

# The Oak Leaf

Quarterly Newsletter for the Oakwood Homeowners Association

## Oakwood News: President's Message



I went into this issue thinking: we're coming out of lockdown, how much will there be to say?

Well, a LOT apparently! Everyone turned out for this issue!

We have **NEW** contributions from the Westmont Park District (letting us know what's opening up again), the Westmont Environmental Improvement Committee (introducing us to their group and their mission), and the Westmont Public Works Department (letting us know what Spring 2020 has done to our trees). This is all in addition to updates from the Village Board, the Westmont Business Community, and Community Unit School District 201!

Thank you to numerous Oakwood residents for other community updates and Committee updates, including but not limited to the quarterly market

outlook for Oakwood, the Lake Management Committee, and the Social Committee.

If Spring wasn't rough enough on the trees in Oakwood, we have a care problem threatening to further thin out the already reduced number of trees in our neighborhood. See the contribution on how so many of us (or our lawn care providers) are strangling and poisoning our trees with horrible mulching techniques.

On top of all this, we have some shorts, including Oakwood sponsoring one of the planters in down town Westmont and information on the stocking of fish in Lake Charles.

So, enough from this guy... get comfy and dig in!!

Matt "streaming live" Johnson  
President, Oakwood Homeowners Association

### HEY! Oakwood Specific News in this Issue!

- Oakwood Adopt-A-Planter
- Oakwood Social Committee
- Fish Stocked in Lake Charles
- Save Your Trees!
- Oakwood Lake Management Committee

### Sections in this issue:

Seriously, I hope you like to read!

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**Oakwood**  
Homeowners Association  
of Westmont

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Lynette Tuggle — Treasurer	708.404.8155
Monika Rodriguez — Secretary	847.913.6279
Doug Schwegman — Director	812.322.2481
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**

**[www.Oakwoodha.org](http://www.Oakwoodha.org)**

## Oakwood News: Planted

### OHA Sponsors Westmont Planter

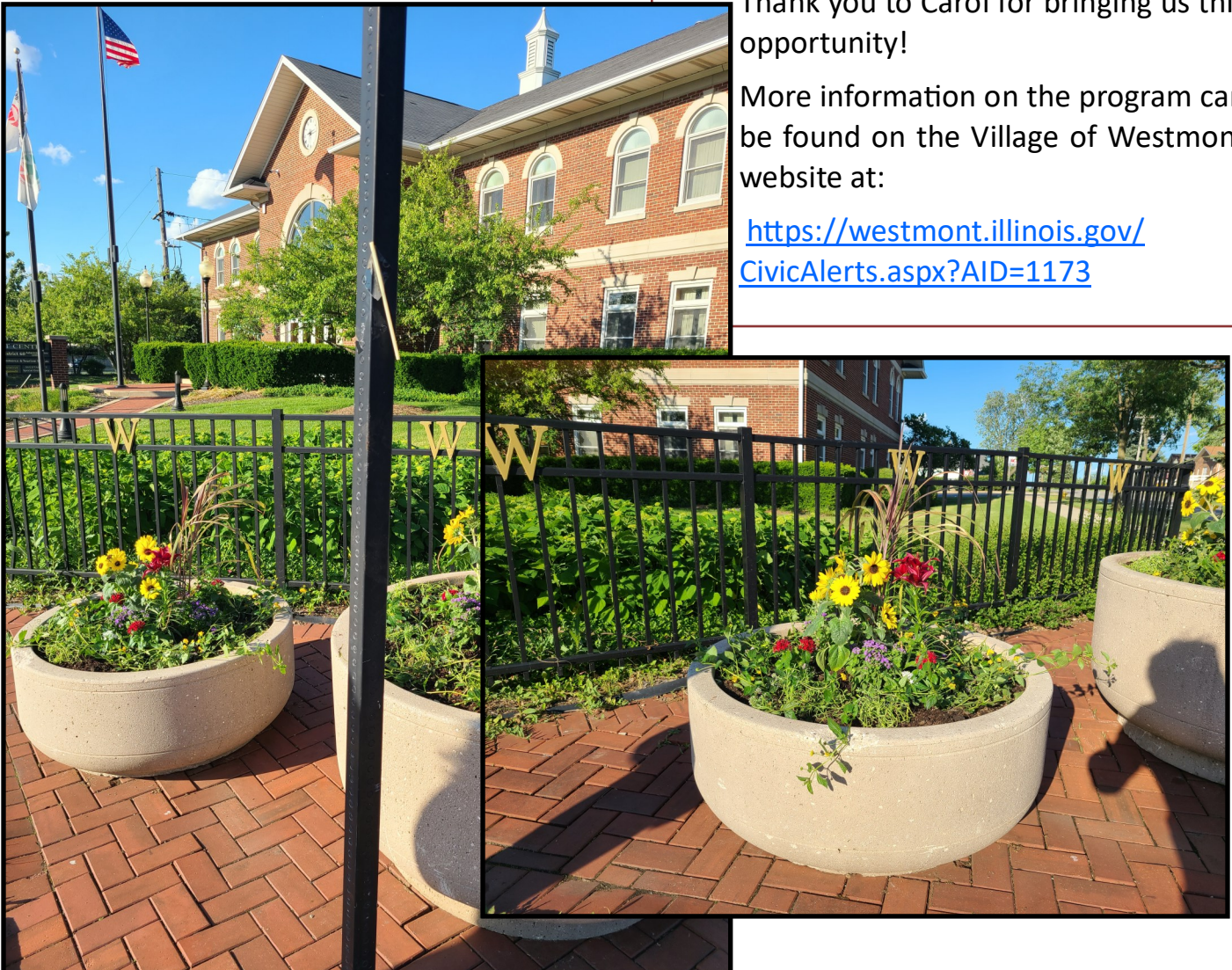
The Village of Westmont put out a call looking for community contributors to add plants to the planters positioned throughout the community. The Adopt-A-Planter program was suggested and Oakwood residents Carol Johnson and Yvette Johnson took some time to purchase and plant a beautiful collection in the planter at the corner in front of the Westmont Centre at the corner of Cass and Quincy.

The planter will be watered and cared for by the Village, and already looks beautiful.

Thank you to Carol for bringing us this opportunity!

More information on the program can be found on the Village of Westmont website at:

<https://westmont.illinois.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1173>





## Oakwood News: Social Committee

Well, it's no surprise that our social calendar is totally up in the air. While the Annual Meeting of the Oakwood Homeowners Association will be rescheduled once adequately large public gatherings are permitted and safe for everyone attending, we will send out a notice on when and where that will be. The Fishing Derby Beach Party would have been this month, but is on hold as we wait and see what the rest of the summer and the State of Illinois permit. We may well do this event yet later in the season, so be sure to stay on our e-mail list to get updates (contact us at [info@oakwoodha.org](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org) to get on the list).

The lockdown didn't stop our Annual Egg Hunt though! Thanks to some last minute great ideas, we had a number of volunteers prepare eggs and baskets for all the kids who RSVP'd for the event, and then the volunteers went house to house and distributed eggs in their front lawns. It was such a great gesture, and the kids really enjoyed not missing this Oakwood Tradition, even if it was in a non-traditional way.

Thank you to Vicki O'Malley and everyone who volunteered to make this a memorable event!



## Oakwood News: Fish Stocked in Lake Charles



Lake Charles was stocked again this year, this time with 890 largemouth bass (along with minnows to feed them) on May 14th. See page 6 for more information on the fish in Lake Charles.

Thank you to Oakwood resident and OHA Treasurer, Lynette Tuggle for the images!



# Oakwood Community Contribution: Save Your Trees!

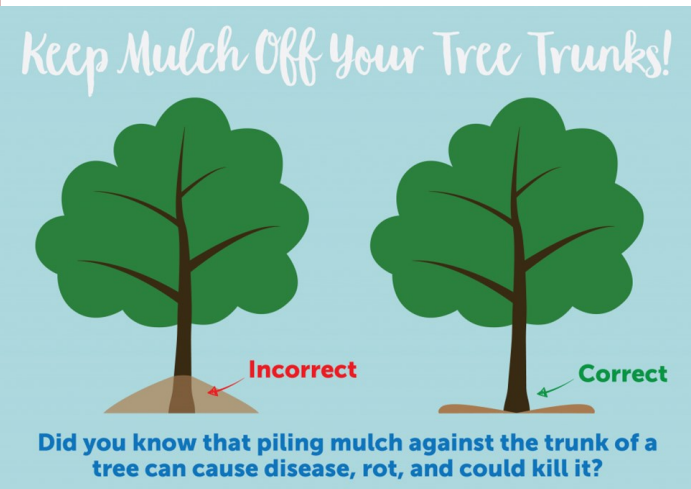
Do you do your own landscaping? Do you hire someone?

Either way, here is some information for you which may be beneficial to your trees. [It is up to you to be sure whoever does your landscaping mulches around your trees correctly.]

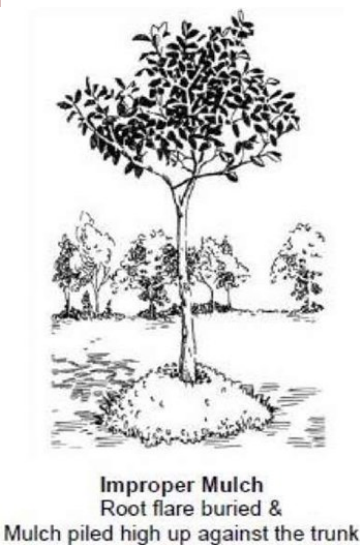
## Applying Mulch

Pull mulch away from the base of tree and shrub trunks creating a donut-hole (image on right.) Do not pile it up against the trunk ("volcano mulching"). Excessive mulch on the trunk causes moisture to build up, creating ideal conditions for insect pests, diseases, and decay (image below.)

Source: Morton Arboretum, "Mulching Trees and Shrubs".



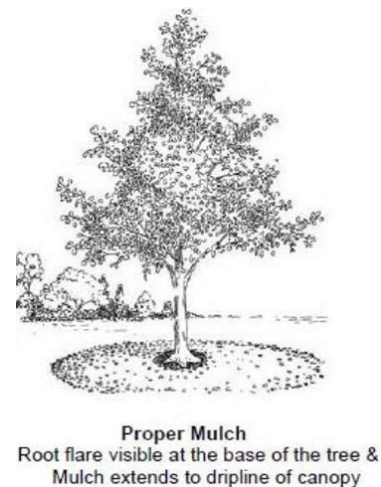
The following excerpts are taken from "Volcano Mulch" and "Too much mulch can kill your tree", both articles from University of Illinois Extension Service:



Well-meaning homeowners and landscapers seem to understand that mulching around trees is a good idea, but have no concept of what proper mulching looks like.

What is wrong with the picture to the left? This is a classic example of volcano mulch; the trunk of the tree erupts from the center of a tall, sloping mound. Mulch applied in this fashion spells death for the tree. How can a little pile of mulch kill a tree, you ask?

Mulch, as you likely know, is great at retaining moisture. Imagine what happens when mulch is applied directly in contact with the bark of the tree. The mulch holds moisture against the bark, which causes the bark to begin to rot. "Tree bark is meant to protect the trunk. It works best in the air and light. With volcano mulching, the bark is affected by dark and moisture. The bark will begin to rot, and rotted bark cannot protect the tree from insects and diseases. In fact, diseases grow better in this kind of environment." Left in this condition, the rot will eventually go through the outer layer of the bark into the cambium layer, the vascular tissue of the tree. Rotting through the cambium cuts off the flow of water from the roots and kills the tree.



## How to Mulch Around Trees.

- 1) Leave a 2-4 inch gap between the trunk of the tree and your ring of mulch.
- 2) To allow for settling, apply 4-6 inches of mulch which will result in a 2-4 inch layer after the mulch has settled.
- 3) Make your ring as wide as possible/practical. Ideally, you would mulch all the way out to the drip line of the tree.

Proper mulching makes a tremendous difference for maintaining a healthy tree. Changing the soil environment around your tree from turf to mulch mimics the natural environment of the forest floor. Adding mulch reduces the competition from turf grass for water and nutrients, and helps to keep the soil moist in between watering or rain events. The mulch will also serve as a slow-release fertilizer. As soil microbes gradually decompose the mulch, they release nutrients into the soil. All of this adds up to great benefits for the health of the tree.

Carol Johnson, Oakwood resident and EIC Member



## Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

### IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DUMP ANYTHING IN LAKE

#### CHARLES - EVEN YARD WASTE!

As lakefront homeowners you have an unobstructed view of the lake from the windows of your home. The Association, with dues from 450 homeowners, spend thousands of dollars each year doing its very best to create a picturesque natural lake. So why are some lake side homeowners mucking it up by dumping yard waste into the lake?

Yard waste pollutes the lake does nothing positive for the environment. Decaying plant matter provides nutrients the promote algae growth and floating the debris gets trapped in the outlet.

If you have in the past disposed of your weeds and grass clipping in the lake, please be a responsible neighbor and stop now. Tell your family and landscaper that dumping of yard waste in the lake is pollution. I certain that you would not appreciate officer friendly coming to your door about prober disposal of yard waste. If you see a neighbor polluting the lake with yard waste show him a copy of this letter.



Garden Waste



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# Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

## Fishing in Lake Charles

If you are ever looking for something to do in the spring or summer, you should consider testing your luck fishing in Lake Charles. The lake is stocked with bass, bluegill and catfish. Fathead minnows and shiners are also stocked annually in the early spring. The lake even has crappie, which are not stocked, but are clearly present. Some of the fish that make Lake Charles home are discussed in greater detail below. Part of the fun is you just never know what you are going to catch! Happy fishing!



**Largemouth Bass**

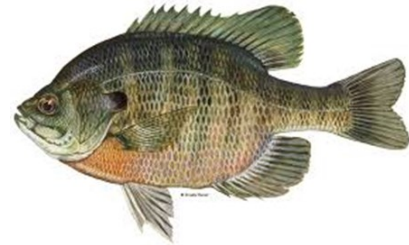
Considered by many to be one of the most enjoyable fish to angle, Largemouth Bass are one of the most sought after fish in North America. When stocked properly with an adequate supply of Bluegill and Fathead Minnows, these fish may grow as much as 1 to 1 1/2 pounds per season. A reminder that bass and catfish in Lake Charles are catch and release, but you are welcome to keep bluegill and crappie.



**Channel Catfish**

The Channel Catfish are one of the easiest fish to manage in your pond. They can feed on a live forage or you can supplement with a commercial feed. Supplemental feeding

will often allow the catfish to achieve growth rates sometimes exceeding 1 1/2 pounds per season. These fish can be stocked independently or as part of a combination stocking with Largemouth Bass and Bluegill.



**Bluegill**

Bluegills are one of the smallest game fishes, normally reaching lengths of 6–9 inches. Despite their small size, bluegills are highly spirited fighters when on the end of a fishing line and are among the most popular hook-and-line-caught fishes in North America. They are frequently stocked in ponds and lakes.



**Crappie**

There are two types of crappie that are most common, the Black Crappie and the White Crappie. The Whites are much more prolific than the Black. White Crappie in most cases, take over smaller ponds and lakes. White Crappie should never be stocked in impoundments less than 100 acres. Black Crappie can be stocked in ponds as small as 1 acre without any concern of overpopulation.

Mark Nelson  
OHA Lake Management Committee

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## ADVERTISE HERE

For information on how to advertise in the Oak Leaf please email [info@oakwoodha.org](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org).

Annual cost to advertise (4 issues) is as follows:

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!

# Oakwood News: Quarterly Market Outlook



Hello Oakwood,

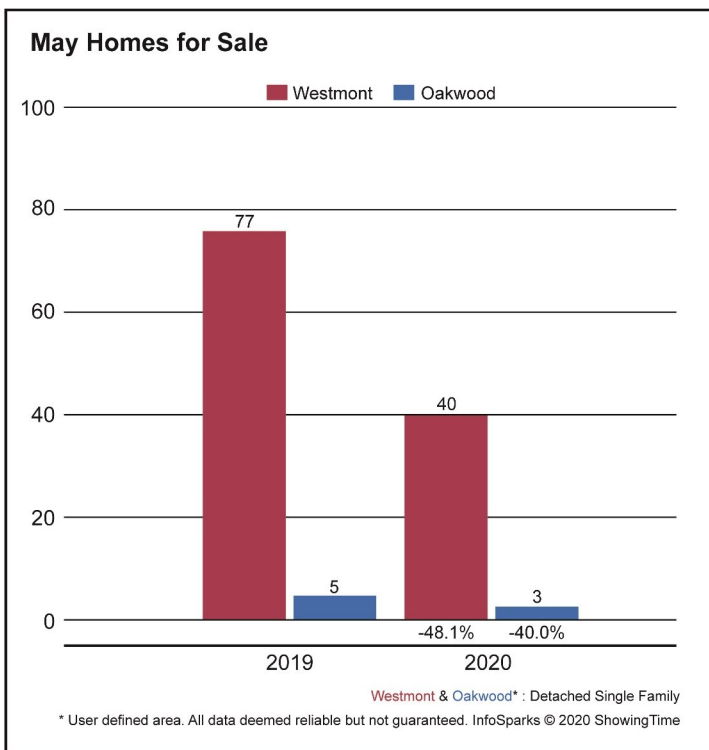
I hope you are safe, healthy and have weathered the last few months as best as possible. Summer is upon us, which, if you're like my family, has us wondering what we're going to do to keep ourselves occupied. With so many neighborhood fests, carnivals, concerts, and sporting events being cancelled there are many uncertainties and holes in our schedules to be filled. These cancellations and the effects they have on our lives is actually a perfect lead in to update you on the current status of our housing market.

There are many uncertainties in the housing market as well. Check out the data below to see the status of our local market over the last two months and how it compares to 2019 in homes for sale, new listings, and closed sales.

	Westmont				Oakwood			
Detached Single Family	April 2019	April 2020	May 2019	May 2020	April 2019	April 2020	May 2019	May 2020
Homes For Sale	75	45	77	40	5	2	5	3
New Listings	53	16	40	22	6	1	2	2
Closed Sales	22	14	38	12	4	1	4	1

Source: Midwest Real Estate Data.

As the health crisis made its way through our country earlier this spring, sellers were rightfully cautious about putting their homes on the market. This stemmed from fear of the spread of the coronavirus, and understandably so. This widespread caution has greatly impacted the number of homes for sale and slowed the pace of a typically busy spring real estate season. As our state goes through a phased approach to reopening, practices have been put in place to maximize health and safety, as well as to increase the comfort levels of both buyers and sellers. Currently, however, sellers still seem cautious about returning to the market. Although the inventory of homes for sale in Westmont is slowly increasing, we are still well below the number needed to help balance the market and meet the demand from buyers.



## Positive Thinking

What we're seeing today is that homebuyers are more confident than sellers, and they are ready to make up for lost time from the traditional spring market. Summer is gearing up to be the 2020 buying season, so including your house in the mix may be your best opportunity to sell. Interest in your home may be higher than you think with so few sellers on the market.

If you need some advice on selling your home this summer I'm happy to help. Buyers are interested and may be looking for a home just like yours.

Stay safe and I hope to see you at an Oakwood or Westmont event soon.

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## Westmont News: Westmont Park District

### Greetings OHA!

On behalf of our Park Board of Commissioners and staff we sincerely hope each and every one of you are well, in good spirits and eager for a fresh start. It would be an understatement to say we have been navigating a unique and difficult time in our lives. How do you cope mentally and physically, where do you turn to find balance, inspiration or outlets? If you haven't done so already we recommend you rediscover your park system to exercise your heart, lungs, mind and spirit.

While many communities responded to COVID-19 by closing their parks we kept ours open adhering to social distancing guidelines. To close them would have been detrimental to the wellbeing of our residents. The National Recreation and Park Association has conducted numerous studies confirming that communities with access to well-maintained parks and natural areas tend to have better health and lower crime while their children typically perform better on standardized tests when compared to communities without access to the same. Per the NRPA's conclusion, you are fortunate to live in a community with an outstanding park system. Furthermore, a 2009 study by the American Journal of Public Health confirmed that exposure to the outdoors

and sunshine proved beneficial in fighting viral diseases. The closure of our parks would have denied our residents all these positive benefits to help Westmont navigate this difficult time. It is a fact, the Westmont Park District and its parks are playing an integral role in our community's return to physical and mental wellbeing as well as a return to life pre COVID-19.

Special recognition must be paid to our staff, most notably our Maintenance Staff. The maintenance crews never stopped working and caring for our parks and golf course during the Covid-19 lockdown. As the public was forced to stay home scores turned to our parks to walk, breathe fresh air and enjoy the sun. This increase in use warranted continued upkeep of our parks. Some communities halted services and maintenance, we did not. While adhering to social distancing guidelines our level of service stayed the same.

To that point, the WPD is thrilled to say we have begun offering programs and golf all within the State's Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity guidelines. In fact, we are doing and offering more than many area park districts. Twin Lakes Golf Course and its

(Continued on next page)

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## Westmont News: Westmont Park District

patio is open to foursomes every 10 minutes. Our Chicago weather has been cooperating making this a tremendous and safe recreational opportunity to enjoy with your family and friends. Day camps for preschoolers to rising 8th graders will begin June 15th. Registration is taken on a week to week basis providing families flexibility around family and vacation time.

We are also providing numerous athletic camps and programs from basketball to baseball as well as an instructional baseball program for tots using whiffle ball as a fun and engaging training tool. Per the State, games are strictly prohibited, forcing our staff to be creative in our planning as we focus on skills development and fun as we navigate the social distancing rules mandated by the State. Please visit our website ([www.westmontparks.org](http://www.westmontparks.org)) and Facebook for additional information on our programs and offerings.

Sadly, Illinois' re-opening plan has forced the cancellation of numerous programs, special events and large gatherings. Additionally, the Governor has continued his mandate that all playgrounds remain closed. We do not know if and when playgrounds will be allowed to open. It is also unknown if the State will allow us to open our spray park at Ty Warner Park. Our most amazing and popular community event, 4th of July

at Ty Warner Park, has been cancelled because of the prohibition on large gatherings in Illinois. The list of cancelled events continues to grow, yet we are not being deterred. We certainly hope and pray we all can get together again sooner rather than later to celebrate our community and our country.

The Fitness Club is just starting to re-open under strict guidelines. At this time only one on one training is allowed by appointment per the Governor's Phase 4 guidelines for fitness clubs. We are eagerly awaiting the Governor's Phase 4 guidelines hoping for a big splash so that we may serve more. None of us our happy about where we are but we are happy to see the positive; movement, it is a good sign and it feels good.

The Westmont Park District is proud to be part of the remedy that will bring brighter days ahead for the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents. We look forward to seeing you in our parks, at our golf course, in our fitness club and in our programs.

In Service,  
Robert Fleck  
Executive Director

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# Westmont News: From the Public Works Department

## Affects of Spring 2020 on Our Trees

by Jon Yeater

There was a plethora of tree issues to start off 2020. An overnight frost around Mother's Day, caused significant damage to a number of trees. Most notably, Ginkgo trees seemed to take the worst of it, losing all newly formed leaves. I did not see a case where this killed any trees, and they should have since recovered, putting out new leaf growth.

Additionally, the wet, cool spring this year also caused issues in a few varieties of trees in town. Anthracnose, a fungal leaf disease that thrives during these conditions, caused leaves to drop from maple and sycamore trees throughout town.

Anthracnose is primarily a foliar disease affecting many deciduous trees. Other affected species include ash, dogwood, elm, hickory, oak and walnut. Often, we don't see a lot of defoliation with anthracnose, but infections on maple seemed to be severe enough this year to be causing some defoliation.

It is important to know that this is not a fatal disease, but it will put some additional stress on trees as their "food factories", the leaves, drop off prematurely. The food that trees make for themselves is different from what fertilizers provide, so extra fertilization is not warranted. The disease is caused by several different fungi. The fungi are host specific, so the maple fungus doesn't infect oak trees, and so on. Symptoms vary with the plant host, but this disease often produces brown or black blotches and curled or twisted leaves (pictured below).

Although the symptoms appear in late spring into the summer, the initial infection took place in the early spring at bud break and before the leaves hardened off. Once the symptoms show up, it is too late for any chemical

applications to be effective. Cultural methods are usually sufficient to reduce the severity of anthracnose in our region. These include:

- Pruning trees to open up the canopy for better air circulation.
- Maintaining tree vigor with proper watering during times when rain is inadequate.
- Proper mulching (Avoid the mulch volcanoes, which put additional stress on trees!!)
- In the fall, cleaning up and removing fallen leaves to reduce the source of inoculum.

We continue to see decline in many norway maples and evergreens like spruce and pine in town and in the entire Midwest. There are a number of reasons for this, most of which are untreatable, but it is still important to be aware of.

Many of the issues I deal with in town are a direct result of poor tree species selection at the time of planting. Selection of hardy, long lived species can save you money over the life of the tree. Consult an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist for specific site selection recommendations.

If you have any specific tree or plant questions, please contact your Village Forester, or consult The Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic at 630-719-2424.

Jonathan Yeater

Village of Westmont Public Works Foreman - Village Forester

Environmental Improvement Committee Liaison

ISA Certified Arborist # IL-4257ATM

ISA Certified Municipal Specialist

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified



Village of Westmont  
Public Works Department  
31 W. Quincy Street  
Westmont, IL 60559-1865  
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Email: [jyeater@westmont.il.gov](mailto:jyeater@westmont.il.gov)  
Website: [westmont.illinois.gov](http://westmont.illinois.gov)





## Westmont News: Environmental Improvement Committee

The Westmont Environmental Improvement Committee (EIC) was originally engaged in the late 1980's as a commission by then Mayor Frank Bellerive. Its charter was to investigate all manner of environmental issues of importance to Westmont, our neighboring communities and the world beyond.

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The environmental improvement commission will be responsible for developing programs to improve the relationship between village residents and businesses and their local environment. These programs will be enacted on a local level with the intent of the village to do its part to improve the global ecology.

Working in an advisory capacity, after deliberations on its findings the EIC could tender recommendations to the Village Board for consideration and potential action. Commission duties included specific assignments from the Village Board -

- evaluate provisions of waste hauling contracts for environmental impacts
- receiving presentations from insect control contractors concerning their proposed methods and materials applied during treatment cycles
- review the operational details and implications of Westmont operating its own recycling material recovery plant
- examine proposals for Westmont to direct our refuse to waste-to-energy conversion plants (ie. incinerators) and report a decision to the Board

In addition, the EIC worked on independent inquiries of sensitive subjects like the transportation of hazardous materials through the Village and the siting of regional nuclear reprocessing facilities.

Around 2011 the EIC was disbanded as part of overall budget restrictions. Subsequently several members participated in a request by the Mayor for an ad-hoc stormwater committee. A series of meetings to study problems, weigh solution options and set priorities culminated in furnishing a detailed report with recommendations to the Board, a number of which were subsequently adopted for implementation. These have reduced expensive damage from flooding in Westmont.

As the environment is an important topic in the Village of Westmont, both to its residents and the Village Board, on January 23, 2014, the Village Board approved the appointment of nine volunteers to the newly re-established

Environmental Improvement Committee. The group is always looking for engaged and passionate volunteers and all meetings are open to the public. The committee typically meets on the first Monday of each month, 6 p.m. at the Westmont Library, 428 N. Cass Avenue. Agendas are posted on the Village calendar. The focus is to discuss environmental concerns and how we can implement "green" initiatives in our community. EIC members are volunteers and are appointed for 3-year terms; input and participation by non-members from the public is welcome and appreciated.

The scope of activities of the 2nd phase of the EIC has included:

- taking steps to facilitate the use of residential and commercial solar power in Westmont
- offering information to the larger community through presentations at the Westmont Public Library on topics such as landscaping alternatives to turf grass for reducing the use of water and chemicals while fostering biodiversity, safer household cleaning products and lowering utility expenses
- esthetic improvements by reducing 'light pollution' which enhances the ability to appreciate dark skies while reducing energy use
- elimination of coal tar type pavement sealers for all municipal parking lots
- initiating specific environmental measures such as waste stream reduction, introducing curbside composting collection, clearance of invasive plant species, promotion of awareness of butterflies and pollinators, watershed protection, sales of various native plants, coordinating Earth Day projects with local schools
- professional engagement for fact based decision making through participation with the Mayors Metropolitan Caucus on an array of 'green' subjects, concentrated on mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, facilitating the use of alternate energy, introduction of 'green' municipal vehicles and minimizing the environmental impact of materials such as paving asphalt
- liaison, support and coordination with local environmental organizations including The Conservation Foundation, SCARCE, Cool DuPage and Sustain DuPage / EC3

Additional details can be found by visiting the EIC Green Page at [www.westmont.illinois.gov/green](http://www.westmont.illinois.gov/green)

## Westmont News: From the Village Board



Hello neighbors! I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather and making the best of it. Although most events are cancelled, we are fortunate to have so many parks and Forest Preserves near by. Please stay safe and continue to visit all of our businesses in town. Before I share a few highlights I would like to include a message from Mayor Gunter and our Police Chief...

(Editors note: The letter from Mayor Gunter and Westmont Police Chief Gunther can be found on page 10)

### **COVID-19 Village Impact**

It is safe to say Village revenues will take some time to recover. What does that mean for the Village? We have put a lot of capital projects and budgeted expenses on hold. We initiated a hiring freeze and continue to look for innovative ways to provide the services we are accustomed to for less. This does not happen overnight but for the first time since I have been on the board, we passed a "short term" budget allowing us to revisit everything in July. This will provide us with better projections on revenue expectations and give us time to

make the right decisions.

Unlike our state, Westmont operates on a balance budget and has a wide variety of revenue streams (hotel/motel tax, sales tax, places for eating, property etc.). I believe the diversification of our revenue streams and our 18 months of reserves puts us in a far better position than some of our neighbors. Should you have any questions on the budget or would like to share an idea with me, please call/email @ the contact info below.

Aside from the negative revenue impact, the Village Board collectively decided we wanted to help our residents and the business community as much as possible. Mayor Gunter asked me to Chair an incentive committee that dove into many possible solutions. After meeting with County and other local officials we put together a collective list of options. As a board we agreed to implement the following:

- **RESTAURANT OUTDOOR SEATING GRANT**

An initial \$76K earmarked to help restaurants with less than \$1.5M in revenue or located in the B-1 downtown central business district with a 75% grant reimbursement program (up to \$2K each). Details for the Westmont

(Continued on next page)

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## Westmont News: From the Village Board (continued)

Restaurant Outdoor Seating Grant Program and the application will be posted on the Westmont Economic Development Partnership website at [choosewestmont.com](http://choosewestmont.com).

- **WATER RATES ANNUAL SCHEDULED INCREASE POSTPONED**

Each May, local water rates are adjusted to reflect a previously approved rate schedule that is related to various infrastructure projects and maintenance. Per the approval of this program, the May 2020 water rate increase for both residential and commercial addresses has been put on hold.

- **COMMUTER PARKING FEES 2-MONTH CREDIT**

This is a one-time credit for two months of commuter parking fees and applies to all current commuter parking permit holders on their next renewal.

- **DUPAGE SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION OF \$24,000**

The Village of Westmont will continue to commit \$24,000 towards funding the DuPage Senior Citizens Council, which provides services such as Meals on Wheels. Westmont seniors are encouraged to take advantage of these services.

- **WESTMONT BUSINESS LICENSE PROGRAM FREE RENEWAL FOR 2021**

Each calendar year, Westmont businesses renew their business licenses with the Village of Westmont. This program allows free business license renewal for 2021.

- **PLACES FOR EATING TAX DEFERMENT UNTIL AUGUST 31**

This allows local businesses to defer payments of their Places For Eating Tax until August 31. Certain criteria must be met to qualify.

### **Westmont Community Garage Sale**

The annual Westmont Community Garage Sale is scheduled for August 7, 8 & 9. This is an event that encourages the entire community to host their garage sales on the same weekend so residents have many bargain-buying opportunities and options. Sales will be held from 8AM to 5PM on these dates. There will be no rain dates scheduled. No permit is necessary.



### **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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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 10, 2020

I, like the rest of the country, was horrified by the events that took place in Minnesota. This is completely unacceptable and we need to make sure that we are doing all that we can to ensure that something like this doesn't occur again. As your Mayor, I want to assure you that I will not tolerate discrimination of any kind and that our entire municipal organization, including our Police Department, is committed to serving all of our citizens and guests with respect and professionalism.

This past weekend, Chief Gunther and I joined an event in Westmont where citizens gathered to express themselves on the topic of racial injustice. We want to thank the organizers for coordinating this vigil and forum. We are eager to participate and assist our citizens in exercising their First Amendment Constitutional right.

The Village has received several emails from residents and others inquiring about our police department's policies. Their concern is whether the police department is embracing reform, and accountability mandates outlined by new national initiatives aimed at ensuring civilian safety. The Westmont Police Department already follows all of these protocols, either through State law, Department policy, or established Department best practices.

Chief Gunther signed the "10 Shared Principles" document on January 2, 2019, which was developed in cooperation with the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association and the NAACP. This pledge further defines law enforcement protocols to better ensure the safety of all citizens.

Our Police Department works actively throughout the year to engage with citizens and build trust-earned relationships, which ultimately results in effective and successful community policing. Some of these outreach programs include Citizens Police Academy, CPA Alumni Association, National Night Out, Westmont Police Department Open House, and Squad Car Night, as well as community service fundraisers such as paper shredding events, volleyball, movie night, and car washes benefiting Special Olympics Illinois, School Resource Officer program in our local schools, and a host of other programs.

Our Police Department participates in regular and on-going specific training regarding the important topics of Civil Rights, Constitutional and Proper Use of Law Enforcement Authority, Cultural Competency, Human Rights, Procedural Justice, and Use of Force. Currently, the Westmont Police Department is being reviewed as part of a state accreditation process to help ensure that our law enforcement organization adheres to the highest levels of excellence and established best practices.

Westmont Police officers have recently incorporated Crisis Intervention Training, a state sponsored 40 hours of instruction on methods of de-escalation, which increases positive outcomes in high-risk or mental health situations. Currently, 31 of 37 officers have completed this training.

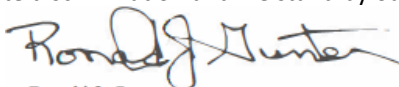
Westmont is one of only four agencies participating in a new pilot program, in cooperation with the DuPage County Health Department and the DuPage County Chiefs of Police Association. This program helps Westmont officers recognize individuals who are potentially experiencing a mental health crisis, and when appropriate, brings in social workers and health care professionals to address the issue and get necessary treatment to the individual more quickly.


Finally, the hiring process is a critical path through which the village can ensure police officers are committed to serving all of our residents to the best of their ability. Our Board of Fire and Police Commissioners consists of three appointed residents who have the responsibility of overseeing our hiring process. Candidates for hire experience rigorous testing, including polygraph examination, a thorough background investigation, comprehensive screening with neighbors and former employers, in-depth psychological evaluation, which includes a cultural competency and emotional stress analysis.

We understand there is always room for improvement. I can attest to the fact that Police Chief Jim Gunther and our Westmont Police Department are motivated to be the best they can be. With all of their training and continuing improvements, we are always challenging ourselves to be even better.

Police Chief Gunther and I have signed this letter together in order to express our unity in regard to this message. Westmont does not tolerate discrimination and we stand by our oaths of office to ensure that we serve all of our citizens fairly and equally.

Sincerely,

  
Ronald J. Gunter  
Mayor of Westmont

  
James Gunther  
Westmont Chief of Police





# Westmont News: From the Westmont Business Community

## Westmont Economic Development Update

While COVID-19 has affected all aspects of our lives, economic development projects in Westmont continue at a robust pace. Construction has been identified as an essential industry, thus, projects continue moving forward. Following are updates on both new and on-going development projects in Westmont:

- **11 West Ogden Avenue: Windy City Cannabis:** Windy City Cannabis has expressed that they intend to move forward with opening their business, subject to acquiring a State of Illinois dispensary license.
- **100 West Ogden Avenue - Lincoln Dealership:** The Village is working with the business owner on planned improvements and modernization to this facility including the construction of a second-floor addition. The Lincoln dealership operated by the Iozzo Family opened in Westmont in 1954!
- **One North Cass Avenue:** The Village was able to hold a public hearing on June 10th which will be continued for further input on July 8th. The proposal for a multi-story, mixed-use building at One North Cass will be considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- **One West Quincy Street - Quincy Station:** The developer has started construction on this 94-unit luxury apartment project. The anticipated grand opening is December 2021.
- **63rd Street and Cass Avenue Site - Market Center:** The developer is continuing construction on two buildings -- one building is for a single-tenant retail business and the other building is designed for multiple tenants. One of the spaces is intended to be a drive-through Starbucks. The third building, an LA Fitness Signature Club, is near ready for the opening. Two additional buildings are also planned for future construction on this property.
- **63rd Street and Cass Avenue - Burger King:** Construction was just recently on the Burger King located at 63rd and Cass. The new building, which will incorporate Burger King's new corporate design and customer service features, is now open for business.
- **303 West Ogden Avenue - Medical Office:** Construction of the medical office building on this site is on-going. Estimated completion in the winter of 2022.
- **408-420 North Cass Avenue – Townhomes:** Construction on this townhome project is on-going, homes are not on the market available for sale and to occupy in 2020. Phase II of this project just recently began just west on the existing townhomes.
- **700 Oakmont Lane - Oakmont Point:** Construction on the westerly building is nearing completion and construction plans for the easterly building are under review. When complete we will have a three-building office campus with Class A office space.
- **257 North Cass Avenue - Nature's Best:** Nature's Best will be proposing a surface parking lot on Linden Avenue to provide for additional parking for this local business.
- **15 East Ogden Avenue - Las Palmas:** Las Palmas continues renovation of their new location; a grand opening is expected in July.
- **700 Blackhawk Drive - FMC Natatorium at Ty Warner Park:** Construction on this facility is on-going; the grand opening is being planned for this summer.
- **Village Parking on Lincoln Street:** The Village is working on plans to create a municipal parking lot in the first block of Lincoln Avenue north of the railroad tracks. This parking will replace parking at Burlington and Cass Avenue and increase overall parking capacity for our Downtown B-1 Business district. This is also in keeping with the Village of Westmont Strategic Plan approved in 2016 that gives direction to expand our business district both east and west of Cass Avenue. This also allows for our most valuable property along Cass Avenue to be developed for its highest and best use when parking is moved from Cass Avenue over time.

## SHOP WESTMONT: COVID-19 Impact on

### Economic Development & Business Community

Westmont has been working hard to bring new projects to the community as well as help existing businesses succeed. The COVID-19 pandemic has created unique challenges for new economic development projects across the country. To ensure the success of our local economy, it is important for our residents to support both our existing and new businesses. We encourage everyone to SHOP DINE and DISCOVER ALL THINGS WESTMONT during this unprecedented time. A listing of restaurants in Westmont that are open for business can be found on the Westmont Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.westmontchamber.com/westmont-restaurant-curb-side-and-delivery.html>

**Questions or Ideas:** For more information, recommendations or potential project leads regarding Village of Westmont Economic Development, please contact Larry Forssberg at [lforssberg@westmont.il.gov](mailto:lforssberg@westmont.il.gov) Teamwork and communication are always the best ways to help a community continue to be strong as well as a great place to live and enjoy.

### **Westmont High School and Westmont Junior High School**

Congratulations to the Westmont High School and Westmont Junior High School class of 2020. It is still possible to view the virtual graduation and celebrate these young people.

Congratulations to Westmont High School Valedictorians Trishia Mae Cueto and Griffin Chapman and Salutarians Rachel Padgitt and Anika Bhoopalam.

### **Westmont High School Wins DuFour Award**

Solution Tree, an educational publisher and professional development provider, named Westmont High School the winner of the fifth annual DuFour Award. The award is given to one school that is identified as high performing and a model professional learning community or PLC.

To be considered for the award, schools must complete a rigorous application process. Westmont High School's application included multiple essays, a video highlighting the school's work as a high performing PLC, data that demonstrated the school's commitment to continuous improvement and evidence of researched based teaching practices.

Mike Mattos, a best-selling author and PLC expert, had high praise for the school, explaining, "Westmont truly embodies the spirit of a professional learning community. Their passion for every team member's success—students and staff—is very obvious."

Westmont High School's recognition is the result of the commitment and hard work of administration, teachers, staff and students. This is one of the most prestigious awards a school can receive.

The DuFour award is named in honor of the late Dr. Richard DuFour. An award winning educator and best-selling author, Dr. DuFour was recognized as one of the leading authorities on the PLC at Work process. In addition to the award, Westmont High School received a \$25,000 check from Solution Tree.

### **C3 Day at JT Manning Feb 2020**

"What does it really mean to be kind anyway?"

This question was part of a read aloud from the book *Be Kind* Pat Zietlow Miller during Creating a Compassionate Community Day (C3 Day) at J.T. Manning Elementary School February 5, 2020. In the book when a classmate; Tanisha, felt embarrassed the author's voice asks us this simple yet

complex question. It is a question that needs to be asked again and again. We see the need for it in hallways, playgrounds, and lunch rooms across our schools among our youngest. We also see the need for it in the current political discourse, enemy making, & alliance building that so often happens among adults. The answer is not always easy to discern and requires more than pen to paper thoughts. It requires action taken in real life. What does it mean to be kind? And can we arrive at a definition apart of our interactions with actual people in our lives? Manning School leadership is unafraid to start these important conversations.

C3Day was an attempt to continue and expand the Social Emotional Learning at J.T. Manning. The day was a culmination of months of planning by a team of parents; with much teacher input, that wanted to craft meaningful and fun ways for adults in our community to be more involved in the school community. The goal of the day was not just to have a one-time big event but to continue the good and hard work the teachers and school leaders are doing day in and out. The idea for C3 Day was birthed from School Improvement Plan meetings over the summer that invited parents, educators, and administrators to dream big and dive deep into how they can improve the school community. One result was this half day experience that implemented a customized and multi-faceted program that included a read aloud, hands on activities, a "Compassion Quest" with scenarios and stops throughout the building, and a celebration assembly to help our students share in learning about compassion and caring for each other.

The school's principal Ms. Lindsay Pietrzak was integral to making the day a success and shared, "(C3 Day was) a true example of what it means by 'It Takes a Village.'" To have over 40 adults support our educators in our mission to develop kindness and compassion in each of our students is a testament to how unique this district is." Laura Coyle; a community parent volunteer and school board member praised Manning's principal Ms. Pietrzak "for championing this creativity and innovation in her school." Mrs. Roth; a kindergarten teacher led a stop on the Compassion Quest and helped facilitate discussions for not just her students but all grade levels around how students might think creativity about including a new student during lunch. She shared, "My kindergarten students LOVED their day!" Her students processed the day and responses included, "I love the quest because you can move around." Another student said "I love the assembly because it was loud and everyone was there." C3 Day focused on the entire school community and building on the sense of team and togetherness.