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August/September 2019

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Your
Community
Magazine



**Sgt. James
Robinson
is a hero's hero**



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Inside Information



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About the cover: Jim Robinson spent some of his boyhood years on 47th St. in Westmont and attended Holy Trinity Catholic School. He joined the Army in 1963 and was sent to fight in Vietnam in 1965. On April 11, 1966, he was killed in action, while heroically saving many in his company. The following year he was awarded the Medal of Honor. On Aug. 30, the Westmont Post Office will be dedicated to Sgt. Robinson. Our feature story starts on page 6.
Cover photo: Adobe Stock.

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DuPageNeighbors.com

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From the desk of Mayor Ron Gunter

Dear Fellow Citizens of Westmont,

As we head towards the fall, your village government is working on many projects and plans. Following are some of the things that we've been working on.

Summer Events

I say it time and time again—Westmont has the best volunteers and community events anywhere. I truly appreciate the many hours that our volunteers spend on coordinating and hosting these wonderful events. In the past few months, we've had the Red, White & BBQ, U.S. Luge Tryouts, Cruisin' Nights, 4th of July, Taste of Westmont, and more. If you have questions regarding what's happening in Westmont, contact Westmont Special Events at westmontevents.com or call 630-829-9378.

New Events In Westmont

There will be two new events coming out this year. Holy Trinity Church is planning a Fall Fest Carnival over Labor Day Weekend, and the Westmont Lions will be hosting an Oktoberfest and 5K fundraiser the first weekend in October. Look for details to be announced on the village website.

Economic Development Update

Look for updates on several projects coming out soon. Soon we will be revealing next steps for the W. Quincy St. project near the train station. Next, we expect the new public works facility to break ground within the next month. And finally, we should have an update on the 63rd and Cass St. project. Stay tuned.

Education Programs

One of the best parts of being mayor is the opportunity to interact with young people and let them know how local government works. We are always eager to host a field trip, or invite students to participate in meetings and programs. Recently, a young man was the winner of a raffle contest and was able to be "Junior Mayor" and shadow me at a community event as well as attend a village meeting. If your student or community group is interested in learning more about the Village of Westmont, let us know and we will be sure to set something up.

Get connected

We encourage our residents and businesses to contact us directly if you have a question. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in sharing your ideas, concerns, or suggestions that may make our community better. I can be reached at rgunter@westmont.il.gov or 630-981-6201.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ron Gunter



630-960-5553 • westmontchamber.com
One South Cass Ave.

Enjoy the Shop, Dine and Discover Westmont Tour

Westmont offers our residents and guests a warm and friendly business community, many exciting community events for all ages to enjoy as we **shop, dine and discover Westmont** daily. Take this new "tour" of Westmont to learn how to **shop, dine and discover Westmont** with family and friends in fun and meaningful ways.

This "tour" is designed to build awareness of the value created when we each "**shop, dine and discover Westmont**" daily. When we **shop, dine and discover Westmont**, we strengthen our local economy. This translates directly into better funded schools, public services and stronger property values. This revenue stream also helps keep local real estate taxes in-check when additional revenues are received from local sales taxes and fees that then directly support Westmont.

Let's start our tour of shop, dine and discover Westmont—

We can **Shop** a number of local independent businesses with staff that pride themselves on offering excellent products and services at an true value with a high level of customer service that makes you feel that "Warm Westmont Welcome" when you visit. Let's demonstrate our support when we shop local!

We can **Dine** Around the World in Westmont and experience the one-hundred plus dining establishments in Westmont with a range of menus that allows us to "dine around the world in Westmont" while staying right here in Westmont. We can strengthen Westmont by enjoying more meals here!

We can **Discover** the Westmont Auto Mile, a world-class cluster of award winning dealerships and wonderful place to purchase your next new or used vehicle. The Westmont Auto Mile has donated over \$317,000 in the past several years to support major community events here in Westmont.

When we purchase a vehicle in Westmont, it comes back to support Westmont!

We can **Discover** our one-of-a-kind businesses located in Westmont. Take a moment and think about the places you do businesses that are truly one-of-a-kind and you love to visit. Keep exploring and you will discover much more of Westmont in new and fun ways!

We can **Discover** the four hotels that go above and beyond to make guests feel comfortable in Westmont. This group can serve any type of travel needs and offer a range of services for any type of traveler. Have your business associates, family and friends stay in Westmont next time they visit!

We can **Discover** our cultural cluster of dance and music studios that support a first-class education in the fine arts. When we support them we raise the bar for the quality of education available in Westmont!

We can **Discover** our Westmont Park District, health clubs, health care providers for valuable resources that support the well-being of all ages, as well as the key organizations that serve Westmont, including our Westmont Public Library, schools, our churches, our service organizations that all work together daily to strengthen the fabric and the success of Westmont.

Last, but not least, we can **shop, dine and discover Westmont** at our many community events run by our community organizations with strong village support and many volunteers that help make Westmont a wonderful place to live, work and visit.

We can continue this "tour" in a future edition. In the meantime please remember we each of us hold the power to influence the success of our community. Our ongoing success is not the responsibility of a few but rather of us all. We all help support our mutual success when shop, dine and discover Westmont on a daily basis. Let me also recommend that everyone use westmontchamber.com to discover local business and community organizational resources.

See you around Westmont,

Larry Forssberg,
Executive Director
Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau



It's why I'm here.

Angelo G Tzinares, Agent
700 E Ogden Avenue Suite 300
Westmont, IL 60559
Bus: 630-828-2102
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Hablamos Español

Your home and car are more than just things. They're where you make your memories – and they deserve the right protection.

I get it. It's why I'm here.

LET'S TALK TODAY.





The story of a hero's hero

On Aug. 30 there will be a dedication ceremony for the renaming of Westmont Post Office (5707 S. Cass Ave.) to "James William Robinson Jr. Memorial Post Office Building" in honor of the Westmont resident who received the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military award, for extraordinary valor in combat during the Vietnam war. Sgt. Robinson was killed in action on April 11, 1966. This is his story.

by Hal Burke

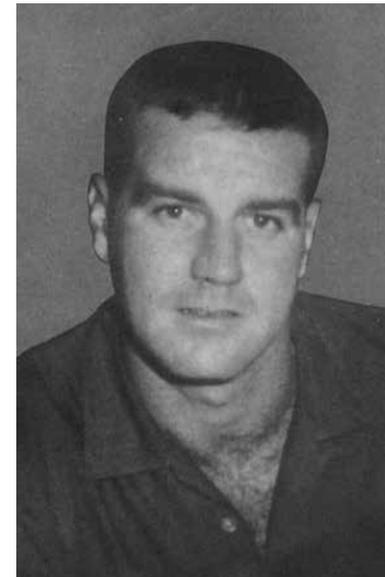
In the fall of 2016, I received a call from my close friend, former Westmont Fire Chief and U.S. Army 101st Airborne Vietnam Veteran Frank Trout. Frank wanted to share a story with me about a young man originally from Westmont, who was killed in action in Vietnam and awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry and heroism. In fact, the young man was U.S. Army Sergeant James W. Robinson, Jr., the grandson of William Robinson former five term Mayor of Westmont.

Frank learned about James' supreme sacrifice after reading Fred Munding's (former Superintendent of Maercker School District) article in *Westmont Stories*.

"He was a big, happy kid with a great laugh," Munding fondly recalls. He was James' cousin and shared childhood memories. He also noted that there were no memorials in Westmont honoring James' heroism.

James William "Jimmy" Robinson was born on Aug. 30, 1940 and grew up in Westmont. In his youth, James attended North Acres School before his family moved to Lyons. Upon graduation from Morton West High School in 1959, James enlisted in the Marine Corps and was Honorably Discharged in 1962.

In 1963, James enlisted in the U.S. Army and spent time in Panama with his younger brother, Tom, who was already serving in the Army. James requested a transfer to serve in Vietnam and was sent there in 1965. On April 11, 1966 he was killed in action during a military maneuver known as "Operation Abilene."



During the 2018 Veterans Day dedication at the Westmont Village Hall of a plaque honoring James, Phil Hall, a fellow soldier from the First Division 16th Infantry Regiment presented this eloquent eulogy, "The Gift."

"In 1966 I was a soldier, an infantryman assigned to Charlie Company 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry Regiment 1st Infantry Division "The Big Red One." I was in the start of my fourth month in Vietnam. I had experienced combat and death in my first three and was adjusting to living under the conditions of being a combat soldier but had not the slightest notion of what was to take place on April 11, 1966.

"On April 10 (Easter Sunday) we stopped our walk through the jungle in a clearing and set up a defensive perimeter. Sometime later in the afternoon a chaplain flew in along with resupplies, he held Easter services. At the end of the service as we were walking back



A plaque honoring Sgt. Robinson was dedicated and placed at Westmont Village Hall Nov. 11, 2018.

The story of a hero's hero



Jimmy sent this photo home to his family from Saigon, South Vietnam in 1965.

before 2nd platoon (my platoon) had been the lead platoon, 3rd platoon would be on point this day. We moved in three columns hacking our way through the jungle. When mid-day the point platoon ran into some trails, we stopped in place to assess the situation and we started taking fire. We had walked into a 'kill sack' surrounded and outnumbered like 5 to 1; an intense battle followed. We were being mortared, fired on with the deadly AK 47s and the VC had two Russian made 51 caliber machine guns. We were being cut to pieces taking heavy casualties.

"As the battle intensified Sgt. James Robinson could see the 51 caliber machine gun on his side of the perimeter doing so much damage. Robinson was out of ammo for his M-16 so he pulled the pins on two grenades and charged the machine gun and threw the grenades just before he was hit and killed. His grenades landed on his

to our fox holes when three VC were spotted walking across the far end of the clearing. They had not noticed us even with all the movement they just kind of popped out of the jungle. Several soldiers grabbed their weapons and formed a firing line including me, Sgt. James Robinson, and a handful of others. Within a very few seconds all three VC were downed although one, even though wounded, was still able to escape. We went out to where the others lay, one dead one still alive (he died shortly). We were able to get information from him that he was from the VC battalion we were searching for, the D 800 battalion reinforced. These were full time soldiers well trained and well equipped. It was likely we would meet them the next day April 11, 1966.

"On the morning of April 11 we ate some "Cs" (meals in a can), took care of some personal needs, and prepared to move out. The day



Jimmy at about seven years old playing soldier in front of his parent's house on 47th St. in Westmont.

target destroying the gun and killing its crew. The battle raged for several hours more, with 1,143 rounds of artillery fired in support of Charlie Co. In the end Charlie Co. would suffer 80% casualties of the guys in the battle. The D 800 would cease to be; they were destroyed as a unit.

"The gift of life! While some of us would survive this day many didn't, and some who survived this day didn't survive Vietnam. Sgt. James Robinson's actions without a doubt spared the lives of Charlie Co. men. Some of us got to return home to have families and a 'Rest of Our Lives.' Jimmy Robinson didn't get a rest of his life! He didn't get to have a wife, and have kids of his own! He didn't get to hug his grandkids or go to their school sports. He gave that to us, his brothers! We who served with Robbie some 50 years ago have not forgotten Sgt. James Robinson and the gift he gave us at the cost of his own life."



Jimmy celebrating his fourth birthday in 1944.

that the Westmont Post Office be named in honor of James. On Dec. 21, 2018 Congress passed H.R. 6167 designating the Westmont Post Office as the "James William Robinson Jr. Memorial Post Office Building."

On James' birthday, Aug. 30, at 10am, the dedication will be held.

About our feature story contributor:



Harold "Hal" Burke enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1961, shortly after graduating from high school. Following active duty, he continued his education and

received his Bachelor Degree from DePaul University in 1972. Hal is a member of the Alexander Bradley Burns Post 80 American Legion, Downers Grove, editor of their monthly newsletter, and president of Victory & Valor Memories, LLC. Hal Burke is a resident of Westmont where he has resided for 24 years.



Jimmy's grave at the Clarendon Hills Cemetery in Darien.

For more information on the August 30 dedication ceremony go to DuPageNeighbors.com. Search "Robinson."

On Sept. 13, 1967, James Robinson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions above and beyond the call of duty during the April 11, 1966 Battle of Courtenay Plantation (Xa Cam My) in the Republic of Vietnam. "Robinson's magnificent display of leadership and bravery saved several lives and inspired his soldiers to defeat the numerically superior enemy forces," stated Commander Frank Trout of the Westmont American Legion Post 338. "Sergeant Robinson's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, at the cost of his own life, are in keeping with the finest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect the great credit upon the 1st Infantry Division and the Armed Forces."

Just 25 years after his early childhood in Westmont, Robinson was returned to Illinois to be buried in Clarendon Hills Cemetery in Darien with full military honors.

In July 2018, I proposed to U.S. Representative Peter Roskam



On Nov. 11, 2018 a plaque in honor of Sgt. James W. Robinson, Jr. was dedicated. At the ceremony, from left were Phil Hall, who gave the eulogy; Tom Robinson, James' younger brother; Hal Burke; Mayor Ron Gunter and Frank Trout.



Diverse Opportunities program encourages businesses to hire individuals with special needs



Last month, Westmont resident Calvin Herion had a summer internship with the Village of Westmont Communications Department. Calvin is a National Honors Society student at Downers South High School and recently completed his first semester at College of DuPage where he earned straight A's. Herion also has physical disabilities that require the use of a ventilator and a wheelchair. Calvin, pictured left with support staff Cynthia Hilton and Latasha Baylark, is part of the Transition 99 program, which provides resources and opportunities for individuals with different abilities to develop life skills.

"When we met Calvin, we learned of his interest in politics and journalism, so this internship was a perfect fit," said Village of Westmont Communications Director Larry McIntyre. "Since Calvin is also an advocate for the special needs community, we decided to merge all of these areas of interest into a single project."

In conversation with High School District 99 Transitions Program Coordinator Jenny Patrick, it became clear that there is a need to create work and internship opportunities for people with special needs, or individuals with different abilities. So McIntyre and

the group worked as a team to create a new program they call 'Diverse Opportunities.'

"Diverse Opportunities is a program that encourages the business community, as well as citizens, to step forward and consider creating work and internship opportunities for individuals with different abilities," said Herion, who turned 18 during the internship. "We've created a sign-up form for members of the community to fill out to learn more about being involved in a program like this. There are many benefits to a program like this, including the goal of providing work opportunities and value for a segment of the population that needs the support of the general community."

During the internship, Calvin met with and shared the Diverse Opportunities concept with a number of community leaders and organizations including the Westmont Chamber of Commerce, the Westmont Police and Fire Departments, the Westmont Park District, State Representative Deanne Mazzochi, and the village board. At the chamber meeting, their board voted unanimously to support the goals of the Diverse Opportunities program.

"Everyone deserves an opportunity to be productive and feel valued," Herion said. "That is why the Diverse Opportunities program is so special."

"The Diverse Opportunities program that the Village of Westmont has developed is groundbreaking in the push for inclusive work environments," said Patrick. "I'm absolutely thrilled that Calvin has been part of the creation of this program. We are very excited about the potential of this initiative."

At this time, businesses and residents are encouraged to take this survey and learn more about the Diverse Opportunities program. The survey not only promotes the current objectives and benefits of the program, but also solicits feedback from the community so that the program can evolve and be successful. The link to the form is on the village website, westmont.illinois.gov.

Local business owner Danielle Kirin of the Sweet and Savory Spot has been a long-time advocate for individuals with different needs and has agreed to be an ambassador for the program. "Working with individuals with disabilities has always been very important to me," said Kirin. "Some of these individuals have been some of the best employees I have ever had. It has been a very positive experience and I look forward to assisting with this new program." For more information regarding the Diverse Opportunities program, contact Larry McIntyre at communications@westmont.il.gov or 630-417-0280.

Taiwanese chefs and dancers travel to Westmont to participate in Taste

For the second year in a row, chefs from Taiwan traveled to Westmont to participate in the annual Taste of Taiwan Sister City food booth during the Taste of Westmont, which was held in downtown Westmont in July.

"We really have to give a lot of thanks to our Sister City Ambassador Angela Yang and the entire Sister City Committee for making this happen," said Mayor Ron Gunter. "Our Sister City program has been a tremendous success and provides a great opportunity for the people of Westmont to experience the food and culture of Taiwan."

Not only did the chefs participate in the Sister City food booth during the festival, but they also taught a



cooking class at the TECO Cultural Center that, which provided an opportunity for Westmont residents to learn how to prepare authentic Taiwanese cuisine. Also, while in Westmont, the Taiwanese chefs were able to have a cultural exchange with the chefs at B. Restaurant at the Chicago Oak Brook Hills Hilton Hotel & Resort.



Taiwanese Dancers perform at Taste

Also at this year's Taste of Westmont, a group of Taiwanese singers and dancers visited and performed on Saturday night near the South Stage. The group was traveling throughout North American and Westmont was one of their scheduled performance stops. Hundreds of people enjoyed and participated in the program. For more information regarding the Sister City program, please contact Committee Chair Larry McIntyre at lmcintyre@westmont.il.gov.



Congratulations to all of our community organizations and their wonderful community events!



Pet Promenade & Party in the Park Sept. 22 at Ty Warner

The 8th Annual Pet Promenade and Party in the Park has been rescheduled for Sun., Sept. 22, 11am to 2pm, at Ty Warner Park, 400 Blackhawk Dr. The Pet Promenade and Party in the Park event celebrates, educates, and encourages compassion and awareness between pets and their owners. The event will feature vendors with treats, pet toys, pet photos, rescue information, and much more. There will also be a demonstration by Cold Blooded Creatures featuring Bubba the Alligator as well as a petting zoo and police dog and border collie sheep herding demonstrations. The Pet Promenade Parade will begin at 1:30pm. The pet contest will feature awards in several categories including Best in Show, Best Costume, Largest Pet, Smallest Pet, and Most Unusual Pet. For more information, contact the Chamber at 630-960-5553 or westmontchamber.com.



There's Always Something Happening In Westmont

New community events planned for late summer and early fall

There will be two new community events this year: Holy Trinity Church will have their Fall Fest over Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 30 through Sept. 2; and the Westmont Lions will host an Oktoberfest and Race for the Cure 5K on Oct. 4 & 5. The Holy Trinity Fall Fest will include an all-ages carnival and will serve as a fundraiser for their plans to build a parish center. The carnival, which will be located in the church parking lot off of Cass Ave., will begin on Friday and continue through Labor Day. For more information, contact Holy Trinity at 630-968-1366. The Lions Club will hold their Oktoberfest event in the commuter parking lot in front of Village Hall at 31 W. Quincy St. The event will include a beer tent with live music, food vendors, a craft & arts show, a car show, and a 5K race on Saturday morning, Oct. 5. For more information, visit oktoberfestwestmont.com

GET READY FOR WICKED WEST FEST

Wicked West Fest features an entire month of fun events for all ages. Look for information regarding event details. And be sure to mark your calendars now for the Trick or Treat Trail and other events in downtown Westmont on Sat., Oct. 19.

Costume Contest
Cass & Irving
10:30am

Trick or Treat Trail
Downtown Westmont
11am to 1pm

Pumpkin Smashing Extravaganza
Cass & Irving
11am to 12pm

Caskets on Cass
Downtown Westmont
On Cass Avenue
12:30pm

For more info regarding Wicked West Fest events, contact us at communications@westmont.il.gov or 630-829-9378.



Wicked West Fest 2017



Public Works Truck Night has its biggest crowd ever

More than 2000 people came out for this year's Public Works Truck Night on Thurs., July 25. Trucks and public works vehicles from the Village of Westmont and other agencies participated in this year's event.

"We've had a great year," said Sam Alonzo, president of Westmont Special Events, the not-for-profit organization that coordinates Cruisin' Nights and the Taste of Westmont. "Each week we have a variety of activities: live bands, reptile displays, dance performances, art shows, vendors, and more. We truly have something for everyone."

Cruisin' Nights continues every Thursday from 5 to 9pm through the end of August in downtown Westmont on Cass Ave..

For more information regarding Cruisin' Nights, contact the WSEC at wsec@westmontevents.com.



Water Sprinkling Restrictions—May 15 to Sept. 15

Annually, the Village of Westmont has water sprinkling restrictions from May 15 to Sept. 15. The restrictions only apply to mechanical sprinkling of lawns and gardens. Sprinkling by hand is never restricted. Odd-numbered street addresses should sprinkle on dates of the month having an odd number between the hours of 7 and 11am, and between the hours of 7 and 11pm. Even-numbered street address should sprinkle on dates of the month having an even number between the hours of 7 and 11am, and between the hours of 7 and 11pm. The watering of trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens shall be permitted at all times provided such watering is by means of handheld devices and only with such devices designed and intended for such purpose. At any time in which there is an extreme shortage in the village water supply, as determined by the village, no water from village water mains shall be used for any purpose outside a residence, business, or other building other than for the extinguishment of fires or other emergencies. Violation of village ordinances may result in a fine. For any questions or concerns, contact Westmont Public Works at 630-981-6270.



CODE CORNER

Emergency repairs versus work without a permit

The Westmont Community Development Department would like to advise residents on the difference between "Emergency repairs" and "Work without a permit," however, it should be noted that a permit is required in either situation.

Emergency repairs may be needed when an important piece of equipment fails (a/c goes out on a 100 degree day, hot water heater stops working, water pipe bursts, sump pump fails, etc.), or when a disaster strikes (home fire, tree falls on a house). In these instances, the property owner or resident, typically, has no control over what happened and for reasons of health or life safety, the repairs or mitigation must occur as soon as possible. And in this case, the Village of Westmont Code accounts for "Emergency Repairs" in Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-38 as follows:

Sec. 18-38.—Emergency repairs.

Where equipment replacements and a repair must be performed in an emergency situation, the permit application shall be submitted within the next working business day to the department.

Work being done without a permit would be something the property owner or resident, has previously arranged for service(s) or construction to occur prior to failure or disaster and there is, typically, no related imminent health or life safety concern. Village of Westmont Code Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-45 states:

Sec. 18-45.—Working without a permit, penalty.

Any person who constructs, erects, alters, installs, adds to, enlarges, repairs, converts, removes, demolishes, uses, locates, occupies or maintains a building or structure or any part or appurtenance thereof, or alters the use of any building or structure or part or appurtenance thereof, on any real estate within the limits of the village without first obtaining a separate building permit for each such building or structure or part of appurtenance thereof from the community development department shall be deemed in violation of this chapter. Said person shall be assessed a penalty of \$300, or double the total cost of the permit, whichever is greater, plus the cost of the permit to be issued.

It is important to remember that permits are required by municipalities for two main reasons: to protect you and your neighbors by enforcing adopted building standards and to protect the character of the community by enforcing adopted zoning standards. If you do not know whether your project requires a permit or not, please visit the Community Development Department sections on the Village of Westmont website westmont.illinois.gov or call the Community Development Department main line at 630-981-6250.

2019 Rain Barrel Program

The Village of Westmont is once again teaming with the Conservation Foundation to offer a subsidized rain barrel program to Westmont residents and businesses. The cost is \$30 per barrel, limit 2 per Westmont address. Residents can order their rain barrel online now at westmont.illinois.gov. To promote the benefits of rainwater barrels, residents are asked to take photos of installed barrels and send them to communications@westmont.il.gov.

For more information regarding the rain barrel program, contact Jon Yeater at 630-981-6285.





Expression Dance makes donation to Westmont PD and Special Olympics Illinois



Expression Dance Studio recently made a donation to the Westmont Police Department as part of their fundraising effort for Special Olympics Illinois. Several dancers of all abilities attended a recent board meeting to present a check for \$720 to Sergeants Gomorzak and Weibler. At the "Power of Dance Competition" earlier this year, dancers of all abilities from nine different teams competed. When they won the competition, the dancers chose to donate their prize money to Special Olympics Illinois. "At Expression Dance, we have always supported people with varying abilities," said Amber Saraceno, owner of Expression Dance. "We offer a wide range of classes that encourage inclusiveness. We are extremely proud of our dancers for making this donation to Special Olympics."



Thank you Westmont Police, Fire & Emergency Management Agency for all you do to keep our community safe!



Citizens' Police Academy

The Westmont Police Department will once again host the Westmont Citizens' Police Academy Program. This nine-week course will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9pm starting Sept. 25 and ending with graduation on Dec. 4. There will be no class Thanksgiving week. Residents can sign up now through Fri., Sept. 20.

The purpose of the Citizens' Police Academy is to provide participants with a better understanding of the daily operations at the police department. The program offers a hands-on, behind-the-scenes look into various aspects of law enforcement. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about a wide range of police work including SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics), crime

scene investigations, identity theft, traffic stops, along with many other interesting police functions.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older, live, work or be associated with Westmont. Participants must not have a prior felony arrest/conviction. Background and criminal history checks will be conducted on all applicants. The police department reserves the right to deny any applicant. There is no charge to participate.

Citizens can sign up using the online application form. Print applications can be picked up at the Westmont Police Department, 500 N. Cass Ave. For more information, contact Deputy Chief Steve Thompson at sthompson@westmont.il.gov or 630-981-6371.



**See It • Report It
When in Doubt • Call 911**

Arts initiative off to a great start

The Westmont Community Arts Initiative is off to a great start. More than 20 artists have participated in this summer's Artisan Night events, and most of them made sales to event patrons. "This is just the beginning of what we hope to do," said Maggie South, who is helping coordinate the effort. "Ultimately, our goal is to let artists and fans of art know that Westmont is an artist-friendly community."

In the next few months, the group will meet to discuss future projects including next year's juried art show with the theme of "Blue." For more information, contact us at communications@westmont.il.gov.



Westmont Post Office to be dedicated in honor of James Robinson on Aug. 30

On Aug. 30, there will be a ceremony to dedicate the Westmont Post Office in honor of James William Robinson, Jr., who sacrificed his life during the Vietnam War and received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The ceremony, which will start at 10am, will be held at the Westmont Post Office, 5707 S. Cass Ave. The family of James Robinson, Jr, Westmont American Legion Post 338, U.S. Representative Sean Casten, representatives from the Village of Westmont, and U.S. Postal Service officials will participate in the ceremony. The public is invited to attend.

MOH recipient James Robinson made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on April 11, 1966 while serving in Vietnam. James was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Division. There were 38 men killed in combat from this unit on this day when Robinson sacrificed himself to advance his unit against the enemy resulting in a victorious battle in which his unit was dramatically smaller than the adversary.

For more information regarding this event, please contact the village at communications@westmont.il.gov or 630-417-0280.

At DuPageNeighbors.com you will find more Westmont news, as well as news from all around DuPage County. There is a calendar with events from all around the area. And check for some great local offers. You'll also find a directory of businesses, family features, arts and culture, entertainment, dining, health and wellness and local business news. Register to leave reviews or blogs and add your own events.



How to plan for traveling with kids

(Family Features) Families that travel with kids typically know tablets and other gadgets and activities can make the journey easier, and vacation rentals can make the stay more relaxing and affordable.

These tips from the experts at Vrbo can help make it easier to hit the road with kids, whether it's exploring exciting new places, visiting relatives or relaxing during an annual trip to the beach.

Go to DuPageNeighbors.com.

PHOTO COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

Ease kids back into school with confidence

(Family Features) There's nothing like a major milestone in a child's life to test a parent's confidence. Big changes like a new school or classroom can be trying for kids and adults alike, but tackling the transition a little at a time can make it easier on everyone.

Go to DuPageNeighbors.com.



Power-packed lunchbox ideas

(Family Features) Packing and prepping wholesome lunches doesn't have to be a chore. You can kick health into high gear this school year with new ideas to make creative, nutrient-rich meals.

Fit to satisfy various dietary restrictions, the Power Your Lunchbox program offers kid-friendly options and allergy-sensitive selections. The program is dedicated to helping families make healthier lunches during the school year. Go to DuPageNeighbors.com.



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Westmont High School forms alumni association

CUSD 201 and Westmont High School is starting an Alumni Association and is reaching out to graduates. The District is looking to connect with alumni and learn of your many accomplishments. It is an opportunity

to read and share alumni news, organize reunions, and continue your legacy. Please use this link to find the alumni page: cusd201.org/alum.

Miller School observes Community Service Day

Miller School hosted their annual Community Service Day on the last day of school, June 6. Students had the opportunity to learn about making a difference in the community. Fifth-grade students packed food at Feed My Starving Children. Fourth grade packed up meals and items at the West Suburban Community Pantry. Third grade worked around the school to help beautify the building and get the grounds ready for a family planting day on Fri., June 21 from 9-1pm. Second grade visited the bowling alley and bowled with a group of senior community members. First grade visited a home farm, pet store, and made kindness rocks for the school building. And kindergarten received tours of the Westmont Public Library, Police and Fire Departments and saw first-hand



Students pack meals at Feed My Starving Children

how these municipal departments impact the community. These activities help enrich the culture of the Miller community and the community that surrounds us.

Thank you to all of the sponsors and families that helped to make this day special.

Manning fifth graders learn visual storytelling

With the help of an amazing parent, Roxanne Engstrom, the fifth-grade students learned about visual storytelling. Each student worked to capture a moment that helped to tell a story about themselves. This project

has been adopted as a yearly event for each fifth grade so that the collage of their portraits becomes a part of the legacy of this school.



Westmont Junior High School designated Illinois Horizon School to Watch

Congratulations to Westmont Junior High School. The Junior High School has been designated as a 2019 Illinois Horizon School to Watch (IHSTW) by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades reform and the Association of Illinois Middle-Grade Schools (AIMS). Westmont Junior High is one of approximately 400 schools nationally and one of 24 schools in the state of Illinois to achieve this designation.



PHOTO: MARTIKA GARTMAN, MARTIKA PHOTOGRAPHY

Westmont Junior High went through a rigorous application process that included an audit and site visit. To achieve the designation of a Horizon School to Watch junior high and middle schools need to demonstrate that:

- **They are academically excellent**—these schools challenge all students to use their minds well;
- **They are developmentally responsive**—these schools are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence;
- **They are socially equitable**—these schools are democratic and fair, providing every student with high-quality teachers, resources, and supports.



PHOTO: MARTIKA GARTMAN, MARTIKA PHOTOGRAPHY

Westmont High School named a Model PLC school

Congratulations to Westmont High School as well. The High School met the rigorous selection criteria and has been named a Model PLC (Professional Learning Community) School. This achievement is a result of the staff's commitment to learning, continuous improvement, staff cohesiveness, and a focus on the needs of all of the students.

There are over 28,000 high schools in America; there are thousands that have implemented PLC concepts, but only 32 high schools in the country have received this distinction.

District 201 Schools Manning Elementary School

200 N. Linden Ave.
Westmont, IL 60559
630-468-8050

Principal: Lindsay Pietrzac

Miller Elementary School

125 W. Traube Ave.
Westmont, IL 60559
630-468-8300

Principal: Tim Wyller

South Early Childhood Center

133 S. Grant St.
Westmont, IL 60559
630-468-8015

Director: Linda Klawitter

Westmont Junior High School

944 N. Oakwood Dr.
Westmont, IL 60559
630-468-8200

Principal: John Jonak

Westmont High School

909 N. Oakwood Dr.
Westmont, IL 60559
630-468-8100

Principal: Jack Baldermann

District 201 School Board

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Marie Charlton

Board Vice President
Joel Price

Board Secretary
Gary Armstrong

Board Members
Laura Coyle
Jon Rudey
Judy Wilson
Rick Strohmaier

Superintendent
Kevin Carey

An eclectic collection of what's happening in the Westmont area



The **Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau** welcomed **RiteWay 2.0 Blueprint** with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 1. Members of the chamber and staff gathered to support owner **Rick Bailey** at the grand opening. The blue and white printing company, located at 138 N. Cass Ave., does photo enlargements, scans and large format copies. They can also make custom banners, magnets and posters. 630-442-7151

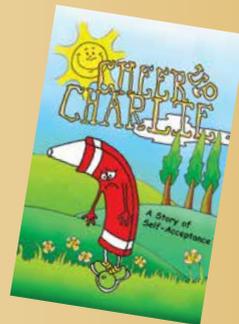
Westmont's own **Uncle Bub's BBQ** swept all three categories again at **Naperville Ribfest**. For a second year in a row now, they've won best sauce, best ribs and kids' choice. Owner **Mark Link** donates his money to charity but will be bringing yet another round of well-earned trophies to Uncle Bub's, 132 S. Cass Ave. unclebubs.com/naperville-ribfest.

The **Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau** has a marketing opportunity for Halloween. They will be distributing over 200 orange bags to children and families on Oct. 19 for the Trick or Treat Trail on Cass Ave. and at the Westmont Park District's Haunted Forest. Get your business name and logo on the bags for \$150. The deadline is Fri., Aug. 30, 12pm. Call 630-960-5553 to submit.



(from left) **Darin and Elizabeth Johnson** of **Amish Touch Custom Cabinetry and Countryside Woodworking**; owner **John Bohnen**; **Gina Saran**, **Precision Stone Design** and **Stephanie Sarris**, **Bellehaven Designs**, in the garden at **County Line Home Design Center**.

County Line Home Design opened in Hinsdale at 110 S. Washington St. this summer. When **John** and **Penny Bohnen** started County Line Properties in 1991, they planned to one day make a "Builders Boutique," and now they have. "We are excited to bring this unique concept to the area. Original, tailor-made work will be generated out of the Design Center. This is not an assemblage of a line of products or vendors," Bohnen said. They work with specific, trusted local artisans and even plan to have Wine and Design on Saturdays to make home design a fun, social gathering.



Benedictine University students developed and published two children's books, available on Amazon.

Fourteen **Benedictine University** students developed a publishing company, under the direction of **Chris Birks**, associate professor of communication arts. "In the ten years I've been teaching, I've never seen students take ownership of a project like this before...I am very proud of them," said Birks. **The Comfy Chair Publishing** released two children's books available on **Amazon.com**: *Cheer Up Charlie* and *Bailey the Bee's Big Adventure*.

Attend the next Business After Hours event for a night of networking and refreshments at **Clarendon Hills Bank**, 200 W. Burlington Ave. The event will go from 5:30-7pm on Wed., Aug. 14. It includes both the **Westmont Chamber** and **Clarendon Hills Chamber**, so there are even more opportunities to connect. Bring plenty of business cards—and your appetite, since tasty jumbo shrimp is on the menu. RSVP through Lori Ritzert at lritzert@hinsdalebank.com.

Join the **DuPage Friends of Extension** on Sat., Aug. 17, 11am-3pm, for brunch at Cantigny. The event is a fundraiser supporting the local community programs provided by the **University of Illinois Extension** throughout DuPage County. University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions and give guided tours of the grounds. Cost is \$50 per person until Aug. 11. After Aug. 12 the price is \$55. Cantigny is located at 1S151 Winfield Rd., Wheaton. Facilities and gardens are wheelchair accessible. For tickets and more information, visit dupagefriendsofextension.webs.com.

The **Westmont Chamber of Commerce** reminds everyone to get their thinking caps on for your business casket design for the **4th Annual Caskets on Cass Race** Sat., Oct. 19. Call the chamber at 630-960-5553 for information on all the 2019 Wicked West Fest events.

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The Art of Business
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"A lot of people do what we do (offer IT services). But nobody does it the WAY we do it," Rick Cotten avows with confidence.

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As Arnel Douglas recalls, "I really, really only one morning noticed that the Village of Bedford Park had lost their IT support. We got one of our techs there before they opened. They were waiting between 10 and 4am when their techs showed up."

"We've been able, not ours."

Through the years, Cotten has learned that customer service is a vital technology knowledge. In that respect, not much has changed since Rick Cotten hand delivered trade reports at Merrill Lynch, and Rick Cotten charted Naval ship positions, and Jim Carville supervised a warehouse, and Arnel Jacques built computers at age 16, and Mike Bernowicz worked the punch cards at Fort Ben, Indianapolis. For all of the incredible experience that has led to SNC's team and any other, the constant that has brought them through the years together, is a respect for each other and a commitment to put customers above all else.

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Holy Trinity Parish Fest is fun for the whole family

Enjoy a carnival, food, craft show, bingo games and live music at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, Aug. 30–Sept. 2. Hours are Fri., 5–10pm; Sat. & Sun., 11am–10pm; and Mon., 1–5pm. Wristbands are \$25 all days except Monday when they are \$20. Park in the Commuter Lot at 111 S. Cass Ave, Westmont. Contact Holy Trinity at 630-968-1366

Donate diapers, pull ups and wipes to the People’s Resource Center

The People’s Resource Center (PRC) always has an urgent need for diapers, pull ups and wipes. “They make a big difference to families who visit the food pantries for essential items because they are expensive and cannot be purchased with food stamps,” states Susan Manning of PRC. Bring packages, in sizes 4, 5 and 6, to either PRC location: 104 Chestnut Ave., Westmont or 201 S. Naperville Rd., Wheaton. peoplesrc.org.

Northern Illinois Hosta Society Auction and Plant Sale

All plant lovers are invited to the Northern Illinois Hosta Society Auction and Plant Sale on Sun., Aug. 11 at the Hinsdale Community House, 415 West 8th St. From 1:30–4pm, bid on or buy various hostas and other plants. There will also be a Bargain Table or \$5 per plant, raffle and vendors. Author Mark Zilis will serve as the auctioneer. northernillinoishostasociety.org.



The Hosta Auction and Plant Sale will have a wide variety of plants to purchase or bid on.

Support the Darien Lions Club Candy Day

On Oct. 11 & 12, The Darien Lions Club will be on street corners and in front of local businesses collecting for Candy Day. Support the organization and its many programs that help the community. The Darien Lions would also like to thank the community for their continued support.

Bring your ideas to life

If you are curious about 3D printing or want to explore circuits or sew one-of-a-kind clothes visit the Makery at Westmont Public Library. They provide the tools; you bring the creativity. The Makery offers workshops, checkouts for portable tools, and access to equipment and space to create during regular open lab hours. Located in the first floor Community Meeting Room, come in and work on a project or learn how to use our tools. The Makery is open Mondays, 10am–2pm, Thursdays, 5:30–8:30pm and the first and third Saturdays of the month, 1–4pm. westmontlibrary.org

Summer concert series concludes

The summer concert series concludes with the Flat Cats at Veterans Memorial Park, Aug. 14 at 7pm. Bring your picnic baskets, lawn chairs and dance moves. The Flat Cats play a range of vintage and modern music sure to entertain.



PHOTO: MARTIKA GARTMAN, MARTIKA GARTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Promenade your pet in the park

The 8th Annual Westmont Pet Promenade and Party in the Park has been rescheduled for Sun., Sept. 22 from 11am–2pm. Bring your pets to Ty Warner Park and enjoy a day in the park together. Vendor booths have pet related items. Bubba the alligator returns with the Cold Blooded Creatures demonstration. See a live demonstration of sheep herding, police K-9 unit demonstration and find a pet at the animal shelter booths. The highlight is the pet promenade around the park with judges handing out contest prizes. The Westmont Public Works Department will have trucks to touch and you can make a kite. Contact 630-960-5553 or visit westmontchamber.com.

Don’t miss the Senior Lifestyle Expo

Plan to visit Aug. 20 & 21 from 9am–2pm at Drury Lane Theatre & Conference Center in Oakbrook



Terrace. Presented by Agency on Aging of Northeastern Illinois, the 2019 Expo will feature more than 130 booths, an entertainment stage, health and wellness info, an all new Tech Connect area, interactive activities and educational seminars. Tickets are free with registration. For more information, visit seniorlifestyleexpo.org

Have a wild night with Emily

Join the After Hours Film Society for a screening of *Wild Nights with Emily* on Mon., Aug. 19. Molly Shannon stars as poet Emily Dickinson in this biographical comedy that explores an irreverent side to the poet that was covered up for years. Show begins at 7:30pm at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove. Tickets are \$6 for members, \$10 for non-members. To purchase tickets call 630-534-4528 or visit afterhoursfilmsociety.com.



First Folio Theatre presents *The Guys*

Based on a true story, *The Guys* recounts the relationship of Joan, an editor, and Nick, a New York City fire captain who is in search of a writer to help him prepare eulogies for the men in his company lost in the 9/11 attacks. Tickets are \$35. 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the 9/11 Memorial Museum. Performances take place Sept. 9–11 at 8pm at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook. For tickets and information, visit firstfolio.org.

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Westmont places of worship donate food to People's Resource Center

People's Resource Center (PRC) thanks Peace of Christ Church and Masjid Al-Mustafa Mosque in Westmont for hosting a food drive for their neighbors. "Both places put out boxes and their members were very generous! Thank You!" stated Susan Manning of PRC. PRC also gave a shout out to Jason Engstrom of Westmont for putting it all together. Visit peoplesrc.org donate-food-or-goods if you're interested in hosting a food drive.

College of DuPage Food Truck Rally & Sunset 5K

Thousands attend the Food Truck Rally & Sunset 5K at College of DuPage (COD) every year. On Oct. 5, the event will be open from 2-8pm at the college, located at 425 Fawell Blvd. in Glen Ellyn. The run/walk 5K begins at 4:30pm. The event also includes over 15 food trucks, a 100-yard Youth Dash (for kids ages 4-9) and Touch-a-Truck. Proceeds will fund scholarships for each high school district served by COD to assist local graduates

who can't afford costly loans. Visit cod.edu/5K to register.

Broadway Kids to present Disney's Frozen

Does your child love acting out scenes from Frozen and belting out "Let it Go"? They will surely love to do it on-stage through the Bam Theatre. The school will have a "workshop style" course this fall on Saturdays and various weekdays for \$495. Choose from two sessions, depending on your schedule: 12-3pm or 3-6pm. Practices take place at Hinsdale United Methodist Church, 945 S. Garfield St., Hinsdale. They will all lead up to performances on Dec. 6-8 & 13-15.

Kid Rock Fall Jamboree at Cantigny

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, visit Cantigny Park for the Kid Rock Fall Jamboree. The music, dance and activities are for kids ages 1-5. The parent-child event will have a fun autumn theme with props, and it goes from 6-6:45pm. Cost is \$12 per child plus the small parking fee at entry. Register at Cantigny.org or call 630-260-8162. Kid Rock has been providing these events since 1995, and they're always a blast. Learn more at rockitkids.com.

Katherine Rondeau with Eric Lambert at Two Way Street

Hear classic folk music with a modern twist at Two Way Street Coffee House on Aug. 23. ArtsDupage.org describes Katherine Rondeau's singer-songwriter style as "full-throttle" and "strong, soulful and warm." Eric Lambert is a 2015 Chicago Music Awards winner who plays American hits with influence from bluegrass, blues, rock and soul. Doors open at 7:30pm. Show starts at 8:15pm. Bring a donation of \$5-10 if you're inclined. Two Way Street is located at 1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove.

Frida Fest

Celebrate the life and culture of Frida Kahlo, the influential painter and self-portrait creator. On Sept. 8, the McAninch Arts Center (connected to College of DuPage) will kick-off its year-long Frida celebration with an outdoor festival. They will have live music, visual art and dance as well as authentic Mexican food vendors from 1-9pm. Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatl, Mariachi Monumental de México and headliner Artrageous are just a few of the performers. The event is free and open to the public. atthemac.org

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Ballet Folklorico Quetzalcoatl performs Sept. 8 at the McAninch Arts Center

Important Contacts

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 Village Hall 630-981-6200
 Administration Department 630-981-6210
 Village Clerk 630-981-6220
 Finance Department 630-981-6230
 Community Development Department... 630-981-6250
 Public Works Department..... 630-981-6270
 Community Unit School District 201 630-468-8000
 cusd201.org
 Maercker District 60 630-515-4840
 maercker.org
 Westmont Police Department 630-981-6300
 Westmont Fire Department 630-981-6400
 Westmont Public Library 630-969-5625
 westmontlibrary.org

Westmont Park District 630-969-8080
 westmontparks.org
 Westmont Community Center 630-963-5252
 Westmont Fitness Club 630-789-2673
 Westmont Historical Society 630-969-8080
 Gregg House Museum..... 630-960-3392
 Westmont Senior Center 630-969-8080
 Twin Lakes Golf Course 630-852-7167
 Twin Lakes Learning Center 630-963-7538
 Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau
 westmontchamber.com 630-960-5553

Emergency: 9-1-1 (Police and Fire)

Community Organizations
 American Cancer Society 630-932-1151
 cancer.org
 American Legion Post 338 630-417-1941
 amlegion338.org
 The DuPage Community Foundation 630-665-5556
 dupagefoundation.org
 DuPage Senior Citizens Council 630-620-0804
 dupageseniorcouncil.org
 People's Resource Center 630-682-5402
 peoplesrc.org
 SEASPAR 630-960-7600
 seaspar.org
 VFW Post 503 630-852-5736
 vfw503.org
 Hope's Front Door..... 630-322-9803
 hopesfrontdoor.org
 West Suburban Humane Society 630-960-9600
 wshs-dg.org
 Westmont Knights of Columbus 630-969-3738
 kofc3738.org
 Westmont Lions Club 630-891-1263
 e-clubhouse.org/sites/westmontil
 Westmont Rotary Club..... 630-344-9140
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WESTMONT							AUGUST 2019					
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
Send us your event information! newsroom@neighborsmagazines.com Deadline for the October/November 2019 issue is Sept. 1 Please note: Some programs listed may require registration and/or fees. Please check with individual organizations.							1	2	3			
4	5	6	7 Economic Dev. Com. 9AM Village Hall Concert in the Park 7pm Veterans Park	8 Crusin' Night & Street Fair 5-9pm Downtown	9	10						
11	12	13	14 Park Board 6pm Admin. Center Concert in the Park 7pm Veterans Park Planning & Zoning Com. 7pm Village Hall	15 Crusin' Nights & Street Fair 5-9pm, Downtown 100th Anniversary Com. 4pm, Village Hall Public Safety Com. 4:40pm Village Board 6pm, Village Hall	16	17 Electronics Recycling 8am-12pm Twnship. Highway Dep						
18	19 Westmont First Com. 6pm Library	20 Fire & Police Board 2pm Police Dept	21 Admin. Hearing 10am Village Hall Code Adjudication Hearing 12pm Village Hall	22 Crusin' Night & Street Fair 5-9pm Downtown	23	24						
25	26	27	28	29 Crusin' Night & Street Fair 5-9pm Downtown Village Board 6pm Village Hall	30 James W. Robinson Post Office renaming ceremony 10am 5707 S. Cass Ave.	31						

Westmont PET Promenade and PARTY IN THE PARK

Sunday, Sept. 22
11am-2pm
Ty Warner Park

WESTMONT SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day Village Offices Closed	3	4 Econ. Dev. Com. 9am Village Hall	5	6	7
8	9 Sister City Com. 3pm Library Environmental Imp. Com. 6pm Library	10	11 Park Board 6pm Admin. Center Planning & Zoning Com. 7pm Village Hall	12 Admin. & Finance Com. 4:30pm Village Hall Village Board 6pm Village Hall	13 Fire Pension Board 9am Fire Dept.	14
15	16 Westmont First Com. 6pm Library	17 Fire & Police Com. 2pm Police Dept.	18 Admin Hearing 10am Village Hall Code Adjudication Hearing 12pm Village Hall	19	20	21 Electronics Recycling 8-12pm Township Hwy. Dept.
22 Pet Promenade and Party in the Park 11am-2pm Ty Warner Park	23	24	25 Public Info. Com. 10am Village Hall	26 Public Works Com. 4:30pm Village Hall Village Board 8pm Village Hall	27	28

29 30

Send us your event information!
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