

# The Oak Leaf

Quarterly Newsletter for the Oakwood Homeowners Association



Photo Credit: Larry McIntyre

## **In This Issue:**

New year, New look! Here's what we have for you this month:

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## **Oakwood Street Given Honorary Dedication**

On Nov 21st, 2019, the Westmont Village Board unanimously approved a proclamation dedicating Oakwood's Williamsburg Street as "Honorary Gregg Pill Way". Gregg was an Oakwood resident who made enormous contributions to Oakwood and to the whole of the Westmont community, including multiple contributions to this newsletter each quarter. Numerous guests spoke and many friends, neighbors, and colleagues attended the Village of Westmont Village Board Meeting where the dedication was made, and where Gregg's family was presented with a Key to the Village by Mayor Ron Gunter.



**Oakwood**  
Homeowners Association  
of Westmont

## Oakwood - Board of Directors

Matt Johnson — President	630.455.6022
Laura Connolly — VP	630.484.5132
Lynette Tuggle — Treasurer	708.404.8155
Monika Rodriguez — Secretary	847.913.6279
Doug Schwegman — Director	812.322.2481
Jeanie Smith — Director	630.921.1493
Brian Stouffer — Director	773.255.2220

Board e-mail: [info@oakwoodha.org](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org)

### ADVERTISE HERE

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

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

Business card (2" h X 3.5" w):	\$70
Double size (4" h X 3.5" w):	\$140
Half Page (4" h X 7" w):	\$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!!

**Oakwood Homeowners Association**  
**4 East Ogden Avenue # 313**  
**Westmont, IL 60559**  
**[www.Oakwoodha.org](http://www.Oakwoodha.org)**

### Quantum Insurance Group

Downers Grove, IL

- Independent agent/broker representing many quality companies
- Writing broker for Oakwood Homeowners Association for over 10 years

**AUTO \* HOME \* BUSINESS \* LIFE**

**Call for a free, competitive quote!**

**630-964-1360**

***AAA, Auto Owners, EMC, QBE, Hartford,  
Met Home & Auto, Progressive, Safeco,  
Travelers, & more***

## Your Neighborhood Realtor

# Jon Rodriguez

*9 Year Resident  
of Oakwood*



**Are you looking to move?**

**Call Jon for a free market  
analysis of your home**

**708.289.0990**

**LET MY EXPERIENCE  
WORK FOR YOU!**



**[jonyr73@yahoo.com](mailto:jonyr73@yahoo.com)**







## Message to Oakwood: New Year, New Decade, New Oak Leaf!

First, I hope that everyone had an excellent holiday season, and that 2020 is treating everyone right!

While some homes always look stellar, it seems that in general fewer and fewer homes get decorated for the holidays, and with the shorter days in December Oakwood just gets darker at the end of the year. The entranceways on the other hand looked fantastic once again, thanks to coordination by OHA (Oakwood Homeowners Association) Landscape Chair Jason Hawkins.

Last month I promised you that the next issue would look a little different, so as we're rolling into the next decade here, I'm breaking the mold a bit, and shaking things up this issue. A busy schedule, coordinating new contributors, and the effort involved with rethinking parts of this newsletter led to a bit of a delay, but I'll say it was just part of the plan to coincide with the New Year, and just go along with it, okay? Let us know what you think of the new look at [info@oakwoodha.org](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org)!

This issue will see the coming and going of a couple of features. I'm thankful that we will still see contributions in *From the Village Board* courtesy of friend, neighbor, Oakwood resident, and Village Board member **Steve Nero**, as well as *From CUSD 201* thanks to Community Unit School District 201 Superintendent **Kevin Carey**. I'm very excited about the new additions starting this issue: *From the Westmont Business Community* by **Larry Forsberg**, Executive Director of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, and the *Oakwood Quarterly Market Outlook*, donated by Oakwood resident **Dave Szymendera** of Baird & Warner. We're working on getting new coverage for the *From the Westmont Planning & Zoning Commission* section that Gregg Pill had done for years, but we're having an on-going problem reaching the new volunteer. Hopefully we'll have that straightened out by next issue. Our *Dining Around Town* segment will sadly be retired as that was another of Gregg's contributions. Last but not least, we're working to set up a regular *DIY* segment for homeowners... more to come on that one.

Many of you have noticed that the fence along Ogden is looking quite a bit better these days. We had a few volunteers, but while I was lining up the paperwork, Landscape Chair Jason Hawkins jumped right in and did a significant amount of repair work himself. These repairs are the homeowners' responsibility, not the OHA's, but we're thrilled that Jason knocked that one off our list!

The December meeting of the OHA Board of Directors successfully saw the approval of the 2020 budget, which you can find on page 4 of this newsletter. Thank you to Treasurer Lynette Tuggle and to a collection of Board Members and Committee Chair-people who worked so well together to make this as smooth and painless a process as possible!

While it's only January now, 2020 will see the release of our next bi-annual Membership Directory. We had excellent turnout in the last edition, but there's been a lot of turnover in the neighborhood, so we'll want to be sure to get updates in. Watch for more information in the next Oak Leaf, and by getting updates from us, which you can get by contacting us at [info@oakwoodha.org](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org).

I'll take a moment to regretfully mention, again, that people should keep their homes and cars locked. Oakwood isn't immune to crime, including car theft now (not stealing from a car, but actually stealing the car!). I know that a resident witnessed a potential theft a few weeks ago, and tried to reach the homeowner, but the homeowner wasn't in the directory. While 9-1-1 was called, it took a while and seems nothing was able to be done. Aside from locking your homes and cars, there are two things all of us should do:

- 1) Watch for suspicious activity. If you see something, call 9-1-1. People are hesitant to do this sometimes, especially if they're unsure about what they're seeing, but this is the best way to reach the Police, and we're better off with a false alarm than with openly allowing crime in our community.
- 2) Report ANYONE going door-to-door soliciting to the Police if they do not have a permit. The Police ask us to do this because:
  - a.) this is how criminals frequently case homes and the neighborhood, and
  - b.) registered solicitors help the police with spotting other unusual activity.

I think that's about enough out of me for the time being. Dig in and I hope you enjoy this issue and the new format!

Have a wonderful 2020, Oakwood!



Matt "everything old is new again... except me" Johnson  
President, Oakwood Homeowners Association

# Oakwood News: 2020 Budget

	2020 Budget		2020 Budget		2020 Budget
<b>Income</b>		<b>Landscape Committee</b>		<b>Social Committee</b>	
601 - Assessments	58,000.00	80201 - Beach General Maintenance	300.00	81341 - Children's Halloween Party	1,400.00
6012 - Assessments	1,095.00	80203 - General Landscape Maintenance	13,050.00	81343 - Children's Easter Party	1,225.00
6013 - Late Fees	240.00			81350 - Oaktoberfest	1,100.00
6014 - Lien File Fee	59,335.00	80521 - Irrigation - Entrances	750.00	81370 - Oakwood Fishing Derby	1,500.00
<b>Total 601 - Assessments</b>	<b>15.00</b>	805211 - Irrigation Water - North Ent.	750.00	<b>Total Social Committee</b>	<b>5,225.00</b>
602 - Uncategorized Income	15.00	805212 - Irrigation water - South Ent.	200.00		
6021 - Returned Bad Check Charges	15.00	805213 - Irrigation system maintenance	1,700.00	814 - Communications	
<b>Total 602 - Uncategorized Income</b>	<b>15.00</b>	Total 80521 - Irrigation - Entrances	2,000.00	8141 - Newsletters	
		80522 - Entrance Maintenance	500.00	81420 - Newsletter Printing	1,440.00
604 - Advertising	1,190.00	80520 - Annual Plants	500.00	81430 - Newsletter Delivery	650.00
6041 - Advertising - Oak Leaf	600.00	805221 - North Entrance Maintenance	1,800.00	Total 8141 - Newsletters	2,090.00
6042 - Advertising - Directory	1,790.00	805222 - South Entrance Maintenance	4,800.00		
<b>Total 604 - Advertising</b>	<b>1,900.00</b>	805223 - Christmas Lights	50.00	816 - Directory	
603 - Interest on Investments	63,040.00	Total 80522 - Entrance Maintenance	19,900.00	81620 - Directory Printing	1,370.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>63,040.00</b>	80523 - Landscape Administration	255.00	81630 - Directory Delivery	160.00
<b>Expense</b>		<b>Total Landscape Committee</b>	<b>3,890.00</b>		<b>1,530.00</b>
<b>Lake Management Committee</b>		<b>OHA Board</b>		<b>Total Communications</b>	
803 - Lake Charles Water Maintenance		811 - Mail Box Cost	375.00	820 - Financial	
80302 - Lake Water Testing Program	300.00	813 - Meetings & Events	25.00	82101 - Auditing & Accounting	3,430.00
80304 - Fish Restocking Program	4,000.00	81301 - Association Annual Meeting	150.00	82103 - Equipment / Software	300.00
80305 - Fish Feeder	800.00	813011 - A.M. - Notification and Com.	550.00		<b>3,730.00</b>
80307 - Aeration Program	800.00	813012 - A. M. - Refreshments	90.00	840 - Financial Admin	
80308 - Aeration Electrical Running Cos	1,900.00	813013 - A. M. - Raffle	85.00	8401 - Postage	250.00
80309 - Algae Control	9,800.00	Total 81301 - Association Annual Meeting	175.00	8402 - Supplies	390.00
<b>Total 803 - Lake Charles Water Maintenance</b>	<b>17,600.00</b>	81302 - Meeting & Events Other	725.00	8403 - Bank Charges/Lien Fees	150.00
806 - Eastern Shoreline Maintenance		81362 - Oakwood Annual Garage Sale		8404 - Printing/Folding	60.00
80601 - Minor Repairs, Clean up	300.00			8405. Bank Service Charge	15.00
80602 - Mulch for Eastern Shoreline	50.00	Total 813 - Meetings & Events	300.00	Total 840 - Financial Admin	865.00
80603 - Emergent Plants - Eastern Shore	2,000.00	823 - Legal Services	100.00	<b>Total Financial</b>	<b>4,595.00</b>
80604 - Tree Removal & Trimming	1,400.00	82311 - Corporate Registered Agent	400.00		
<b>Total 806 - Eastern Shoreline Maintenance</b>	<b>3,750.00</b>	82399 - Other Legal Services	6,500.00	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>63,040.00</b>
83002 - Lake Management Committee Admin	100.00	Total 823 - Legal Services	7,880.00		
830022 - Volunteer Appreciation	100.00	83302 - General Liability Insurance			
830023 - Lake Committee Administration	200.00	<b>Total OHA Board</b>	<b>21,550.00</b>		
<b>Total 83002 - Lake Management Committee Adm</b>	<b>200.00</b>				
<b>Total Lake Management Committee</b>	<b>21,550.00</b>				

# Oakwood News: Quarterly Market Outlook



Hello Oakwood!

As a resident and local REALTOR® with Baird&Warner, I thought it would be of value to create and share a quarterly market update with some interesting information on our neighborhood. The chart below shows some 4th quarter market stats (Oct., Nov., and Dec.) and how they compared over the last three years. These different categories help to paint a picture of what's been going on in Oakwood over this time period.

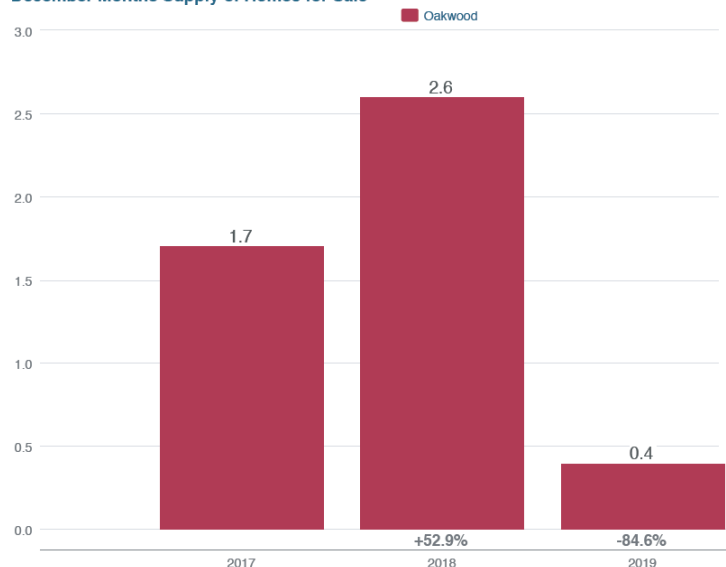
## Oakwood 3 Year Quarterly Market Comparison 4th Quarter - (Oct., Nov., Dec.)

	2017	2018	2019
Closed Sales	3	4	7
Sales Price (median)	\$325,000	\$380,000	\$377,000
% Original List (closed)	88.5%	94.9%	94.8%
Dollar Volume	\$953,000	\$1,550,000	\$2,755,472
Price Per Square Foot (median)	\$168	\$179	\$166
Market Time (listing to contract)	24	9	47
Homes For Sale (12/31)	5	5	3

Source: Midwest Real Estate Data

## Low Inventory

December Months Supply of Homes for Sale



### Oakwood\*: Single Family

Data is from January 3, 2020

\* User-defined area. All data from MRED. Data deemed reliable but not guaranteed. InfoSparks © 2020 ShowingTime.

## What Does Low Inventory Mean?

While homes are coming on the market, they aren't coming fast enough. Right now in Oakwood there is less than 1 months inventory of homes for sale, putting us in a sellers' market. The challenge is that there are not enough homes for sale to satisfy the number of people who want to buy. To be in a balanced market, we need to have 6 months of inventory available. Today we are nowhere near that number and are at our lowest level in over two years.

Serious buyers in our market are actively searching and ready to make a move. If you're considering selling, the high demand and limited inventory in our market can put you at a significant advantage.

- Dave Szymendera  
Baird&Warner | REALTOR®  
724 Ogden Ave. Downers Grove, IL 60515  
312.371.1519  
[dave.szymendera@bairdwarner.com](mailto:dave.szymendera@bairdwarner.com)  
[www.daveszymendera.bairdwarner.com](http://www.daveszymendera.bairdwarner.com)

# Westmont News: From the Village Board



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

## **Major Developments**

### **FMC Natatorium @ Ty Warner Park**

Construction on the Natatorium project at Ty Warner Park is on schedule and will continue through the winter. The project developers plan for the facility to be completed in the Spring of 2020 and the first formal swimming competition is slated for next Summer.

### **Medical Office on Ogden**

A new multi-story medical building has been approved for the 300 block of West Ogden Avenue, west of Park Street. The development will include the corner property and the adjoining strip mall. The project is planning to begin demo in the early spring. The Village is working with current businesses to relocate within Westmont.

### **North Cass Avenue Townhomes**

The new townhomes development at 414 North Cass Avenue, just south of the Westmont Public Library, is well underway and are now available for purchase. This residential project is comprised of 22 luxury townhomes. The development is expected to be completed within the first half of 2020.

### **Oakmont Point**

The Oakmont Point project, located on Oakmont Lane off Pasquinelli Drive, initially consists of the redeveloping an existing structure, which was previously owned by the Sirva Company. The structure has been divided into two separate buildings, and as of November, the business Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) has taken occupancy. Future plans include utilizing a portion of the current parking lot to build a third building. The multi-building project is expected to provide 275,000 sq. ft. of office space.

### **One North Cass**

Village staff is working closely with a developer regarding the property at the northeast corner of Cass and Burlington. The preliminary plans for this proposed development include a mixed-use building with first-floor commercial space, structured parking, and several floors of apartments. Development details will become available once the project is formally submitted to the Village.

### **Quincy Station @ Cass & Quincy**

This development recently held a ground-breaking ceremony, and demolition of existing structures has now been completed. Quincy Station will be a 5-story, 94-unit luxury apartment building that will bring more residents and footsteps to downtown Westmont. The project is expected to be completed and ready for residential occupancy by the fall of 2021.

### **New Public Works Facility**

On August 24, the Village of Westmont Public Works Department hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for their new facility to be constructed at 55 East Burlington Avenue. The new Public Works facility will include a new fueling center, a vehicle storage garage, offices, weather command center, and a landscaped corridor along the train tracks. The new Westmont Public Works building is scheduled to be in operation by the fall of 2020.

### **Market Centre @ 63rd & Cass Avenue**

Both L.A. Fitness and Raising Canes restaurant expect to be completed and occupied in 2020. In September, the developer obtained approval for a change in uses within the project. The change included a 35,000 square-foot space intended for retail use instead of the originally-proposed movie theater. Also, a newly approved lease for a Starbucks Coffee has been finalized.

### **Mariano's Expansion**

Westmont Mariano's at 150 West 63rd Street has received approval from the Village of Westmont to construct and operate a fueling station on their existing property. The fueling station will be built along the 63rd street side of the property. The construction and completion of this new business is scheduled for 2020.

### **Westview South & North Plaza Residential Project Proposal**

The Village is reviewing a proposal to construct a residential project on the west side of Cass Avenue, both north and south of 61st Street. The proposal calls for the removal of existing buildings and the construction of new residential buildings.

### **New & Relocated Westmont Businesses**

In recent months, several new businesses have opened in Westmont. Please give a warm welcome to:

#### **Albaraka Grill**

- now open at 341 W. Ogden Avenue

#### **Apple Valley Natural Foods**

- relocated to 27 E. Chicago Avenue

#### **Clique Sports Bar & Grill**

- now open at 6010 S. Cass Avenue

#### **CrossFit Salire**

- now open at 263 W. 61st Street

#### **Immediate Care Center of Westmont**

- added a second location at Jewel-Osco, 4 E. Ogden Ave

#### **RiteWay 2.0 Blueprint LLC**

- relocated to 138 N. Cass Avenue

#### **Taste Greek Street Food**

- now open at 645 N. Cass Avenue

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## Westmont News: From the Village Board

### Westmont Citizen of the Year Aware Nominations

Each year, the Village of Westmont and the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau seek nominations for the Westmont Citizen of the Year Award. The award is given to a resident who has demonstrated exemplary volunteerism and community service over the past year.

Nominations must be submitted to the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, by noon on Friday, March 6th, 2020. There will be both online and printed nomination forms available through the Chamber of Commerce and available for pick-up at Westmont Village Hall, the Westmont Metra Train Station and the Westmont Chamber. For more information, contact the Chamber at [wcctb@westmontchamber.com](mailto:wcctb@westmontchamber.com) or 630-960-5553 ([www.westmontchamber.com](http://www.westmontchamber.com)).

The award will be presented at the Annual Westmont Community Awards Banquet, which will be held in the Spring of 2020. Additional event details will be shared in the future.

### Westmont High School Student Graduates Water Operator In Training Program



At the December 19th Public Works Committee meeting, I presented Westmont High School Senior Justin Yeater his Water Operator In Training (OIT) Certificate for recently graduating from the OIT program.

Justin is the first high school student in Illinois history to graduate from this type of program and receive the OIT Certificate while still in school. The Village is looking forward to having him on the team for the coming years.

The OIT Program was created through a partnership between the Westmont Public Works Department and the Westmont High School in 2018. OIT offers WHS students the chance to learn about the water industry as a career choice. Justin

completed 890 hours of hands-on training, an online course, worked as a seasonal paid intern and passed the Illinois EPA State Certified Water Operator Class \*D\* exam to become fully certified.

### 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 regarding 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 @ 630.981.6400.

### Electronics Recycling Program

Every 3rd Saturday, 8am-Noon  
at the DG Township Hwy Dept.,  
318 E. Quincy in Westmont



### 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

M: (630) 776-8302

E: [snero@westmont.il.gov](mailto:snero@westmont.il.gov)

## Westmont News: From the Westmont Business Community

Dear Oak Leaf Readers,

It is a pleasure for the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau (WCCTB) to become a new contributor to the Oak Leaf. The Oakwood Homeowners Association is a very vibrant and important part of Westmont, so sharing information and resources is always an excellent idea. Another reason is that there are always activities underway in the Westmont Business Community to share; new businesses, events and we always seek to remind and encourage all area residents to shop, dine and discover Westmont.

Let's take a quick look at what WCCTB offers in Westmont. At our very core, we are a membership organization comprised of local businesses. WCCTB provides our business community leaders with a platform to connect, network, promote and serve as the voice for our members. Our membership list and schedule of events can be explored on our website at [www.westmontchamber.com](http://www.westmontchamber.com). We ask that when you shop, dine or when you discover the need for some help or service to please choose a Westmont business first. This Westmont first choice results in a stronger local business community which also keeps Westmont strong as a whole.

The Westmont Chamber is also highly engaged in driving economic development growth within Westmont through the Westmont Economic Development Partnership (WEDP). Economic Development is an important area for all to be engaged, many residents are

business owners or know business owners, developers, or investors. Our goal is network well both inside and outside Westmont to surface new opportunities to open a business or bring a new project to the Village. During the past twelve months, there have been over \$260,000,000 in commercial projects in-process throughout Westmont. We have also experienced a very strong building permit activity during 2019 that speaks well for our residential community.

The Village also generates revenues from tourism at local hotels and events. WCCTB serves on the DuPage Convention and Visitor's Bureau Board of Directors with the goal of bringing business visitors and events to both DuPage and Westmont. For example, with the upcoming addition of the FMC Natatorium in the spring of 2020, we expect many new regional, state, national and international swim events to be held in Westmont as well as being a great resource to residents through Westmont Park District swim programs. The DuPage CVB is an excellent organization that works hard to bring new tourism opportunities that support both Westmont and DuPage with additional tourism dollars that help support our community.

The Westmont Auto Mile (WAM) features ten award-winning dealers along Ogden Avenue that offer a great selection of new and used vehicles at ALL price points and offer the best service departments to keep your vehicle in tip-top condition. WCCTB has a WAM Com-

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## Westmont News: From the Westmont Business Community

mittee to keep an open line of communication and help promote our great group of dealerships. Since 2010, the Westmont Auto Mile has supported our annual Westmont Independence Day fireworks display and our Holly Days activities, including the ever popular Frosty and Friends night parade. Further, our WAM dealerships generate a large share of sales tax revenues within the Village, a true economic development engine for Westmont. So when you or friends are shopping for a new or used car, think WAM first.

A fun business sector for all in Westmont is our delicious collection of 100 dining options, we can dine around the world in Westmont based on the wide range of menus from around the world! The Westmont Chamber established a Westmont Restaurant Committee, they are responsible for oversight in:

- 1) Annual Westmont Restaurant Week, scheduled for January 30th through February 9th, 2020.
- 2) Westmont Readers' Choice program where everyone can vote for their favorite restaurant, or meal in 27 categories that cover all of Westmont.
- 3) Annual Westmont Dining Guide published each summer that features a complete dining guide to Westmont, and
- 4) Monthly dining reviews which showcase a local Westmont dining establishment, these reviews were started by our dear friend Gregg Pill...we deeply miss him. These reviews will be restarted in January by a team of local foodies that will share their dining experience with us all. Again, when thinking about a place to dine, a quick carryout, private party or catering, think Westmont restaurants first!

Westmont also features many independent family-owned businesses in our community. These business owners have invested everything into serving our community, with many being located in Westmont for decades or some new looking to become a long-standing part of our community. Consider them for a moment... from dining to art frame shops to health care to auto repair to floral shops to dance studios to

music training to spas to insurance to realtor's and many more...all share a common goal: to serve our community with your best interest in mind. They are our neighbors and are fully invested in Westmont on every level. Please get to know them and promote them.

These are just a few key areas in which the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism are engaged with the goal to keep our Westmont Business Community strong and serving Westmont and our guests. We ask for your help in a couple of areas please:

- 1) If you know a business looking for a new and or additional location, let's work together to make sure they have given Westmont due consideration.
- 2) If you know a developer looking for potential project sites, let's work together to make them aware of Westmont.
- 3) If you are aware of someone looking to move in the greater Chicago area, let's make sure they are aware of the great housing options, excellent schools, and easy access all right here in warm and friendly Westmont.

Thank you for the opportunity for WCCTB to be a part of the Oak Leaf. When there are any questions, comments or leads to share please feel free to contact me direct at [LForssberg@westmontchamber.com](mailto:LForssberg@westmontchamber.com) or by phone at 630-960-5553. Wishing all a happy and healthy 2020!

Shop, Dine and Discover Westmont!

- Larry M. Forssberg, Executive Director

**Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau**

One South Cass Avenue, Suite 101, Westmont, IL 60559

Phone: 630-960-5553

Cell: 708-921-5400

Fax: 630-960-5554

E-mail: [LForssberg@westmontchamber.com](mailto:LForssberg@westmontchamber.com)

**Remember to Shop, Dine and Discover Westmont at [www.westmontchamber.com](http://www.westmontchamber.com)**

**Test drive the Westmont Auto Mile at [www.westmontautomile.com](http://www.westmontautomile.com)**

# Westmont News: From CUSD 201

## Community Unit School District 201 Schools Continue to Excel

On October 31, 2019, the Illinois State Board of Education released the school report cards for Illinois schools. The ISBE has a new for tiered rating system. Schools can receive a rating of exemplary, commendable, underperforming, or lowest-performing. Westmont High School has achieved the highest rating and received an exemplary rating. High Schools rated as exemplary have a graduation rate greater than 67% and must perform in the top 10% on the SAT statewide.

Manning, Miller, and Westmont Junior High were all designated as commendable. Schools rated as commendable have no underperforming groups of students and is the second-highest rating Overall, CUSD 201 schools outperform most school in the State with similar demographics.

Westmont Community High School is a finalist for the DuFour Award. The DuFour is given annually to a high performing that is a recognized as a Model PLC (Professional Learning Community). The winner will be announced at the end of January.

## Westmont High School Garden

Lisa Hootman shared the High School garden totals now that the growing season has come to an end. It was a great year, and our students were once again amazing at planting, caring for, harvesting, and amassing all of our gardens produce. During each of the pre-

vious two years, the students and teachers harvested about 900 pounds of produce from the WHS garden, so this year Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Finlayson challenged the students to harvest 1000 pounds of produce! Well, the students took on the challenge, and they intercropped, put in multiple plantings during the summer, and even added some cool weather crops later in the fall to maximize the space and growing season.



The result was that WHS students brought home the gold and harvested 1098.5 pounds of produce this year! They also harvested, filtered, and bottled 40 pounds of honey from our two beehives. That brings the total to 1138.5 pounds of harvested produce and honey! Out of the total, 470.5 pounds of produce was donated to The People's Resource Center this year, the highest amount ever. We donated 42.8% of our harvest to people in need. It

was a great year and was only possible because of Lisa Hootman, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Finlayson, and all of our WHS students putting in hours of time and effort to reach our goal.

## Westmont Junior High Physical Education

When we think of technology and teens, the assumption can be a more sedentary time in front of a screen, but Westmont Junior High School is using technology

(Continued on next Page)

## Noteworthy Piano Studio

Patricia (Patti) Nyien, NCTM  
630-920-1728

Westmont

[pteacher3@comcast.net](mailto:pteacher3@comcast.net)  
[www.noteworthy piano.us](http://www.noteworthy piano.us)

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## Westmont News: From CUSD 201

in creative ways to engage and empower students towards heart health and fitness.

Polar Heart Rate Monitors were purchased through a Play 60 grant and enable the students to get immediate in-class feedback about just how hard they are working in PE classes. Each monitor is worn on the left forearm of each student. It is linked to a program that accesses personal information and projects their progress on the board in the front of the room. The colors range from "Very Light" to "Moderate" to "Maximum." Varying levels of challenge will mean different colors based on each student's needs. The monitors help the students have a communal effort to all work together towards their goal to get in the green zone while offering important individual assessments and challenges as well.

Ms. Emily Hillertz, a PE teacher at the Junior high shares that she loves seeing the students challenge themselves and work together through the use of heart rate monitors, "It is great for the students and myself as an educator because we all get immediate

feedback. The monitors have brought up a great conversation about heart health and how individual students can work towards their goals."

Another PE teacher Mr. Richard Cornacchia led his students through various stations during his class time. "Since we've instituted this (the heart monitors), students have been more active because they have live feedback, and they are excited to use the monitors. We, as the teachers love it because it gives them all accountability and responsibility for their daily activity as well as giving us information of how best to help each student meet their fitness goals," Mr. Cornacchia explained. The monitors give individual feedback for each student based on their personal information and help them stay working out at an optimal and fat burning level to promote heart health.

- Kevin Carey

Superintendent, Community Unit School District 201

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