

The Oak Leaf

Quarterly Newsletter for the Oakwood Homeowners Association

Oakwood News: President's Message



Help me out here, people. How is it almost June already?

2023 is flying by, with a lot done and a lot lined up for the good people of Oakwood. I've got a slew of dates for you so have your calendars ready.

First though, I'd be remiss if I got too far into this without saying CONGRATULATIONS to the Westmont High School Class of 2023!! Sigh... they grow up so fast, don't they?

We're off to a great start with the Annual Meeting that was held in late-April. This event welcomed David Sopczynski to the OHA Board for a fresh term, following his posting to the seat formerly held by the amazing Lynette Tuggle. Also re-elected were Monika Rodriguez and Dave Szymendera, and at the May meeting Officers were elected (see updated Board roster on page 2).

The Annual Meeting went great and we had a lot of fun. Guest speaker Jon Yeater of the Village of

Westmont really got a lot of attendees engaged with his "State of the Urban Forest" presentation that talked about green space in Oakwood and greater Westmont.

A number of events have already come and gone this year, including:

- Annual Egg Hunt
- Eastern Shoreline Cleanup
- Planting Day

There's more coming though and the Social Calendar for 2023 has been locked in, so make sure you're around for all the fun:

- Saturday, June 3rd: Fishing Derby/Beach Party (see back cover)
- Friday-Saturday, June 16-17: Oakwood Garage Sale
- Saturday, September 23rd: OAKtoberfect
- Wednesday, October 25th: Halloween Party

(Watch your e-mail for more details)

Also at the May meeting a new Social Committee

(Continued on next page)

Check it out!!!

- View this issue on-line →
- 50 Years (Part 2)!!!
- Party! (Back Cover!)



Sections in this issue:

Now with 23% more Calibri!!

President's Message.....	1
Meet the Board	2
Oakwood Community Contributions	3
Lake Management Committee	5
From the Village Board	7
From the Village Communications Dept.	9
From the Westmont Chamber of Commerce	10
Fishing Derby Beach Party	12



Oakwood: Board of Directors

Matt Johnson — President	630.455.6022
Brian Stouffer — Vice President	773.255.2220
Monika Rodriguez — Secretary	847.913.6279
David Sopczynski — Treasurer	708.502.0489
David Koehler — Director	630.386.2039
Jeanie Smith — Director	630.921.1493
David Szymendera — Director	312.371.1519

Board e-mail: info@oakwoodha.org

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

Oakwood: Community Update

Meet the Board

Name: David Sopczynski

Board Member Since: 2023

Favorite Quote: "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take" - Wayne Gretsky



About David: I have lived in the Oakwood subdivision since the end of 2019 with my wife, Janeth, our dog (Cubbie) and our newest addition, our baby girl, Juliette. I am a bank manager and have been in that role for the past 12 years. Outside of work I am a huge sports fan (Go Cubs!) and still play competitive baseball. Around the house you will find me working on home projects or decorating the house for Halloween and Christmas.



Why is David on the OHA Board of Directors?: I wanted to get more involved within the community I live in and when the subdivision was looking for a Treasurer, I felt this was my chance. I have been in banking for 17 years and I knew my knowledge and organization would fit well with the Treasurer responsibilities.

Oakwood: President's Message

Chairperson was appointed: Ms. April Johnson will be working to formalize our documentation and help with the budget management for all the events, and has been doing the graphics for event advertising.

We're really, really excited for the new website, and the functionality is being mapped right now so we're sure to not miss any of the goodies we want in it. I'm excited for this to give Oakwood residents some cool new opportunities and to make so much more information about our community easily accessible.

While we're looking forward, we're also looking back as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Oakwood (see page 3). We're compiling volumes of information and some really cool material that people in the community who were some of the original homeowners here have graciously lent us to immortalize. We can't wait to share more of this with you, and thank you so much for those who have and who will be sharing their knowledge and experiences of Oakwood to help us with this project.

We're looking to do some projects this year around the Anniversary as well. If you're interested in being a part of it, let us know at info@oakwoodha.org.

Have a great summer, Oakwood!!

Matt "One year younger than Oakwood" Johnson
President, Oakwood Homeowners Association

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Oakwood Community Contribution: 50th Anniversary

OAKWOOD: 50th Anniversary—Part 2

In the last issue of the Oak Leaf, we shared information about the Healy Farm and the beginnings of the Oakwood subdivision in 1973. Since then we have identified some current residents who were first-time homeowners in Oakwood. A few have already shared some information; we will continue reaching out to others in coming weeks.

Oakwood was developed in three phases. Phase 1 basically went from Ogden Avenue to 764 Oakwood Drive, including of course Independence Ave, Newport Ave, Champlaine Ave, Champlaine Ct, Baltimore Ave, and Oakwood Ct. Miller Builders Inc, had model homes on the south side of Independence Ave, with the office and parking lot across the road. Phase 2 included the schools where Oakwood Drive ended. Phase 3 was from Williamsburg to 35th Street.

There were five model homes (we have original descriptions / ads and the Miller Builders Inc booklet). It is said that the decor of the model homes was very dated - plush green or rust carpets, paneled walls in the family room, etc. When the homes were built, no two of the same model were allowed next to each other.

When the recession hit, Miller Builders Inc was very affected and went bankrupt. Westmont even “pulled (new) permits to get them to finish houses” that they had started.

First residents of Oakwood subdivision were very interested in knowing their neighbors; many were young couples and/or families. There was a “Dinner Group” (sponsored by the Homeowners Association), Road Rallies, Halloween parties (including costumes), and a Babysitting Co-op. There were golf outings (including 200+ people), poker and bridge groups, and progressive dinners.

Lake Charles was a farm pond on the Healy Farm. In 1980’s the pond was dredged and the silt was used in the development of properties on Pasquinelli Drive. In the early years of the subdivision, there were even sail boat races on Lake Charles and families had ‘lake passes’ to enjoy swimming in the lake, which ended with laws requiring a bathhouse, telephone, and lifeguard.

The original OHA (Oakwood Homeowners Association) was controlled by the builder and the dues were \$60 a year.

Since residents did not have anything to do with OHA, they formed OCA (Oakwood Community Association); Roger Westman was the first president and meetings were held at Oak Brook Hills.

Thank you to the first-time residents who contacted us and have shared information and memories. Watch for more on early Oakwood in the next Oak Leaf as there are over 30 other first-time residents who will be contacted in the coming weeks. Also, the accuracy of this article and the information we’re collecting will be verified as we move forward. As the OHA website is revised, the five model home designs, builder ads, and pictures etc. will be shared.

**If you have information and/or pictures to share or corrections to let us know about, please contact either CarolJnsn@aol.com or info@oakwoodha.org



Oakwood Community Contribution: Neighborhood Watch

Home Security Checklist

(from NCPC - National Crime Prevention Council)

Your Oakwood Neighborhood Watch is sharing this as a guide for you to use to check your home for safety measures. These may help you determine where you could take action to improve your home's security.

Exterior Doors

All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house — even if it's just for a few minutes.

Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.

Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.

If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.

All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.

Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor or family member, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge or in the mailbox.

Garage and Sliding Door Security

The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.

Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.

The sliding glass door has strong, working key locks.

A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.

The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.

Protecting Windows

Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.

Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.



Outdoor Security

Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.

There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.

Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.

Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.

Outdoor lights are on in the evening — whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.

Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Security When Away from Home

At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended time period.

The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.

Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.

A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high security, laminated padlocks and are locked after every use.

Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.

Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar or lock or quality padlock and chain.

Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.

Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.

Valuable items, such as television and computers have been inscribed with identifying number approved by local police.

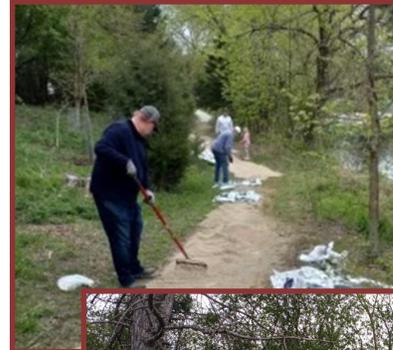
Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures with a complete copy is kept out of the house.

Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

120 Feet of the Eastern Shoreline Path Resurfaced

On Saturday May 6, a minimum of fifteen volunteers can out to put down crushed stone on the path and several other small projects along the shoreline. It all began when at the Annual Meeting Ken Brennan asked for volunteers sign up to help resurface part of path that was down to just mud. He would purchase five bags of crushed stone for every volunteer. Ten members volunteered with one volunteer committing to do ten bags.

The end result was that one hundred and twenty feet of the path was refurbished. One and a half tons of rock was used. Dave Sopczynski, the newest OHA Board member and Treasurer, volunteered to use his truck to get the 63 bags of crushed stone out on the path where it would be needed. The work of spreading the stone proceeded quickly with no sore muscles reported. I sincerely thank everyone that volunteered that made this project a success.



Ken Brennan

Pictures courtesy of Ken Brennan, Peter Tertell and Carol Johnson

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Oakwood News: Lake Management Committee

Oakwood in 1973

In 1973, If you were driving down Ogden Avenue you may have seen a sign for model homes advertising a new subdivision. If you had time you could have toured the model homes on located Independence Avenue highlighting the new Oakwood Subdivision. The sales pitch would be not only on the home designs and price but also the recreational amenities that the Oakwood subdivision would have to offer. Lake Charles would be the centerpiece as a private lake for swimming, boating, fishing. A sand beach front and a shoreline nature walking path for all to enjoy.

ALL THE RECREATION AMENITIES PROMISED (other than swimming) ARE STILL HERE

Suggestions:

- Take a young person fishing or to the beach for fun in the sand.
- If you have a paddle boat, row boat, kayak, canoe take it out on the lake at least once this year.
- Enjoy a short walk along the Eastern Shoreline Nature Path.
- Join in the fun at the Fishing Derby / Beach Party on Saturday June 3rd.

-Ken Brennan



Every Curb is a Shoreline/Lawn to the Lake

The storm water system in our subdivision takes the storm water from the streets and brings it to the lake. Along with the storm water everything from cigarette butts to lawn fertilizer flow into the lake. The phosphorus in the fertilizer is a major nutrient needed by the algae that cause the algae blooms in Lake Charles. Please consider using low or phosphorus free fertilizers this year when you purchase fertilizer. Established lawns do not need the phosphorus.

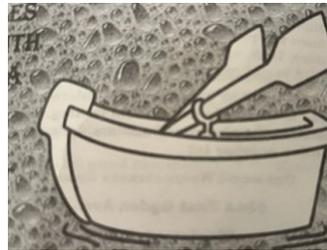
Boats on Lake Charles

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 in the OHA Directory, on the OHA web site as part of the Rules for Common Area (at:

<https://www.oakwoodha.org/common-area-rules.html>), and can be requested by mail at:



OHA Lake Management
4 E. Ogden Ave. #313
Westmont, IL 60559



Dock and Lock Program Begins on April 1st

The Dock and Lock program for Oakwood off-lake residents for this year begins on April 1 and ends on October 30th. Registration begins on March 15st.

To take part the Dock and Lock Program:

A One Hundred Dollar Refundable Registration Deposit is required to be submitted to the OHA with the Lake Charles Lock and Dock Space Request Form. The Deposit will be returned at the end of the season or when the boat is removed from the OHA Dock and Lock area provided that the owner has followed the OHA Common Area rules that apply to the Dock and Lock program.

For further information and the request form see the Common Area Rules section 7 found in the 2020 Oakwood Directory or at the OHA website at www.oakwoodha.org.

-Ken Brennan



Hello neighbors! I'd like to begin by thanking everyone for their support in my re-election for Village Trustee. I am honored to continue to serve our community and look forward to another productive term. I am committed to representing all of Oakwood and advocating for your interests. This election allowed me the opportunity to reconnect with many neighbors but also meet so many new ones. Please continue to reach out with your feedback or concerns. Thank you again for your support and for showing that Oakwood is a vibrant and engaged community that values participation, diversity, and integrity. OK, let's get into a few Village updates...

Dark Skies Project – Pasquinelli Rd.

In a recent board meeting, the Village approved a lighting project on Pasquinelli Drive that will utilize Dark Sky lighting strategies through fixtures complying with the color temperature and shielding recommendations of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). This effort is considered a pilot project for more Dark Sky initiatives in the future.



Dark Sky initiatives are based on the understanding that all life on Earth has evolved over billions of years relying on a circadian rhythm, a daily cycle of light and dark to govern life-sustaining behaviors such as

reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators. Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night can have a negative effect on the world's ecosystems. However, there are a variety of additional reasons to embrace a Dark Sky initiative.

AESTHETICS - One of the easiest to understand benefits of a Dark Sky initiative is aesthetics.

Simply put, light pollution prevents people from seeing the natural beauty of our nighttime skies. Dark Sky embraces that idea that people have a right to enjoy the stars in the nighttime sky.

SAFETY - Outdoor lighting is intended to enhance safety and security at night, but too much lighting may have the opposite effect. Visibility should always be the goal. Glare from bright, unshielded lights may reduce overall visibility and restrict our ability to see an entire area clearly.

COST - It is estimated that 30% of all nighttime lighting is wasted in the form of having lights that are too bright or over lighting areas unnecessarily by not having proper shielding. This results in citizens wasting billions of dollars while creating millions of tons of unnecessary carbon dioxide to power this extra light output.

Quincy Streetscape Project

I'm sure we have all seen the construction on Quincy just south of the tracks. The estimated completion for this project is September of this year and will be well worth the wait. This is the first of many enhancements we will be focusing on in the downtown. This exciting project will consist of full width asphalt resurfacing on Quincy Street and Lincoln Street, replacement and realignment of sidewalk, curb and gutter and ADA accessibility ramps, installation of new lighting, landscape features and signage, installation of new storm sewer and drainage structures, new pavement markings and decorative streetscape features.



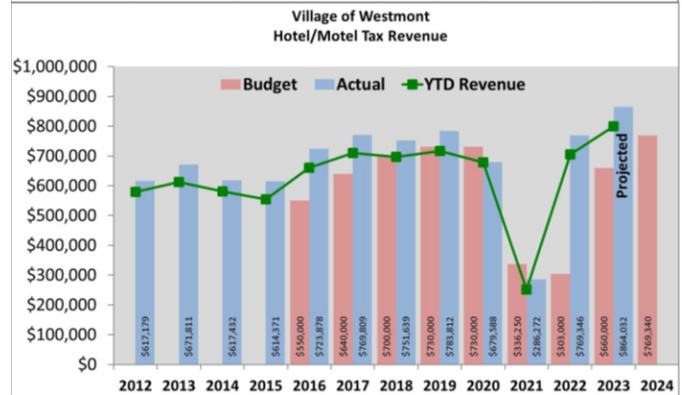
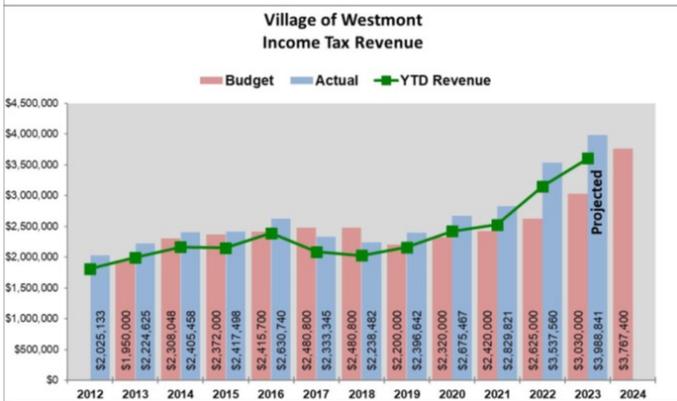
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Westmont News: From the Village Board (continued)

Balanced Budget Passed

Recently, we passed the Village's next balanced budget. I found it very refreshing to see drastic increases in most Village revenues. For those that are interested, I included a few high-level charts. Although positive, I think it is too early to be able to count on these revenues staying at this higher level over an extended period of time. We will learn more as the year progresses. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. If you want to learn more, here is the complete budget presentation and priorities for the next fiscal year:

<https://westmont.illinois.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3122/FY-2023-24-Budget-Workshop->



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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"You can have a song in your heart."

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. 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.

Spring Fling Festival & Race to the Flag 5K May 26-28

Everyone is invited to Ty Warner Park in Westmont over Memorial Day weekend for the Spring Fling Festival, hosted by the Westmont Lions Club, and the Race to the Flag 5K Fundraiser for the People's Resource Center. More info at westmontlionsfoundation.org/festival and Racetotheflag.org.

Westmont Cruisin' Nights

Held Every Thursday In June, July & August in Downtown Westmont On Cass Avenue, hosted by the volunteers of Westmont Special Events. Each week includes classic car theme nights, live entertainment, art shows hosted by the Creative Arts Network, and more. For more info, visit westmontevents.com.

Taste of Westmont

July 13-16 in Downtown Westmont On Cass Avenue, hosted by the volunteers of Westmont Special Events. This year's event will feature an incredible line-up of music, food, and fun! On the main stage, music will include the best of the best regional and national tribute bands featuring the music of Tom Petty, the Eagles, Journey, Muddy Waters, and Elton John. Saturday will also include sing-along Yacht Rock Band Anchor's Away. Local music on the South Stage at Irving & Cass. Complete schedule at westmontevents.com.

Independence Day Celebration

July 4 at Ty Warner Park

Come out to Ty Warner for music, food, fun, and our wonderful fireworks display! Details on the Westmont Park District Website at westmontparks.org.



Village of Westmont
Communication Department
31 W. Quincy Street
Westmont, IL. 60559
www.westmont.illinois.gov

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Westmont News: From the Westmont Chamber of Commerce



There's a lot going on in Westmont. Thank you to Larry Forsberg, Executive Director of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau for the following updates on projects in the Village that are underway or recently

completed!

1. **West Quincy Street Scape Project** - Project work is underway to update the streetscape configuration in the first block of West Quincy Street. Streetscape improvements are projected to be completed third quarter of 2023
2. **3 West Quincy Street** - Whisky Hill Brewing approved, projected opening is summer 2023.
3. **15 W Quincy Street** - Will be the location for the new Toyoko Restaurant in the fall of 2023
4. **21 W Quincy Street** - Secured Kicks, a shoe and clothing retailer will open the summer of 2023
5. **13 - 19 East Burlington Avenue** - Village purchased property for future development purposes. To be demolished this year.
6. **21 East Burlington Avenue** - Village purchased property for future development purposes. To be demolished this year.
7. **6490 South Cass Avenue** - Belle Tire Store is building a new store, opening is projected for summer 2023
8. **6320 South Cass Avenue** - Medical Office to open in the fall of 2023
9. **6104 - 6154 South Cass Avenue** - Evolve Dental opened March 2023
10. **6100 South Cass Avenue** - Encore Car Wash will be built at the former Westview South Plaza property. They plan to open the summer of 2023. A new retail store pad will also be located on this site for development in the near future.
11. **111 South Cass Avenue** - New Holy Trinity Parish Center approved, construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2023 with completion in 2024.
12. **110 South Cass Avenue** - The Lash Doctor Beauty Studio opened in April 2023.
13. **100 South Cass Avenue** - Dr. Annie Ubatuba, DMV will open an Animal Rehab Clinic, work is In-Process and opening is projected for the spring of 2023
14. **36 South Cass Avenue** - Feydom Furniture Showroom opened in March 2023
15. **1 South Cass Avenue** - State Representative Jenn Ladisch Douglass opened a district office in February 2023 at Westmont Centre
16. **34 North Cass Avenue** - Beauty and the Baker, plan to open fall of 2023
17. **109 North Cass Avenue** - Village of Westmont purchased property for future development purposes
18. **124 North Cass Avenue** - L Boutique & Spa plans to open in the summer of 2023
19. **134 North Cass Avenue** - Agsant Insurance Group will open this spring.
20. **246 North Cass Avenue** - Neat kitchen & Bar was approved for an addition to the building, construction is underway, projected completion in summer of 2023.
21. **2 West Naperville Road** - Mrs. T's Pizza - Projected opening July 2023
22. **420 North Cass Avenue** - Cass Avenue Dream Homes - Final Phase is Under Construction, estimated time of completion os summer of 2023
23. **3500 Midwest Road** - Willow Crest Golf Course Redevelopment proposal for new homes has gone to public hearing and may go to Village Board spring of 2023.
24. **80 West 63rd Street at Market Center** - Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers, projected opening is summer of 2023
25. **725 Pasquinelli Drive** - McGrath Auto Body repair shop will open in fall of 2023
26. **910 Pasquinelli Drive** - 5/3 Bank Operations Center opened in February of 2023
27. **South Linden & East Dallas** - Westmont Park District multipurpose building, projected opening in January 2024



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All Oakwood residents are invited to the
16th Annual



FISHING DERBY BEACH PARTY



Prizes • Food • Music

Oakwood Westman Beach

Saturday, June 3rd

Fishing Derby from 3pm-6pm
Beach Party from 6pm-?

- Food and drinks will be provided courtesy of the OHA, but feel free to bring something to share.
- Adult supervision is required for young children.