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# Westmont

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December 2019/January 2020

Your community magazine



Westmont—  
a film-friendly  
community

Westmont—  
celebrating 98 years

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discover Westmont

Westmont Jr. High  
goes hi-tech

Restaurant Week  
January 30—  
February 9



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Neighbors of Westmont Magazine

# Inside Information



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Westmont—a film-friendly community story begins on page 6

Village news—New project: the future of Westmont..... 10

Westmont Jr. High goes hi-tech..... 20

**Departments**

A message from Mayor Gunter..... 4

Westmont Chamber of Commerce—An exciting year..... 5

Business Nuggets..... 20

Around the Block..... 22

Important Contacts..... 28

December Calendar..... 29

January Calendar..... 30

**About the cover:** Westmont Fire Chief Steve Riley and Martin Wilborn, locations manager for the NBC TV series Chicago Fire pose in front of Westmont Fire Department Station 182. Wilborn is a Westmont resident. Scenes from several episodes have been filmed in Westmont. The latest took place over two days in November. See how Westmont welcomes the movies beginning on page 6. Cover photo: Larry McIntyre.



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## From the desk of Mayor Ron Gunter

Dear Fellow Citizens of Westmont,

Winter is here and your village government is busy planning and implementing a wide array of programs, services, and events for our citizens. Following are some of the things that have been happening in our community.

### Future of Westmont Project

At a recent board meeting, we announced our Future of Westmont project, which is connected to our 100th Anniversary celebration in 2021. We ask the entire community to share their vision of Westmont's future, then those ideas will be put into a mural that will be created by our wonderful local artist Fanny Moy. For more details, visit the village website.

### Census 2020

As we head into the new year, you will continue to see more and more promotion regarding the U.S. Census. A complete and accurate census count is extremely important to the Village of Westmont. Each person counted represents funding that our community will receive from our State and Federal government, but if people are missed, then we will lose that funding. We want to make sure that Westmont receives its fair share. Make sure to participate in the 2020 Census and please help us spread the word that the 2020 Census is important to our community.

### Volunteerism

I cannot thank our community volunteers enough for their hard work and dedication to the community. Whether it be serving on a public agency board or commission, being a member of a local club or organization, working on a community event, or serving as a member of our Emergency Management

Agency, we greatly appreciate your help. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, contact us at [communications@westmont.il.gov](mailto:communications@westmont.il.gov).

### Community development

Work is progressing quickly on a number of development projects in the community. It's exciting to see so many things moving forward including the Natatorium at Ty Warner Park, the residential multi-unit building on N. Cass near the library, the projects at 63rd and Cass, and the quick progress on the development at Cass and Quincy in our downtown. Stay tuned for updates.

### 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](mailto:rgunter@westmont.il.gov) or 630-981-6201.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ron Gunter



630-960-5553 • [westmontchamber.com](http://westmontchamber.com)  
One South Cass Ave.

## Westmont Chamber of Commerce looks forward to an exciting 2020

Here we are moving full speed ahead into 2020 with Westmont celebrating 99 years as a village! The Westmont Chamber will be celebrating 47 years of service next year and has planned a productive year with a strong start for the Westmont business community. So, what is on the agenda for 2020?

First, advancing the important work of the Westmont Economic Development Partnership, a platform structured to recruit new businesses to locate in Westmont and keep existing businesses in Westmont. In addition to business recruitment and retention, resources are targeted directly towards attracting home builders to Westmont and to help realtors make prospective home buyers aware of the many benefits of building and living in Westmont. At this time, there is over \$250 million dollars of investments underway or in the planning stages. We will work to build on this activity in 2020 and ask that you help by shopping and dining in Westmont!

Enjoy dining out? Also scheduled in 2020 is the popular Westmont Restaurant Week on Jan. 30 through Feb. 9. Need to keep up with economic, village and county news? Plan to attend the State of the DuPage County Address with County Chairman Cronin, State of the Village with Mayor Ron Gunter and then the Annual Economic Outlook Briefing and Business Expo in February. The program features Senior Economist William Strauss with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Mr. Strauss has an excellent track record at forecasting key economic trends and providing valuable insights for our business owner and managers. All are welcome to attend all of these events, please RSVP on the Westmont Chamber website.

Next, an important reminder about the Westmont Community Awards Dinner: this community-wide event is scheduled for April at our Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort. Further, this is an excellent opportunity to submit a Westmont Citizen of the Year nomination. January is the time to nominate someone who has made a positive impact on Westmont during 2019. Nomination forms will be due in early February. Nomination forms will be made available at Westmont Village Hall, the Westmont Chamber Office, and the Westmont train station and online at the Village of Westmont and Chamber websites.

There will be more details on upcoming programs and events scheduled for 2020 in future articles. Please note that throughout 2020, the chamber will partner with local businesses to host ribbon cuttings to welcome new businesses, conduct Membership Huddles, present luncheons and briefings along with Business after Hours events to network and strengthen business relationships on a local, regional and state-wide level. Check the Westmont Chamber website at [westmontchamber.com](http://westmontchamber.com) for details and to RSVP. Remember to follow these fun events on social media, connect via the chamber website to keep in the loop and connected to many Westmont events!

Most of all, enjoy all Westmont has to offer and throughout 2020 and celebrate Westmont's 99th anniversary as we work our way to 100 years in 2021! The Westmont Chamber asks for your continued support of our business community through participation in community events and **Shop, Dine and Discover Westmont** first to keep our momentum strong. As always, look forward to hearing your ideas and recommendations for Westmont; contact me at [wccfb@westmontchamber.com](mailto:wccfb@westmontchamber.com) or at 630-960-5553.

On behalf of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau Board of Directors, members and staff we wish you and yours a happy Holly Days Season and a healthy and prosperous 2020!

Larry Forssberg  
Executive Director  
Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau

**Shop, Dine and Discover Westmont!**



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# Westmont, Illinois— a film-friendly community

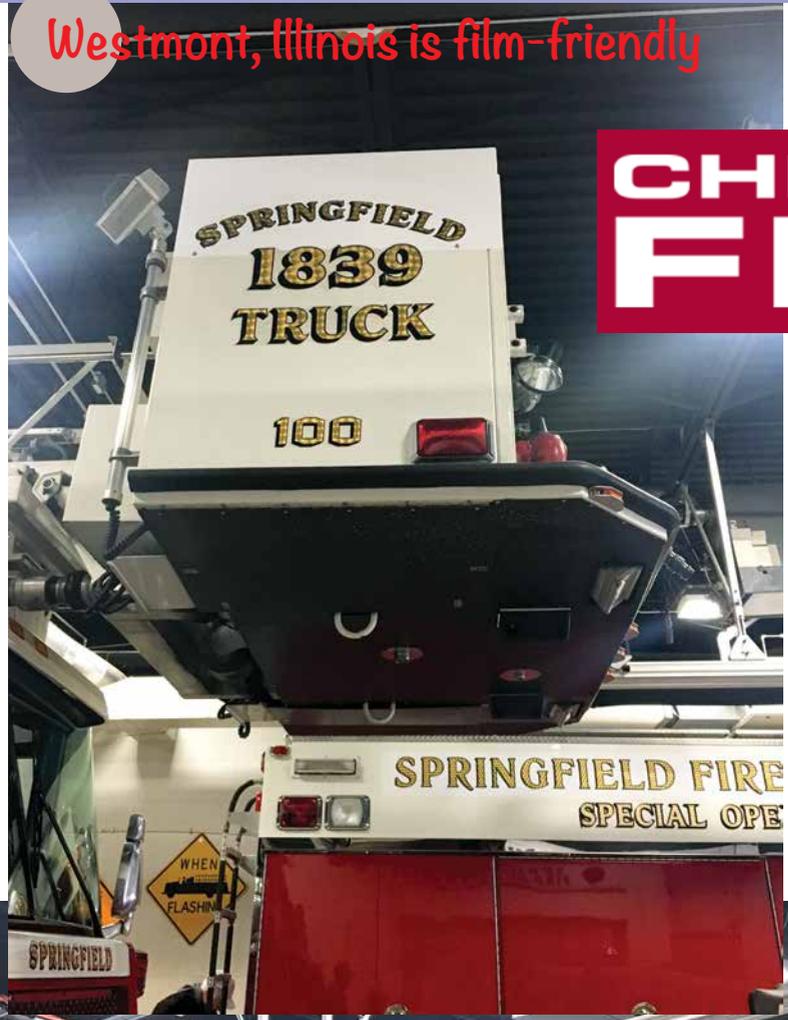
NBC's hit series *Chicago Fire* has filmed scenes in Westmont for the past three years. Word is getting out that Westmont's hospitality makes it a great place to work.

*Jesse Spencer plays Lt. Matthew Casey in a scene from the Chicago Fire episode "Sacred Ground."*

PHOTO © ELIZABETH MORRIS/NBC | 2019 NBC UNIVERSAL MEDIA LLC

Westmont, Illinois is film-friendly

CHICAGO FIRE



When Chicago Fire filmed in Westmont a couple of years ago, they transformed the Westmont facility into the Springfield Fire Department.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE COURTESY SHANNON SULLIVAN



The NBC *Chicago Fire* TV series recently filmed in Westmont for the third time in three years. And they are currently scouting Westmont for another episode that they are working on.

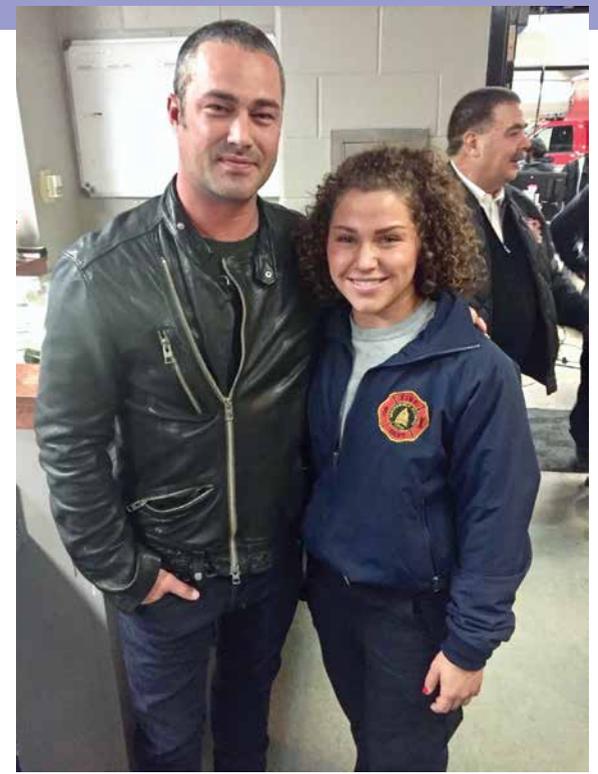
The *Chicago Fire* TV show filmed in Westmont for two days this past November. The episode that features the Westmont Police-Fire Facility at 500 N. Cass is scheduled to air on Jan. 15, 2020 on NBC.

"I'm a huge fan of the show, so I think it's great to have *Chicago Fire* in Westmont," said Westmont Fire Chief Steve Riley. "All of the actors and the crew are down to earth and easy to talk to. We hope that they will consider coming back out to Westmont to shoot future episodes."

Martin Wilborn, the locations manager for *Chicago Fire* and Westmont resident, has been working in the film industry for more than 30 years. Prior to working on *Chicago Fire*, Martin worked on some major productions such as *Backdraft* and *The Fugitive*. He says that Westmont has earned a very positive reputation in the filming community.

"I don't think you can do anything better," said Wilborn referring to Westmont's hospitality. "We ask for a lot, and Westmont didn't even blink. That's what makes it easy to decide to come back to shoot. We've had a great experience in Westmont."

Village of Westmont Police and Fire personnel got



Westmont Firefighter Shannon Sullivan with actor Taylor Kinney who plays Lt. Kelly Severide on the show.

to see first-hand how much work goes into a film production. Typically, the crews start before sunrise and end after dusk. "It's a solid 12-hour work day," said Wilborn, who has now worked on *Chicago Fire* for 7½ seasons. Wilborn is a member of the Directors Guild of America. His main role with this production is location scouting and advance prep.

"In recent years, we've tried to brand ourselves as a film-friendly community," said Westmont Communications Director Larry McIntyre, who used to work on feature film productions in the early 90's. "Word is getting out that Westmont is a good place for film production, so that's good for our community and brings positive attention to our town."

Several movie productions have filmed in Westmont including *Rookie of the Year*, the John Cusack movie *Grace is Gone* which earned two Golden Globe nominations, *Witless Protection* featuring Larry the Cable Guy, the John Hughes movie *Reach the Rock*, as well as a number of TV shows.



Here Shannon poses with actor David Eigenberg who plays firefighter Christopher Herrmann on the Chicago Fire TV Series.



## Village celebrates 98th Anniversary and announces Future of Westmont Project

The Village of Westmont celebrated its 98th Anniversary and announced a new community-wide initiative that asks residents to share their vision of Westmont's future.

"For each of the past four years, artist Fanny Moy has presented the community with a mural depicting a different era of Westmont's history," said Larry McIntyre, co-chair of the 100th Anniversary Committee. "The first mural featured Westmont prior to its incorporation in 1921 while the next three murals focused on the last 100 years. The final mural is intended to depict the future of Westmont, and this is where we need help from the community."



### Share your vision for the future of Westmont

Westmont citizens are asked to create and send their written or visual arts interpretation of Westmont's future, specifically, the year 2121, which will be Westmont's 100th Anniversary. Submissions will be reviewed and then forwarded to Moy, who will use the information to create the final installment of the **98th Anniversary mural unveiled**

Also at the Nov. 7 meeting, Moy revealed the fourth installment of the Westmont Historical mural series, which covered Westmont's history from 1980 to present. A number of items featured in the mural are still popular today, such as various community events, local businesses, community parks, and more. The mural

historical murals. "We really want people to be creative," said Moy. "Let us know what you think our future will be like." Citizens can submit their submissions now through Feb. 28, 2020. To sign up, visit the village website:

will be hung in the Westmont Library along with the previous three installments.

For more information regarding the 100th Anniversary Committee or the Future of Westmont Project, contact us at [communications@westmont.il.gov](mailto:communications@westmont.il.gov) or 630-417-0280.

**There's Always  
Something Happening  
In Westmont**

## Chicago Fire films in Westmont

For the third time in three years, the Chicago Fire TV show filmed in Westmont. This time, the majority of the main cast was on location in Westmont for two days of production.

"Westmont strives to be a film-friendly community," said Fire Chief Steve Riley, who happens to be a fan of the Chicago Fire program. "It brings positive attention to Westmont when we're able to be part of something like this. And based on the number of residents who stopped by to watch the filming, it was fun for them as well." Being a fan of the show, Chief Riley was able to get a few photos with the cast.

Past productions that have filmed in Westmont include the movie Rookie of the Year, a Larry the Cable Guy movie, and a John Hughes production.

The Chicago Fire episode that was shot in Westmont is scheduled to air in January 2020.



Fire Chief Steve Riley takes a picture with actor David Eigenberg, on the left, who plays Lt. Christopher Herrmann on the Chicago Fire TV show.

## Westmont introduces career opportunities in public works to Westmont students

Westmont Public Works Director Mike Ramsey has been working with Westmont High School on an Operator In Training (OIT) Program since 2018. Ramsey brought this program to the school to offer students the chance to learn about the water industry as a career choice.

Currently, the program has three Westmont High students who work with Ramsey on Fridays and one Saturday a month. The students must complete 890 hours of hands-on training to become fully certified.

Students must also complete an online course and work as a seasonal paid intern to help achieve the number of hours needed. When the students complete and pass the course, Ramsey will arrange for the Illinois EPA to come in and proctor the State Certified Water Operator Class \*D\* exam. If the students pass the exam, they will be considered Class \*D\* "Water Operators in Training" in the State of Illinois.

"This program is the first of its kind in the nation," said Ramsey, who began his career in the water profession in the Village of Westmont at the age of 15 and working as summer part-time help. "We are hoping to expand this opportunity throughout the state in the coming years."

Over the years, Director Ramsey has been very active in the water industry and is responsible for starting several innovative programs. In 2013, Mike launched Hydrant Hysteria, a state-wide competition in which teams of two race to assemble a fire hydrant. In 2015, Ramsey was awarded the AWWA Gimmicks & Gadgets Award for developing the light up valve key, and in 2017, he started the Model Water Tower Building Contest here in Westmont.

Ramsey also received the George Warren Fuller Award in 2018 from the American Water Works Association. The award was given in recognition of Mike's commitment to the improvement of the water industry and for his outstanding leadership in the AWWA.





## Sister City program introduces Taiwanese students to Thanksgiving holiday

“When we first created our Sister City program, we considered the best time of year to have exchange students visit Westmont,” said Sister City Co-Chair Larry McIntyre. “It worked out that Thanksgiving was perfect for a variety of reasons. This is the third year in a row in which students from Liou Jia High School

in Hsinchu County have come to Westmont.”

During the two week visit, the Taiwanese students will shadow local students while attending Westmont High School, participate in local events such as Holly Days, and experience the Thanksgiving holiday firsthand with their host families.

“We want to give a big thanks to all of our generous host families for embracing this program,” said Westmont High School Teacher Pete Landreth, who coordinates the exchange program along with Sister City Ambassador Angela Yang. “This has been a great opportunity for everyone involved.”



## Holly Days coat drive

The Westmont Holly Days Coat Drive will be collecting winter clothing items now through Jan. 4, 2020. This will be the 21st consecutive year that our local public agencies have hosted the collection.

The collection will accept new and/or gently used items including coats, winter hats, scarves, gloves and mittens, socks and boots.

Collection boxes will be located at the Westmont Public Library, 428 N. Cass Ave., and the Westmont Park District Community Center, 75 E. Richmond Street. All collected items will be donated to the People’s Resource Center in Westmont. For more information, contact Julie Olsen at the Westmont Library, 630-869-6169.



## Dementia awareness proclamation approved

At the Nov. 7 Village of Westmont Board Meeting, the village approved a proclamation declaring that Nov. 7 be Dementia Friendly Awareness Day in Westmont. November is also National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month. Several staff and residents from Aspired Living of Westmont were in attendance to participate.

“The Village of Westmont is proud to be known as a community that offers support for residents and visitors who have dementia,” said Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter. “With this proclamation, we are making plans to ensure that Westmont is responsive to the needs of people who are challenged with these issues.”

Westmont will be working on several initiatives to support the message of the proclamation such as working with the business community to identify dementia-friendly businesses as well as reviewing the Village website to include links for resources for dementia.



## Peace Poster contest winners honored at village board meeting

At the Nov. 7, Village of Westmont Board meeting, the Westmont Lions Club announced the winners of their annual Peace Poster Contest. The three winners were Ayla Elsner from Westmont Junior High School, Autumn Schumeth of Holy Trinity Catholic School, and Yana Kuzmanova from Westview Hills Middle School.

Two of the students talked about the inspiration and meaning behind their Peace Poster. Their presentations can be viewed on the Village of Westmont YouTube channel. Pictures of the contest winners receiving their awards can be viewed in the Village of Westmont Photo Gallery: Peace-Poster-Contest-Winners. The three



winning submissions will now compete in a regional and state-wide competition. Selected artists

and their entries will be invited to visit the United Nations in New York.





## Snow shoveling demonstrates respect for community

The Village of Westmont encourages all of our citizens, including residents and business owners, to be respectful of their neighbors and the entire community by taking the responsibility of shoveling snow from their sidewalks so that pedestrians have a clear and safe path when walking through our community.

When shoveling sidewalks, it is recommended that citizens clear paths the full width of the sidewalk so to allow everyone the ability to travel freely using the sidewalks instead of the streets.

Additionally, when our snow plows are clearing the roadways, some snow gets pushed back into driveways. Please make sure to not return this snow back into the street, but instead try to shovel snow to the parkways. Working together, we can make sure that our roads and sidewalks are safe for everyone.

Westmont property owners are asked to clear sidewalks adjacent to their property at their earliest convenience keeping sidewalks, parking lots, and all common areas, including open stairwells, free from ice and snow.

Also, remember to use salt in a proper and responsible way by removing snow prior to applying a deicer, using just enough deicer to reduce safety hazard. You can also sweep up and properly store road salt after a snow storm for reuse, and using a hand-held spreader to apply a consistent amount. It is also important to use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug.

For more information, contact our Code Enforcement Office at 630-981-6250. We appreciate your cooperation.

## Village and Maercker D60 celebrate 'OAKtober'

This past fall, the Village of Westmont and D60 Ecology Club students planted Oak trees at Maercker Elementary School. The trees were donated by Possibility Place Nursery in Monee, Illinois.

"The staff and students at Maercker Intermediate School have a long history of environmental action," said Superintendent of D60 Sean Nugent. "The school has earned multiple Earth Flags from SCARCE and provides many opportunities for students to learn

about and practice promoting environmental-friendly practices. This partnership with the Village furthers this commitment, and we are excited for our students to have a hands-on experience planting trees."



Working with Maercker D60 and CUSD 201, the Village has successfully planted many new trees at Westmont schools for more than 23 years.

## Village holiday schedule

The Village Hall and Department offices will be closed on the following days in observance of various holidays: Tues. and Wed., Dec. 24 & 25 in observance of Christmas; Wed., Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day; and Mon., Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Westmont Village Hall and department offices will resume normal business hours one day after the observed holiday.

When the village hall is closed, bill payments can be dropped off via the drop box located across the street from village hall near the entrance of the train station on W. Quincy St. or in front of the Westmont Police Department, 500 N. Cass Ave. These payments will be processed on the next business day. Also, bill payments can be made via our village website using the MAKE A PAYMENT link.

Additionally there will be no recycling or waste collection on Dec. 25 or Jan 1. Collection will be one day late for the remainder of the week.

## Christmas tree collection

Christmas trees will be picked up in Westmont during the first two full weeks of the new year, Jan. 6-17. All trees picked up during this timeframe will be composted.

Trees should be put out with your other recycling and waste on your typical pickup day. Trees MUST be free of decorations, tinsel, and lights to be picked up and composted. Also, trees should NOT be placed in garbage bags or liners of any sort. Trees taller than 6' should be cut in half for easier disposal.

Trees put out after the first two full weeks of the year will be considered garbage and may be subject to a fine. For more information, please contact Waste Management at [wm.com](http://wm.com) or 800-964-8988.

## Westmont streets dedicated in honor of James Wright, Jr. and Gregg Pill

Earlier this year, our community lost two of our most prominent volunteers and community advocates. To celebrate their legacy, Mayor Ron Gunter and the village board recently dedicated streets in honor of James Wright, Jr. and Gregg Pill. Mayor Gunter also presented each of the families with a key to the village.

"Both Jim and Gregg were vitally important to Westmont," said Mayor Ron Gunter. "Their passion for the community will be missed."

At the Sept. 26, 2019 Village of Westmont Public Works Committee meeting, Public Works Director

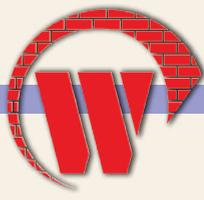
Mike Ramsey announced a proclamation to dedicate the 200 block of N. Adams in honor of longtime village employee James Wright, Jr. At the Nov. 21, 2019 village board meeting, Mayor Gunter and the Village Board approved a proclamation to dedicate Williamsburg St. in Oakwood Subdivision in honor of longtime Westmont resident and active community volunteer Gregg Pill.

"It's my privilege to honor these two individuals who have done so much for the community," added Gunter. "This is our way of celebrating their passion and dedication for Westmont."

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*

*—Winston Churchill*





## Police Chief presents awards

Westmont Chief of Police Jim Gunther recently presented several police department personnel with Chief's Recognition Commendation Awards.

Officers Kamil Broda and John Majeski received their awards for being first on the scene to an apartment fire and assisting with the evacuation of residents and pets.

Officer Arben Sylejmani was praised for his identification and response of a residential house fire. Due to his early intervention, Officer Sylejmani was able to safely evacuate residents from the scene.

Officer Hugo Pacheco was honored for his involvement with saving the lives of two individuals who were experiencing a drug overdose. Pacheco's investigation of the crime scene led to three class X felony



drug charges.

Deputy Chief Brian Gruen was recognized for his fundraising efforts with Special Olympics Illinois. Brian coordinated a variety of events over several years, which resulted in raising over \$40,000.

"We want to thank the Westmont Police Department and all of our award winners for their hard work and dedication," said Village Trustee and Public Safety Committee Chair Marie Guzzo. "We appreciate all you do."

## Westmont Fire hosts training for area first responders

In November, area fire departments participated in training exercise in downtown Westmont. Fire departments from Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Oakbrook, Pleasantview, and Westmont trained for several different scenarios utilizing the structures on the west side of Cass Ave. south of Quincy St. that were scheduled for demolition. The training did not involve real fire or smoke, but

there were simulations to create a low visibility situation.

"This is a great opportunity for our fire personnel to simulate a wide array of firefighting scenarios," said Westmont Fire Chief Steve Riley. "We appreciate everyone's patience during these exercises. Our goal is to provide the best training possible for our first responders."



## Rep. Mazzochi receives Friend of Infrastructure Award

Rep. Deanne Mazzochi, 47th District, received a Friend of Infrastructure Award today from the Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC) for recognizing her support to improve Illinois infrastructure.

Mazzochi expressed appreciation for the fact that the ceremony was held at the Westmont train station. "Westmont is working hard to support our commuters and local businesses in the downtown core," said Mazzochi, "but the State of Illinois needs to do its part too, and keep our roads and facilities in good repair." Noting that the Westmont train station is in need of numerous repairs, Mazzochi observed, "Illinois has not had a major capital and infrastructure package since 2009. Westmont is an ideal place where some State investment in infrastructure rail and facilities can deliver better value and quality of life for our district residents for decades to come, particularly as our population continues to rise."

Mazzochi was a supporter of a \$45 billion capital infrastructure plan that passed the legislature during the last weekend of the legislative session. The plan will provide \$33 billion in funding specifically for transportation, including road repairs around the State,



train line extensions, and new locomotives. This is the first infrastructure investment of this kind in over 10 years. Locally, the Regional Transportation Authority is receiving \$2.2 billion to distribute to Metra, the CTA, and Pace. Additional funding has been earmarked for additional projects. Pictures from the presentation are on the village website in the photo gallery.

## Illinois Tollway art contest reception in Westmont

During a special event held in downtown Westmont, the Illinois Tollway announced the winners of their 2020 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest, which honors the service and sacrifice of the Illinois State Police.

The Illinois Tollway worked with Westmont property owner and real estate developer Bill Kalafut to hold the event at 22 N. Cass Ave. Kalafut and his company Realty Concepts has hosted several art-related programs over the past year.

Dozens of people attended the Nov. 21 presentation including representatives from the Illinois State Police, Illinois Tollway, Mayor Ron Gunter, and participating artists and their families. Syrena Feustel from Bolingbrook High School was the grand prize winner.

"We are pleased to showcase the excellent artwork created at schools

throughout Northern Illinois and recognize the talent and creativity of the students and their teachers," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez.

This year more than 70 student artists from more than 20 high

schools throughout Northern Illinois submitted artwork in the contest. More than 17,000 votes were cast online and via Facebook and Instagram to determine the finalists.



# Westmont Strategic Plan Update

“There are many important development projects in Westmont at this moment,” said Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter. “Currently, we have over \$250 million worth of economic development investment under review or already underway. It’s an exciting time for the community.” Following is an update regarding some of Westmont’s current economic development projects:

## **FMC Natatorium at Ty Warner Park—**

Construction on the Natatorium project at Ty Warner Park is on schedule and will continue through the winter. The project developers plan for the facility to be completed in the Spring of 2020 and the first formal swimming competition is slated for next summer.



## **Medical office on Ogden—**

A new multi-story medical building has been approved for the 300 block of W. Ogden Ave., west of Park St. The development will include the corner property and the adjoining strip mall. The project is planning to begin demo in the early spring. The village is working with current businesses to relocate within Westmont.

## **N. Cass Ave. townhomes—**

The new townhomes development at 414 N. Cass Ave., just south of the Westmont Public Library, is well underway and units are now available for purchase. This residential project is comprised of 22 luxury townhomes. The development is expected to be completed within the first half of 2020.

## **Oakmont Point—**

The Oakmont Point project, located on Oakmont Ln. off Pasquinelli Dr., initially consists of the redeveloping an existing structure, which was previously owned by the Sirva Company. The structure has been divided into two separate buildings, and as of November, the business Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) has taken occupancy. Future plans include utilizing a portion of the current parking lot to build a third building. The multi-building project is expected to provide 275,000 sq. ft. of office space.

## **One North Cass—**

Village staff is working closely with a developer regarding the property at the northeast corner of Cass and Burlington. The preliminary plans for this proposed development include a mixed-use building with first-floor commercial space, structured parking, and several floors of apartments. Development details will become available once the project is formally submitted to the village.

We invite you to shop, dine, and support our local businesses to keep our community strong. In addition to the economic development projects listed above, the Village of Westmont is actively seeking out new commercial and residential projects for Westmont. For more information, contact the Westmont Economic Development Partnership at 630-824-9337 or [WEDP@westmontchamber.com](mailto:WEDP@westmontchamber.com).

## **Quincy Station at Cass & Quincy—**

This development recently held a ground-breaking ceremony, and demolition of existing structures has now been completed. Quincy Station will be a five-story, 94-unit luxury apartment building that will bring more residents and footsteps to downtown Westmont. The project is expected to be completed and ready for residential occupancy by the fall of 2021.

## **Market Centre at 63rd & Cass—**

Both L.A. Fitness and Raising Canes restaurant expect to be completed and occupied in 2020. In September, the developer obtained approval for a change in uses within the project. The change included a 35,000 square-foot space intended for retail use instead of the originally-proposed movie theater. Also, a newly approved lease for a Starbucks Coffee has been finalized.

## **Mariano's expansion—**

Westmont Mariano's at 150 W. 63rd St. has received approval from the Village of Westmont to construct and operate a fueling station on their existing property. The fueling station will be built along the 63rd St. side of the property. The construction and completion of this new business is scheduled for 2020.

## **Westview South & North Plaza residential project proposal—**

The village is reviewing a proposal to construct a residential project on the west side of Cass Ave., both north and south of 61st St. The proposal calls for the removal of existing buildings and the construction of new residential buildings.



## **Westmont Restaurant Week 2020**

**Thursday, January 30  
through  
Sunday, February 9**

Experience Westmont Restaurants during this eleven day delectable dining event.  
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Find out all of the delicious details by visiting

[westmontchamber.com](http://westmontchamber.com)



## Westmont Junior High physical education

When we think of technology and teens, the assumption can be a more sedentary time in front of a screen, but Westmont Junior High School is using technology in creative ways to engage and empower students towards heart health and fitness.

Polar Heart Rate Monitors were purchased through a Play 60 grant and enable the students to get immediate in-class feedback about just how hard they are working in PE classes. Each monitor is worn on the left forearm of each student. It is linked to a program that accesses personal information and projects their progress on the board in the front of the room. The colors range



from "Very Light" to "Moderate" to "Maximum." Varying levels of challenge will mean different colors based on each student's needs. The monitors help the students have a communal effort to all work together towards their goal to get in the green zone while offering important individual assessments and challenges as well.

Ms. Emily Hillertz, a PE teacher at the Junior high shares that she loves seeing the students challenge themselves and work together



through the use of heart rate monitors, "It is great for the students and myself as an educator because we all get immediate feedback. The monitors have brought up a great conversation about heart health and how individual students can work towards their goals."

Another PE teacher Mr. Richard Cornacchia led his students through various stations during his class time. "Since we've instituted this (the heart monitors), students have been more active because they have live feedback, and they are excited to use the monitors. We,

as the teachers love it because it gives them all accountability and responsibility for their daily activity as well as giving us information of how best to help each student meet their fitness goals," Mr. Cornacchia

explained. The monitors give individual feedback for each student based on their personal information and help them stay working out at an optimal and fat burning level to promote heart health.

## Westmont High School garden

Lisa Hootman shared the high school garden totals now that the growing season has come to an end. It was a great year, and our students were once again amazing at planting, caring for, harvesting, and amassing all of our gardens produce. During each of the previous two years, the students and teachers harvested about 900 pounds of produce from the WHS garden, so this year Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Finlayson challenged the students to harvest 1000 pounds of produce! Well, the students took on the challenge, and they intercropped, put in multiple plantings during the summer, and even added some cool weather crops later in the fall to maximize the space and growing season.



The result was that WHS students brought home the gold and harvested 1098.5 pounds of produce this year! They also harvested, filtered, and bottled 40 pounds of honey from our two beehives. That brings the total to 1138.5 pounds of harvested produce and honey! Out of the total, 470.5 pounds of produce was donated to The People's Resource Center this year, the highest amount ever. We donated 42.8% of our harvest to people in need. It was a great year and was only possible because of Lisa Hootman, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Finlayson, and all of our WHS students putting in hours of time and effort to reach our goal.

## Community Unit School District 201 schools continue to excel

On Oct. 31, 2019, the Illinois State Board of Education released the school report cards for Illinois schools. The ISBE has a new for tiered rating system. Schools can receive a rating of exemplary, commendable, underperforming, or lowest-performing. Westmont High School has achieved the highest rating and received an exemplary rating. High Schools rated as exemplary have a graduation rate greater than 67% and must perform in the top 10% on the SAT statewide.

Manning, Miller, and Westmont Junior High were all designated as commendable. Schools rated as commendable have no underperforming groups of students and is the second-highest rating Overall, CUSD 201 schools outperform most school in the state with similar demographics.

### 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

**Board President**  
Marie Charlton

**Board Vice President**  
Joel Price

**Board Secretary**  
Gary Armstrong

**Board Members**  
Laura Coyle  
Jon Rudey  
Judy Wilson  
Dana Strohmaier

**Superintendent**  
Kevin Carey

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



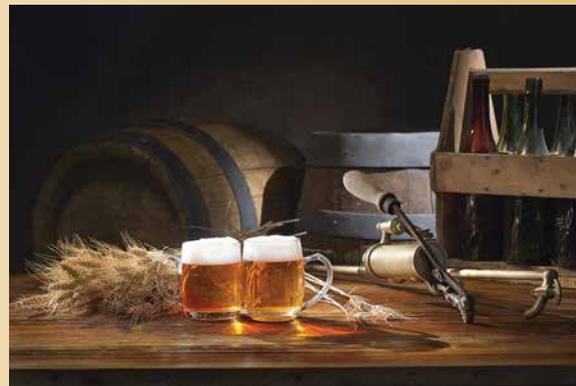
Take the opportunity to come out to **DJ's Sports Bar & Grill** for their Annual Holiday Business event on Dec. 10. This is a fun-filled evening that will be a great way to wind down 2019. The event will include refreshments as well as opportunity to network with other business owners and attendees. Located in a former house at 222 E Chicago Ave. in Westmont, DJ's is a favorite local hangout and hot spot for enjoying sports games on any of their 12 flat screens, as well as their delicious classic half-pound burgers. Please RSVP for this event online at [westmontchamber.chambermaster.com](http://westmontchamber.chambermaster.com), or visit [djswestmont.com](http://djswestmont.com) for more information.

Come out and enjoy a multi-chamber luncheon with the **College of DuPage's President, Dr. Brian W. Caputo**, as a special guest on Dec. 11. This is an opportunity to be introduced to him as he outlines strategy for the coming years, and learn how changes coming to the College of DuPage will impact the local community and businesses. This event is hosted at DoubleTree Suites in Downers Grove from 11:30am-1:15pm. Tickets are \$35 for members, \$50 for non-members, and \$85 for a showcase table. Register and find more information at [westmontchamber.chambermaster.com](http://westmontchamber.chambermaster.com).

The **Downtown Westmont Business Alliance Committee** hosts their monthly meeting on Jan. 2, 2020. Key topics that will be addressed by the DWBAC include those related to downtown Westmont economic development, special events held downtown, marketing opportunities, as well as business and property owners networking opportunities. The DWBAC is a committee of the **Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau**, which serves as a resource group to plan events that promote Downtown Westmont and serves as the voice of the downtown Westmont business community. The

group meets from 8-9am. For more information, visit [westmontchamber.com](http://westmontchamber.com).

Join in for the monthly **Making Connections** networking event at 200 E Chicago Ave., Suite 20, Westmont on Jan. 9, 2020 from 9-11am. This is a great opportunity, as each business will have 10 minutes to inform the group of services and upcoming events. Attendees are encouraged to come with marketing materials and business cards. Making Connections works each month for this event to allow local human services and private practices to connect. For more information, contact [Diannalfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:Diannalfeeney@gmail.com).



Start the new year off and come celebrate at **Sallywag Brewing Company** with a **Business After Hours and Ribbon Cutting** event on Jan. 15, 2020. This is fun evening to welcome Sallywag Brewing Company to downtown Westmont combined with opportunities for business networking. The company is a small, independently owned craft brewery with all of their beers handcrafted right in downtown Westmont. The celebration is from 5-7pm. For more information, contact [dann@sallywagbrewing.com](mailto:dann@sallywagbrewing.com).

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**Christmas season with Holy Trinity**

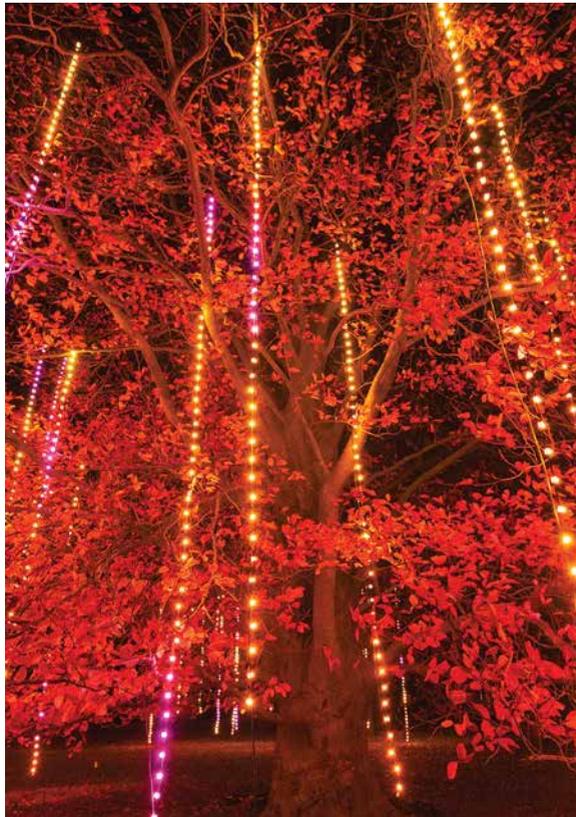
Holy Trinity Catholic Church celebrates its Christmas season schedule of events on Dec. 8 when all women are invited to the annual Advent Tea and talk “Celebrating the Advent Season with Mary” from 2–4pm. The Christmas Play at Holy Trinity Church will then be presented by the school and Religious Ed students on Dec. 14 at 7pm. And on Dec. 17, school students will present their Christmas concert, “Lux Mundi: Light of the World,” at 7pm. For Christmas mass schedules and more information, contact the Parish at 630-968-1366.

**Joyeux Noel: Film screening**

Witness the historic, moving, holiday true story of *Joyeux Noel*, presented by After Hours Film Society on Dec. 16 at the Tivoli Theatre at 7:30pm. The movie tells the story of the impromptu truce of Christmas Eve, 1914 during WWI. Establishing the horrors of trench warfare, characterizations of soldiers, and a dramatization of a nearly miraculous event, *Joyeux Noel* presents an astounding, humanizing experience up against the inevitable dark reality that was the war. Admission is \$6 for members and \$10 for non-members including a discussion after the film. For more information, contact [info@afterhoursfilmsociety.com](mailto:info@afterhoursfilmsociety.com) or call 630-534-4528.

**Share the Spirit**

Be a part of the gift of giving this holiday season and donate to People’s Resource Center’s Share the Spirit Program. During this event, over 700 low-income families have an opportunity to choose toys, games and books for their children who would otherwise go without gifts for the holidays. Donate new, unopened toys, clothes, food and electronics. Donations are accepted to PRC Westmont Dec. 6 from 9am–4pm, PRC Wheaton on Dec. 8 from 9am–3pm,



Visit “Illumination” at the Morton Arboretum

and the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton on Dec. 9 from 9am–3pm. For more information, visit [peoplesrc.org/holiday](http://peoplesrc.org/holiday) or call 630-682-5402.

**A unique holiday performance in “A Celtic Christmas”**

Experience the holidays in a special way with musician Gavin Coyle and his “Celtic Christmas” event at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage on Dec. 6 from 8–10pm. Gavin, along with keyboardist Paul Burgess, harpist Karen Banazewski-Mohr, and flautist Joann Diebold will perform timeless holiday tunes as well as original pieces. Tickets are \$35 and available with more information at the MAC box office, [atthemac.org](http://atthemac.org) or by calling 630-942-4000.

**“Illumination” at The Morton Arboretum for the holidays**

For the seventh year, the one-of-a-kind interactive spectacle of color, light and sound presents the forest in

*Gavin Coyle performs Celtic Christmas music at the McAninch Arts Center*

a different light. The exhibition is open evenings from 4:30–9:30pm. Be surrounded by color on the one-mile paved path. Hug a tree and see its response. Warm up by the fire with a cozy drink and roast marshmallows. “Illumination” is open now and continues through Jan. 5, 2020. Tickets are \$10–\$18 for members and \$15–\$23 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased at entry or at [mortonarb.org](http://mortonarb.org) long with more information.

**Christmas on the streets of Hinsdale**

Hinsdale kicks off the 2019 Christmas season with the 54th annual Christmas Walk presented by AMITA Health on Dec. 6 from 5–8pm. The event will begin with Santa’s arrival and the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the village hall. The evening will feature visits with Santa, amusement rides, carolers, shops open late, give-a ways and more. For more information, visit [hinsdalechamber.com](http://hinsdalechamber.com).

**The Hurricane Project—live blues music in Westmont**

Come out and jam with some live blues music with The Hurricane Project at Johnny’s Blitz Bar and Grill on Jan. 11 from 8:30–11:30pm. Enjoy the food and beverages, and hang out with this spectacular blues band, lead by Al Spear. This is a free show. For more information, visit [jonny’sblitz.com](http://jonny’sblitz.com)

**New Years Eve celebration**

Join the Theology of Dance Institute and Holy Trinity YAM in a special New Years Eve celebration on Dec. 31 at 25 N. Cass Ave. from 8pm–1:30am. The gathering will include dance music and karaoke provided by Theology of Dance, as well as appetizers and complimentary drinks. The event space will feature two rooms, including a bar. Tickets can purchased online for \$25 by Dec. 27 or at the door for \$35.

**Holiday Spectacular performance with SEASPAR**

Support and watch a showcase of talent at the Special Recreation Association’s (SEASPAR) 13th annual Holiday Spectacular on Dec. 20 at the Theatre of Western Springs at 7pm. Experience performances by these talented participants in all corners of SEASPAR’s expansive programs. This is a wonderful celebration of the incredible skills of these performers just in time to leave us inspired and filled with holiday spirit. This live show is free and open to the public. For more information visit [seaspar.org](http://seaspar.org) or call 630-960-7600.

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**Snow Much Fun night just before Christmas**

Bundle up for an eventful evening with Westmont Parks' Snow Much Fun night on Dec. 21 at Veterans Memorial Park from 4–7pm. This is an indoor and outdoor event that will feature a variety of holiday fun and activities. Attendees can enjoy wagon rides around the park while meeting the parks friendly long eared mules, visiting Santa in his workshop, taking a lamplight tour of the Gregg House to get a view of Christmas celebrations by early settlers. Also enjoy games, crafts, hot cocoa, and s'mores. This is a free event. For more information, contact [akrampits@westmontparks.org](mailto:akrampits@westmontparks.org) or call 630-969-8080.



through Jan. 19, 2020 on Wednesdays-Sundays. Visit [drurylanetheatre.com](http://drurylanetheatre.com) for tickets, show times and further information.

**Mary Poppins flies to the stage of Drury Lane**

Enjoy the magic and wonder at Drury Lane Theatre's production of *Mary Poppins*, playing throughout the holiday season in Oakbrook. This must see production delivers the whimsy, excitement, and memorable songs of the classic film and beloved children's books by P.L. Travers. Relive the magic with the entire family as a part of this holiday season. The production plays

**Holiday ice show and customer appreciation day**

Break out the ice skates and come down to the Darien Sportsplex for a Holiday Ice Show and Customer Appreciation Day on Dec 14 from 12–4:30pm. This is a fun filled event that will begin with a free public skate until 2:30pm, and will follow with the Holiday Ice Show until 4:30pm. The day will also include free refreshments, games and more. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Look for more information at [darienparks.org](http://darienparks.org).

**Jump to support at Inflata-Palooza**

Come jump and support a good cause at Darien Park Districts Inflata-Palooza on Dec. 27 from 11am–1pm at the Darien Sportsplex. Children will get to spend the day using the facilities big inflatables and playing on the soccer field. This is a special event that will benefit a day camp trip to "Feed My Starving Children." It is for ages 12 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is \$5 per person, cash only, which gives unlimited inflatable fun. For more information, visit [darienparks.org](http://darienparks.org) under events.

**Take the children on the train to the North Pole**

Climb aboard the Holly Days Storytime Train on Dec. 7 beginning at the Westmont Centre at 11am. This special event will begin with a story reading, followed by boarding the train at Westmont train station and head to the North Pole (Aurora depot). While at the North Pole, kids can meet Santa and his elves, and enjoy additional entertainment and refreshments. Tickets are \$18–\$29 with children 2 and under free. Register by Dec. 6 at 4:30pm. For tickets and more information, visit [hollydaysfestival.com](http://hollydaysfestival.com).



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# 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](http://cusd201.org)  
 Maercker District 60 ..... 630-515-4840  
     [maercker.org](http://maercker.org)  
 Westmont Police Department ..... 630-981-6300  
 Westmont Fire Department ..... 630-981-6400  
 Westmont Public Library ..... 630-969-5625  
     [westmontlibrary.org](http://westmontlibrary.org)

**Westmont Park District** ..... 630-969-8080  
     [westmontparks.org](http://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](http://westmontchamber.com) ..... 630-960-5553

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

**Community Organizations**  
 American Cancer Society ..... 630-932-1151  
     [cancer.org](http://cancer.org)  
 American Legion Post 338 ..... 630-417-1941  
     [amlegion338.org](http://amlegion338.org)  
 The DuPage Community Foundation ..... 630-665-5556  
     [dupagefoundation.org](http://dupagefoundation.org)  
 DuPage Senior Citizens Council ..... 630-620-0804  
     [dupageseniorcouncil.org](http://dupageseniorcouncil.org)  
 People's Resource Center ..... 630-682-5402  
     [peoplesrc.org](http://peoplesrc.org)  
 SEASPAR ..... 630-960-7600  
     [seaspar.org](http://seaspar.org)  
 VFW Post 503 ..... 630-852-5736  
     [vfw503.org](http://vfw503.org)  
 Hope's Front Door ..... 630-322-9803  
     [hopesfrontdoor.org](http://hopesfrontdoor.org)  
 West Suburban Humane Society ..... 630-960-9600  
     [wshs-dg.org](http://wshs-dg.org)  
 Westmont Knights of Columbus ..... 630-969-3738  
     [kofc3738.org](http://kofc3738.org)  
 Westmont Lions Club ..... 630-891-1263  
     [e-clubhouse.org/sites/westmontil](http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/westmontil)  
 Westmont Rotary Club ..... 630-344-9140  
     [westmontrotaryclub.org](http://westmontrotaryclub.org)  
 Westmont Special Events Corporation ..... 630-829-9378  
     [westmontevents.com](http://westmontevents.com)



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WESTMONT DECEMBER 2019						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Environmental Imp. Com. 6pm Library	3	4 Economic Dev. Com. 9am Village Hall	5 Admin. & Finance Com. 4:30pm Village Board 6pm Village Hall	6	7 Holly Days Storytime Train 11am Westmont Center
8	9	10	11 Park Board Meeting 6pm Park Dist. Center Planning & Zoning Com. 7pm Village Hall	12	13 Fire Pension Board 9am Fire Dept.	14 Lunch with Santa 12pm Park Dist. Center
15	16	17 Board of Fire & Police Com. 2pm Police Dept.	18 Admin. Hearing 10am Village Hall Code Adjudication Hearing 10am Village Hall	19 Public Works Com. 4:30pm Village Board 6pm Village Hall	20	21 Electronics Recycling 8am-12pm Hwy. Dept. Garage Breakfast with Santa 9am Park Dist. Center Snow Much Fun 4pm Veterans Mem. Park
22	23	24 Village Offices Closed	25 Merry Christmas Village Offices Closed	26	27	28
29	30	31 Happy New Year	Send us your event information! <a href="mailto:newsroom@neighborsmagazines.com">newsroom@neighborsmagazines.com</a> Deadline for the February/March 2020 issue is January 2, 2020  Please note: Some programs listed may require registration and/or fees. Please check with individual organizations.			

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WESTMONT							JANUARY 2020						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Send us your event information! <a href="mailto:newsroom@neighborsmagazines.com">newsroom@neighborsmagazines.com</a> Deadline for the February/March 2020 issue is January 2, 2020</p> <p>Please note: Some programs listed may require registration and/or fees. Please check with individual organizations.</p>							1	2	3	4			
			<p><i>Happy New Year</i> Village Offices Closed</p>	<p>Admin. &amp; Finance Com. 4:30pm Village Board 6pm Village Hall</p>			5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<p>Environmental Imp. Com. 6pm Library</p>			<p>Economic Dev. Com. 9am Village Hall Planning &amp; Zoning Com. 7pm Village Hall</p>									
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
	<p>Sister City Com. 5pm Village Hall</p>		<p>Administrative Hearing 10am Village Hall Code Adjudication Hearing 12pm Village Hall</p>	<p>Community Dev. Com. 4:30pm Village Board 6pm Village Hall</p>									
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
	<p><b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> Village Offices Closed</p>	<p>Board of Fire &amp; Police Com. 2pm Police Dept. Police Pension Board 6pm Westmont First Com. 6pm, Village Hall</p>	<p>Public Information Com. 10am Village Hall</p>										
26	27	28	29	30	31								
				<p>Village Board 6pm Village Hall</p>									

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## **Kim Heller**

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