The Oak Leaf

Quarterly Newsletter for the Oakwood Homeowners Association

Oakwood News: President's Message



There you are!

I've got a couple of major topics for you this time around, but I'm going to keep them very to-the-point.

1.) First, I want to welcome a new advertiser to the Oak Leaf. Thank you to Oakwood resident **Tanvi**

Ghandi of Keller Williams Realty for helping to support this newsletter by choosing to advertise in it. You can see Tanvi's ad on page 9.

2.) Next, please note the QR code in the middle of this page. You can use your mobile device to follow this link to this newsletter on the

Oakwood website. With a rapidly increasing number of website and e-mail links in our articles, several residents have commented that the on-line version is increasingly preferred.

3.) HELP! Twelve years ago right now I put out a call for help as our prior Treasurer, Jerry Harlow, was stepping down from the OHA Board. Lynette Tuggle

heeded the call and joined the Board, learning the ins and outs of Oakwood's financial management and taking over the Treasurer role about a year later. Lynette has been a wonderful addition to the Board and has done an amazing job with helping keep everything running. Our collections remain low and the Association saves a lot of money (keeping your dues low) as a direct result of Lynette's efforts. I'm

sad to report however that Lynette will be stepping down at the end of her term in April, and so the OHA is seeking a new Treasurer. We very much need anyone with any level of interest or curiosity about the role to reach out to us at info@oakwoodha.org so we can share with you what is entailed. Since lightning so

successfully struck once, I'm including the same paragraph I used in November of 2010 to see if it might strike twice: "Jerry Harlow will be retiring from the OHA Board after putting in many, many years of service to our community. With his departure, we will be needing a new Treasurer, as well as a new book keeper. So, we're encouraging residents with any potential interest to join

(Continued on next page)

Big Events!!!

- Treasurer Needed!
- Oakwood Events!
- Village Events!



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Coakwood: President's Message

us at one of our monthly meetings, see what we're about, and determine if you might like to join us. While I'm hopeful that people will step up, I do need to forewarn the community that should we not find a replacement for Jerry at the end of his term, we would be forced to outsource the work. Doing so will not be cheap, and the OHA has never budgeted for such an expenditure, so be aware that this is a possibility."

- 4.) There is a LOT going on in Oakwood and in Westmont this fall!! CHECK OUT THE BACK PAGE OF THIS ISSUE for information on the <u>FIRST ANNUAL</u> <u>OAKtoberfest</u> to be held on September 24th, and on the coming Halloween Party set for October 26th!!
- 5.) The Oxenfree (Willowcrest / Oak Brook Hills) development proposal continues to inch forward. The developers have overhauled the proposal to remove all of the multi-family housing that was widely rejected by the residents of Westmont and by the Westmont Village Board, and the current iteration of the plan now consists of a central "clubhouse" facility and approximately 260 single family homes, all of which are designed to be rental properties. The OHA issued a survey to all of our residents in August, and we found that about half of those who took the survey were opposed to adding still more rental properties in Westmont, and a healthy number of residents are concerned with the impact this will have on Lake Charles. The OHA Board is working with the Lake Management Committee (LMC) and the Communications Committee as well as the developers of the property and the Village of Westmont to help make sure our community's concerns are addressed. There has not been much to report on this front, and we will continue to update interested residents through the distribution list that was started. If you are not on that distribution list and would like to be, let us know at info@oakwoodha.org.
- 6.) This issue of the Oak Leaf is pretty short, so as always we encourage all of you to peruse and make sure you're up to date with what's going on in our community! Thank you to all the contributors who make this possible.

Matt "busy busy busy" Johnson

President, Oakwood Homeowners Association



Oakwood Community Contribution: Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Safety Tips

A quick online search about 'neighborhood safety' ended up with common tip:

"Get to Know Your Neighbors and Communicate."

"Make Friends with Neighbors."

It makes a huge difference to know your neighbors and be able to talk to them.

Introduce yourself to your neighbors. Make a list of names and phone numbers of every neighbor on your block (i.e. use the OHA directory). Set a goal of at least 10 neighbor contacts.

Have a way to reach your neighbors if they're gone and something is amiss in the neighborhood. It is also helpful if you know who is at home during the day and if any neighbors work during the night.

Are there kids around? Are there small children you should look out for? It is difficult to help form a safe and supportive community for children without the adults and children knowing each other.

Do you live next to an older couple that stays home but sometimes needs help?

Does your neighbor have indoor pets, and should you call if you ever see the pets outside?

These tidbits provide information that will alert you if something seems amiss. Familiarizing yourself with neighbors can be a win-win situation. Communication is a big factor in safety.

In addition to 'getting to know your neighbors', other tips were:

 Organize neighborhood safety efforts such as a neighborhood watch group or some other type of neighborhood organization. Two years ago, a handful of Oakwood neighbors worked together to establish ONW - Oakwood Neighborhood Watch in the Oakwood community, The Oak Leaf has been used to share information. Two presentations have been organized with the Westmont Police Department. 96 residents have signed up on the NextDoor group, "Oakwood Neighborhood Watch".

- Develop a neighborhood calling tree which could help when things go amiss in the neighborhood.
 OHA furnishes us with a directory (of those who participate).
- Exercise caution when out of town. Don't announce when you're away on social media.
 Westmont Police Department offers 'VACATION WATCH", but it also helps to ask neighbors to pick up newspapers or flyers. Use timers to turn on/ off lights.
- Take away the opportunity for crime. Close windows and blinds at night. (Lock your car) Keep your neighborhood and property clean. Pick up litter near your home. Improve lighting on your street.
- Enhance your home's security and install a security system. (see past Oak Leaf articles)
- If you see something, say something. Report crime as soon as possible. Report nuisances and other noncriminal problems promptly.
- Get to know your local police department. Take advantage of ONW presentations. Participate in Citizen's Police Academy. (see the report in the past Oak Leaf about CPA in 2021)
- Be the kind of neighbor you would want to have.

How many of your neighbors do you know? Would you be able to contact them if there was a safety issue? Invite your neighbors to participate in OHA events and use those events to get to know your neighbors better. Participate in ONW (oakwoodneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com)

Sources and links:

"8 Simple Ways to Make Your Neighborhood Safer"

https://www.safewise.com/blog/8-simple-ways-make-neighborhood-safer-place/

"7 Simple Neighborhood Safety Tips"

https://www.guard911.com/simple-neighborhood-safety-tips/



Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

Beautiful Lake Charles

Lake Charles was constructed in 1972 and is a 15 1/2 acre man-made lake which acts as a retention basin for storm water and provides flood control for Salt Creek and areas downstream. The area which naturally drains to Lake Charles has been modified by storm sewer systems and development of surrounding land. The drainage area which now feeds Lake Charles is approximately 560 acres of surface, area. The deepest part of the lake is 20 feet and it is a mud bottom lake. It has five inlets and one outlet.

Lake Charles was built to hold the rain from a 50 year storm. During a rain, all the storm sewer (Not sanitary sewers) in an area from Ogden Ave., Cass Ave., 35th Street and the eastern shoreline of the lake drain into Lake Charles. The storm sewers on Revere Ave. and sections of Hamilton Ave. dc not drain into Lake Charles; they drain into Route 83.

Lakes are individuals as are people. No two lakes are alike because of the inlets and the areas surrounding the lake that drain into it.

The elements can affect the lake drastically. The amount of snow, rain or sun--either too much or too little--will change the make-up of the lake. Actually, the lake can change daily due to the elements, animals and humans.

Lake Charles has many living things in it and on it. There are fish, mussels, snails, crawfish, turtles and muskrats living in it. There are ducks, geese and birds on it. All these living things leave waste in the lake.

Fish in the lake also have problems, they will die in the lake for various reasons. Injuries from being caught and thrown back, old age, fish fighting fish, injuries from hooks and other animals and changes in the lake temperature. Fish die in a fish aquarium for unknown reasons even though the temperature, water and filters are exact.

There are also people that pollute the lake. This

would include oil, grease and salt from the streets, grass clippings left in the street after the mowing of lawns, fertilizer and weed killers from our lawns and gardens and leaves from trees and bushes. Garbage that is not secured tight on a windy day also blows into the lake. Any pollutants on your drive, roof, gutters and other surface areas will eventually wash into the lake during a rain storm. Check the sewer covers after a rain and see all the garbage on top of the covers and imagine what went into the lake.

Lake Charles is not a swim-ming pool. Even in a swimming pool, if the proper balance of chemicals in not applied correct the pool will get polluted.

Lake Michigan beaches are closed occasionally during the summer due to a high count of fecal coli form. We cannot control what happens to the lake completely--we can only try to correct the problems.

Remember that Lake Charles was built to be a retention basin and the swimming in it was an extra advantage for all of us. We should enjoy the lake for what it is and not for what we want it to be.

Editor's Note: The above article was written by Yvonne Wilfinger. A Chairperson of the Lake Management Committee for many years. Yvonne's article has-been included in this issue of The Oak Leaf to provide information to new residents and to remind all residents of the beauty and care of our Lake Charles. Thank you, Yvonne, for that you have done to make Oakwood the special place it is! Remember Yvonne in your prayers.

Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee (cont.)

DuPage County Encourages Proper Leaf Management this Fall

DuPage County Stormwater Management (SWM) is encouraging DuPage County residents to dispose of leaves properly this fall. When leaves blow into storm sewers and waterways, they can become a source of water pollution. In just six to eight weeks, leaves can account for more than half of annual phosphorous in stormwater runoff, which may cause algal blooms and be detrimental to fish and aquatic insects. Leaves can also build up along streets and block storm drains, which can lead to localized flooding. Residents can avoid these issues by composting, bagging and mulching leaves.





Best Practices for Draining Pools

As summer comes to an end, DuPage County Storm Water Management is reminding residents of how to properly drain pools for the season to protect water quality. Chlorine can be toxic to aquatic organisms, so pool water should be dechlorinated before drained. Further, pool water should be discharged into a grassy area to infiltrate into the ground and should never be discharged into storm drains.

Remember: Everything that goes down storm drains goes to our lakes and rivers.

https://youtu.be/6dslkF6v6BY







Real Estate For The Rest Of Us

If you've been thinking of buying a home, you may have been watching what's happened with mortgage rates over the past year. It's true they've risen dramatically, but where will they go from here, especially as the market continues to slow?

As you think about your homeownership goals and decide if now's the time to make your move, the best place to turn to for that information is the professionals. Here's a summary of the latest mortgage rate forecasts from housing market experts (see chart).

This could bring us all some welcome relief. So far this year, mortgage rates have climbed over two percentage points due to the Federal Reserve's response to inflation, and that's made it more expensive to buy a home.

But now that experts say mortgage rates should stabilize, this gives us a bit more certainty about what they think the future holds.

Whether you're looking to move up to a larger home, or even downsize, you need to know what's happening in the housing market so you can make the most informed decision possible. Let's connect to discuss your goals and determine the best plan for your move.

Mortgage	Rate	Projections
August 2022		

Quarter	Freddie Mac	Fannie Mae	MBA	NAR	Average of All Four
2022 Q4	5.4	4.8	5.2	6.0	5.4%
2023 Q1	5.2	4.7	5.1	6.0	5.3%
2023 Q2	5.2	4.5	5.0	6.0	5.2%
2023 Q3	5.0	4.4	4.9	-	4.8%

Recent Closings - Single Family Homes In Westmont

		3	3.4				
	Address	Status	Date	Beds	Bath	List price	Sold Price
1.	326 S. Hudson St.	CLSD	8/12/2022	3	2	\$179,900	\$180,550
2.	4023 N. Adams St.	CLSD	8/12/2022	3	1.1	\$275,000	\$280,000
3.	124 W. Naperville Rd.	CLSD	8/15/2022	2	1	\$235,000	\$205,000
4.	4016 N. Grant St.	CLSD	8/15/2022	4	2.1	\$300,000	\$305,000
5.	4034 N. Grant St.	CLSD	8/15/2022	3	2	\$380,000	\$390,000
6.	305 W. Chicago Ave.	CLSD	8/16/2022	4	5	\$849,900	\$800,000
7.	8 Roslyn Rd.	CLSD	8/19/2022	4	1.1	\$299,900	\$300,000
8.	4104 N. Adams St.	CLSD	8/22/2022	5	4.1	\$599,993	\$521,000
9.	770 Oakwood Dr.	CLSD	8/30/2022	3	2	\$333,600	\$341,000
10.	4020 N. Park St.	CLSD	9/02/2022	2	1	\$190,000	\$170,000
11.	241 N. Wilmette Ave.	CLSD	9/02/2022	3+1	2	\$355,000	\$355,000
12.	725 Oakwood Ct.	CLSD	9/02/2022	5	2.1	\$599,000	\$555,000
13.	3910 Liberty Blvd.	CLSD	9/09/2022	3	2	\$335,000	\$335,000
14.	1113 Williamsburg St.	CLSD	9/09/2022	3	2	\$400,000	\$340,000
15.	419 N. Park St.	CLSD	9/12/2022	4+1	2	\$400,000	\$375,000
Baird & Warner Dave Symendera Residential REALTOR® 312-371-1519 dave.szymendera@bairdwarner.com							

Westmont News: From the Village Board





Hello neighbors! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and all the fun that comes with it. The weather looks great for the next few weeks so head out to the events listed below. In the meantime, here are a few updates...

2022 Road Resurfacing Update

Each year, the Village appropriates funds received through the Motor Fuel Tax for the annual street resurfacing program. Due to various product shortages and vendor delays, the timeframe for when these projects begin and end remain uncertain, however, the following streets have been selected for resurfacing once materials and resources have been confirmed:

- BLACKHAWK DRIVE From Chestnut Avenue to Oakwood Drive
- LINCOLN STREET From Naperville Road to north end of Lincoln Street
- WILMETTE AVENUE From Burlington Avenue to Chicago Avenue
- **DEMING PLACE** From Wilmette Avenue to Richmond Avenue
- JAMESON WAY From Fordham Way to Deming Place
- FORDHAM WAY From Longford Drive to Longford Drive
- LONGFORD DRIVE From Ridge Road to Deming Place
- 64th STREET From Ridge Road to Richmond Avenue
- 67th STREET From Williams Street to Cass Avenue

Westmont Fire Department Accreditation

On August 17th, the Westmont Fire Department received Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. The Westmont Fire Department is one of more than 300 agencies to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (CPSE).

This is the 5th time that the Department has achieved this accreditation. Westmont is the only part-time Fire Department in the country that has achieved accreditation as well as a Class 1 ISO rating.

CFAI is dedicated to assisting the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation to provide continuous quality improvement



and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The CFAI process is voluntary and provides an agency with an improvement model to assess their service delivery and performance internally and then works with a team of peers from other agencies to evaluate their completed self-assessment. A special congrats to the entire department!

Fire Department Open House



The Fire Department is hosting its annual open house on Saturday, September 24th from 11AM to 2PM at the Johanik Fire Department Headquarters, 6015 S. Cass Avenue. The department has

several fun and educational activities planned for the public as well as free food and bottled water.

Wicked Fest 2022

Mark your calendars and get ready for Wicked West Fest 2022. Wicked West Fest is a month-long festival of Fall and Halloween events and activities. Following are some of this year's highlights:

(Continued on next page)

Westmont News: From the Village Board (continued)

ADULT TAKE & MAKE CRAFT - FALL BANNER

September 12 - All Day

Westmont Public Library - 428 N. Cass

Stop by Westmont Public Library's Adult Services to pick up a kit containing basic supplies and instructions, then take it home to create.

FALL & HALLOWEEN WINDOW MURAL PROGRAM

September 30 - Sign-Up Deadline

Throughout Westmont

Hosted by Westmont Special Events and the Creative Arts Network, area businesses are invited to sign up to have their windows painted by our incredible local artists with Fall & Halloween-themed murals. More information and sign-up details have been posted on the Westmont Special Events website

at westmontevents.com.

music fun with Tim Wilsey, visit the petting zoo, pan for gold, and more.

ADULT TAKE & MAKE CRAFT - SPIDER STRAWS

October 2 - All Day

Westmont Public Library - 428 N. Cass

Stop by Westmont Public Library Adult Services to pick up a kit containing basic supplies and instructions, then take it home to create.



WICKED Good Time!

FAMILY FALL DECORATION MEETUP

October 10 - 9:30AM-7:30PM Westmont Public Library - 428 N. Cass

Drop in on your day off from school and create some fun, fall decorations with the whole family.

SPOOKY SNOW GLOBES

October 12 - Sign-up, 6:30-7:30PM

WESTMONT SCARECROW DECORATING CONTEST

September 26 - Sign-Up Deadline

Downtown Westmont

The entire community is invited to participate in the Westmont Scarecrow Decorating Contest hosted by the Westmont Chamber and the Historical Society. Decorated scarecrows will be on display throughout downtown Westmont and everyone will be invited to vote online. For more information and to sign up, please visit the https://www.westmontchamber.com/scarecrow-decorating-contest.html.

Westmont Public Library - 428 N. Cass

Create your own snow globe by using glass jars, spooky themed figurines, and lots of glitter. For teens in grades 6-12. Sign up via the https://westmont.librarycalendar.com/events/month.

STORYWALK - THE LITTLE GHOST WHO LOST HER

воо

October 21-24

Westmont Public Library at Diane Main Park - 200 W 59th Street

Enjoy The Little Ghost Who Lost Her Boo by Elaine Bickell with the whole family while you stroll through Diane Main Park. Simply follow the path around the lake, reading signs placed along the trail, to take in the full story.

THE LAST STRAW

October 2 - NOON-4PM

Gregg House Museum - 115 S. Linden

Come to the Gregg House Museum for a variety of fun family activities: Make a scarecrow (nominal fee), decorate pumpkins, meet a beekeeper, enjoy

WICKED WEST FEST HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Voting October 20-28

Homes Throughout Westmont

(Continued on next page)

Westmont News: From the Village Board (continued)

Sign up and enter the Wicked West Fest Home Decorating Contest! Pictures of each home will be posted online and the public will be invited to vote for their favorites. For more information, visit the **Events** website Westmont Special at westmontevents.com.

WICKED WEST FEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

October 22 - Sign-up 10:15AM

Downtown Westmont - Intersection of Cass & Irving Dress up for Halloween and come to downtown Westmont to be part of this fun costume contest. There will be six categories.

PUMPKIN SMASHING EXTRAVAGANZA

October 22 - 11AM-NOON

Downtown Westmont - Intersection of Cass & Irving Representatives of various Westmont groups will go 20 feet up in the air in a bucket truck and then throw their decorated pumpkin at a target below as they compete for the titles of Pumpkin Smashing King and Queen.

TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL

October 22 - 11AM-1PM

Downtown Westmont on Cass

Come to downtown Westmont in your Halloween costume and go trick or treating at participating businesses throughout the downtown business district.

CASKETS ON CASS RACE

October 22 - 12:30PM

Downtown Westmont on Cass

Caskets on Cass is a foot race of homemade caskets sponsored by community organizations, businesses, and area residents. To learn more and sign up on the Chamber website at westmontchamber.com.

HAUNTED FOREST TOUR

October 22 - 3:00-9:30PM

Diane Main Park - 200 W. 59th Street

Follow the trail and take a haunted hayrack ride through Smith Woods as ghosts, ghouls and monsters come alive before your very eyes! Little Monsters Showing for

(Continued on next page)

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Tanvi Gandhi Real Estate Agent 312.330.4569 tanvigandhi@kw.com











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younger viewers 3 to 6:30PM. Sheer Terror Tours from 7 to 9:30pm. \$6 per person.

ZOMBIE CRAWL

October 29, 2-6:00PM

Locations Throughout Westmont

Hosted by Westmont Special Events, this event takes guests throughout the community visiting participating pubs and restaurants. Each location will have food and beverage specials as well as a fun Halloween activity. This is a 21 and over event. Tickets and registration information will be published soon at www.westmontevents.com.

SPOOKTACULAR FUN NIGHT

October 31, 5-7:00PM

Westmont Park District Community Center - 75 E. Richmond

The whole family is invited to a safe and fun-filled evening as you trick or treat through the Park District Community Center. Meet Wacky Drac, create a spooky craft, or try your luck at a game or two - A variety of spooktacular activities will make your evening fangtastic!

Drug Take Back Day

On Saturday, October 29th from 10AM to 2PM the Police Department will participate in the National DEA-sponsored Drug Take Back Day. The drug takeback program provides citizens with a safe method of disposing unwanted, unused



and expired prescription drugs. There will be two locations for this event:

- Westmont Police-Fire Facility 500 N. Cass Avenue
- Mariano's in Westmont 150 W. 63rd Street Following is a list of items that will and will not be accepted during the collection:

ACCEPTED

- Pills, powders, and patches
- Liquids, creams, and inhalers must be packaged separately
- Needles and/or sharps MUST be secured in a Sharps container to be accepted during this program

NOT ACCEPTED

- NO radioactive medicines
- NO EpiPens
- NO loose Sharps

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 (630) 776-8302

snero@westmont.il.gov

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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.

NOTE: The PDF version of this article has active links to the respective website sources and is available online at www.oakwoodha.org/oakwood-news.html

Paper Shred Event for Special Olympics Oct. 1 - The Westmont Police Department, partnering with local business Docu-Shred, will co-host a paper shredding event to benefit Special Olympics Illinois. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2022, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Westmont Police-Fire Facility at 500 N. Cass Ave. Details on the village website.

Wicked West Fest Events All October - Halloween Costume Contest, Pumpkin Smashing Extravaganza, Trick or Treat Trail, and more! Full list of events on the village website.

Endless Summer Car Show Tour Planned For Area Seniors - Starting in September, the Westmont Special Events organization is bringing cool and classic cars to senior care and retirement facilities so that our senior residents can see these cars from yesteryear in person. Cool and classic car owners who might be interested in participating can sign up on the village website.

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 <u>westmont.illinois.gov</u> and click on the **NOTIFY ME** link.

Jenny Babyar Communications Specialist Village of Westmont 31 W. Quincy St. Westmont, IL. 60559

www.westmont.illinois.gov

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Last names bring A-M: Desserts | N-Z: Appetizers

RSVP for an entry in our giveaway:

https://bit.ly/OHAHalloween2022