is a fundraiser for the People's Resource Center and is supported by many Westmont organizations and associations. Race to The Flag is a CARA & USATF certified event and the first 400 participants receive a beautiful race shirt, a breakfast ticket and sponsor information all while supporting a great cause as well as personal & family fitness.



About People's Resource Center...

For the past six years, proceeds have been sent to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospitals. Going forward, the Westmont Park District Board of Commissioners has partnered together with the local nonprofit People's Resource Center (PRC) so that proceeds from the race can benefit neighbors in need right here in our community. As a partner in the community, PRC helps to meet neighbors' basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing assistance services. In addition, PRC provides job, computer, and literacy training programs and art empowerment classes to help neighbors in need here in DuPage County...and they are located immediately adjacent to TY Warner Park!



Recap of 2015 Race...

- 427 registered runner
- \$10,000 raised for St. Jude Children's Hospital
- Awards for overall male & female winner and various age groups
- Awards for male & female winner in 5 year increments
- Participants as young as 4 years old and as experienced as 81 years old

How to get involved...

Oakwood residents have many ways to get involved. All ages are welcome to enter to run or walk by signing up at www.racetotheflag.org. Sponsorship information is also available on the same website. You can also join us on our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com. With the weather forecasted to be near perfect, take your choice. Set-up a few lawn chairs in front of your house if you are on the race route and cheer the runners and walkers on or walk up to TY and join the festivities at the start & finish lines! It would also be nice for Oakwood residents to display the American Flag in honor of the event. There will also be a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Westmont Lions Club. Tickets for the breakfast are available at the park or included for all race participants.



Westmont News: From the Village Board



Hello neighbors!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. We almost made it through a fairly mild winter. Hang in there, spring is right around the corner.

The good news is the Village has a lot of unused salt, reducing next years expense significantly. I do not want to jinx anything so I will save the projected savings for next time. As we get through the first quarter, budget season is right around the corner. The Village Board will review all expenditures and revenues and make sure we are operating as effective and efficient as possible. I will be the first to tell you, we do not have all the answers so please share any ideas you may have. There will be a budget workshop meeting April 7th - 6PM @ Village Hall. Anyone is welcome as this is a great opportunity to voice opinions and suggestions. If you cannot make it, please reach out to me at the contact info below. I am always willing to listen on how the Village can improve.

With that said, we have started to discuss a few things already. If you have not heard The DuPage Water Commission (where the Village buys its drinking water from) has announced they will not be raising their rates this year. Yes, you just read that correctly. That leaves the Village with an important decision to make. Although public safety is always my top priority, a high quality of drinking water is right behind. Over the next five years, there will be about \$9M in needed infrastructure improvements for our drinking water system. We cannot ignore these improvements, as they are vital to our system.

For example, the central water tower is about fifteen years past its life expectancy and needs a lot of repairs. We are challenged with either repairing for \$500K or looking into a new tower costing upwards of \$3M. There are many other needed improvements such as replacement meters, water mains, treatment plant upgrades etc. During budget workshops, the Village Board will dig into the possibility of slightly increasing water rates to help fund these necessary improvements. I encourage all residents to check out our website for more details or call/email me to discuss. The more feedback we get the better!

Recently at the January 7th Village Board meeting, Westmont's new Strategic Plan was formally adopted. Our Mayor said it best, "This is the culmination of over six months of work that involved representation from throughout our community. The Strategic Plan provides a bold vision for the community over the next several years as the Village moves towards its 100th Anniversary in 2021". The document places all goals and objectives into five categories: Governance, Identify & Image, Downtown, Economic Development and Infrastructure. Each category outlines various goals as well as strategies for completing these goals. The newly adopted mission statement for the Village is: Shaping a vibrant community and future through connection, service and leadership.

After some recent suspicious activity within Oakwood, the Police Department and I encourage all residents to report suspicious behavior immediately. If you see something out of the ordinary, or an actual crime in progress, call 9-1-1. This simple reminder may prevent someone from becoming a victim of a crime. Too often, residents will be hesitant to report a potential criminal situation and that lack of action actually enhances the criminal's success. The Police Department relies on the residents to help with being the eyes and ears of the community. Situations deserving a 9-1-1 call include a stranger coming to your house to promote or sell something without a solicitor's permit, unfamiliar persons or

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Westmont News: From the Village Board

vehicles surveying your neighborhood, graffiti, open and unattended garage doors, and more. Here is a little tip for reporting crimes from your cell phone. After dialing 9-1-1, your call may be answered by the local Sheriff's Department. Immediately tell the dispatcher the name of the town from where you are calling and give them the location of the crime. They will connect you to the appropriate operations center to address your call. This will significantly reduce your response time.

Finally, do not forget to sign up for "SMART 9-1-1." With SMART 9-1-1, Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel are aware of critical information that might make the difference in saving lives. The program allows citizens to enter important information that they want to provide to SMART 9-1-1 through a secure website, then this information is delivered to emergency responders automatically with any 9-1-1 call placed within DuPage County. You decide what to share. Information can include children's photos, medical conditions, home addresses of mobile phone callers, number of pets in a home, disabilities, or other rescue-related information. The registration process is quick and easy. Just visit their

website at www.smart911.com to sign up free of charge today!

Ways to Connect with the Village

-SIGN UP FOR NOTIFY ME COMMUNITY ALERTS

<http://www.westmont.illinois.gov/list.aspx>

-SIGN UP FOR VILLAGE OF WESTMONT FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/westmontilgov>

-The Westmont Village Board meets every other Thursday at 6:00pm in the Village Hall. If you cannot make the meeting, they are televised and available on our YouTube channel.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime,

Steve T. Nero

Westmont Village Trustee & Oakwood Resident

O: 630.981.6209

M: 630.776.8302

E: snero@westmont.il.gov

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Nextdoor Oakwood

 **Nextdoor** Oakwood

Westmont News: From the Westmont Planning & Zoning Commission



As I look back on the previous 3-5 years of Planning & Zoning agendas, two categories of development really jump out - our world class auto dealerships and our enormous number of restaurants.

Currently, every auto dealership on Ogden Avenue has completed or is somewhere in the process to expand, remodel and modernize their facilities. Most of these projects budget millions of dollars with a direct result being an increase in sales for the dealer and a corresponding increase in sales tax revenue for our Village residents. This translates directly into lower taxes for our Village.

While not in the same league as the auto cluster, our Village restaurants represent another large block of businesses that generate substantial sales tax while providing enjoyment and employment for many. With over 90 dining options around our town, I am going to introduce a "Dining Around Town" column in our quarterly Oak Leaf publication to call attention to new developments, hidden gems and the ethnic diversity of our restaurants while sharing some home grown reviews. But now, back to P&Z...

Our December agenda included a cooler expansion

for 800 east Ogden Avenue, the former Jimmy's Island Grill. It will be split into two sites, hence the additional cooler to fully separate the two kitchens. Route 89 will develop a Sport's Bar themed menu and drink selection while Cucinova will include pizza, pasta and salads. Both share the ownership group which has ties to Mike Ditka's Restaurant.

As our January meeting was canceled, we move right into February and our main item concerned the property at 311 East Ogden Avenue on the SE corner of Blackhawk and Ogden. This property has been a used car dealer for some time but also doubles as a detention area. That caused the previous owner to take a large hit when most vehicles in the lot were under water during a severe rain storm some years ago. The potential new owner will take their case directly to the Village Board.

As I stated previously, video gaming continues to generate interest from many different proposed operators and to get a better grasp, we've had hearings at most Village levels regarding methods for regulation. The November Board meeting created a new class of liquor license specifically for video gaming – a class 22



Westmont News: From the Westmont Planning & Zoning Commission

license. With 13 current or under construction video gaming establishments, the idea was to establish regulations so they would not be able to create a block of video gaming in consecutive storefronts and maintain some semblance of order regarding the number of establishments. Distance requirements are being eliminated in favor of this newer concept which is also being adopted by many other municipalities. As this is a new issue and not court tested, regulations will evolve with time.

Mariano's – WOW! Interior refinements are nearly complete and a proposed opening date of March 15th has been floated. That brings a mammoth development in ahead of schedule and really solidifies the re-development process of the entire 63rd Street and Cass Avenue corridor. If you don't venture south of the Burlington Railroad, this will be a reason for a road trip! Our Village Economic Development Office continues to report many calls and inquiries regarding other properties in the area. It's worth a trip down to see the size of the project as it represents a major investment in our community.

The Village of Westmont Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the second Wednesday of

each month at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. All meetings are televised live on local cable access channel 6 and then replayed at 10:00am Monday through Friday. Agenda items are then sent to the Village Board with the comments of the Commission for final disposition. You can also view the agenda on the Village website – www.westmont.il.gov. The next meeting will take place March 9th followed by April 13th – tune in! Baseball is just around the corner and with it...Springtime! Enjoy!

Gregg Pill – Oakwood Resident

ADVERTISE HERE

For information on how to advertise in the Oak Leaf please email info@oakwoodha.org or contact Matt Johnson at 630-455-6022.

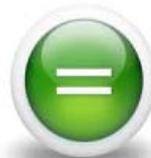
Annual cost (4 issues) to advertise is the following:

Business card (2 x 3.5"): \$70

Double size (4 x 3.5"): \$140

Half Page (4" x 7"): \$210

The newsletter is distributed quarterly to over 450 homes, and is posted electronically on the OHA Website, giving great local advertising exposure at a low cost! An additional ad space is made available on the Oakwood website at no additional charge to all advertisers!!



The OHA is on Facebook now. Follow us at

<http://www.facebook.com/OakwoodHomeownersAssociation>

to stay up to date with notices on events and relevant news for our neighborhood.

Westmont News: From School District 201

Superintendent's Report

Community Unit School District 201's commitment to teaching and learning is even focused on our youngest learners. For the second year in a row, ExceleRate Illinois awarded the CUSD 201 Early Childhood Program was awarded the ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality. This is the highest recognition an early childhood program can receive.

ExceleRate Illinois is a statewide quality rating and improvement system designed to make continuous quality improvement an everyday priority among early learning providers. The program establishes standards for helping infants, toddlers and pre-school age children develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. It provides a framework for early learning professionals to identify opportunities for improvement, increase their skills and take steps to make positive changes.

The Gold Circle of Quality recognizes programs that meet or go beyond the highest quality goals. Gold Circle programs have met the highest quality standards in three areas: learning environment and teaching quality; administrative standards; and staff training and education. Programs are actively engaged in continuous quality improvement.

This summer our focus will be on our schools and improving the safety, security and learning environments of school district buildings. At Miller Elementary two plans are being considered. One is to add doors that will require FOB access to the academic area. The only way to enter the academic area of the school will be by district FOB or to be escorted by a CUSD 201 employee. The second is to move the office to the first level by the main entrance. This solution would also require the art/ music room to be relocated to the space the current office occupies.

Manning provides a greater challenge to improve

the security of the school. There are several plans being discussed that include moving the school office to another part of the building. There is also consideration of adding a small addition to create more of a vestibule to receive visitors. Currently district staff is working with Steve Cashman, architect, on various scenarios to provide the greatest amount of security.

The needs at Westmont Junior High are slightly different than the other district facilities. Westmont Junior High already has a secure entrance. The goal at the junior high is to improve the educational environment and improve security. In the junior high, there are some classrooms spaces that do not have four walls or a door. Open classrooms do not provide the best educational environment and cannot be locked down in an emergency situation.

The plan is to enclose the classrooms, which will create teaching spaces free of outside distractions and rooms that can be locked in the event of an intruder.

Westmont High School provides the greatest challenge. The High School does not have a secured visitor entrance. There are several open classrooms that are a

source of distraction for teaching and learning and cannot be secured in the event of an emergency. As a result of the proposed building improvements, all of the open classrooms will be enclosed and the visitor entrance will be renovated to provide greater security.

The projects are slated to begin the summer of 2016 and will be completed during the winter of 2016 or early spring 2017. The estimated cost of the projects will be \$9 million. As the district continues to work with our architect and finalize our plans, information will be shared with our community.

Kevin Carey
Superintendent, CUSD 201



President's Message (continued)

(continued from page 1)

and honest opinion, and to stand up for what I believe in. I wasn't looking to leave my mark, I was looking to maintain some pretty solid momentum. It was Oakwood resident and our former Village of Westmont Board Member, Bob Scott, who helped clarify what I found important in what I was doing there: I wanted Westmont Schools to be something our community could be proud of. The kind of thing that would be mentioned when someone sold their home: "Westmont Schools". Here we are now, just a few short years later, and Westmont High School is ranked through the roof and in a constant state of improvement. I personally had little to do with this directly, but it's an amazing thing to be a part of.

It made me think about Oakwood though. I didn't get involved with the OHA to leave my mark, but the fact is that yes, it would be nice to be able to step down, and to show that the past 10 years invested in our community made a difference in some way. I look back at my first President's Message to you (reprinted on page 16), and see what I had wanted to achieve. Somewhere along the line though, I decided that while it's not necessarily exciting, what I wanted was to make being an active participant in our community something that would be as easy and as rewarding as possible. I brought some of what I learned on the School Board regarding meeting structure to the OHA, and our monthly meetings are so efficient that we are usually able to cover everything we need to in about an hour, while having some fun along the way. The Annual Meeting used to be a gargantuan effort, and is now down to just a few short hours to plan and prep for. Even our social events have been made so that the organizer can walk through the appropriate steps and have a very successful event.

Our website has been brought up to date (a hearty Thank You to Glen Liljeberg and Jeanie Smith!), we have a Facebook presence to help connect and announce relevant events to all of you, our e-mail is manageable for the first time in many, many years, and this newsletter is full of contributions from strong community members, passing along information that I'm told by many of you is helpful and of interest.

We have solid contracts with our vendors at very fair rates, we have new monuments at both primary entrances (primarily due to the efforts of Mark Nelson), and we've introduced an advertiser who facilitates bulk rates for lawn care and snow removal... two things residents had been asking for for years.

Our Treasurer, Lynette Tuggle has our finances tightly under control, and saves us significant time and money, and has

the outstanding dues for collections at all-time lows (at least for my tenure). We have a Welcoming Committee, something I'd wanted since I started, thanks to Monika Rodriguez's efforts to get it off the ground, and I think that, in general, our relationship and communication with the Village of Westmont is pretty solid again.

In the Social Committee we have volunteers now that allow a separate person to coordinate and take ownership of each of our events. The Moms and Tots group that my wife joined 11 years ago still meets every single week now and consists of some of my closest friends in the neighborhood. A new group for another age of kids and parents is in the process of forming.

Lake Charles, under the leadership of the Lake Management Committee is considered by many to be as healthy as ever, with a strong fish population and strong efforts to stave off algae blooms and fish kills as had been seen in the past.

There are so many other things that have evolved and been introduced over the years that I can't do them all justice in the time and space I have. But one of the top things I'm grateful for is that I have a Board of Directors serving with me who make me so proud to be part of this community. They are an honor to work with, they bring enjoyable camaradery to the meetings, they discuss and debate without a hint of tension, and they have the energy to make change happen when needed. They are the ones that make stepping down now difficult. I'm not doing so because I want to be done with the OHA, but because there are other things that I want to be able to do, and I just need to make room on my plate for them. I love this community and I love the people I've been blessed to work with here, and I appreciate that all of you have put up with me for as long as you have.

So now I'm very hopeful for the future. I'm hopeful that the momentum that the Board has now is maintained. I'm hopeful that the next residents to step up will find this role as rewarding and fulfilling as I have. I hope that all of you greet them, and let them know they're appreciated, because without their efforts, many things we love about our community will go away.

So, that's about it I guess. I've tried to keep it short the past few issues, but before I stepped down there was a lot I wanted to share with you, my neighbors. Thank you again for being a community that I have been proud to serve!

All my very best,

Matt "That's All Folks!" Johnson
OHA Board President



Let's Not Forget - Past Oak Leaf articles worth seeing again

President's Message, September, 2007

I want each of you reading this to stop for a minute, close your eyes, and think about Oakwood. Think about this neighborhood, your neighborhood. What does it mean for you to live here? Why do you live here? Is this a neighborhood you're proud to live in? Is it a neighborhood you enjoy? Do you feel welcome here? Included here? Safe here?

I can't speak for all of you of course, but I like to believe that most of the people living in Oakwood value the community that we have here. There are a lot of wonderful people in our community, and we're so close to so much. Lake Charles and Ty Warner Park are within reasonable walking distance for most of us, and we're just minutes away from downtown Westmont, Oakbrook and Yorktown Malls, and easy transportation to and from the city by train or by expressway. We're right in the middle of so much, and then right within Oakwood we have several social events that we're all invited to, including the Oakwood Summer Barbecue (September 23rd at Ty Warner Park... mark your calendars!), the Halloween Party, the Winter Party, the Easter Egg Hunt, and so on. There are groups and committees to get involved with and to socialize with, like the Moms and Tots Group, the Landscaping and Lake Management Committees, and the new Tech Club (which I have been admittedly slow to get rolling).

But Oakwood isn't perfect. Take another moment to close your eyes and imagine what you would like Oakwood to be for you. In a perfect world, what would make Oakwood a better place to live? What would add to the pride you might feel when you tell people you live in Oakwood? What can we do to get Oakwood there?

There are areas I feel we need to work on. Too many people don't know the people who live next door to them. Too many people still feel isolated, or eager for something else within the community. Something to do. Some way to meet other people here or to get involved.

I believe that Oakwood is a community that has a lot to offer, and that people looking for a home like what they see our community offers. Speaking for myself, my family and I sought a home here after hearing so many things about the community within Oakwood. And we've loved it. But we'd like it to be more. I would like to see our community grow in its sense of community. I would like to see more social events like block parties where neighbors can come outside their front door and socialize with the people who live right around them. I would like to see the return of Road Rallies, Dinner Parties, Wine Tastings, and other smaller social activities that people enjoy and bring us together. These things aren't out of reach. They just take a small amount of initiative, a little get-up-and-go, and the commitment of the people involved simply to have fun.

What can we do as a community to improve the quality of life for the residents? So many people resurface their driveways every year or so, and so many people work on landscaping on their yards, or have their roofs reworked as many of the homes are reaching the point where that's necessary. There is so much potential here for us to pool together and find companies that would like to come in and provide these services at bulk rates for us were we organized to do so. There are local businesses, and businesses that people in Oakwood work for or own that we could help promote. Advertising here in the Oak Leaf newsletter is free for residents... take advantage of it. And to the residents viewing these ads, help your neighbors and support them.

What does it take to make Oakwood a better community? Surprisingly little. Yes, it will take some volunteers. It will take some time here and there, and it will take minor commitments. But mostly, what it will take is interest, and communication. I'm not asking all of you to volunteer your time. So many of us are so busy to start with, I know we can't all pitch in to do the organizing, but for those that can, they need to know that there's interest.

So let us know. Let the OHA Board know. Let me know. I invite residents to drop me a line at OHAMatt@oakwoodha.org to let me know what you would like to see. Let me know what you like. Let me know what you don't like (but please, do so in a constructive manner). Let me know about who you are, what you like to do, and maybe what you'd like to offer to the community professionally or socially. Contact information for the OHA Board is also on the website and in this newsletter. Take a moment and thank those who give their time to make this a better community by volunteering their time for the Board or for the several committees, and if you can, take a moment to learn what people here are doing to make your life better that you might not know about.

Oakwood has so much to offer, and it has so much potential for more yet, but it takes being a community, and growing as a community means communicating. I look forward to doing what I can as the OHA Board President to help maintain the things that we do well, and to expand on what we offer the residents of this neighborhood. I invite you to take a moment to say hi to me, and to your neighbor, and I look forward to meeting many more of you this year, and in the many years my family and I plan on living here.

Thank you for this opportunity and best regards to you all,

Matt Johnson
OHA Board President

G. James Kmetz
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OAKWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
(An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation)
Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Fund Balance - Cash Basis
December 31, 2015

Assets	Operating Fund	Replacement Fund	Total
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 31,144.58	\$ 0.00	\$ 31,144.58
Investments	0.00	100,993.30	100,993.30
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 31,144.58</u>	<u>\$ 100,993.30</u>	<u>\$ 132,137.88</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 31,144.58</u>	<u>\$ 100,993.30</u>	<u>\$ 132,137.88</u>
Liabilities & Fund Balance			
Fund Balance	\$ 31,144.58	\$ 100,993.30	\$ 132,137.88
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	<u>\$ 31,144.58</u>	<u>\$ 100,993.30</u>	<u>\$ 132,137.88</u>

To The Board of Directors of:
 Oakwood Homeowners Association

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances of Oakwood Homeowners Association (An Illinois Not-For Profit Corporation) as at December 31, 2015 and the related statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis, and Schedule of Detailed Expenses - Cash Basis for the year ended December 31, 2015. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of Oakwood Homeowners Association. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 2, these financial statements were prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Oakwood Homeowners Association at December 31, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flow for the period ended December 31, 2015 in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information included in the accompanying supplementary exhibits is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information, except for the budget information, has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The budget information has not been subjected to the above-mentioned auditing procedures, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Very Truly Yours,

 G. James Kmetz
 Certified Public Accountant

February 18, 2016

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

OAKWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
(An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation)
Statement of Revenue, Expenses & Change in Fund Balance - Cash Basis
December 31, 2015

OAKWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
(An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation)
Statement of Revenue, Expenses & Change in Fund Balance - Cash Basis
December 31, 2015

	Operating Fund	Replacement Fund	Total	Budget (Unaudited)
Revenue				
Homeowner Assessments	\$ 57,154.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 57,154.00	\$ 55,950.00
Interest	15.28	737.70	752.98	325.00
Advertising	1,390.00	0.00	1,390.00	1,410.00
Legal Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Total Revenue	\$ 58,559.28	\$ 737.70	\$ 59,296.98	\$ 57,735.00
Expenses				
Administrative	\$ 19,526.61	\$ 0.00	\$ 19,526.61	\$ 20,400.00
Repairs & Maintenance	31,510.20	0.00	31,510.20	36,210.00
Total Expenses	\$ 51,037.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 51,037.01	\$ 56,610.00
Excess (Deficiency)	\$ 7,522.27	\$ 737.70	\$ 8,259.97	\$ 1,125.00
Fund Balance:				
December 31, 2014	\$ 24,463.54	\$ 99,314.37	\$ 123,777.91	
Transfer Between Funds	\$ (941.23)	\$ 941.23	\$ 0.00	
Prior Period Adjustments	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00	
Fund Balance:	\$ 31,144.88	\$ 100,993.30	\$ 132,137.88	

	Operating Fund	Replacement Fund	Total	Budget (Unaudited)
Administrative				
Accounting & Audit	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 3,100.00
Bank Charges	56.03	0.00	56.03	185.00
Bad Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Committee Administration	410.30	0.00	410.30	500.00
Insurance - Liability	6,463.00	0.00	6,463.00	6,500.00
Legal & Professional	505.00	0.00	505.00	575.00
Licenses and Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Meetings & Events	5,426.83	0.00	5,426.83	5,825.00
Postage and Delivery	595.00	0.00	595.00	645.00
Printing and Reproduction	2,181.10	0.00	2,181.10	2,015.00
Website Development	293.41	0.00	293.41	200.00
Office Supplies and Expense	446.14	0.00	446.14	375.00
Total Administrative	\$ 19,526.61	\$ 0.00	\$ 19,526.61	\$ 20,400.00
Repairs & Maintenance				
Repairs & Maint. - Beach	\$ 417.12	\$ 0.00	\$ 417.12	\$ 2,000.00
Repairs & Maint. - Lake Charles	13,995.06	0.00	13,995.06	15,010.00
Repairs & Maint. - Eastern Shoreline	62.24	0.00	62.24	400.00
Repairs & Maint. - Common Area	17,035.78	0.00	17,035.78	18,900.00
Total Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 31,510.20	\$ 0.00	\$ 31,510.20	\$ 36,210.00
Total Expenses	\$ 51,037.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 51,037.01	\$ 56,610.00

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

**OAKWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
(An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015**

1. Nature of Organization

The Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit corporation to administer and operate the property known as Oakwood Homeowners Association located in Westmont, Illinois, pursuant to and in accordance with the Homeowners Association Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accounts are maintained on the cash basis. Accordingly, no liabilities or receivables have been recorded.

Fund Accounting

The Association's governing documents provide certain guidelines for governing its financial activities. To ensure observance of limitations and restrictions on the use of financial resources, the Association maintains its accounts using fund accounting. Financial resources are classified for accounting and reporting purposes in the following funds established according to their nature and purpose:

Operating Fund - This fund is used to account for financial resources available for the general operations of the association.

Replacement Fund - This fund is used to accumulate financial resources designated for future major repairs and replacements.

Cash Equivalents

The Association considers all highly liquid instruments with maturities of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents; these are typically used for the Operating Fund. Cash balances do not exceed insured limits for federal deposit insurance at any one bank.

Estimates and Assumptions

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Since these financial statements have been prepared on the cash basis, no liabilities have been recorded.

Income Taxes

The Association has the option to file income tax returns as a homeowners association under Section 528 of the Internal Revenue Code, or as a regular corporation.

For the year ended December 15, 2015, the Association has elected to file as a regular corporation. This will allow the Association to pay the least tax possible. For the year ended December 15, 2015, the Association had a loss, and has elected to carry the loss forward. These returns will be filed by the Association and are due by March 15, 2015.

Property and Equipment

Real property and common areas acquired from the developer and related improvements to such property are not recorded in the Association's financial statements as assets because those properties are owned by the individual unit owners in common and not by the Association. There were no such items added during the 2015 year.

Member Assessments

Association members are subject to yearly assessments to provide funds for the Association's operating expenses, future capital acquisitions, and major repairs and replacements. Assessments for the year ended December 31, 2015 were made on the basis of a budget of operating expenses adopted by the Board of Directors and allocated to unit owners in proportion to their relative ownership interests in the common elements of the condominium property.

**OAKWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
(An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015**

3. Investments

Investments held to maturity consist of three Certificates of Deposit with maturities typically in excess of one year. A \$6,000.00 Certificate is held at TCF Bank with an interest rate of 1.0% matures on 10/17/2016. A \$7,000.00 Certificate is held at TCF Bank with an interest rate of 1.0% matures on 06/03/16. A \$87,354.55 Certificate is held at Park Federal Bank with an interest rate of 1.00% matures on 10/13/16.

The investments are used for the Replacement Fund and are recorded at cost since the Association is on a cash basis.

4. Replacement Fund

Certain funds of the Association are restricted by the Declaration of Ownership as well as by Board designation for the long-term maintenance of the Association's common property.

The Association has not conducted a study to determine the remaining useful lives of the components of common property because of the limited amount of common elements. When replacement funds are needed to meet future needs for major repairs and replacements, the Association has the right to increase regular assessments, pass special assessments, or delay replacement unit until funds are available. The effect on future assessments has not been determined at this time.

5. Commitments

The Association has entered into various maintenance, management and service agreements for the upkeep and operations of the property.



Please Join Us for the
**OAKWOOD
EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday, March 26th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Ty Warner Park - Gazebo

(Inclement Weather Location: Westmont Junior High)

All children, walkers and up, are invited to join their neighborhood friends in finding Easter eggs in the grass by the Ty Warner Park Gazebo. Hunts will be grouped by age.

There will be a special guest appearance by the Easter Bunny!

Doughnuts, coffee, and juice will be served.



Don't forget to bring your Easter Basket to collect the eggs!

**Everyone who pre-registers will receive a special prize!
Please RSVP for planning purposes by Sunday, March 20th**

You can RSVP using the Google form sent to your email, this form, or by email. Also, if you are willing to help the day of the event (take pictures, help with the eggs, set-up, or clean up), please let me know that too.



For questions and to RSVP, please contact
Vicki O'Malley
423 Arlington Ave.

830-230-0235 (landline), using the Google form sent to your email, or vomalley@maine207.org

Family Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

I would like to help with _____