

The Oak Leaf

Quarterly Newsletter for the Oakwood Homeowners Association

Oakwood News: President's Message



As the year lumbers on, I'm starting to think that the Australian wildfires won't be what defined 2020 for most of us.

Generally in the fall we like to remind people to be more mindful of students coming and going from the High School and Jr. High. We talk about how great the Fishing Derby/Beach Party was, and how we're getting ready for another shot at the all-new Oaktoberfest and prepping for the Halloween Party. We'll say a few words about any changes to the Board after the Annual Meeting, and insert a lame joke about how yes, I'm still on the Board, and somehow yes, I'm still President.

Not this year though, or at least not in the same way.

Don't get me wrong... I'm still on the Board and I'm still President... 2020 isn't getting THAT crazy! Some of these other things will hopefully still come to pass, and we still have plenty to talk about.

For starters, since I joined the Board, what, 20 years

ago (I only moved in to Oakwood 16 years ago, but I was probably on the Board before then, right?), we've been talking about how dark it is on the south side of Oakwood. The short version of why this is is a story most of you have heard (repeatedly): at a point in time before Phase III was built, the Village offered to put in street lights or to help with individual gas lamps at the Phase I and Phase II residences (everything south of the schools). The residents opted for the home lamps. Oops. After a number of years, the majority of them ceased to function, and some were refitted with electric or solar power sources, but overwhelmingly the neighborhood is dark. This has been the inspiration for several articles and cries for help to find a resource that can help with retrofitting them, which has proven surprisingly difficult to do. At the risk of getting everyone's hopes up, we may have found someone though, and that someone might be interested in doing some volume discounts if we get enough homeowners engaged. How much is that volume discount? Well, I don't know just yet... it depends on doing more of an analysis and knowing how many people might be

(Continued on page 16)

HEY! Oakwood Specific News in this Issue!

- Oakwood Adopt-A-Planter
- Cul-de-sac developments
- Lake Management Committee

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Each section has been wiped down and sterilized.

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Homeowners Association
of Westmont

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Oakwood Homeowners Association

4 East Ogden Avenue # 313

Westmont, IL 60559

www.Oakwoodha.org

Oakwood News: Planted

OHA Sponsors Westmont Planter

Last issue we showed you our contribution to Westmont's Adopt-A-Planter program. This summer has been good to our "little" plant, which is grown into a beautiful piece in the corner of Cass and Quincy in front of the Westmont Centre.

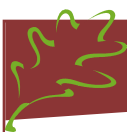
The Village added the plaque (pictured), and has been caring for the plants.

Thank you to Carol Johnson and to Yvette Johnson for making this happen!

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

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





Oakwood Community Contribution

Oakwood Home Prices are Too Low

Oakwood is a great neighborhood with nice houses, a beautiful lake, easy access to about any direction you would want to go, and with some of the very best schools in the state. You have to ask then why are Oakwood homes always selling below comparable homes in neighboring towns? I asked a couple of real estate agents and consistently got the same answers. First, Oakwood only has streetlights on Oakwood Drive and those lights are fairly far apart. As a result, Oakwood depends primarily on pole and house lights to light up the neighborhood at night. It is unfortunate, but many homeowners have let their pole lights go into disrepair or have even taken them out entirely. The result is apparent if you drive around Oakwood at night. Many sections of Oakwood are dark, often with numerous houses in a row without any outside lighting. If you have a gas light that doesn't work, it's not complicated to repair it, or another option would be to convert it to low voltage electrical dusk to dawn light which will only cost pennies a month to run.

The second reason the real estate agents give is that our neighborhood does not do a very good job of presenting its best image! People wanting to buy a house visit Oakwood and are not impressed by a neighborhood where people store trash in their front yards. Go take a walk and count the number of homeowners in Oakwood who permanently store their trash cans either in front of their homes or on the side of the house where they are always visible from the street. Every neighborhood surrounding Oakwood has the same size trash cans but for some reason this appears to be an Oakwood problem.

Please, let us show the world what kind of neighborhood Oakwood really is. Let your pole light shine and have pride in your home by putting your trash out of sight!

Jerry Harlow
Oakwood Resident

Your Neighborhood Realtor Jon Rodriguez

*9 Year Resident
of Oakwood*



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Cul-de-sac Pollination Garden: Pilot Project

Thank you for all of the inquiries regarding the pollination garden on the Oakwood Drive cul-de-sac. The landscape committee has been working with the Village of Westmont to incorporate native plants into Oakwood's common areas.

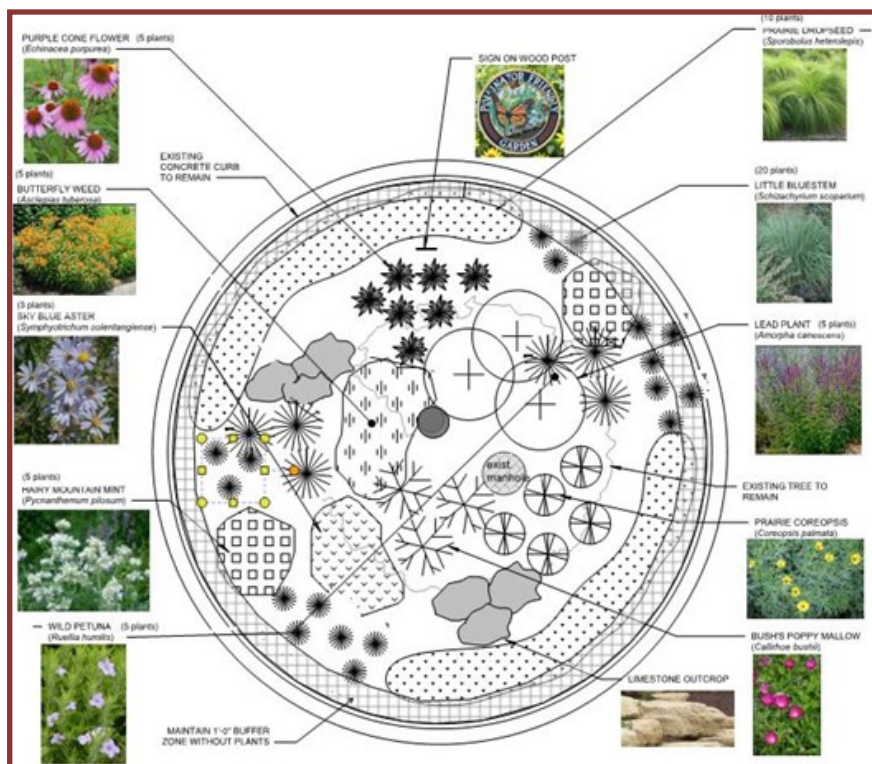
The story begins when I met with Jon (The Village of Westmont Arborist) per his request back in the Spring of 2018. I was the new landscape committee volunteer and Jon had some concerns that he wished to discuss. He volunteered to drive around the subdivision together to discuss his items of concern. Jon pointed out items of concern, such as the volcano mulching at the parkway trees. This time of mulching practice slowly strangles the trees of nutrients trees need to grow. I myself was a guilty party-- I love mulch and the more the better, right? However, I learned that too much mulch (more than 4") can prevent essential nutrients from getting to a plant's root system and can potentially kill the plant. I also asked him about the little green bags around the new parkway trees. Jon informed me that these are called "TREEGATOR" bags and while the village does provide them, the homeowners are responsible to maintain them (filling them with water) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgOTRqF4oA> . If water pours out while you are filling the bag, you are likely doing it wrong. The

water is to be added through the opening behind the label. Each homeowner can remove the bag when the tree's root system has developed. You could store this in your garage to never see the light of day again or the landscape committee would be happy to have them.

As we were driving around talking trees and such, Jon mentioned that grassed lawns do not offer much for the



balance of native plants, insects and animals. Native flowering plants have been replaced by lawns and do not provide a good habitat for bees and butterflies; pollinators crucial to our native, healthy ecosystem. Jon shared that the village is implementing pollination gardens in some of the common areas throughout the village to save on maintenance costs. We happened to drive by a cul-de-sac in Oakwood, and I asked if the grass cul-de-sacs could be replaced with these pollinator habitats he mentioned? Jon explained that was absolutely an option. While the Village of Westmont owns the cul-de-sac lawn areas, it is the responsibility of the HOA to maintain them. He suggested drawing up a landscape plan to be discussed in detail and approved by the Village. (below)



I took it upon myself to do the research and look into the details of forming a native pollination garden. This type of space is much different from buying typical annual flowers and planting them each Spring. Low and behold, there is a plethora of information available on the subject. Here is one great resource:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/pollinator-pockets#>

I learned what plants were native, drought

Oakwood News: Landscape Committee



and clay resistant, as well as what is a good food source for native caterpillars/butterflies. I compiled my research, drew up my plans and shared them with Jon. Jon had some helpful input regarding edge offsets, species spacing, and hardscapes (rocks are not allowed in these areas). With his insights, I went back to the drawing board and with some alternations and compromises (he allowed the flagstone accent outcropping) my drawings were approved. The REAL work could now begin.

The conversion from grass lawn to a pollinator garden is a three part process.

Step One: Off the grass. This sounded easy enough because I have killed plenty lawns in the past without even trying. I started with a concentrated herbicide, added the recommended amount of water and applied directly to the lawn. I started this process the first week in March. Six weeks and four applications later the grass was no longer.

Step two: Mulch. Now, this is in my wheelhouse since I have 1-800 MULCHIT on speed dial. With the help of a neighbor friend, Tom Carr (who honestly did most of the work), the mulch was spread within an hour.

Step Three: Plant the native plant plugs. There is cost savings to using seeds vs. plants, however with my inexperience, I was afraid of deciphering the plants we wanted (from seeds) vs. unwanted weeds. With all that was going on at that time, I possibly ordered a little too late and/or there was limited availability during this odd year to the amount of species available. The plants went in smoothly and I only had to rearrange a few due to sun exposure. As you probably know, young plants need A LOT of water (and frequently), given the shortage of rain this Summer. This has proved to be the most labor-intensive part of the process. I have created a "water wagon" I roll from our house and the surrounding neighbors have also volunteered to water with their hoses as well. This is truly in the spirit of a neighborhood garden, and I appreciate all their help.

As with all landscaping, patience is a virtue. In the years to come, the need for maintenance should decline while the growth, beauty and effectiveness of this natural preserve should improve. This will create an asset for us as residences to enjoy as well as some cost savings in the long run. It also provides our natural neighbors a place to live and thrive in our shared environment.

Jason Hawkins
OHA Landscape Chair



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Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

OHA / DuPage County Grant Project to Improve

Water Quality

For the past 21 years DuPage County has been providing grant money for projects that create improvement in water quality. DuPage County allotted \$300,500 for qualifying projects in 2020. Projects, like that of the OHA, must contain three components:

1. Improve water quality commonly by reducing or eliminating polluting runoff into lakes and streams.
2. Preserve the shoreline by using native plants.
3. Educate the general public on improving water quality.

The OHA was provided a GRANT from the County on a project to improve water quality and increase the stability of a 100-foot section of the lake shoreline owned by the Association. Almost 1000 native shoreline and water plants have been installed in the northern section of the Eastern Shoreline Path.

Blue Flag Iris (76)	Crested oval Sedge (76)
Tussock Sedge (76)	River Bank Sedge (152)
Cord Grass (38)	Switch Grass (38)
Virginia Wild Rye (38)	Prairie Coreopsis (38)
Big Blue Stem (114)	Sago (100)
Water Celery (100)	Three Square Rush (100)

DuPage County news release - July 21st

Stormwater Management Awards Water Quality Grant Funding.

The following two paragraphs of text from the DuPage County news release mentions the Oakwood Homeowners Association's shoreline stabilization project very favorably.

"While many of the projects are just kicking off, the Village of Clarendon Hill's and Oakwood Homeowners' Association's projects are nearing completion. Clarendon Hills is currently reconstructing their train station and improving the downtown corridor. Among those improvements is the instillation of green infrastructure for which they received \$90,000 from the County. Likewise, the County granted the Oakwood Homeowners' Association \$500 to stabilize a portion of Lake Charles, which falls in the Salt Creek Watershed."

"It's nice to receive – and award – a mix of applications from both government and private entities," said Zay. "Although small in comparison, the Oakwood Homeowners' Association project will have a big impact on water quality both in their area and the surrounding watershed. It's also a great example for other HOAs of how to leverage community support and planning of local projects to receive public funds."

James Zay is a member of the DuPage County Board and the DuPage County Stormwater Management Committee Chairman.



The OHA is on Facebook. Follow us at

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

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

Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

What are you doing out there on the lake?

We hear that a lot this time of year. The curiosity is understandable since we are rowing a boat around the perimeter of the lake and anchoring periodically. Obviously, we are busy doing something but clearly we aren't fishing. What's going on is water quality monitoring. Twice a month from May through October, we take a good look at the lake, the plants and the wildlife to assess the health and changes going on in the lake and its surrounding environment.

As we row along the shoreline we are looking for plants and animals, in and out of the water, and making notes of our observations on forms that we eventually submit to the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program which is funded by the Illinois EPA. There are 3 locations on the lake where we drop anchor to test the water quality: the deepest spot on the lake, and a central location in each of the south and west bays.

First we measure water clarity using a secchi disk (provided by the VLMP) which is lowered into the lake until it is no longer visible. Conductivity, dissolved solids and pH level is measured from water samples both at the surface and at 2' above the lake bottom. We also measure dissolved oxygen and water temperature every two feet throughout the water column using a Hach HQ series meter with a LDO probe (provided by the VLMP). These measurements are taken at all 3 sites along with checking the depth at each location. Finally, we check the lake level, wind direction, wave formation

and amount of cloud cover. We had been taking monthly water samples in years past, that we'd send off to a downstate lab to be analyzed for suspended solids, phosphorus, nitrogen, alkalinity, chloride and chlorophyll, but for the past 2 years Illinois cut the VLMP's budget and they no longer can afford the costs of shipping and analysis.

Oakwood reaps benefits from this volunteer effort. Because we have been involved in this data collection effort for such a long time, we have more than 20 years of data on the lake. The data show how the lake has fared over the years. These days we see more and varied wildlife and more and varied plants. We are very happy to see Longleaf Pondweed and Horned Pondweed establishing in the west bay and Water Plantain along the shoreline. Additionally, through the efforts of the LMC and Oakwood homeowners, we have added many new beneficial plants along the Eastern Shoreline and 16 aerators which really kick-started great improvements in the lake's health and oxygen availability.

Lake Charles is a wonderful benefit to our neighborhood, especially in these pandemic times. Enjoy an afternoon of fishing for bass, crappies, catfish and bluegill, or take a stroll along the Eastern Shoreline Path and pause at one of the benches for some time to reflect on the beauty of nature.

Darlene Garay

ADVERTISE HERE

For information on how to advertise in the Oak Leaf please email 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 7.5" 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!

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Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

Boats on Lake Charles

All Boats on Lake Charles MUST be registered with the OHA and display a Red and White decal. Registration is FREE!



The application form is available from the OHA web site as part of the Rules for Common Area at www.oakwoodha.org, or can be requested by mail at OHA Lake Management, 4 E. Ogden Ave., #313, Westmont, IL 60559.

Protecting our Lake Charles

Hey Oakwood homeowners!

We have a fabulous feature in our neighborhood: Lake Charles

Some of you have enjoyed it this year. Some of you might not know it's there (I hope you know of it! Our beach and Eastern shoreline provide open access to the homeowners who don't have shoreline properties)

Lake Charles is here for everyone to enjoy!

Whether you have a shoreline property (and especially for those that do), please keep in mind that stormy seasons can cause flooding risks to EVERYONE in Oakwood. The lake is a big retention pond but it can get easily plugged up.

Some simple things to do to avoid issues for yourself and your neighbors:

1. Keep street drains clean of foliage and trash (that water flows into Lake Charles)
2. Keep boats, paddle boards, kayaks (, etc) tied up. If they float away, they "plug" the outlet and flooding will result.
3. Keep toys, planters, paddles, and cushions secured by your homes, as well as anything that can fly or float away in a storm, as these also plug the outlet.

While I'm at it, please avoid letting plastic bags, bottles, cans, and other items from finding their way into the lake. We have a lot of frogs, turtles, ducks, and even some minks that can be strangled or injured by those items. Help protect our wild species!

Thank you!

Denise Hayes

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Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

Important Functions of Plants In and Around Lakes

Submergent and emergent plants

- Plants produce leaves and stems that fuel an immense food web
- Aquatic plants produce oxygen through photosynthesis and the oxygen is released into lake water
- Submerged and emergent plants provide underwater cover for fish, amphibians, birds, insects and many other organisms
- Underwater plants provide a surface for algae and bacteria to adhere to. These important microorganisms break down polluting nutrients and chemicals in lake water and are an important source of food for organisms higher in the food chain
- Emergent plants break the energy of waves with their multitude of flexible stems, lessening the water's impact on banks and thus preventing erosion

- Plants stabilize bottom sediments, which otherwise can be resuspended by current and wave action. This reduces turbidity and nutrient cycling in the lake

Shoreline and upland plants

- Shoreline and upland plants provide food and cover for a variety of birds, amphibians, insects and mammals above the water
- The extensive root systems of shoreline plants stabilize lake-bank soils against pounding waves
- Plants growing on upland slopes that reach down to lakes hold soil in place against the eroding forces of water running over the ground; and help keep lake water clean
- Upland plants absorb nutrients, like phosphorus and nitrogen, found in fertilizers and animal waste, which in excessive concentrations are lake pollutants

Welcome to My Lakeshore Home by Carrol Henderson, LakeLine, Vol. 21, No. 2, a pub. of NALMS

CORD GRASS

Grows in clumps from 4 to 7 foot tall. Flowers July thru August with straw colored flowers. Wet to dry soil.



BLUE FLAG IRIS

Grows close to 2 – 3 foot in height near the edge of the shoreline. Blue flag Iris is viewable from most of the Eastern Shoreline path. Violet-Blueish flowers in May thru June.



River Bank Sedge

River bank Sedge is a very common sedge found along rivers, streams and lakes. Yet threatened in some parts of the country. Grows in with thick root system that are sod forming near the water and in the water. Grows up to four foot high.



BIG BLUE STEM

Big Blue Stem is a tall prairie plant that can grow four to six feet tall. This tall prairie grass is planted up the hill from the north bench. A purplish bloom can be seen from September to January. Drought tolerant and extensive root system for erosion control.



SWITCH GRASS

Grows to 3 foot or taller in medium to wet soils, Pink edges bloom in July through February. Switch Grass is both flood and drought tolerant. This grass has an extensive root system.



CRESTED OVAL SEDGE

Crested Oval Sedge grows in clumps 1-3 foot in height. Light green grass like Leaves grow to about 17 inches long. Maintenance: Cut foliage to the ground in late winter.



Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

My Butterfly Summer

I've loved butterflies all my life. I knew Monarchs needed milkweed to survive and about 10 years ago I started cultivating some milkweed in my front yard. The plants grew well, and the flowers were always fragrant (like hyacinths), but I never caught a glimpse of any Monarch caterpillars!

Actually, there were clues that they'd BEEN there, as I would see small holes on the leaves, but I never spotted a single butterfly caterpillar...

Not until this year, that is... One of the benefits of the work I do is that I can do it remotely. When the Coronavirus quarantines started, I would take breaks outside, and one day I saw those beautiful caterpillars munching away on the milkweed plants. How exciting!!! That is, until one day soon afterwards when I saw one that had some slimy threads hanging from it, and with a tiny maggot swinging down from the slimy thread! The maggots had killed my beautiful caterpillar! UGH!!!

That's when I learned about Tachinid flies.

Tachinid flies are actually beneficial insects: they kill Japanese beetles, wasps, and other insects. Unfortunately, they are indiscriminate: their eggs

hatch and kill both good and bad insects.

So... how to protect my caterpillars and yet permit the Tachinid flies to do their work?

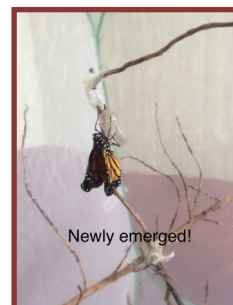
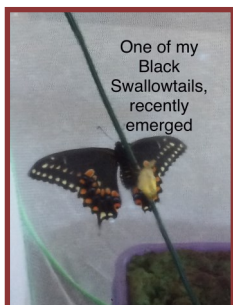
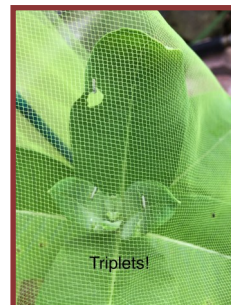
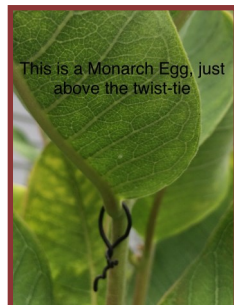
I figured out a solution! I went to the fabric store and purchased yards of colorful "illusion" netting, the kind used for bridal veils and tutus. I made shrouds for the plants with caterpillars, and then ended up double-shrouding them after seeing a wasp attack and kill a caterpillar through a single layer of netting. The double shroud trick worked, keeping those evil wasps from getting to my babies.

I have enjoyed seeing at least a dozen Monarchs transform from egg to caterpillar to butterfly, and 5 black swallowtail butterflies as well! (Swallowtails like parsley)

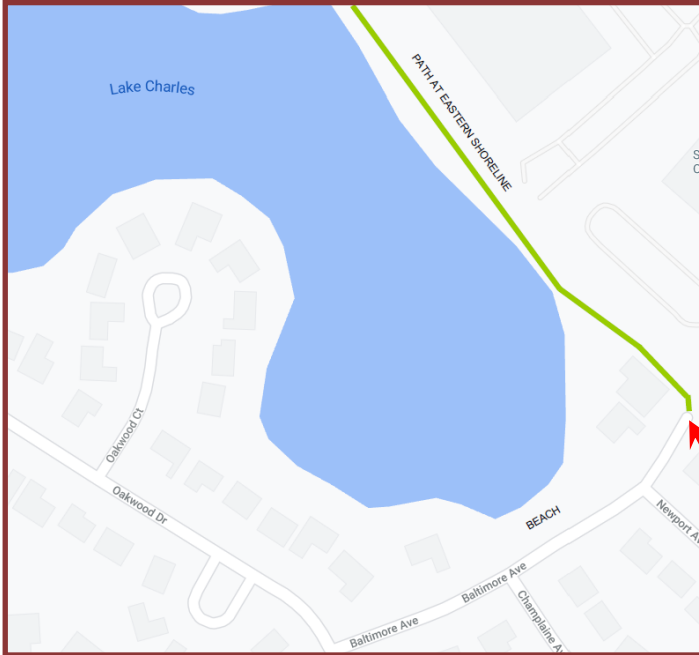
It's been a very satisfying and successful Monarch summer for me. I've taken lots of photos and every time I release a butterfly, I feel like I'm helping to make a difference.

I hope to have even greater success next year, since I now know how to help these beautiful creatures.

Denise Hayes
LMC Member



Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee



Eastern Shoreline Path

Oakwood owns and maintains a thousand-foot rustic path bordering the South-Eastern portion of Lake Charles. The entrance to the Eastern Shoreline path is at the East end of Baltimore Avenue. Take a left down the path when you get to this sign. You will find two fishing piers, two benches and a spectacular view of Lake Charles. Yes, Lake Charles is stocked with several types of fish, including channel cat fish, largemouth bass, and striped bass. Try fishing at either of the two fishing piers.



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Oakwood News: Quarterly Market Outlook



Hello Oakwood,

And just like that, here comes Fall. As we move through what is by far one of the most challenging years we have seen, the housing market is actually recovering quite well. Following an understandably sluggish 2nd quarter, homebuying has been on the rise over the last two months, with some markets seeing record breaking sales. While Westmont's recovery has been slower, it is definitely trending upward. New listings in Westmont were down almost 50% as recently as May, and as of July have seen an 8.7% increase. Although more new listings are coming on the market, the overall inventory of detached homes for sale in Westmont remains very low. Down 60.8% in July alone, compared to last

year. While buyer interest is high, it's becoming increasingly difficult to find a home to purchase. For anyone who has thought about selling, our current market is clearly in your favor.

Westmont July 2020

+8.7%

Change in
New Listings
All Properties

-18.4%

Change in
Closed Listings
All Properties

-24.5%

Change in
Inventory of Homes
All Properties

Detached Single Family

	July			Trailing 12 Months		
	7-2019	7-2020	+ / -	7-2019	7-2020	+ / -
New Listings	31	28	-9.7%	391	279	-28.6%
Under Contract (includes contingent and pending)	15	30	+100.0%	204	197	-3.4%
Closed Sales	24	21	-12.5%	210	179	-14.8%
Median Sales Price*	\$270,000	\$340,000	+25.9%	\$324,500	\$315,000	-2.9%
Average Sales Price*	\$313,690	\$348,500	+11.1%	\$344,833	\$348,360	+1.0%
Percent of Original List Price Received*	95.0%	96.3%	+1.4%	94.8%	95.1%	+0.3%
Average Market Time	74	83	+12.2%	70	92	+31.4%
Inventory of Homes for Sale at Month End	79	31	-60.8%	--	--	--

Attached Single Family

	July			Trailing 12 Months		
	7-2019	7-2020	+ / -	7-2019	7-2020	+ / -
New Listings	15	22	+46.7%	174	172	-1.1%
Under Contract (includes contingent and pending)	12	14	+16.7%	107	88	-17.8%
Closed Sales	14	10	-28.6%	110	89	-19.1%
Median Sales Price*	\$167,750	\$173,500	+3.4%	\$203,000	\$193,500	-4.7%
Average Sales Price*	\$198,964	\$198,850	-0.1%	\$229,212	\$218,790	-4.5%
Percent of Original List Price Received*	96.4%	96.3%	-0.1%	96.5%	94.7%	-1.9%
Average Market Time	37	91	+145.9%	51	81	+58.8%
Inventory of Homes for Sale at Month End	31	52	+67.7%	--	--	--

*Does not account for seller concessions. | Activity for one month can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.

Selling Your House This Fall

5 Tips to Make Your House Look Like Home To Buyers

- 1. Clean everything.** A clean house will allow buyers to picture themselves in the space and not be distracted.
- 2. Give every room a purpose.** Even if you use it as bonus room, clear room identity helps buyers visualize.
- 3. Declutter your house.** Thinning out your closets and pantry will show how much room is available.
- 4. Let the light in.** Bright rooms feel warm and inviting. Replace all light bulbs with high efficiency LED's.
- 5. Update your paint.** A fresh coat of paint in a neutral tone goes a long way to help sell your house faster and for top dollar.

Bottom Line

There are simply not enough homes for sale today. If you're current home no longer meets your family's needs, there are plenty of buyers that may be looking for a home just like yours.

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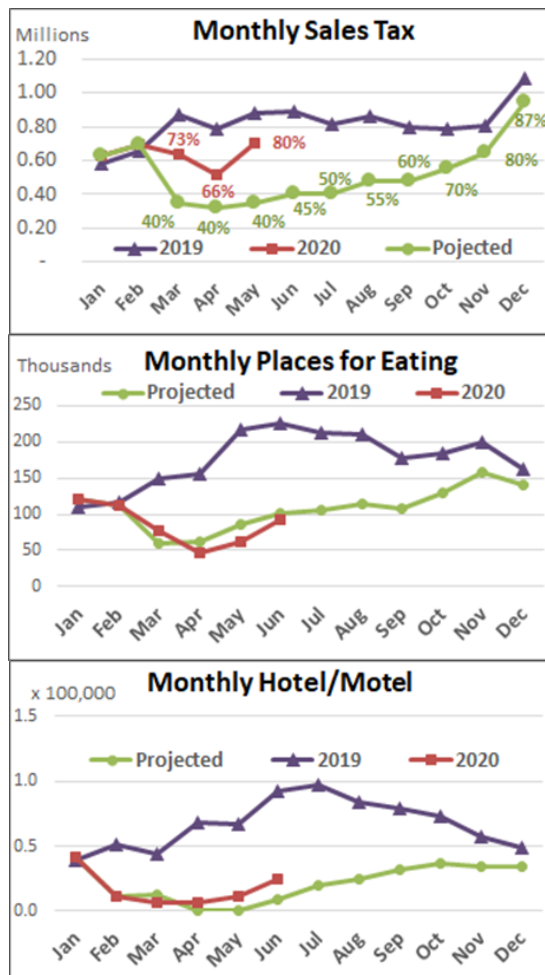
Westmont News: From the Village Board



Hello neighbors! I hope everyone is enjoying the rest of summer and had a great Labor Day weekend. Please stay safe and continue to visit all of our businesses in town. Here are a few updates...

COVID-19 Village Impact Update

As many have asked, I wanted to share a Village financial update. In addition to putting many capital projects and budgeted expenses on hold, the Village continues to have a hiring freeze in place. On the bright side, Village monthly sales tax and hotel/motel tax revenues have come in higher than anticipated. Ultimately, reducing the stain on the Village budget. I am not saying we are out of the woods yet, just in a better position than expected. Furthermore, this past quarter the Village also learned DuPage County will be reimbursing \$1.3M in COVID expenses reimbursement (with the help of Federal funds). Again, helping offset the budgeted shortfall.



Upcoming Election & Vote By Mail

Nearly 100,000 voters have already applied for Vote By Mail Ballots in DuPage County for the Nov. 3, 2020 election. Voters choosing the Vote By Mail Ballot option for the 2020 General Election in DuPage County are encouraged to apply now. All DuPage registered voters were sent Vote By Mail applications earlier this month. Applications can be completed and dropped in a mailbox – no postage required. I have voted by mail for a couple of years and really appreciate the convenience. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to reach out.

Voters may also fill out their [Vote By Mail application online](https://www.dupageco.org/Election/VoteByMail) (<https://www.dupageco.org/Election/VoteByMail>). Vote By Mail Ballots will be mailed out starting Sept. 24th. It may take four to five business days to receive a ballot after that date. An insert with simple instructions will accompany each Vote By Mail Ballot. Voters who applied early are encouraged to complete their Vote By Mail Ballots shortly after receiving them, then drop them in the mail – no postage required.

Census Takers in Oakwood

Starting last month, census takers will start visiting homes in Oakwood that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. Census takers will interview households to record your census data. Census takers will make up to six attempts at each housing unit address to count possible residents. This includes leaving notification of the attempted visit on the door. The notification will include reminder information on how to respond online, by paper or by phone. In addition, census workers may try to reach the household by phone to conduct the interview.

What To Expect:

Census takers will wear masks and follow local public health guidelines when they visit your home. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.

Census takers are hired from your area, and their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in

(Continued on next page)

Westmont News: From the Village Board

the 2020 Census. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language.

If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response. The online portal will close at the end of September.

What a Census Taker Will or Won't Do

A Census Taker WILL:

- Carry a white, government-issued ID card with official U.S. Census Bureau seal and their name handwritten on it and/or a black shoulder bag with "U.S. Census Bureau" written on it.
- Introduce themselves and show you the confidentiality statement.
- Census takers will have a flashcard containing a sentence about the 2020 Census written in approximately 50 languages.
- If asked, provide contact information for a supervisor and/or the Local Census Office for verification.
- Ask only the questions that are on the questionnaire.

A Census Taker WILL NOT:

- Ask to enter your home.
- Ask about your Social Security number or immigration status.
- Ask for your income, bank account number, or other financial information.
- Ask for PINs or passwords.
- Ask for a donation or money.

How Can You Verify That Someone Is a Census Taker?

If someone visits your home this year to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

If you still have questions about their identity, you can speak with a Census Bureau representative by calling (312) 579-1500.

Westmont Fire Dept. Receives \$220K in Grants

On August 11th, U.S. Representative Sean Casten announced that the Westmont Fire Department had been awarded a second Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), in the amount of \$181,818.00, from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Westmont Fire Department received a \$38,205.00 COVID-19 Supplemental AFG earlier this summer making the combined amount \$220K!



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



Interested?

There's an effort to facilitate an Oakwood Neighborhood Watch. Contact us at info@oakwoodha.org for information.

Westmont News: From the Village Communications Dept.

Communication is important to the Village of Westmont. We encourage citizens to visit our Village of Westmont website at westmont.illinois.gov for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Following are some of the current headlines and links to the full story.

The links below are accessible through the PDF version of this newsletter at www.oakwoodha.org/oakwood-news.html, or by typing in the URL address under them.

WorkNet DuPage Provides Assistance for Workers Impacted by COVID-19

WorkNet DuPage is currently providing free job training, rent assistance and other supportive services here in DuPage County.

[Read on...](https://westmont.illinois.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1251) <https://westmont.illinois.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1251>

WSEC Plans Modified Halloween Events

Westmont Special Events has planned for a modified Wicked West Fest Costume Contest and Halloween Decorating Contest.

[Read on...](https://westmont.illinois.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1244) <https://westmont.illinois.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1244>

Paper Shred Event for Special Olympics Oct. 17

Westmont PD and Docu-Shred, will co-host their annual paper shredding fundraiser for Special Olympics Illinois.

[Read on...](https://westmont.illinois.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1243) <https://westmont.illinois.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1243>

To make sure you are staying current with Village information, sign up for NOTIFY ME and receive updates regarding news releases, agenda postings, and calendar entries. To sign up, go to the Village website at westmont.illinois.gov and click on the [NOTIFY ME](#) link.



Join Nextdoor Oakwood, the private website for our neighborhood



The Oakwood Homeowners Association has invited you to join at:

oakwoodil.nextdoor.com/join

Enter flyer code: **EPRGET**

Get to know your neighbors • Share local recommendations • Lend, borrow and give away • Keep the neighborhood safe • Stay informed

 **Nextdoor** Oakwood

Westmont News: President's Message (continued)

interested. So, what I need from all of you is for you to send me an e-mail at info@oakwoodha.org letting me know of you'd be interested in knowing more about this. There's no commitment in doing so, it just gives me a count for how many people MIGHT be interested, at the right price.

But wait! There's more!

We haven't had our Annual Meeting yet, but we badly want to. Logistics for an on-line meeting are brutal, but we don't know if there are other options at this point. We're still working to puzzle this one out and we'll let you all know. The By-Laws failed to account for pandemics. #sigh

Without the Annual Meeting, some of the Director's terms have gone longer than scheduled. OHA Director Laura Connolly recently had to step down after 9 years of VOLUNTEER service to the Oakwood community. I thought for sure she was going for the clean decade, but as you can imagine there's a lot going on and she needed to focus her efforts elsewhere. We're immensely grateful to Laura and for all she has done for the Oakwood community!!

In her stead we're happy to welcome David

Szymendera to the board as an interim appointment for the remainder of Laura's term, which is scheduled to run through May of 2021. David has been contributing to the Oak Leaf with the Market Outlook section for a few quarters, and has been interested in further making Oakwood the community that we love.

Also forthcoming, the Directory will be out with this issue of the Oak Leaf. The Directory is a bi-annual publication with lots of good information on the community, so we always encourage people to flip through it and keep it handy! The Rules for Common Areas were recently updated and the revision is in this edition of the Directory.

I mentioned the Halloween Party... we're kicking that around yet. Maybe a Halloween *Parade* like they used to do in Oakwood? Not sure yet, but it's possible... stay tuned!

2020 no doubt has still more excitement in store for us... so I'll let you get to this issue, and on behalf of the OHA Board, all our best to you and yours!



Matt "-19" Johnson

President, Oakwood Homeowners Association



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