



West Dundee Village Newsletter

*SPRING
2013*

In this issue...

Page 2: Calendar of Events

Page 3: Farewell from Trustee Osth

Page 4: Election Day & Early Voting
Yard Waste Collection (begins April 5)
Rise & Shine Business Networking
Cops vs. Kids Charity Basketball

Page 5: Earth Day, Every Day
Donate Plants / "Adopt-A-Planter"

Page 6: School Safety

Page 7-9: Cost of Living: A Regional Comparison

Page 9: Electronics Recycling
Electrical Aggregation Solicitations

Page 10: Firefighting Sprinklers
Emergency Preparedness Website
When to Call an Ambulance

Page 11: Tornado Season
Moving? Call the Water Billing Dept

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM VILLAGE PRESIDENT LARRY KELLER

Dear Residents of West Dundee,

There is an old proverb that says, "All good things must come to an end." This is how I feel as my time as your Village President comes to a close.

I have had the privilege of calling West Dundee home for over 40 years and of serving as your Village President for 16 years. It has been an honor to have had the opportunity to work with a dedicated Village Board and staff. It has been our responsibility to ensure that West Dundee is and will continue to be a thriving community for generations to come.

Working together with our staff, Board and community volunteers, we have seen considerable accomplishments. If you look around West Dundee, you will see our beautiful Riverwalk, wonderful neighborhood parks, well-maintained subdivisions, burgeoning corporate park west of Randall Road, and diverse businesses downtown and along Routes 31 and 72.

Our downtown beautification program replaced the old bluestone with new paver brick sidewalks and permanent landscaping infrastructure, which boast colorful flowers from Spring to late Fall. These plantings have been lovingly planted and maintained by volunteers from the community, who take pride in West Dundee.

One of the highlights of my tenure occurred in 2010 when residents from all over town submitted West Dundee to Good Morning America and we were awarded the title of "Best Block in America". West Dundee was on national television and residents from every neighborhood took part in the celebration.

Continued on page 3...

The **West Dundee Village Newsletter** is published quarterly as a public information service for Village residents and businesses.

VILLAGE BOARD

West Dundee is governed by a Village President & Board of Trustees, elected at-large.

The Village Manager is responsible for the administration of Village activities and services.

Village President	Larry Keller
Village Board of Trustees	Patrick Hanley Michelle Kembitzky Norm Osth Thomas Price Julie Voss Andy Yuscka
Village Manager	Joseph Cavallaro

The **Village Board meets** on the **1st, 2nd** and **3rd Mondays** of each month at **7:30 pm** at **Village Hall** unless noted. The public is invited to attend and citizen participation is encouraged.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Village Hall: 102 S. Second Street	Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Public Safety Center #1: 555 S. Eighth Street (Rt. 31)	Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Public Safety Center #2: 100 Carrington Drive	Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Public Works: 900 Angle Tarn	Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police/Fire Emergency	911
Non-Emergency Dispatch	847-428-8784
Village Hall	847-551-3800
Police Administration (PSC 1)	847-551-3810
Public Works	847-551-3815
Fire Administration, Community Development & Building (PSC 2)	847-551-3805



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

1-4	Early Voting at Village Hall	10am - 4pm
1	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 pm
2	Appearance Review Commission	7:30 pm
5	First Yard Waste Collection	
5	Cops vs Kids Basketball (DMS)	6:30 pm
8	Committee of the Whole Meeting	7:30 pm
9	Election Day	6 am - 7 pm
15	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 pm
20	Earth Day Gardening Event	9 am - 12 pm
22	Planning & Zoning Commission	7:30 pm
26	NKCC Rise & Shine Event	8:30-9:30 am

MAY

6	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 pm
7	Appearance Review Commission	7:30 pm
12	Happy Mother's Day	
13	Committee of the Whole	7:30 pm
18	Backyard Garden Club Plant Sale	9-11 am
20	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 pm
26	VFW Memorial Day Parade	2:00 pm
27	Memorial Day - <i>Village Offices Closed</i>	
28	Planning & Zoning Meeting	7:30 pm

**REFUSE COLLECTION WILL BE
MOVED TO SATURDAY FOLLOWING
THESE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:**

*Memorial Day (Sat, June 1)
Independence Day (Sat, July 6)
Labor Day (Sat, Sept 7)*

Please visit our website at wdundee.org
for meeting agendas, news and information.

Continued from page 1: FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

As I have said many times over the past 16 years West Dundee is a “we” community. Our staff and Board of Trustees are built on trust, good objective information, intelligent and non-biased discussions and a majority vote. Through this collaborative spirit, many positive things, both large and small, have been accomplished.

I have truly enjoyed serving as your Village President. Thank you all for the opportunity!

Larry A. Keller

Larry A. Keller



FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE NORM OSTH

It's been a full 12 years since I took the oath to always vote in a manner that advances West Dundee. I know I have fulfilled that oath.

Over these years, I have initiated some long lasting programs and projects. Some say that is the responsibility of the staff, but I differ. I think anyone with a good idea should come forward. Although the employees of West Dundee are great and always do the best thing for the Village, they don't have a lock on ideas. I hope the new Trustees come to the table with some new innovative ideas that impact the Village in a positive manner and the incumbents continue to vote their conscience.

Together, the Board of Trustees and the Village staff have not only maintained, but have improved the quality of life in our wonderful Village.

I now ask you, my neighbors, to get more active, more involved in your Village government. Without your input, without your voice, private interest groups are able to become more and more influential. I've seen it. Don't allow it. Vote on April 9 for those who you are convinced will “do what's right” for the whole Village, not just for their own issues.

Again, thank you for all who have voted for me over the years. I have justified your confidence in me and continue to live in a great Village with a great future.

One last initiative! Let's chose a Village motto: ***Treasuring our Past — Embracing the future***

Sincerely,

Trustee Norm Osth

EARLY VOTING & ELECTION DAY

The ballot for the April 9 Consolidated Election will focus on local officials, including the Village Board, School Board, Park District Board, Library District Board and Township officials.

Polls will be open on **Election Day, April 9**, from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Early voting will be available at West Dundee Village Hall from April 1 through April 4 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. West Dundee residents may early vote at any Kane County early voting site.

For further information and to learn where you can vote, please visit the Kane County Elections website at www.kanecountyelections.org.

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Free curbside yard waste collection **begins Friday, April 5** and continues until the last collection date in November, for all residential properties of 3 units or less. Yard waste is collected on Fridays, along with refuse and recycling.

Organic yard waste materials should be placed at the curb in a Kraft type paper bag or in an open trash container, and must be kept separate from refuse. Cans containing yard waste should be clearly identifiable and set out with the lid off. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected.

Brush and tree trimmings must be less than 2" in diameter and should be cut to lengths of 4' or less, tied with biodegradable twine into bundles no more than 2' in diameter not to exceed 50 pounds.

Grass clippings may be included as yard waste. Please do not discharge grass clippings into the street when mowing your lawn. Please do not include dirt, sod, large branches, tree stumps, rocks, garden vegetables, fruit and non-organic materials, as these are not considered yard waste.

More information regarding refuse collection can be found on the Village's website, wdundee.org.

RISE & SHINE Business Networking Event

The Northern Kane County Chamber and the Village of West Dundee invite local business owners to join us for an early morning of networking with Village officials. Juice, coffee and light pastries will be provided.

Date: **Friday, April 26th**

Time: 8:30 am - 9:30 am

Place: Village Hall, 102 S. 2nd St.

Please RSVP to Melissa at the NKCC at 847-426-8565 or nkcc@comcast.net.

COPS vs KIDS CHARITY BASKETBALL

The West Dundee Police Department invites you to the annual Cops vs. Kids basketball game to benefit Illinois Special Olympics.

Join the fun as West Dundee's finest takes on the Dundee Middle School Cardinals on **April 5th at 6:30 pm.**

\$1.00 admission fee. The gym opens at 5:30. Arrive early to get your tickets for the 50/50 Raffle. The winner will be announced at halftime. All proceeds go directly to Illinois Special Olympics.

EARTH DAY, EVERY DAY in West Dundee Community Gardening Project

Join the Village of West Dundee for our next "Earth Day, Every Day" community gardening event on April 20, 2013 from 9am to Noon. We will meet at Public Safety Center #2 at the SW corner of Route 72 and Carrington Drive (by Sleepy Hollow Road).

Please bring work gloves and tools such as shovels, pruners and trowels clearly labeled with your name.

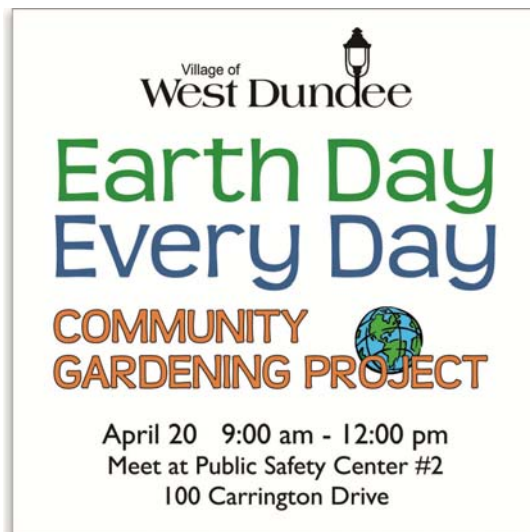
Earth Day, Every Day is now in its 4th year. The Public Safety Center project was started last summer with the goal of eliminating invasive species throughout the grounds while reestablishing the manicured appearance of this public facility.

This is truly a collective effort by dedicated members of our community. As a volunteer crew member, you will work alongside West Dundee Firefighters to plant new materials that have been donated by residents and area nurseries, as designed by professional landscape planner Christine Piper, with professional nurseryman Herman Tiedeman and Kane County Board Member Becky Gillam leading the volunteer effort.

This is a great opportunity to work together as we continue to make West Dundee a beautiful place to live. Additional gardening dates are scheduled for June 22nd and August 24th.

For direct notifications and reminders about our community gardening initiatives, please join the Village Newslist by entering your email address at wdundee.org and selecting Volunteer Corps.

For more information contact Village Hall. Phone: 847-551-3800 or email: villagehall@wdundee.org.



DONATE PLANTS

The Village also accepts donations of perennials to help in the Earth Day effort.

When you divide your over-grown perennials, please keep the Village in mind. We will gladly pick up your excess plant material to be replanted within the public landscape.



Contact Village Hall for a list of desired species.

"ADOPT-A-PLANTER" PROGRAM

Help keep downtown West Dundee beautiful!

About a dozen planter boxes located around the downtown business district are available for "adoption" by residents and business owners this spring. Those interested are asked to donate & plant a flat of annuals in their designated planter box by May 13th. The Village will make sure that your planter creation is watered throughout the summer for all to enjoy.

The Adopt-a-Planter Program makes a perfect family, scouting, memorial or Mother's Day project!

Contact Village Hall to select a planter box location.

SCHOOL SAFETY

A Message from the Police Chief

The Sandy Hook School tragedy shocked our nation. It was a reminder of just how vulnerable our children are to violence and that it is the responsibility of the entire community (teachers, parents, police, fire, legislators, etc.) to keep our children safe.

I wanted to assure the parents and residents in our community that every officer in West Dundee is committed to protecting the children in our schools. We have taken several steps in the past few years to increase our school safety measures. These measures include:

Designated School Safety Supervisor – A Sergeant was assigned the task of coordinating our entire school safety program. This includes conducting training, school drills, random school security checks, implementing new programs, coordinating with School Resource officers and Administrators, and much more.

Increased Presence at all Schools – Officers are in the area of schools at bell times (when available), near bus stops, and during random visits. An officer also has regular “office hours” at Dundee Middle School and a D.A.R.E. officer in elementary schools (private and public schools).

Regular Training and Communication with Schools – The Police Department is at unprecedented levels of coordinated training with the schools. This includes lock-down drills, K9 sweeps, and Administrative meetings/training.

Specialized Equipment and Teams – The Department has acquired specialized equipment to be used in a rapid response by officers specifically trained in the use of the equipment.

There is nothing more important to me and the officers of the West Dundee Police Department than protecting our children.

If you have any specific concerns or questions about our school safety efforts, please feel free to contact me or our school safety supervisor, Sergeant Anthony Gorski, at (847)551-3810.

Sincerely,



Andrew Wieteska
Chief of Police
awieteska@wdundee.org



THE COST OF LIVING

A Regional Comparison of Taxes, Fees and Debt

The Village has noted two recent articles that have appeared in the Daily Herald titled, [“How much money does your town owe?”](#) and [“Which suburbs levy highest taxes per person?”](#)

On the surface, the articles portray the Village of West Dundee’s bonded indebtedness and property tax levy for the community as being high in comparison to our neighboring communities.

Unfortunately, the articles exclude significant details that drastically skew the data, resulting in misleading and inaccurate comparisons.

The following information attempts to clarify and correct the false impression that it is more costly to live in West Dundee. In reality, the costs borne by the residents of West Dundee to fund the municipal services provided is one of the lowest in the area.

“Which suburbs levy highest taxes per person?”

There are two significant factors that skew the data as presented in the article, resulting in a misleading comparison of the communities surveyed.

The first is that the size of a community’s commercial tax base can substantially skew the results, due to the fact that the author chose to divide the total municipal tax levy strictly by the per capita number of residents. Property taxes are levied on both residential and commercial properties.

The per capita calculation does not take into consideration the commercial development that exists within a community. This omission skews the per capita number upwards, especially for West Dundee due to our relatively small population of 7,331 versus our sizable commercial tax base, as our total tax levy is divided across all properties, residential and commercial.

The second and more important factor is that about 25% of the communities being compared operate municipal Fire Departments, while others are served by Fire Protection Districts who levy property taxes separately from the municipality, and these Fire Protection District levies are not factored into the calculation.

For all intents and purposes, this is an “apples to oranges” comparison of property tax obligations, based on the use of per capita tax rates and the inclusion of some, but not all, fire service costs.

For example, the Village of West Dundee has a \$3,000,000 tax levy for a population of 7,331, which includes fire protection and EMS, as we have a municipal Fire Department.

The Villages of Gilberts and Sleepy Hollow have respective levies of \$887,000 and \$489,000, for a combined municipal levy of \$1,376,000. These communities are served by the Rutland-Dundee Fire Protection District, who levies an additional \$2,000,000 in property taxes for fire protection and EMS. This key factor doubles the per capita numbers of these communities.

East Dundee is in a similar situation, where the Village’s total tax levy is \$570,000, the East Dundee & Countryside Fire Protection District’s levy is \$800,000 for the same tax year to service the residents of East Dundee with fire and EMS services.

Continued on pages 8 & 9...

Continued from Page 7... THE COST OF LIVING: A Regional Comparison

“How much money does your town owe?”

This article discussed the level of bond debt carried by area communities.

The Village of West Dundee currently has \$23,000,000 in outstanding bonds. The article also compares municipalities' debt based on a per capita formula, which once again, does not take into consideration the commercial tax base of the Village. These commercial properties also pay property taxes, but are not factored into the per capita formula.

The article also stated that “the majority of the overall debt compiled for 72 suburbs analyzed - 62 percent - relies on property taxes to generate funds for repayment.” What this statement does not factually represent and actually overstates, is that while the Village of West Dundee has issued General Obligation Bonds totaling \$23,000,000, the Village of West Dundee does not use any property taxes from residents or businesses to repay these obligations.

For over 20 years, the Village of West Dundee has annually abated the requirement to use property tax levies for the repayment of these bonds, and has instead used Home Rule sales tax as the sole revenue source to repay these obligations.

What the article indicates is that the Village of West Dundee's outstanding debt translates into a direct financial burden onto the residents of West Dundee, which is not factually correct, as not a single dollar of your property tax bill is used to repay these obligations.

The Village has utilized its commercial tax base and sales taxes received to pay for all of the facilities, capital projects and infrastructure which are used to serve the residents and businesses of West Dundee.

The Village of West Dundee responded to the Daily Herald after each of these articles appeared, pointing out these critical deficiencies and the false impression that they create. No correction or clarification has been published to date.

Fox Valley Municipal Cost Comparison

As the Village has provided in the past, please find an updated municipal survey of the actual costs passed along to residents and property owners in the Village of West Dundee as compared to our neighboring communities.

For this year, there is a \$50 increase in the total cost of service within West Dundee, from \$999 in 2012 to \$1,149 for 2013, as the Village's property tax levy was increased for the first time in 4 years from \$3,000,000 to \$3,165,000.

This comparison includes:

- ◆ Property taxes paid within each of the noted municipalities, including fire protection, based on an average home value of \$227,500.
- ◆ Charges for refuse collection within neighboring municipalities, of which there is no charge to residents in West Dundee.
- ◆ Utility taxes, which all area municipalities levy.
- ◆ Vehicle sticker fees, which West Dundee does not impose.

2013	TOTAL ANNUAL COST					
	East Dundee	West Dundee	Sleepy Hollow	Algonquin	Elgin	Carpentersville
Property Taxes <i>(EAV of \$75,833)</i>	\$968	\$1,024	\$799	\$998	\$1,327	\$1,714
Refuse Collection <i>(2 bags/week or monthly fee)</i>	\$0	\$0	\$235	\$330	\$197	\$72
Utility Taxes <i>(total bills of \$2,500 annually)</i>	\$133	\$125	\$133	\$73	\$133	\$119
Vehicle Stickers <i>(2 vehicles)</i>	\$0	\$0	\$30	\$0	\$0	\$50
TOTAL	\$1,101	\$1,149	\$1,197	\$1,401	\$1,657	\$1,955

For the Village of West Dundee, the \$1,149 per household cost per year pays for all the municipal services that residents receive, including but not limited to refuse collection, snow removal, fall leaf collection, Police, Fire and EMS.

We continue to believe and support that the Village of West Dundee provides better municipal services at a lower cost than most, as a community by community comparison, when taking into consideration all of the actual costs.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The Village of West Dundee has partnered with Kane County to continue our Electronics Recycling drop-off program. As a result, the list of accepted items has been amended slightly to match Kane County's program. Please visit wdundee.org for the [current list](#).

Please be reminded that many **electronic materials such as TVs and computers are now banned from entering Illinois landfills**. A full [list of banned materials](#) is available on the Kane County Recycling website. These items will not be accepted by the refuse collector if placed at the curb and must be recycled (or reused).

Electronics may be dropped off for recycling at the West Dundee [Public Works Facility](#) at 900 Angle Tarn, Monday through Friday from 8am to 3pm.

Many electronics stores also accept these items for recycling, as does the [Elgin ReStore](#) at 800 N State St in Elgin. Please call the ReStore at (847) 742-9905 to confirm accepted materials.

BEWARE OF ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION SOLICITATIONS

Since the Village of West Dundee's electrical aggregation program has been in effect, some residents have reported receiving phone calls from power supply companies asking to switch providers, and claiming to be associated with the Village.

Please note that **First Energy Solutions is the only electricity supplier for the Village of West Dundee's electrical aggregation program.**

If you are not enrolled in West Dundee's electrical aggregation program, and would like to sign up, please contact First Energy at 1-866-636-3749. Additional information is available at wdundee.org.

FIREFIGHTING SPRINKLERS

Fire sprinklers are designed to control fires quickly to save lives and reduce property damage. A residential fire sprinkler sprays approximately 10 to 18 gallons of water per minute and operates early in a fire to extinguish the flames. A hose used by firefighters flows 10 times that amount, 175-200 gallons a minute. Sprinklers will extinguish a typical residential fire in less than one minute, dramatically improving survival rates.

Sprinkler Facts:

- ◆ Only the sprinkler head that is affected by the fire will activate.
- ◆ Sprinkler heads are activated by heat only. Smoke without heat will not activate a sprinkler.
- ◆ Sprinklers are designed to activate at temperatures between 135 and 175 degrees F.
- ◆ Fire sprinklers provide early fire warnings, but do not replace smoke alarms.
- ◆ An average size room only needs one sprinkler.

“READY ILLINOIS” Emergency Preparedness Website

The Ready Illinois website, www.Ready.Illinois.gov provides a single source for information on what to do before, during and after a disaster. In addition to offering guidance on developing an emergency preparedness plan and building home emergency kits, the website also provides real-time emergency updates during disasters, including road closures, shelter locations and more.

Other site features include guidance on preparedness for families with pets, children and people with access or functional needs; tips on how to make your home more disaster resistant; and links to other emergency information resources.

KNOW WHEN TO CALL AN AMBULANCE

When should you call an ambulance instead of driving to the ER? In a medical emergency, ask yourself the following questions:

- ◆ Is the victim's condition life-threatening?
- ◆ Could the victim's condition worsen and become life-threatening on the way to the hospital?
- ◆ Could moving the victim cause further injury?
- ◆ Does the victim need the skills or equipment of paramedics or emergency medical technicians?
- ◆ Would distance or traffic conditions cause a delay in getting the victim to the hospital?

If the answer to any of these questions is “yes,” or if you are unsure, it's time to call 911. This is often true even if you believe you can get to the hospital faster by driving. Not only are Paramedics and EMTs trained to begin medical treatment on the way to the hospital, they also communicate with the physician in the ER by radio and can alert the ER of the patient's condition in advance.

When your 911 call is answered, speak calmly and clearly. Give your name, the address, phone number, location of victim (such as upstairs in the bedroom), and nature of the problem. Don't hang up until the dispatcher tells you to. They may need additional information or need to give you instructions.

TORNADO SEASON IS UPON US!

Illinois has averaged 31 tornadoes per year since 1950, but there have been as many as 107 in one year (1974). The prime months are March through June. Fifty percent of all tornadoes occur between 3:00 and 7:00 pm, but they can strike any time of day.

Below are tips on how to prepare for tornados, before they strike:

1. Know the terms used to describe tornado threats:
 - ◆ Tornado Watch – Tornadoes are possible. Stay tuned to radio and television reports.
 - ◆ Tornado Warning – A tornado has been sighted. Take shelter immediately.
 - ◆ Severe Thunderstorm Watch – Severe thunderstorms are possible.
 - ◆ Severe Thunderstorm Warning – Severe thunderstorms are occurring.
2. Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio with a battery backup and tone-alert feature, which automatically alerts you when a Watch or Warning is issued. Purchase a battery-powered commercial radio and extra batteries as well.
3. Determine places to seek shelter such as a basement or storm cellar. If an underground shelter is not available, identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
4. Practice going to your shelter with your family.
5. Have emergency supplies on hand.
6. Insure your property and possessions. Make an inventory of your possessions. Take photographs or videotape your belongings.
7. Keep all of your important records and documents in a safe deposit box or another safe place away from the premises.
8. Weather warning sirens will sound only in the case of a tornado warning or if a trained spotter reports a tornado sighting. The exception to this rule is the regular testing of warning sirens that occurs the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am.

MOVING? Call the Water Billing Department

If you are moving from your residence within West Dundee, please call our Water Billing Department at 847-551-3800 to schedule a final reading. You will be asked to provide a forwarding address and, if possible, the name of the person purchasing your property, or if a rental, the owner's name.

If you are enrolled in the Village's direct debit program, please remember to deactivate your account if you are changing your bank affiliation or moving out of the area.



SPEAK OUT ...provides another way for you to communicate with Village Officials.

Written comments can be mailed or placed in the drop box outside Village Hall, 102 S. Second Street, or emailed to villagehall@wdundee.org. Please be sure to include your name, address and e-mail address.