

# The Oak Leaf

[www.OakwoodHA.org](http://www.OakwoodHA.org)

Volume 34 Number 3 - September, 2017

## Hey, Oakwood!!



Someone tell me how it is that summer is over again already. Seems that it just goes faster and faster.

There was plenty going on this summer around here, and whereas I'm generally pretty quiet, those on the e-mail list saw there were a number of

things going on that kept me reaching out to all of you. Whereas the police press releases are almost always devoid of incidents in Oakwood, we had a handful of thefts in the neighborhood, primarily from unlocked cars. It's just a good idea to lock your car up if you leave it outside, and of course "if you see something, say something"

Other excitement swirled around the unusual blue-green algae on Lake Charles. The LMC was all over it, and there's more on that on page 3 in their update.

The biggest stink of the summer was around the new garbage cans. The majority of the homes in Oakwood have 2-car garages, and if you have two cars, you don't have a ton of room for other things, so while for bigger families these were a welcome changeup, for many they are a burden

and create new problems. Chief among those are the fact that homes with fewer residents don't need such large cans, and that for those with mobility limitations these 96 gallon behemoths can be a hazard, especially in the winter months if driveways are slick. Waste Management worked with the Village to replace the 96 gallon cans with 64 gallon alternatives, which was coordinated through the OHA (you should be aware of this if you're on our e-mail list). Whether or not a 32 gallon alternative will be made an option is yet to be heard. If so, we'll let you all know (\*ahem\*... e-mail list).

Then we have the "whatever happened to..." category.

1.) FEMA, after a few years of running silent, decided that now would be the time to reinitiate the completely illogical reclassification of some homes around Lake Charles as being in a Flood Plain. There's no rational reasoning behind this change... had hurricane Harvey hit Westmont full force, then maybe, and while I'm no meteorologist, I have to think the likelihood of that happening ever is fairly remote. We've sustained multiple "100-year storms" in the past 10 or so years (may need to rethink that name), and never had a real problem. While things came up again, there hasn't been any real motion yet.

2.) Speaking of lack of motion, several people have been asking where there's no construction over at the Oak Brook Hills property following the World Class Westmont approval some time ago now. The short version is that our friends in the town homes on the golf course have successfully managed to delay things with legal filings. The hypocrisy of this is ironic given how many people

## 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](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org)

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

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

Letter to the Community .....	1
Social Committee .....	2
Oakwood - Updates .....	3
Lake Management Committee .....	3
Dining Around Town .....	4
From the Village Board .....	6
From the Planning & Zoning Commission .....	8
From Community Unit School District 201 ...	10
Oakwood - Wild Life! .....	12

## Oakwood - Social Committee

### 2017 Events!

Wow! We're down to just one more formal OHA event for 2017! As is tradition, the weekend before Labor Day marked the Annual End of Summer Barbecue for Oakwood residents over at Ty Warner Park. We structured the event a little more formally this year, which we got good feedback on, especially with regard to having food ready for people promptly. The 2018 event is already booked for Sunday, August 26th, 2018, but we'll give you a reminder before that creeps up on us. As for 2017, the only event left is the Annual OHA Halloween and Costume Party. The date is still TBD, so stay tuned to our Facebook page, join our mailing list ([info@oakwoodha.org](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org)), or watch for the postcard to make sure you don't miss it!

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](mailto:info@oakwoodha.org).

### **Hey Oakwood!** (Continued from page 1)

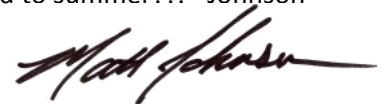
objected to these "eyesore" town homes being built on the golf course initially, and all this really seems to have done is delay a project that many are confident will strongly benefit our whole community. There's more on this matter in the P&Z update on page 6, and also updates on the Village Website (most recent is currently at <http://westmont.illinois.gov/civicalerts.aspx?aid=612>).

Here within Oakwood though things really happened this summer! The summer was kicked off with another fantastic Fishing-Derby / Beach Party, we had a good turnout for the annual Oakwood Community Garage Sale on Father's Day weekend, and the End of Summer Barbecue had good turnout and good times.

The next generation of the Moms and Tots group is going strong, and in the middle of Oakwood the Jr. High and High School are continuing to make strides that bolster our whole community. More and more I have visibility to people wanting to move into Westmont and Oakwood because they like where our community is going, and I have to agree with them. There's a lot here to take pride in, and a lot of good things are going on in this community. They don't happen in a vacuum though. It's the people of our communities stepping up and bringing about positive change that make this the special place to live that it is. It's a lot more fun to be a participant than a spectator, so if you're not already, get involved!

I'll leave it at that for this month. There's a lot of good stuff in this issue (check out the new addition to the newsletter courtesy of Tadas Birutis on the back cover), so take just a few minutes to take it all in and get a glimpse into the good things happening all around us!

-Matt "what just happened to summer?!?" Johnson  
OHA Board President





**"Jon" Juan Rodriguez**  
Realtor® & Oakwood Resident



Cell: 708.289.0990  
Office: 708.361.0800  
Fax: 708.361.9618  
[jonyr73@yahoo.com](mailto:jonyr73@yahoo.com)  
[www.c21affiliated.com/jon.rodriguez](http://www.c21affiliated.com/jon.rodriguez)



Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

15812 S. Wolf Road  
Orland Park, IL 60467

# Oakwood - Updates

## Because you wanted it!

On numerous occasions, Oakwood Resident Tadas Birutis has presented a slide show at the OHA Annual Meetings, and every time we get great feedback on it. Tadas has agreed to do a quarterly Nature piece for the Oak Leaf, which this first month shows up dominating our back cover where we hope the pictures he's taken will really catch some eyes as he announces the first Oakwood Nature Photo Challenge.

As we get this new segment going, we will be adding it to the Oakwood website at [www.oakwoodha.org](http://www.oakwoodha.org), just like we've done for the Dining Around Town piece. We hope that you enjoy this, and take part in the first challenge!

## Fall Garage Sale?

Those on the e-mailing list are aware that the OHA considered formally adding a late-summer garage sale event to the Westmont Garage Sale, but due to lack of responses, this did not proceed. For the time being, the OHA will not be coordinating a Fall Garage Sale here in Oakwood as we've done a few times in the past, but if you have things you need to get rid of, don't let that stop you.

If getting rid of items is more important than making money off them, consider using NextDoor Oakwood to see if there are any neighbors interested in taking items off your hands.

# Oakwood - Lake Management Committee

Hello Oakwood Neighbors,

During the month of July Lake Charles experienced an uncommonly large blue-green algae bloom that covered parts of the lake. Just in case you missed it, blue-green algae blooms typically appear as surface scums or clumps floating in the water (which can look like grass clippings or curds of green cottage cheese), or simply a strong florescent green color cloud in the water. Very often, they are also accompanied by foul odors that resemble septic, fishy, or petroleum-like smells.

While blue-green algae are a naturally occurring component of all aquatic ecosystems, large or frequent blooms are not. This summer the lakes and ponds of the Midwest saw an unusual amount of large and frequent blue-green algae blooms as a result of an unusually wet and rainy early summer period, and unfortunately Lake Charles was no exception. The unusual high levels of rain combined with nutrient rich runoff materials and rising temperatures made July an ideal environment for these unusual blooms.

Blue-green algae have the ability to produce toxins that can be harmful to both humans and animals if exposed to skin or consumed, so contact should be avoided. The OHA Board and Lake Management Committee utilize a lake management company that consistently monitors the health of the Lake Charles, including its algae levels. In consulting their expert advice regarding the treatment of a large blue-green algae bloom, the immediate and

widespread use of algacides to kill off such blooms is not recommended as doing such would release any toxins the algae are carrying as well as deplete the water's oxygen levels, both of which would have a detrimental impact on the Lake's ecosystem. In our case, the recommended course of action was to let the algae run their natural life cycle and get washed away with the next heavy rain, which is what happened about a week later.

Since July there have not been any additional large blooms of blue-green algae in Lake Charles and the Lake Management Committee is working with the lake management company in seeking alternative treatment techniques to target phosphorous and other rich nutrients that are the underlying cause of these large and frequent blue-green algae blooms. These new treatment techniques would be utilized the next time the conditions are favorable for another large algae outbreak.

I hope everybody enjoyed their summer.

Doug Schwegman

OHA Board Director and LMC member

# Oakwood - Dining Around Town



Looks like we will have a few new casual eateries opening soon in Westmont...see **Up and Coming** below.

The Hilton at Oak Brook Hills continues to expand their high end offerings at the hotel with the newest...

## **James Bond-Themed Fundraiser at Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort to Benefit Imerman Angels, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort invites Chicagoans to escape/enter into the world of Bond, James Bond. On Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, the first annual "EN NOIR: A Casino Royale Masquerade" in benefit of Imerman Angels will be unveiled. Experience elegance and drama surrounded by casino tables, aerialist performances, themed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, Bond theme music performed by nationally-renowned singer Erin Boheme – all in 007 style. Tickets for the fundraiser are available through EnNoirOakBrook.com.

EN NOIR guests are requested to appear in Black Tie or Masquerade costume attire. The evening will belong to the legacy of 007 with Bond themes weaved throughout the program and 007 design. Erin Boheme, first discovered by Michael Buble, will set the tone with sultry renditions of Bond's most memorable themes. Enveloped in drama will be captivating performances from aerialists as they drop from the ceiling of the Grand Ballroom while masquerading guests relish the many casino tables. Guests can sip on themed cocktails from the open premium bar and savor chef-driven hors d'oeuvres while they play out the evening of extravagance. Private VIP Packages will give attendees an enhanced experience.

Tickets for EN NOIR: A Casino Royale Masquerade are now on sale through EnNoirOakBrook.com for \$125 (adults 21 and older only) and \$175 for VIP. All guests will receive a \$10 starters gambling chip. The Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> event begins at 7:00 pm and ends at 11:00 pm. Discounted hotel rooms are also available for those who want to take a short elevator ride home by visiting oakbrookhillsresort.com. Partial proceeds from EN NOIR will benefit Imerman Angels – the leading one-on-one cancer support community in the world. The organization carefully matches and individually pairs a cancer fighter, survivor or caregiver with someone who has fought and survived the same type of cancer (a Mentor Angel). These relationships inspire hope, as well as offer the chance to ask personal questions and receive support from someone who is uniquely familiar with the experi-

ence. The service is absolutely free and helps anyone touched by any type of cancer, at any cancer stage level, at any age, living anywhere in the world. Imerman Angels is a federally registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information visit ImermanAngels.org.

## **Stepping Out**

**The Hilton at Oak Brook Hills Resort** offers several great opportunities to change things up. Live Piano Bar on Thursday evenings from 8pm – 11pm at **B**. Friday Fish Fry 5pm – 9pm along with Live Music from 7:30pm – 10pm at **Tin Cup** both inside and on the patio. Sunday Brunch from 11am – 2pm featuring bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Marys at **B**.

**Myths & Legends**, Westmont's own microbrewery hosts live music every Wednesday & Thursday evening from 7pm – 10pm. Myths & Legends is also accepting applications for fall bags and dart leagues. Fall events should be posted - <http://mythsandlegendsbeer.com/info> - soon!

The semi-annual **Chamber Open House** will be hosted by **Lexus** on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Enjoy networking, refreshments and the latest from Lexus.

**The State of the Village** address will be given by Mayor Gunter and his staff in October. This behind the scenes look features updates from all major Village Departments and is open to all residents. It will convene at 8:00am with a continental breakfast the **Hilton Oak Brook Hills**. Check the chamber website for details as a date is selected at <http://www.westmontchamber.com/>

Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> is the date to put on the calendar for the **Westmont Chamber's Halloween Trick or Treat Trail** in downtown Westmont on Cass Avenue. Along with the Trail will be the return of the Pumpkin Smashing Contest, the Stuff A Truck for People's Resource Center and the newly created, Caskets on Cass coffin races!

Enjoy a bit of entertainment with your dinner, **Vincitori Italian Restaurant** features live entertainment on most Fridays and Saturdays and **J. Flemings Absolutely Delicious** does the same on most Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

**The B. at the Hilton** will have a large scale Thanksgiving special with details to be released around the end of September.

# Oakwood - Dining Around Town

## Up and Coming:

**ItaliAmo** – A new Italian fast food restaurant is under construction just north of the Burger King at 63<sup>rd</sup> and Cass. The site was formerly occupied by Stax. No word on menu options but the sign is up.

**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. The sign is up and the inside nearing completion. Love the city-style front windows which will open to allow the streetscape in. Expect an opening in late September.

**Fremont Grill** – Another sports themed restaurant and bar has completed liquor license background checks and plans to open in the site formerly occupied by The Neutral Zone in the NE corner strip mall at Fairview and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. With opening plans for October, the promise of Sunday mimosa/football brunches and lots of TV's for your favorite games, this will fill another empty slot.

## Up and Running (last six months):

**Ruta** – has re-opened following an extensive renovation and interior expansion. A haven for Lithuanian food, see this review... <http://shawurl.com/31lo>

**Big Boss Westmont** – has opened at 677 North Cass Avenue in the shopping center north of Jewel. Featuring a large menu of trans-Pacific dining options, this is a 2<sup>nd</sup> location with the original being in Forest Park at DesPlaines and Madison.

**Dolce's Restaurant** has changed ownership hands and is now known as **Dolce's Restaurant & Wine Bar**. Located at 15 West Quincy, across from the train station. An expanded menu is now available under new owners Jason (Neat kitchen + bar) and Greg. Hours are expanded to Monday – Saturday.

**\*FAST DELIVERY\***  
**\*\*\* MULCH & TOPSOIL \*\*\***

• Premium Shredded Hardwood .....	\$25/yd
• Premium Blend Dark .....	\$32/yd
• Premium Bark Fines .....	\$39/yd
• Shredded Blonde Cedar .....	\$45/yd
• Dyed Red/Brown .....	\$28
• Western Red Cedar .....	\$58
• Firewood .....	Call 4 Prices

**\*Spreading Available\***  
Also Topsoil, Garden Mix, Mushroom Compost, Super Mix, Sand, Gravel, Firewood.

**WWW.SUREGREENLANDSCAPE.COM**

Office: 630-876-0111  
Office: 847-888-9999  
Text INFO to  
630-251-0230



## Recently Reviewed (last six months):

### Ultimate Guide to Westmont Pizza

(Part 1 of 4)

Harvest Pancake House	<a href="http://shawurl.com/34dn">http://shawurl.com/34dn</a>
Mai Thai	<a href="http://shawurl.com/33rg">http://shawurl.com/33rg</a>
Taste of Westmont 2017	<a href="http://shawurl.com/33hk">http://shawurl.com/33hk</a>
Papa Passero's	<a href="http://shawurl.com/334q">http://shawurl.com/334q</a>
Golden Basket	<a href="http://shawurl.com/32br">http://shawurl.com/32br</a>
Patio Dining in Westmont	<a href="http://shawurl.com/31zk">http://shawurl.com/31zk</a>
Ruta Café & Restaurant	<a href="http://shawurl.com/31lo">http://shawurl.com/31lo</a>
Standard Market Grill	<a href="http://shawurl.com/30pk">http://shawurl.com/30pk</a>
Westmont Restaurant Week	<a href="http://shawurl.com/30d1">http://shawurl.com/30d1</a>
Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen	<a href="http://shawurl.com/2zx1">http://shawurl.com/2zx1</a>
New Korea Garden	<a href="http://shawurl.com/2z20">http://shawurl.com/2z20</a>

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

Gregg Pill – Oakwood Resident

## Quantum Insurance Group

Downers Grove, IL

- Independent agent/broker representing many quality companies
- Writing broker for Oakwood Homeowners Association for over 10 years

**AUTO \* HOME \* BUSINESS \* LIFE \*  
HEALTH**

**Call for a free, competitive quote!**

**630-963-2280**

AAA, Auto Owners, Blue Cross, General Casualty, Hartford, Met Home & Auto, Progressive, Safeco,

## Westmont News: From the Village Board



Hello neighbors! I hope everyone enjoyed all the community events that go on in Westmont throughout the summer. A big thank you to the Oakwood residents who volunteer countless hours to help make the events possible. Below are a few updates on items addressed at the Village Board and upcoming events.

### Stormwater Management Program

During a recent village meeting, the board authorized the issuance of \$7M in general obligation bonds specifically for stormwater infrastructure projects. These bonds are exclusively funded by the non-home-rule sales tax adopted by referendum. These bonds will allow the village to continue to make significant progress in upgrading infrastructure. The bonds cost approximately \$500K annually which leaves about \$900K annually from the same funding source for additional ongoing maintenance and projects.

### North Westmont Fire Protection District Consolidation

Throughout the past few months, Westmont and DuPage

County have been working with the unincorporated residents located near the northwest corner of Cass and Ogden in the North Westmont Fire Protection District. For as long as I can remember, these 536 parcels have been receiving fire and paramedic services from the Westmont Fire Department at a cost less than what actual residents pay. With the support of DuPage County, the Village Board and the unincorporated residents, we successfully began dissolving the district. Ultimately, eliminating the need for the village to offset an annual shortfall of approximately \$70K.

### Shred Event for Special Olympics

The Westmont Police Department along with Docu-Shred are hosting a paper shredding event to benefit Special Olympics Illinois. Residents can bring any paper materials that need to be shredded to the Westmont Police Station (500 N. Cass) on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9AM – Noon. Suggested donations are \$5 per container of paper. This is a great way to clean out your office and help out a worthy cause!

### 2017 Citizens Police Academy Sign-Up



**DON'T SELL YOUR HOME...  
UNTIL YOU TALK TO MAUREEN SULLIVAN!**

LONG REALTY HAS BEEN GETTING TOP DOLLAR FOR OAKWOOD HOMES FOR 37 YEARS. LET MY EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA RESULT IN A HIGHER PRICE FOR YOU.

- # 1 SELLER OF OAKWOOD HOMES FOR 30 YEARS
- OVER 95 OAKWOOD HOMES SOLD
- OAKWOOD RESIDENT FOR 40 YEARS
- LONG REALTY- THE CLOSEST, MOST SUCCESSFUL SELLER OF WESTMONT HOMES
- UNIQUE MARKET PLAN
- SERVICE IS MY SPECIALTY

CALL FOR A CONFIDENTIAL MARKET ANALYSIS AND/OR INFORMATION ON PURCHASE OF A NEW RESIDENCE.

LET MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MARKET WORK FOR YOU.

**MAUREEN SULLIVAN, LONG REALTY**

"Living and Working in Oakwood"

**630-251-7662**



# Westmont News: From the Village Board

The Westmont Police Department will be hosting the Westmont Citizens Police Academy. This is a nine-week course held on Wednesdays from 6:30PM-9PM starting September 27<sup>th</sup>. Residents are encouraged to sign up now through September 26<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the academy is to provide participants with a better understanding of the daily operations of the Police Department. You will get a behind the scenes look into various aspects of law enforcement. All registrants must be 18 years of age or older, live, work or be associated with Westmont. There is no charge to take part in this great community program. Please sign up by visiting the village website ([www.westmont.il.gov](http://www.westmont.il.gov)).

## Patriot Day Commemoration Service Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

The Village of Westmont will hold its annual Patriot Day Ceremony in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The ceremony will take place on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire/Police Facility, 500 N. Cass in Westmont. I encourage all Oakwood residents to attend.

## Tips on Choosing a Contractor

At a recent meeting, Village staff presented a list of suggested guidelines when considering any home improvement project or repair. Please keep the following tips in mind when selecting a contractor:

- Get recommendations and references from friends and family
- Get at least three written estimates
- Check contractor complaint records with the Better Business Bureau or other online sources
- Be sure the contractor meets licensing and registration requirements
- Be sure your contractor is insured
- Insist on a written contract and try to limit your down payment

- Do not make final payment until you are completely satisfied with the work
- Pay by credit card when you can for extra protection
- Watch out for fly by night contractors

## Campaign Announcement - DuPage County Board



In late June, I announced my candidacy for the DuPage County Board in District 2. I will run in the general primary to be held March 20th, 2018.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve all Oakwood residents as their representative on the County Board. Please visit my website at [nerofordupage.com](http://nerofordupage.com) or Nero for DuPage County Board on Facebook to learn more.

## 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>
- 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.

Steve T. Nero  
Westmont Village Trustee & Oakwood Resident  
O: 630.981.6209  
M: 630.776.8302

## Oakwood Day Care!

Licensed Child Care for kids from 6 weeks through 12 years of age right here in Oakwood for 24 years!

Rose Marie McElroy  
(630) 986-5983

Call to set up a time to meet.  
References happily furnished by request.



PHONE (630) 325-6258  
[mrodek@yahoo.com](mailto:mrodek@yahoo.com)



**Michelle's Cleaning Service**  
RESIDENTIAL CLEANING EXPERT

MICHALINA RODEK  
Owner

737 OAKWOOD CT.  
WESTMONT, IL 60559

## Westmont News: From the Westmont Planning & Zoning Commission



Planning & Zoning seems to come in spurts and while the last several months have been relatively slow, several major projects are on the horizon. Taken together, these projects represent significant investment, planning and exposure for our Village.

They also will play a major role in defining our community over the next several decades.

June and July both had the Ryan Companies on the agenda for the massive property space on the NW corner of Pasquinelli Drive and Oakmont. Fronting both sides of the road, Ryan is a big player in the development scene and promptly went after Caterpillar. As the space was not move-in ready, Caterpillar went elsewhere. They continue to look at this space with either single or multi-tenant utilization and the full upgrade required for the tenant.

We also saw in July a new annexation from unincorporated Clarendon Hills. Coming in at R-1, we approved a recommendation to reduce to R-2 which is more in keeping with the homeowner's lot size. The homeowner displayed beautiful plans for a major home build project on the site with the full intent to make it his residence.

August saw a 55<sup>th</sup> Street resident request a variance for a 6 foot privacy/safety fence. Located along a busy thoroughfare, this is a request that we have approved many times in the past. Key components are keeping sightlines open for folks traveling through the alley as well as for the homeowner as they exit their driveway onto 55<sup>th</sup> Street. We also gave a recommendation for

a downtown business to relocate from LaGrange and establish a Day Spa complete with interior space for Ladies' Nights Out!

Several large scale projects are currently underway in Westmont and here are short updates on some. Porsche and BMW are both well into construction on their new facilities. When completed, each will be drastically expand their footprint, create updated facilities and hopefully, increase contributions to our sales tax base with greater auto sales. Porsche may also be expanding their presence at the old Alpha Motors site at Blackhawk and Ogden.

I mentioned the Ryan Companies above as they currently seek tenants for a re-design of the entire property at Pasquinelli and Oakmont.

The major expansion approved by the Village Board last fall for the Oak Brook Hills Hilton has been delayed by legal proceedings brought on by residents of the townhomes located on the property. Settlement rumors continue to circulate and a few weeks ago, the Natatorium was given final approval by the Village Board. Look for revised plans in the near future. The Village of Westmont website publishes periodic updates on the progress of this project.

Rumors continue to swirl on the south side regarding several of the large properties located near 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and Cass Avenue. As often is the case with large acquisitions, due diligence requires non-disclosure agreements and results in all kinds of rumors only one of which usually occurs. We'll keep an eye on things and report back in future issues if there are any updates!



## Westmont News: From the Westmont Planning & Zoning Commission

Finally, with an eight story mixed use building proposed for the NE corner of Cass and the Burlington Railroad, our downtown may have the cornerstone for redevelopment. Included within the building will be commercial space, 3 floors of internal parking along with five residential floors. A complex project involving the relocation of the downtown S-turn, a new parking structure for downtown visitors would also be constructed as part of the plan.

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 Commission for final disposition. You can also view the agenda on the Village website – [www.westmont.il.gov](http://www.westmont.il.gov). The next meetings will take place September 13<sup>th</sup> & October 11<sup>th</sup> – tune in!


Gregg Pill – Oakwood Resident



### Discounted Plowing Offered to Oakwood Residents



TJ's Land Care is again offering volume discount rates to Oakwood residents for plowing and shoveling services.

Watch our Sponsors page at [www.oakwoodha.org](http://www.oakwoodha.org) for updates on rates  e number of participants in this program.

To sign up for the service, e-mail John at TJ's at:

[tjlandcare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjlandcare@sbcglobal.net)

Or call (630) 393-1993



**NEXT**  
DOOR & WINDOW  
A Family Tradition Since 1947

Gary Armstrong

Cell 708-238-7570

[gary@nextdoorandwindow.com](mailto:gary@nextdoorandwindow.com)

[www.nextdoorandwindow.com](http://www.nextdoorandwindow.com)

16W240 83rd St., Burr Ridge, IL 60527 • 708-233-9444  
815 E. Ogden Ave., Naperville, IL 60563 • 630-548-4100  
718 E. Rand Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60004 • 888-313-3667



Oakbrook  
**WALTER E. SMITHE**  
FURNITURE + DESIGN



You Dream It,  
We Build It

Ask for Jeanie Smith,  
Designer & Oakwood Resident

630-921-1493 [JeanieS@Smithe.com](mailto:JeanieS@Smithe.com)



**Oakwood**  
Homeowners Association  
of Westmont



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 Community Unit School District 201

The 2017-18 school year is off to a great start. As a district we continue to focus on instilling in our students a growth mindset. No one is born with a smart gene. Instead, with time and effective effort, all students can learn.

Community Unit School District 201 has some new administrative faces. At Westmont High School we have two new individuals. Jinu Joseph joins our District as assistant principal and most recently was a math teacher in the Chicago Public School System. The new Teaching and Learning Coordinator at the High School is Megan VerVynk. Megan was most recently a teacher at Oak Park Junior High. Lindsay Pietrzak is the new Manning Principal. Lindsay was the Teaching and Learning Coordinator at Westmont High School. Britta Wasazk is the new elementary school assistant principal and will be shared between Manning and Miller. Britta was a fourth grade teacher in the Lombard School District.

## Westmont High School Continues to Thrive

In 2013, Lisa Hootman, Westmont High School science teacher, facilitated a garden project. Over the years it has been a popular activity for the high school students and an outdoor learning lab.

This year, the students have harvested about 500 pounds of produce from the garden and are hoping to reach 900 pounds by the end of the fall. They have donated 350 pounds of produce to the Peoples Resource Center to date.

In addition, Nate Chamberlain, Westmont High school science teacher, added a bee hive and formed a Bee Club. The students harvested 30 pounds of honey a few weeks ago which is an exceptional amount for a first year hive. They are planning to add two more hives in the spring. The local pollen and nectar sources appear to be plentiful, keeping our WHS bees happy.

## CUSD 201 Early Childhood Program Receives Gold Circle of Quality

For the fourth year in a row, ExceleRate Illinois award-

ed the CUSD 201 Early Childhood Program the Gold Circle of Quality. 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.

The Gold Circle of Quality recognizes programs that meet or go beyond the highest quality goals. Gold Circle programs have met the highest quality standards in three areas: learning environment and teaching quality; administrative standards; and staff training and education. Programs are actively engaged in continuous quality improvement.

## Jack Baldermann Named One of Three Finalist for National Principal of the Year

Jack Baldermann, Westmont High School Principal, has been named one of three finalists for the 2018 National Association of Secondary School Principal Award. Jack has cultivated a culture of safety and compassion that has led to skyrocketing student achievement. His school was one of 500 nationwide that were chosen in 2015 by *Newsweek* for "Beating the Odds." All African American and Latino students have graduated on time, four years in a row, and the number of underrepresented AP Scholars has increased by over 700 percent. Since 2015, the school has been the most improved regular high school in the nation on the *Washington Post* Challenge Index (and ranked top 1 percent in the state). The staff describe feeling supported by Baldermann, who has led them collaboratively in building ambitious, student-centered programs based on the school's vision and S.M.A.R.T. goals. On top of faculty support and student success, Baldermann also be-



# Westmont News: From Community Unit School District 201

believes in mentorship, having served as lead mentor to over 40 principals in 14 states. Additionally, in his 25 years as an administrator, 21 of the educators he hired and mentored for their first administrative position have gone on to become successful principals and superintendents. The winner will be named sometime in the fall.

## Westmont High Continues to Achieve Unprecedented Success

Each year the Washington Post publishes the Challenge Index which ranks the most challenging high school in Illinois and nationally. This year the Washington Post ranked Westmont High School as the fourth most challenging high school in the State of Illinois. The highest ranking the High School has ever received. Nationally the high school ranks 191 out of 28,000 high schools, which puts Westmont in the top 1% of high schools in the country.

Westmont High School also boasts a 99% graduation rate. In the last four years, the graduation rate for African American students and Latino students has been 100%.

## To a Healthy School Year

The school year is off to a great start. It will not be long before the leaves will begin to change and the season of fall will be upon us. With the arrival of fall, comes the arrival of the flu season. In a typical year, approximately 20% of Americans contract the seasonal flu.

The Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Health are encouraging people to get vaccinated to reduce their risk of contracting the flu virus.

The seasonal flu vaccine should be administered in September. The Department of Disease Control recommends children between the ages of 6 months and 18 years of age should receive the vaccine. Parents should speak with their doctor about the availability of vaccinations and any questions they may have about seasonal flu.

In addition to vaccinations, please practice good hygiene habits. Remember the **Cs: Clean-** Wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of disease; **Cover-** Your cough or sneeze with a sleeve, not your hand; and **Contain** your germs- stay home if you are sick and keep children home if they are ill. Your child should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

The school year is off to a wonderful start. With a minimal amount of prevention, we can have a healthy school year and minimize the impact of the flu on our students.

Kevin Carey  
Superintendent, CUSD 201

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

**LAW OFFICES OF HUBENY & ZABA, L.L.C.**  
Jack Hubeny, your Oakwood neighbor since 1974  
Concentrating in:

- Estate Planning
- Probate
- Real Estate Law
- Corporate and Business Law

Located at: 200 E Chicago Ave. Ste. 200, Westmont  
Phone # (630) 455-0500 Fax # (630) 455-0505  
Email: [John@westmontattorneys.com](mailto:John@westmontattorneys.com)  
[www.westmontattorneys.com](http://www.westmontattorneys.com)

## Noteworthy Piano Studio



Patricia (Patti) Nyien, NCTM  
630-920-1728  
Westmont

[pteacher3@comcast.net](mailto:pteacher3@comcast.net)  
[www.noteworthy piano.us](http://www.noteworthy piano.us)

*Piano and Voice Your Way*

*"You can have a song in your heart."*

# Oakwood - Wild Life!

## The Oakwood Nature Photo Challenge #1

The first ever Oakwood Nature Photo Challenge begins now!

Find “3” creatures you have never noticed in Oakwood before. Whether they are as small as a ½” green sweat bee or as big as a deer. A little nature sleuthing will reveal some beautiful creatures. Three great places to look:

1. Your own trees, bushes, porch lights & gardens
2. Lake Charles’ eastern shoreline nature trail
3. In the shallows of Westman Beach; especially at night for crayfish!

Send your photos to Tadas Birutis at [lifebirdnt@gmail.com](mailto:lifebirdnt@gmail.com). Prefer you send links where I may download the photos. We will post some of them on Oakwood website. If you are photographing insects, be sure to get a super clear close-up shot. It is OK to send many more than “3” photos. The only rules are that (1) the creature be wild, (2) in Oakwood and (3) you must not kill/maim the creature to take the photo.

On this page, you will see a few shots I was able to get in the past year; Ruddy Duck, crayfish, mating crane flies, Praying Mantis, moths, butterflies, wasps, White-tailed Deer, spiders, turtles, etc. Looking forward to your best shots!

God bless and enjoy the Nature of Oakwood,

Tadas Birutis / Neighbor  
[lifebirdnt@gmail.com](mailto:lifebirdnt@gmail.com)

