

The Oak Leaf

www.OakwoodHA.org

Volume 32 Number 4 - December, 2016

Letter to the Community



And that's about it for 2016!

While the year is winding down, 'tis the season when most of us are winding up.

The end of the year for many carries with it much to do and full schedules abound.

The Oakwood Homeowners Association had a busy year in 2016 on your behalf. All of our community events were a success with great turnout, we worked exhaustively with The Harp Group to ensure that the World Class Westmont project is able to proceed without putting Oakwood's Lake Charles at risk, we've seen some great new members join our community, and we compiled the bi-annual Oakwood Directory that accompanies this newsletter (thank you to Monika Rodriguez for the hours of data entry this task requires!). By the time you read this, the OHA Board of Directors will have locked in the 2017 budget, and we're already gearing up for our 2017 events (see the Social Committee update on p. 6).

Just to make sure we didn't forget what season it is, it seems that Mother Nature chose today to catch up on all the

snow we haven't had yet this year. Requests for community show-plowing discount information are already coming in... see the rate sheet and sign up information for TJ's Land Care in their paid ad on page 2 for information on how to join in.

This month we have a new advertiser joining the newsletter. Mr. Wayne's Pop Culture Collectibles opened up less than two months on Burlington, just West of Cass, and offers a variety of delightful items (think wonderful holiday gift ideas!) Advertisers fund a large portion of our communications effort with the Oakwood community. Be sure to take note of their ads both here in the Oak Leaf as well as in the Directory, and be sure to ask for the individuals who sponsor the ads if you reach out to their businesses for services, and tell them that you saw their ad here! In many cases, the cost of the ad comes out of their pockets, and they're Oakwood and Westmont residents we want to support.

Many thanks again to Gregg Pill, Steve Nero, and Kevin Carey for their contributions to this newsletter, and also to Pat Miller for her submission on tree care (page 3) and Tadas Birutis for his keen eye and beautiful pictures of some Oakwood wildlife.

That's about it for 2016 from me. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday, and I'll see you all next year!

-Matt "like a bowl full of jelly" Johnson

OHA Board President

OHA Board:

Matt Johnson — President	630.455.6022
Lynette Tuggle — Treasurer	708.404.8155
Laura Connolly — Secretary	630.484.5132
Mark Nelson — Director	630.742.3457
Monika Rodriguez — Director	847.913.6279
Doug Schwegman — Director	812.322.2481
Jeanie Smith — Director	630.921.1493

Board e-mail: info@oakwoodha.org

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

www.Oakwoodha.org

Oakwood - Updates

In This Issue:

Big things come in small packages! Here's a look at what you have to look forward to in this issue:

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Holiday Light Recycling

The Village of Westmont will be collecting holiday lights for recycling again this year. The collection will run through Tuesday, January 31st, 2017 with containers placed at the Fire Station Headquarters at 6015 S/ Call and also at the Westmont Public Library. Lights should be free of decorations and should not be in bags.



Discounted Plowing Offered to Oakwood Residents

TJ's landscaping is offering the following volume discount rates to Oakwood residents:

Service	< 6 In.	6-11 In.	≥ 12 In.	Salt
Plow <15 houses	\$23	\$32	\$48	\$20
Plow 15-24 houses	\$20	\$24	\$34	\$17
Plow 25-49 houses	\$18	\$22	\$30	\$15
Plow 50 + houses	\$15	\$18	\$25	\$15
Shovel front walk/stoop	14	28	42	15

Last year we hit the 25-49 home range. Watch our Sponsors page at www.oakwoodha.org for updates on the number of participants to this program.

To sign up for the service, e-mail John at TJ's at tjslandcare@sbcglobal.net or call (630) 393-1993.



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Oakwood - Updates

Correct Mulching Techniques

As I walk around Oakwood, I have been observing the mulch around trees. It is easy to see why so many folks mulch their trees incorrectly. Most landscape companies mulch trees incorrectly and then others follow suit figuring that the landscape companies must know the correct way to do something. Actually, most companies are interested in completing the job quickly, and correctly mulching a tree takes a little longer to do. Most of the trees I have seen have the famous volcano mulch - that is, a pile of mulch around the tree and up the trunk. To correctly mulch a tree, one should use the "doughnut" approach, which is to pull the mulch away from the bark and base of the trunk and spread it out from the ring of space created.

Spread mulch under trees, shrubs, and throughout planting beds to a recommended depth of 3-4 inches for medium to coarse textured materials.

- Pull mulch away from the bases of tree and shrub trunks creating a donut-hole (image on left.) 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 on right.)
- Ideally, the mulched area around a tree should extend to the drip line of the branches, or at least cover a 4-5 foot diameter area around the trunk. The larger the mulched area, the more beneficial.
- Check the mulch depth annually and replenish as necessary.

The above diagrams are from the Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic, where I serve as a Plant Clinic Technician.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Miller

Meet the Board

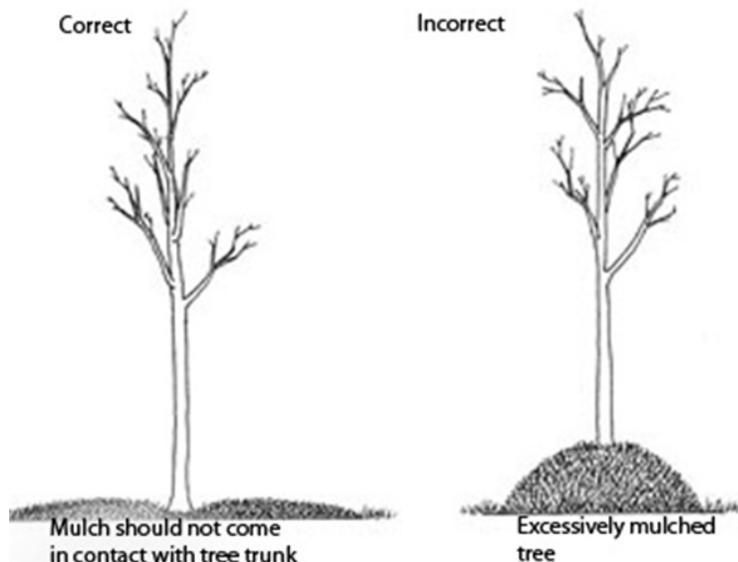
Name: Doug Schwegman

Board Member Since: 2015

Favorite Quote: "Would I rather be feared or loved? Easy. Both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me." – Michael Scott

About Doug: My family and I moved from downtown Chicago to Oakwood five years ago looking for a little more space. I work in public accounting and I try to spend my spare time enjoying Lake Charles, be it fishing, boating, swimming, skating or watching the wild life with my family.

Why is Doug on the OHA Board of Directors?: Mark made me do it. Just kidding! My family and I love this community and we are happy to get involved and help in any way possible.



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Oakwood - Dining Around Town



After a flurry of restaurant openings and closings, things have settled down into a more reasonable pace...

Stepping Out

Urban Legend has changed its name to Myths and Legends. Seems a west

coast winery had already taken the name some time ago. Everything else remains the same with the tap room open Tuesday through Sunday. Wednesday night features live entertainment and a food truck or two. Visit the only brewery in Westmont and try the sampler!

With the holidays coming, there are plenty of local options.

The **Hilton at Oak Brook Hills** will host Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 11th and Sunday, December 18th. Each breakfast will run from 10am to 1pm and includes a lavish buffet, photos with Santa, Christmas cookie decorating for the kids. Priced at \$35 for adults and \$14 for kids with under 5 free. Here's all the info...

<http://www.oakbrookhillsresortchicago.com/dining/breakfast-with-santa.htm>

Standard Market, Uncle Bub's, Vincitori and **J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious** will all have their holiday catering menus ready to go. Contact them directly to place your orders and coordinate pick-up times.

The **Hilton at Oak Brook Hills** is setting the new standard for New Year's Eve. The Las Vegas Rat Pack is Back Show will debut in the Hilton ballroom this coming New Year's Eve. The couples' package includes dinner, 4 hours of premium open bar, all the hats, horns and a champagne toast, the entire show and dancing plus overnight accommodations. Wake-up the next morning to the Hilton's famous brunch. Couples package is priced at \$495 and a VIP package is also available. **Rumor** has it ABC Channel 7 may do their live broadcast from here! Here's the full

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info...

<http://www.oakbrookhillsresortchicago.com/new-year-s-eve/rat-pack-is-back.htm>

Chef Bob Allerdo of **Vincitori** brings back the Dueling Pianos New Year's Eve. Cover charge is \$10 and most of the menu plus some great specials will be available. This one always sells out so reservations are a must!

<http://www.vincitori.com/entertainment.html>

Grill 89 will be open Christmas Eve 'til 9pm and host their full menu on New Year's Eve beginning with brunch at 10am and ending with a champagne toast at midnight. They will also be open all day on New Year's beginning with brunch at 10am!

Want something a bit quieter, try **Amber Café**. A special Chef's menu will be unveiled in early December and reservations will be available for this fine dining and quieter option.

On New Year's Day, **Citrus Diner** will open at 8am for those beginning their day, or finishing their night. Breakfast and lunch 'til 1:30pm.

Up and Coming:

Pizza Bacci – A Taylor Street mainstay, Bacci will open up in the location formerly held by Pompei. Bacci will offer pizza and additional items still being decided. An end of the year opening is forecasted.

Anna's Place has received the necessary approvals and has begun build out for a new restaurant and video gaming establishment on Ogden Ave, in the Pizza Hut strip mall just west of Cass Ave. While most video gaming places have no real kitchen and minimal menus, Anna's, with an established location in Westchester, will have a full kitchen build out. Plans call for an opening prior to receiving the video license which will clearly emphasize the food.

Oakwood Day Care!

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References happily furnished by request.



Oakwood - Dining Around Town

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Johnny's Blitz – A new sports themed restaurant will open in downtown Westmont in the space formerly occupied by LaLaLi Patisserie. Menu plans call for gourmet burgers as well as several other options. With construction, expect an opening in late Spring.

Up and Running (last six months):

The B. – The more formal Windows restaurant at Oak Brook Hills (Hilton) has been tastefully redone, relocated and redecorated to more fully capture the panoramic views of the south facing multi floor windows. The views are **spectacular** and the restaurant features a lively cocktail area, coffee bar, Neapolitan style pizza oven and completely remastered menu by Executive Chef Sean Patrick Curry. Many of you tried their food at the Taste of Westmont and were rewarded with certificates for free pizzas or appetizers...great marketing move!

Partners in the **Ditka Restaurant** group opened two restaurants at 800 East Ogden Avenue in the St. James Crossing shopping center on Monday, May 23rd. Splitting the site of the former Jimmy's Island Grill are two new concepts. **Route 89** (Da Coaches old playing number) opened with a downsized **Ditka's** themed menu with Da Coach adding his touches. Small plates for sharing (think appetizers) range from dips to deviled eggs to Da Coaches Pot Roast Nachos. Sandwiches, burgers and a Smokehouse section featuring meat products from Linz Heritage Angus. There will even be a few brunch items served from 10am on Saturdays and Sundays. The bar menu reflects the same level of creativity.

Separately, **Cucinova** features individually constructed pizza, pasta and salads. All are prepared with the freshest of ingredients, adding each as you walk down the line (similar to Chipotle). After finishing off your custom order, it's brought to your table. Simple, quick and efficient!

Gone But Not Forgotten:

Pompei – With inconsistent service and food, Pompei closed their Westmont doors for good in late July. I'll leave the questions and rumors regarding this property jinx to others....but I'll always miss the Herb Chicken Ravioli and gelato!

Recently Reviewed (last six months):

Uncle Bub's - <http://shawurl.com/2wvi>

Fall Beverages - <http://shawurl.com/2wi8>

Hanbun - <http://shawurl.com/2v59>

B. at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills -

www.shawurl.com/2swz

Westmont Ice Cream Trail - <http://shawurl.com/2rsc>

Sushi House – <http://shawurl.com/2qv5>

J Fleming's Absolutely Delicious -

<http://shawurl.com/2p8b>

Taste of Westmont - www.shawurl.com/2njm

Citrus Diner - <http://www.shawurl.com/2mmd>

Taco Grill – www.shawurl.com/2kjp

Looking for more restaurant ideas, follow the #chitowndiner on **Instagram**.

Gregg Pill – Oakwood Resident

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Oakwood - Social Committee

2017 Events!

Get your calendars out, because we're booking up 2017 already!

- TBA: Oakwood Easter Egg Hunt
- June 3rd (Saturday): 3pm - midnight: Fishing Derby / Beach Party
- June 16-17th (Friday-Saturday): Oakwood Community-Wide Garage Sale
- August 27th (Sunday): Noon - 2:30pm: End of Summer Barbecue
- October 26 (Thursday): 6 - 8pm: Oakwood Halloween Party

The Social Committee is always happy to welcome new members and new volunteers. Helping out can be as much as running an event or as little as aiding with setup or takedown. We're also always open to new events (progressive dinner parties, road rallies, bowling events, etc.) To inquire or to share ideas, contact us at info@oakwoodha.org.

Communications Committee

Can You Hear Us Now?

Accompanying this issue of the Oak Leaf is the bi-annual Oakwood Membership Directory. This publication is put together every other year from the submissions of community members who submitted their forms that were sent out with the annual dues notice and in subsequent e-mail notifications. If you submitted a form in past years but not this year, you were removed from the Directory, as was mentioned on the form. Unfortunately every year we get a few residents who drop off because of this despite our best efforts to make them aware. The directory is assembled with a great number of hours of data entry and verification, and we do our best to read some of the handwriting that comes in, but if you see an error that slipped through the cracks, let us know by contacting us through e-mail us at info@oakwoodha.org and we'll make note for future copies.

Next Door Success!

Just a few weeks ago a small dog was found wandering the neighborhood, and some thoughtful neighbors set out to find the owner. Along with going door to door to homes where a similar dog was known to reside, a Nextdoor campaign was launched to find the dog's home. This resulted in several other people joining the effort, reaching out to others and making calls, and the dog's home was found. Thanks to all the community members who came together to make this mission a success!

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

Oakwood - Lake Management Committee

Editor's Note: Throughout the year, Oakwood resident and nature enthusiast Tadas Birutis submits pictures and information about local wildlife that shows up around Lake Charles. The following is a submission Tadas made a few months ago, between issues of The Oak Leaf.

Hi Friends,

If you are near the lake today, look for this handsome drake. A breeding-plumaged, male Hooded Merganser has been around Lake Charles for 3 days.

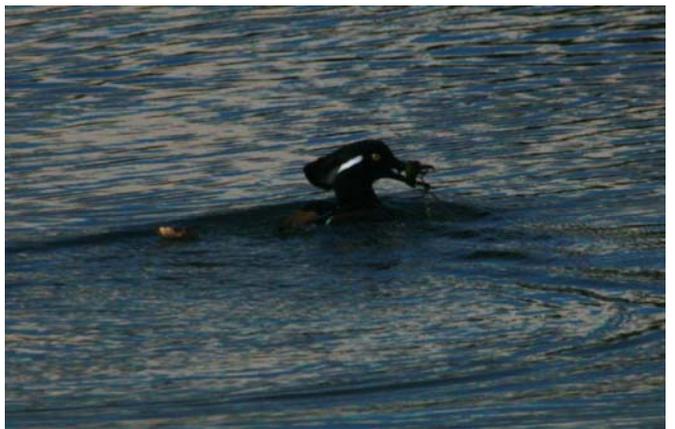
He is a small diving duck who's body is about the 50%-65% the size of a Mallard's.

Photos are not very crisp. Closest shots were off Mary's beach. See him dining on Lake Charles sushi fish & crayfish.

Enjoy him while you can!

God Bless and Enjoy the Nature of Oakwood,

Tadas Birutis



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Westmont News: From the Village Board



Hello neighbors!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and is enjoying the holiday season. Over the next few weeks, there are a lot exciting activities and events going on. Please enjoy all the holiday lights throughout downtown

Westmont as well. Our Public Works Department has done a fantastic job lighting up Cass Avenue!

Throughout December there are a few ways to give back to your community. The Holly Days Committee will be collecting non-perishable items to donate to the local food pantries. All donations can be dropped off at the following locations up until December 18th: Westmont Public Library, Westmont Police and Fire Departments, Westmont Centre and the Westmont Community Center. Another option is to take part in the Village's community coat drive. Last year, 124 winter clothing items were collected and distributed to families in need. Collection boxes are located at the Westmont Library, Westmont Police & Fire Departments, and the Village Hall. All items will be donated to the Downers Grove FISH Pantry and the People's Resource Center in Westmont.

At the Village Board meeting on Sept. 29, 2016, the Village of Westmont swore in Jim Gunther as the new Westmont Chief of Police. Jim has been with the Westmont Police Department since 1997 and has already hit the ground running in his new role. Thanks to Chief Gunther and the entire Westmont Police Department for keeping our community safe.

Next time you are in downtown Westmont, check out the newly constructed alleys. A few months back we began the first of many alley reconstruction projects. The alley bounded by Cass & Lincoln from Burlington to Irving to Norfolk was completely redone with decorative pervious brick pavers and pervious concrete. It is not only a big facelift for the area; it also improves storm water drainage by allowing water to absorb through the pervious materials.

Recently, I have been asked when recycling gets picked up so I wanted to share a useful link to the Village's garbage and recycling schedule. Check it out to find your specific pick up date.

<http://westmont.illinois.gov/DocumentCenter/View/548>



For the last few years, Clarendon Hills and the Village of Westmont have been working together on the Richmond Education Garden. This is a unique project that will provide educational and programming opportunities for resi-

dents throughout the area. Initial garden layouts have been reviewed and construction is expected to begin early Spring 2017.

The project will feature environmental education opportunities for area residents and students. A number of unique features have been proposed for the project including a working rain garden, rain barrel education, an example of a green roof, a hügelkultur, bioswale, native plantings, raised production planters, outdoor classroom area, apiary and more. Project volunteers and local schools are also developing an educational curriculum for the garden. For more information, please visit: www.clarendonhills.us/170/Richmond-Education-Gardens

Village of Westmont Holiday Schedule

- All Village of Westmont offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas, on Monday, Jan. 2 in observance of New Year's Day, and on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Regular business hours will resume on the next business day following the day observed.
- When the Village Hall and department offices are closed, bill payments can be dropped off via the Village of Westmont after-hours drop box, located near the entrance of the Commuter Train Station on west Quincy Street. These payments will be processed on the next business day.
- Additionally, there will be no recycling and garbage collection on Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. Collection will resume the day after observed holiday and be one day late for the remainder of the week.

Ways to Connect with the Village

- Sign up for Notify Me community alerts <http://www.westmont.illinois.gov/list.aspx>
- Sign up for Village of Westmont Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/westmontilgov>

Westmont News: From the Village Board

- 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.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Steve T. Nero
Westmont Village Trustee & Oakwood Resident
O: 630.981.6209
M: 630.776.8302
E: snero@westmont.il.gov



The OHA is on Facebook now. Follow us at <http://www.facebook.com/OakwoodHomeownersAssociation> to stay up to date with notices on events and relevant news for our neighborhood.

Westmont News: From the Westmont Planning & Zoning Commission



With an early deadline last quarter, this month, we'll take a look at P&Z business from August through November... a bonus 4 months instead of 3!

August continued our run of multiple meeting months. In the first of two meetings, the Commission approved the continued plan for the renovation of the Westmont Apartment complex located at 67th and Cass. A 550 unit complex; a full renovation, upgrade and beautification plan was reviewed over two months and approved. The remainder of our evening was spent conducting the public hearing and viewing the presentation for the expanded BMW dealership on the site of Oak Brook Racquet & Fitness Club. Plans include purchasing the portions of Westmont Drive from the Village and building a large campus. Construction could start in early spring, after the snow season ends.

The following week, we convened for the 4th meeting on the proposed Hilton of Oak Brook Hills expansion plans. Partners in the Oak Brook Hills Hilton, The Harp Group, have proposed a multi-story, upscale apartment building as well as a world class natatorium for portions of the 18 acre parcel that presently houses the hotel and parking lots. Plans were re-worked and a parking deficiency was made positive, building size and unit number was reduced along with several other significant changes. After several hours of careful consideration, the marathon (over 4 months and countless hours) came down to a vote 3-4 not in favor.

The negative recommendation was passed onto the Village Board which unanimously approved it at their next meeting. Permitting for this large scale project will take many months and it remains to be seen if local residents

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will proceed to court to block this project.

September saw another auto dealer detail their plans for expansion. Napleton Porsche has acquired the former Lamborghini building to their immediate east and will join the two buildings creating a major Porsche dealership. With Porsche, BMW, Acura, and Audi either completing or proposing expanded dealerships, a significant increase in car sales is projected.

We also welcomed to Westmont Dr. Jessica Torok, a veterinarian that will be opening a small animal hospital in downtown Westmont on Cass in the old Site 'n Sound building. In disrepair for nearly 10 years, this is a great step to beautify and fill our downtown.

We also approved a proposal to construct a two-unit townhome along the tracks on West Burlington. This project was delayed a month as we requested several façade beautification changes. We see the potential for several of these in the upcoming years and wanted to set a nice foundation.

While our October meeting was cancelled, November had a few smaller items. TCF Bank, located in the Jewel, will build an outdoor, drive up ATM along Ogden Ave on



Westmont News: From the Westmont Planning & Zoning Commission

the southernmost border of the property midway between the main Ogden entrance and the Shell gas station entrance. We also looked at and approved a dedication for a street right of way on Cumnor Road which when completed, will allow residents more complete access to their properties.

Other interesting projects that are ongoing...Tesla is well under way for their new dealership at 50 West Ogden. An opening date has not been set. Ultimo Motors is sprucing up the old Arby's site in preparation for expanding their auto inventory.

Finally, Bacci Pizza, another long time Taylor Street Italian eatery has taken over the former Pompei building with plans to open in December or January. Bacci Pizza has multiple Chicago locations.

The Village of Westmont Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. All meetings are televised live on local cable access channel 6 and then replayed at 10:00am Monday through Friday. Agenda items are then sent to the Village Board with the comments of the Com-

mission for final disposition. You can also view the agenda on the Village website – www.westmont.il.gov. The next meetings will take place December 14th, January 11th and February 8th – tune in! Please accept my wishes for a Merry Christmas and a beautiful holiday season!

Gregg Pill – Oakwood Resident

ADVERTISE HERE

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

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

- Business card (2 x 3.5"): \$70
- Double size (4 x 3.5"): \$140
- Half Page (4" x 7"): \$210

The newsletter is distributed quarterly to over 450 homes, and is posted electronically on the OHA Website, giving great local advertising exposure at a low cost! An additional ad space is made available on the Oakwood website at no additional charge to all advertisers!!



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Westmont News: From Community Unit School District 201

Community Unit School District 201 Highlights

As the school year opened, the students noticed the several changes to our schools. Manning and Miller have new school offices that helped to create safer and more secure entrances. The open classrooms in the Westmont Junior High are now all enclosed. This has improved safety at the junior high and the educational environment.

Westmont High School has undergone the greatest amount of change. There is a new main office to provide a secure visitor entrance. Visitors who enter the school will enter a vestibule and will need to check in at the office before being able to access the school. There is also a new student entrance. Students arriving late to school will enter the school directly into the student services office. All of the open classrooms are enclosed and technology upgraded in the new classrooms. There is new carpet in the commons, hallways and classrooms. There is new lighting throughout the building. The transformation of the high school has improved the overall security of the building and, more importantly, the educational environment. The Board of Education will be hosting an Open House in January for community members.

In addition to the physical changes, we have updated our vision for CUSD 201. This school year we continue to our commitment to teaching and learning. We believe that learning is the constant and time is the variable. Our vision is:

We are passionately committed to cultivating a growth mindset, ensuring learning for all, and developing students who are informed and active citizens and leaders. CUSD 201's footprint on the community, state, and world will be that of a small giant.

We believe that all students can learn at high levels in a supportive environment. Our commitment to the CUSD 201 school community is that we will work tirelessly to ensure all students learn.

Our schools continue to receive local, State, and National recognition. ExceleRate Illinois recently awarded the CUSD 201 Early Childhood Program the Gold Circle of Quality for the third year in a row. This is the highest recognition an early childhood program can receive.

ExceleRate Illinois is a statewide quality rating and improvement system designed to make continuous quality improvement an everyday priority among early learning providers. The program establishes standards for helping infants, toddlers and preschool age children develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. It provides a framework for early learning professionals to identify opportunities for improvement, increase their skills, and take steps to make positive changes.

Miller Elementary was ranked by Chicago Magazine as the number three elementary school in DuPage County. The ranking is based upon performance on standardized tests, per pupil expenditures, attendance, and overall school climate. This is the first time a CUSD 201 elementary school has been ranked.

Westmont High School is once again ranked as one of the best high schools in Illinois and the country by Newsweek, the Washington Post, and U.S. News and World Reports. We have seen a significant increase in the number of students taking A.P. courses, A.P. tests and passing A.P. tests. We have had a 100% graduation rate for our underrepresented population for the last two years. In addition, we have seen a significant increase in the percentage of minority and low income students take an A.P. course and pass an A.P. exam.

The positive changes in CUSD 201 go beyond the academics. Our schools emphasize the importance making CUSD 201 a positive and peaceful place to be and to treat each other with compassion. The climate created has resulted in a significant reduction in out-of-school suspensions. The high school has had zero fights in the last two years. All of the students at Westmont Junior High successfully completed their service learning requirement through performing thousands of hours of community service. In CUSD 201, one of our goals is to have our students rally around a higher purpose; to put aside individual interests and focus on the bigger picture. In all of our schools we have been able to foster and improve the sense of community.

Kevin Carey
CUSD 201 Superintendent of Schools

