

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

January/February 2009 • volume 4, number 1

Effective communication with residents and businesses is one of the cornerstones for effective government. At the City of West Chicago, high priority is given to that relationship. Depending on where you fall on the technology spectrum, “booting up” for your mail could mean turning on the computer or walking to the end of your driveway. Either way, you depend on that mailbox to deliver fresh, relevant and accurate information to help you navigate daily life. Ideally, by finding the right mix of municipal correspondence, everyone is reached.

Efforts are continually being made to that end. Currently, the City is evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of its communications strategies, with an eye for introducing enhancements in 2009. Website improvements will bring more interactivity, and defined standards for all printed communications will elevate visual recognition. **Police News**, initiated at the close of 2008, offers anyone who lives or works in West Chicago the opportunity to receive important information like police-related press releases, community events, and safety tips via e-mail. Send requests to subscribe to PoliceNews@westchicago.org.

Current programs and communication vehicles which have proven successful will continue. The **Coffee with the Mayor** series started the community conversation more than a year ago, and has gained significant momentum. The third Saturday of each month, offers a face-to-face opportunity with Mayor Kwasman and other elected officials at City Hall, from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Also, the publication you are now reading, **Window to West Chicago**, recently received a national award for excellence from a leading organization focused on innovations in the field of government communications and marketing, and serves as a benchmark of excellence for cities across the country.

Whether you prefer print, on-line, telephone, or face-to-face communication, the City of West Chicago is here and ready to serve you. Please direct any comments or suggestions to Rosemary Mackey at 475 Main Street, (630) 293-2200, ext. 139, or rmackey@westchicago.org.

HEARD THE BUZZ?

**Crafters Wanted for West Chicago
Blooming Fest, May 16, 2009**



IMPORTANT DATES

City Hall Closed January 1
Gallery 200 Reception January 9
Late Night at City Museum . . . January 9
Gallery 200 Clay Class January 17 & 31

Coffee with the Mayor January 17
Gallery 200 Reception February 6
Late Night at City Museum . . . February 6
Firehouse Chili Fest February 21
Coffee with the Mayor February 21

KID'S CORNER

Stitches of Fun January 16
Craft Saturdays
January 24 & February 14
City Museum – (630) 231-3376

Mommy/Son Date Night
January 23
Daddy/Daughter Date Night
February 20
Park District – (630) 231-9474

Winter Story Times
January 19-February 24
Make & Take Craft January 23
Grossology January 27
Valentine Special February 13
Public Library – (630) 231-1552

From the Mayor

Welcome 2009! Intergovernmental partnerships are making a difference in our community. Just look at some of the programs and initiatives of the past year for proof.

Working with Pace, West Chicago was able to introduce bus service. When gas prices were at their highest, **Pace Route 747** offered an alternative for many who needed to get to work, the store or college. Pace is pleased with the routes' performance thus far. Current ridership levels are encouraging, and it is hopeful that ridership will continue to increase over time. Service will continue in 2009 and schedules may be obtained at City Hall.

A **First-Time Homebuyer Program** has proven to be a grand-slam for reinvigorating a soft real estate market in West Chicago. As of press time, 15 people are at various stages in the process of making the dream of their first home a reality. Is it any wonder the Chicago Tribune featured our program in the December 12, 2008 Real Estate section? Other communities are now following our example and introducing programs of their own.

Collaboration between the West Chicago Park District, Fire District, School Districts, and Public Library, with the help of other community members and volunteers, resulted in a holiday event that captured all the magic of the season. **Frosty Fest** brought out hundreds of families to share the warmth of community fellowship and provided lifelong memories in the heart of their hometown.

The **Fitness Station**, an activity and fitness center for all ages, has resulted from an agreement between the City of West Chicago and the West Chicago Park District to lease 103 W. Washington Street. The rental agreement provided an opportunity to expand programming and generate more pedestrian traffic in the historic district. Classes will include aerobics, Zumba, Silver Sneakers, tumbling, gymnastics and more. A grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, January 3, 2009 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

My commitment to working with intergovernmental agencies will continue in the new year as we strive to find collective ways to improve the quality of life we enjoy in West Chicago.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and sustainable New Year!



City Services

Let's pitch-in and do our part for the environment. Here's a quick lesson on what can (and should) be recycled: aluminum (cans, foil, trays, pie plates and other similarly formed containers);

catalogues, phone books, junk mail, magazines, newspapers; clip-board/paperboard (i.e. cereal boxes, clothing boxes etc.); corrugated cardboard (please break it down); glass bottles and jars (only clear, brown and green); high density polyethylene (molded containers like laundry detergent bottles, milk jugs, shampoo bottles, personal care containers); plastic 6 and 12 pack beverage rings; polyethylene terephthalate containers for products like soft drinks, liquor bottles, and cooking oil.

Did you know an annual license is required for all residential rental units? The 2009 Rental Dwelling License Application is available on the website at www.westchicago.org. Additionally, per City ordinance, all residential rental properties are

required to be inspected to help ensure the health, welfare and safety of the City's residents. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact the Community Development Department at (630) 293-2200 x141.

Steady progress on **Hawthorne Lane** has resulted in near completion. Hawthorne Lane is now open to all traffic without construction restrictions. A few minor items remain, and final

project close-out is expected in the coming months, with parkway trees being planted in the spring.

The holidays seem to come and go so fast...but, that means spring is ahead!



Please note that holiday trees may be disposed of on normally scheduled pick-up days the weeks of January 5 and January 12. No stickers are necessary.

And, holiday lights must be removed by March 25.

POLICE NEWS

Snowy streets pose additional parking challenges. It may be helpful to know the following guidelines:

City ordinance imposes a parking ban on all streets after a two-inch snowfall until such time when the street has been completely plowed, curb-to-curb. It is illegal to plow or shovel snow from driveways or sidewalks into the street.

Regardless of weather conditions, it is unlawful to park on any City street between the hours of 2:00 – 5:00 a.m., without advance permission from the West Chicago Police Department. It is also unlawful to park over any sidewalk, over any crosswalk, within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, in front of a public/private driveway, on grass, with left wheels to the curb, blocking an alley, contrary to posted signs, or with expired registration. Additionally, parking a vehicle on a sidewalk is prohibited.



CULTURE

Celebrate the new year with a gift to yourself ~ a visit to the West Chicago City Museum! Admission is free and the exhibits and programs are wonderful. Museum staff has put together a schedule with wide appeal.

Stories in Stitches opens on Friday, January 9, 2009, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. during January's **Late Night at the City**



Museum. It is a small, yet significant quilt exhibit that will run through the end of March. The local quilts on display tell a story or evoke the times in which they were made. One quilt, which was made in 1955, features the embroidered autographs of 18 "Pickle-Packers of West Chicago" ~ women who worked at Columbia Foods, the pickle factory which once occupied the site that now

belongs to Jel Sert. Another quilt of note is a Red Cross quilt, made in 1917 by the local chapter of the American Red Cross and the Women's Relief Corps. Designed as a fundraiser so that local boys fighting overseas in World War I could receive Christmas gift packages, the quilt carries the embroidered names of the 400 residents who supported this cause. February's **Late Night** is scheduled for February 6, 2009, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Playing off the theme of the new exhibit, the Museum will be offering **Stitches of Fun**, a free drop-in event for families of kids that are off from school on Friday, January 16, 2009. Stop by the Museum from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. to play some games, listen to a story, and make a craft with a quilting theme.

Becoming increasingly popular, **Craft Saturdays** return on January 24, 2009 and February 14, 2009. For January's craft, kids of all ages will help celebrate the Chinese New Year by making a paper Chinese lantern to take home; and in February, participants will learn about the origins of Valentine's Day and make a keepsake box. Craft Saturdays are from 1:00 – 2:00 pm and are free. Contact the Museum at (630) 231-3376 for more details.

Located at 132 Main Street, the West Chicago City Museum is open Tuesday - Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

City of West Chicago's Community Banner Project Competition:

The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission invites accomplished and emerging artists to submit digital files of original art for consideration for the **Community Banner Project Competition**. All media are welcome, with no limitation to technique or subject matter, as long as the theme revolves around "Faces." Each winning design will

be reproduced and featured in the 2009 West Chicago Banner Exhibition. Submission Deadline is February 1, 2009. Visit <http://www.westchicago.org/Departments/PublicArts/index.html> for all the details!



GALLERY 200, 200 Main Street

Thursday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Friday** 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Sat. and Sun.** 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A bright new talent arrives at Gallery 200 for the Featured Artist Series in January. Photographer **Britta Renwick**, born in Zurich, and raised in Lucerne, Switzerland, has made her home in West Chicago and became involved in Gallery 200 through her participation in the Fine Arts Fiesta. Renwick works with a Canon EOS 400D camera and has captured subjects she finds beautiful from both continents. Meet the artist and her work at an Opening Reception on Friday, January 9, 2009 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., followed by a month-long exhibit.



View from the Kitchen Window by Britta Renwick

Join **Mary Lou Taylor Becker**, daughter of West Chicago artist June Taylor, at an Opening Reception for the **June Taylor Retrospective**, on Friday, February 6, 2009 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. June, who passed away last year, was a fine watercolorist and made a lasting imprint on the art scene in West Chicago. The *Retrospective* will remain at the Gallery the entire month of February.

Make a new year's resolution to "get creative with clay" at Gallery 200 with artist Heide Morris. This two-day workshop will have class members constructing a bowl by draping clay over a form and adding texture and design on Saturday, January 17, 2009 and returning on Saturday, January 31, 2009 for the final step of adding color glaze. Each class is limited to six persons, ages 10 and older, for a \$20 fee. Contact Gallery 200 at (630) 293-9550 to register.

A Helping Hand



As today's economy is placing a severe and continuing strain on many families' budgets, the City of West Chicago would like to inform its residents of a few organizations that offer help. Please note that those requesting assistance may be asked to fill out an application and provide specific documents.

FOOD:

- **The Humanitarian Service Project**
465 Randy Road
Carol Stream, IL 60188
(630) 221-8340
- **Wayne Township**
27W031 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 231-7140

FOOD, CLOTHING:

- **Out of Exile Ministries International**
179 W. Washington Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 520-0619
- **People's Resource Center**
201 S. Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 682-5402

FOOD, BILLS:

- **Northwestern DuPage Walk-In Ministry** at St. Mary's Church
163 Garden Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 293-4958

BILLS:

- **Winfield Township**
130 Arbor Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 231-3591

FROSTY FEST!

It was a *star-studded* night for **West Chicago Frosty Fest** this year. Essay contest winners **Emily Rivera** and **Taylor Keene** were on hand to help Mayor Kwasman light the official tree, and stellar performances by local community groups added to the movie-set quality of falling snow, live reindeer, sidewalk fire pits, and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thanks to the following musical groups who provided magnificent musical accompaniment to the evening's activities: West Chicago School District #33 Band, West Suburban Home School Band, Community High School Chamber Choir, St. Mary's Choirs, Youth Jazz Ensemble DuPage, Wheaton Academy Kantorei and Jazz Ensemble.

The City also wishes to thank all the many people and organizations that contributed to the overall success of this year's event: West Chicago's Park District, Chamber of Commerce, Public Library, Fire District, Sister Cities, Rotary Club, Lions Club, High School Key Club, Fox Community Center, WeGo Together for Kids, VFW Post 6791, ESDA, Friends of the Museum, St. Vincent Thrift Store, and Frosty Fest team members.

Visit www.westchicago.org for a musical slideshow of all the highlights.



Numbers to Know

Fire Administration (630) 231-2123
Fire Emergency 911
Police Administration . . . (630) 293-2222
Police Response 911

City Administration

City Hall (630) 293-2200
 Michael B. Kwasman, *Mayor*
 Nancy Smith, *City Clerk*
 Don Earley, *City Treasurer*
 Michael Guttman, *City Administrator*



Window to West Chicago is published six times a year by the City of West Chicago. It is designed to keep our residents informed about city government, services and events. Check out www.westchicago.org for more information.

CITY COUNCIL

Ward 1
 Lori Chassee (630) 231-8709
 James Beifuss (630) 231-0584

Ward 2
 Ronald Monroe (630) 231-6967
 James Smith (630) 231-1524

Ward 3
 Ruben Pineda (630) 231-3181
 Russell Radkiewicz (630) 231-5679

Ward 4
 Al Murphy (630) 231-4624
 Sandy Dimas (630) 293-5170

Ward 5
 Joseph Gianforte (630) 293-8990
 Gregory Bunch (630) 562-1216

Ward 6
 Rebecca Stout (630) 293-7335
 Nanette Connelly (630) 231-2482

Ward 7
 Nicholas Dzierzanowski . . . (630) 587-9608
 Matt Fuesting (630) 762-1996



ECRWSS
 POSTAL CUSTOMER LOCAL