



## Hey, Oakwood!!



I'm going to keep this short and sweet!

The Oak Leaf is in the process of going through some evolution, so in December expect some new material and maybe, just maybe, a new look. It's been about a decade, and while you can't knock a classic, kicking off some cobwebs might be in order.

We're pushing to get this out to help make sure everyone is aware that our **first annual OAKtoberfest party** is coming up fast on September 28th. EVERYONE is invited to join in the fun and help set a new Oakwood tradition! See the invitation on the back for details. Hot on the heels of that, the annual Halloween Party is ready to roll on October 23rd at Westmont Jr. High from 6-8pm!

There is a LOT going on in Oakwood, and if you're not on our e-mailing list, you're probably missing it. Here are some of the highlights:

1.) FEMA finally increased the maximum height of Lake Charles in August, resulting in several properties being re-classified as part of a flood plain and requiring additional insurance.

2.) The OHA mailing address at 4

E. Ogden Ave #313 is still not an office nor can you drop off mail there.

3.) Oakwood is sadly not immune to home invasion, theft from cars, or acts of vandalism.

4.) Yes, the fence along Ogden Ave. IS the responsibility of those homeowners to maintain.

5.) Registration of watercraft used on Lake Charles is required. Thank you to whomever "donated" the two kayaks that were left floating on the lake for the OHA to claim. Future boat donations can be made directly to the OHA, and it's preferred that they not be left floating where they can block the outlet.

6.) Oakwood DID hold the annual garage sale this year, despite an inadequate number of homes expressing interest, largely due to homeowners not paying attention.

Now don't get me wrong... I love ya, Oakwood, and I absolutely understand that many of us have to pick and choose where we invest our time. If you're reading this, then a HUGE "thank you!!" to you for taking a few minutes to stay current with the community.

If you haven't been paying attention and want to know more about any of the issues above, it's not too late. Just let us know at [info@oakwoodha.org](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org) and we'll catch you up.

-Matt "you talkin' to me?" Johnson  
President, Oakwood Homeowners Association

### OHA Board:

Matt Johnson — President	630.455.6022
Laura Connolly — VP	630.484.5132
Lynette Tuggle — Treasurer	708.404.8155
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Jeanie Smith — Director	630.921.1493
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Board e-mail: [info@oakwoodha.org](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org)

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

## Oakwood - Community Updates

### In This Issue:

This is the thinnest issue we've had in a long time. We're working on some changes to the Oak Leaf, so look for new additions in our December issue!

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## Oakwood - Communications Committee

### Are You Paying Attention?

If you're reading this, you get a massive gold star! If you also are on our e-mail list, then you get two gold stars!

Throughout the year we have Oakwood residents who don't know about the garage sale, or don't know that the OHA doesn't have an office, or most recently who don't know that their property has recently been declared a flood plain by FEMA. This is frustrating for the OHA volunteers who put time and energy into planning and monitoring these things, and then reaching out to the community through several channels.

We realize that many people a lot going on, and it's impossible to keep up with everything, but when we put out one publication a quarter, and on average two e-mails a month, we're trying to be respectful of your time while bringing you information we think you'll be interested in.

So, when we get an e-mail or a call from someone who is not current with recent events that we've been working to inform the neighborhood on, we will politely point out that if they read the newsletter and sign up for the e-mail distribution, they would be aware of these things.

This of course won't happen to you though, because you already have a gold star or two.

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## Oakwood - Lake Management Committee

### This Lake is My Lake, This Lake is Your Lake

It's come to the attention of the OHA and the Lake Management Committee (LMC) that in recent months there have been multiple instances of residents with lake-adjacent properties "dumping" their yard waste into the lake. This hasn't really been an issue over the years, but let's be clear about why this is a problem:

- 1.) This is the equivalent of dumping your waste in your neighbor's yard. Clearly, not okay.
- 2.) Yard waste does not decompose properly in Lake Charles... it will either settle to the bottom and reduce the depth of the lake. When this happens, it will eventually reach a point where residents decide dredging is necessary, costing in the vicinity of a HALF MILLION DOLLARS.
- 3.) Yard waste is not part of the eco-system that we have been working to build in Lake Charles. Arguments that "the fish like it" are not true, and this is contrary to the efforts the LMC puts forth to keep Lake Charles beautiful.
- 4.) Appearances can be deceiving, but not this time... it looks as bad as it is. Neighbors come to the LMC and the OHA complaining because they have to look at it when someone does this. Most homeowners want the view from their homes to be pleasant, and there's nothing pleasant about waste sitting in the lake.



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# Westmont News: From the Village Board



Hello neighbors! I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer and all the fun events in town. Lots of things happening in Westmont. Here are a few key updates and initiatives...

## Major Developments:

- **Quincy Station:** Five story, 94-unit luxury apartment building on the corner of Cass and Quincy. Demolition to begin over the next few weeks, with vertical construction beginning early 2020. (For more information, visit: [liveinwestmont.com](http://liveinwestmont.com))
- **BMW Dealership:** The new facility is almost 100% complete. Watch for an official ribbon cutting event in the near future.
- **FMC Natatorium:** Construction has been progressing as expected. Planned opening April 2020 (if not sooner)
- **Medical Center** (On Ogden Ave.): All the current tenants have until 12/31/19 to finish out their leases. At that time construction will begin as planned. The good news is the Village is working very hard to find Las Palmas a new local home. Keep your fingers crossed!
- **Market Centre** (63<sup>rd</sup> & Cass): Construction is on schedule. LA Fitness, Raising Cane's & Starbucks are all committed tenants. Unfortunately, due to market trends the movie theater portion went to the wayside. On the bright side, there is a large retailer looking to take the place. More to come but this is still a very exciting development for the entire region.
- **New Public Works Facility:** The Village held a groundbreaking ceremony on August 24<sup>th</sup> which officially kicked off construction. Completion is expected by Thanksgiving next year. The new facility will include a fueling center, a vehicle storage garage, offices, weather command center and a beautifully landscaped corridor along the train tracks. This is the largest public project this year in DuPage County!

- Although not major, the past couple of months the Village and contractors have been working hard to improve our **sidewalks in Oakwood**. We budgeted more funds to hire the firm Safe Step to grind uneven sidewalks while Village staff simultaneously replaces sections beyond repair. In addition, you will start to notice all the fire hydrants getting painted/refinished. The plan is to eventually have them all "brick red". Not the rusty yellow we have been used to for years.



## Westmont Fire Department Events in October:

- **Silent Parade:** The annual parade is on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. It is a dedication to firefighters and fire victims who have lost their lives due to fires. The Silent Parade will start in Hinsdale on Chicago Avenue and travel west to Naperville Road and eventually end in Lisle. If you haven't seen this yet, please attend and stand on the street corners or curbs along this route holding a flashlight in honor of those that lost their lives. For more information, contact the Westmont Fire Department @ 630-981-6400.
- **Open House:** The annual Fire Prevention Open House on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 11AM to 3PM at the Johanik Fire Dept. Headquarters, 6015 S. Cass Avenue. The department has several fun and educational activities planned for the public. Free hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and bottled water to those who attend.

New this year, staff will host a Faces of the Fire Service Fashion Show at 1:15PM, which will showcase the various attires worn by Fire Department personnel. Also new, a Technical Rescue Team member will be doing a repelling demonstration from a ladder truck on the hour starting at

(Continued on next page)

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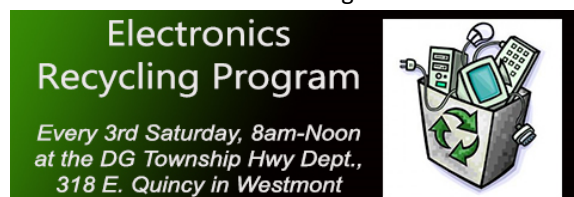
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# Westmont News: From the Village Board

11AM until 2PM. There will be trucks from several village departments on display to get up close and touch. The final event will be the side by side burn cell demonstration which will start at 2:15PM,

Other fun activities include a kid's inflatable obstacle course, equipment demonstrations, Emergency Management Agency displays, the Fire Department and Police Department Bounce House, face painting and more. Sparky the Fire Dog and Freddie the Fire Truck will be there to say hi to the kids. The open house will also feature a scrapbook showcasing historical photos and news clipping dating back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Fire Dept. would also like you to consider bringing canned goods to be donated to the People's Resource Center in Westmont. Please bring a canned good and fill the Fire Chief's car with donated goods!



## Senior Car Care

The fourth Annual Senior Car Care Safety and CarFit Clinic will be held on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8AM to 10:30AM at Johanik Fire Department Headquarters, located at 6015 S. Cass Avenue. This free clinic is hosted by the Westmont Fire Department & the Downers Grove Township. The CarFit program is designed to help drivers be safer on the road by making sure that they "properly fit" in their vehicle. Local car care professionals and volunteers will provide vehicles with a free multiple point safety inspection including checking fluids, belts, hoses, tire condition, lights, and more. Participants will also receive coupons from local auto service centers and complimentary morning refreshments.

For more information contact Senior Services Coordinator Cathy Rager at (630) 719-6686 or via e-mail at [cathy.rager@dgtownship.com](mailto:cathy.rager@dgtownship.com).

## Emergency Management Agency Seeks Volunteers

The Westmont Emergency Management Agency is a group of citizen volunteers who have been trained to assist our professional emergency services personnel for a variety of situations and duties. The EMA works with the Westmont Fire Department, Police Department, various DuPage County agencies and other entities as needed to assist with the coordinated response to disasters and emergencies.

Currently, Westmont EMA is seeking volunteers to sign up and get involved. Following are the goals and objectives of the EMA:

- To prepare for various emergency situations,
- To train and educate Village staff in regards to emergency preparedness and operations,
- To respond to an emergency with equipment & manpower when necessary,
- In cases of severe disasters, assist the Village in the effort of restoring basic needs and providing resources,
- To ensure that emergency operation protocols and the Village Disaster Plan are current and regularly updated

To learn more about the EMA, contact the Westmont Fire Department at (630) 981-6400.

## Ways to Connect with the Village

- Sign up for Notify Me community alerts <http://www.westmont.illinois.gov/list.aspx>
- Join the 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.

Steve T. Nero

Westmont Village Trustee & Oakwood Resident

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# Westmont News: From CUSD 201

## Conversation Summit- September 7, 2019

Students and staff from Westmont High School and Westmont Junior High School (WHS and WJHS, respectively) traveled to the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC) to share an educational session entitled "Serving Your Way to Resiliency" at the 2019 Conversations Summit hosted by *Hope for the Day*. WJHS Principal Mr. John Jonak as well as CUSD 201 staff Ms. Bartosz and Ms. Hillertz were among the participants.

The students worked together to create a presentation highlighting the SLCC learning and service opportunities and how this affects the mental health of students at the Jr. High. They also shared personal stories of how serving has impacted their mental health and their outlook on the world. Mr. Jonak and Ms. Bartosz led the way in sharing personally and vulnerably about what they have learned through both hardships and service.

"Nobody is going to leave this life without struggle," Mr. Jonak shared part of his story and invited Lori, a Senior Landscape Architect who partner with the Jonak family and their local school after his daughter Katie passed, to create a beautiful memorial to her memory that engaged many volunteers from the community.

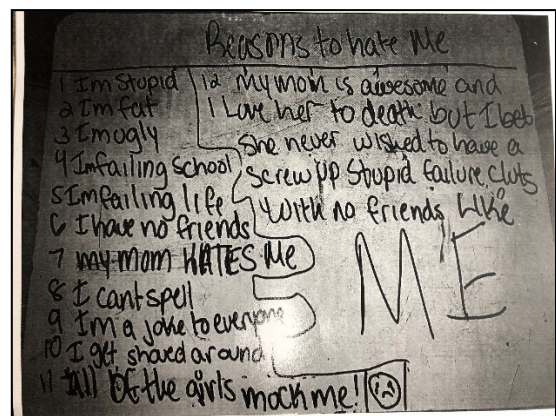
Ms. Bartosz discussed her leave of absence from the district in order to pursue travel and service for a year, "we want to show that the things we want you to do we value ourselves as well."

She shared many stories of her time traveling with Hope Travels- and she was quick to point out, "this is not about me bringing hope- but about building relationships. Service is not me coming to save the day- that is too much pressure! People say to me- tell me about all the cool stuff you did and I respond "I didn't do cool things. I got to see many people, work with many people, and make friends who are doing really cool things. I was abundantly blessed to be a part of this work."

Students shared throughout the presentation about all they have learned doing service learning. Pranav Viswanath shared about the importance of making service part of your life in Jr High, High School, and beyond. He challenged the audience to find needs in their community and act using their passions and gifts.

Diellza Dalipi explained what the service requirements are for each grade level, and Joey Dooley (a freshman) spoke of his experiences in serving using things he loves, like sports to lead a sports camp and teach younger kids. He also served at an adult day care to earn his service hours.

As her fellow students passed out a copy of a note she had written two years ago, Margie Anders spoke of a time in her life where she struggled to believe she was ok.



In 6<sup>th</sup> grade she was, as she described it, "in a dark hole" and thought she needed to change everything about herself. She shared, "the service program that the Jr High implemented has changed my life. I would still be in the

dark hole I was in if it was not for service. Service can make your life brighter and helped me look at other peoples' points of view, and it can help you see yourself differently. When we do service it has a snowball effect, we can start it and then it's a chain and goes on forever."

Another student; Daniel

(Continued on next Page)





## Westmont News: From CUSD 201

McKay (an 8<sup>th</sup> grader) spoke about how service can impact each one of us, *"it takes your mind off just yourself and all that is going on in your life and really puts your mind on others and positive change out in our world."*

Annikah Engstrom; an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, shared how her view of the world is different because of volunteering with World Relief, *"I learned the people we are serving; refugees and immigrants, have so much to teach me. They are so hospitable and kind to us."*

Students and educators from CUSD 201 attended other sessions to learn from others committed to breaking the silence on mental health as well and they boldly shared about the connection between mental health and service, and inspired many to think of ways they can make service part of their life- to not only change themselves but their community.



Roxanne Engstrom

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## Oakwood - Social Committee

### Oakwood Social Calendar:

#### OAKtoberfest:

This is our first annual event, and all Oakwood residents are invited in starting a new tradition! Details to the right. —>

#### Halloween Party:

Join the family fun on October 23rd from 6-8pm at Westmont Jr. High for food and fun! Kids wear your costumes. Please bring something to share based on the first letter of your last name as follows:

A-M: Desert

N-Z: Appetizer

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