

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

July/August 2009 • volume 4, number 4

If not now, when? ~ sign in the window of *The Fitness Station*

The focus is on fitness in West Chicago, as major initiatives through partnerships with area leaders in the health and wellness disciplines come together to educate and inspire residents at both ends of the age spectrum.

Earlier this spring, a Wellness Walk was coordinated by **West Chicago School District 33 WeGo Together for Kids** and **Central DuPage Hospital**, with technical and operations support from **Benedictine University's Department of Nutrition**. The inaugural event was intended to teach students and families about the benefits of walking every day. It is part of an overall district goal to increase student wellness through activity and nutrition.

The 2009 – 2010 school year will bring further opportunities to involve the students, staff, families and community in achieving wellness goals. Among district goals are a monthly newsletter highlighting the fruit and vegetable of the month; Curriculum Night tables in every building with related educational materials and recreation-related raffle prizes; a nutrition and fitness-themed Family Night to kick-off the new school year and set the tone for a healthy start; and development of a Youth Wellness Advisory Group and Youth Wellness Ambassadors.

District 33's efforts dovetail with fitness initiatives of the **West Chicago Park District**. The Fitness Station, at 103 W. Washington Street, provides residents with a downtown destination for getting into shape. State-of-the-art exercise equipment and expanded fitness classes offer a range of cardio workouts, resistance training and martial arts at a reasonable cost. Exciting programs like Adventure Boot Camp, Zumba and Drums Alive are designed to appeal to a wide range of interests and exercise levels.



Group exercise takes center stage at this year's *Blooming Fest* compliments of the Fitness Station.

Wellness Fun in the Sun. The event will offer information on improving financial, physical and emotional well-being through topics such as estate planning, financial management, local retirement communities, Medicare, diet and nutrition and dental care.

An active community is a healthy community, and West Chicago is leading the league with fitness initiatives and nutritional education that promote wellness. **Happy, healthy summer!**

KID'S CORNER

Passport to Adventure
Through Labor Day
Half-Day Summer Camp
July 14 & August 5
City Museum – (630) 231-3376

Turtle Splash Water
Park Game Day July 9
Mini-Mudders Mud Volleyball
Tournament July 10
5K Run/Walk July 11
Movie in the Park July 31
3v3 Soccer Shootout
August 7, 8 & 9

Movie in the Park August 28
Park District – (630) 231-9474

Summer Pow Wow July 22
Public Library – (630) 231-1552

The West Chicago Park District will be teaming up with the **Wheaton Park District** and Central DuPage Hospital to present a Family Fitness Challenge 2009 over the next four months. The goal of the challenge is to encourage families to become more involved in activities that lead to a healthier lifestyle. Families earn points for various activities and events such as biking, playing games, jumping rope, walking, bowling and dancing. Home chefs can earn points by submitting their own "healthy recipe." Registration is required, but there is no charge to enter.

A free event on August 7, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at **West Chicago Community High School** (Entrance H) brings fitness full circle when the **Friends of the West Chicago Parks Foundation** partner with **Alden Gardens of Waterford** and **Alden Gardens of Bloomingdale** to present the *Senior Circle of*



IMPORTANT DATES

July 3 City Hall Closed
July 10 Gallery 200 Reception
July 9, 10, 11 & 12 Railroad Days
July 18 Coffee with the Mayor

August 2 Secret Garden at Kruse House
August 4 National Night Out
August 7 Gallery 200 Reception
August 7 Senior Circle of Wellness
August 15 Coffee with the Mayor

For more community events, visit www.westchicago.org

From the Mayor

The following will summarize the key points of the 2009 State of the City Address, which may be found in its entirety on the City website at www.westchicago.org in the Government/Mayor section.

What a difference a year makes. The current global financial crisis has brought an even greater focus to the state of the economy in local cities all across the country. Let me start where we start every year ~ with our budget. The budget reflects a 5.74% decrease from the previous year. Noteworthy is the fact that the City's anticipated reliance on the property tax to fund its daily operations has, for the fifth straight year, decreased and has become a smaller portion of the budget. This is no small feat considering that sales tax and income tax revenue are expected to decline further in 2009 due to the poor economy.

Even in these challenging times, the City maintains a proactive stance on Economic Development in order to increase and diversify the City's sales and real estate tax bases and become less reliant on outside revenue sources. The City is committed to maintaining and improving exceptional customer services through creative, forward-thinking measures like the privatization of the wastewater treatment, building inspection and IT functions. All have resulted in cost savings and an increased quality of service.

Beyond the budget, the City has met other significant challenges head-on and experienced success stories which underscore our determination and resilience.

- The issue of residual thorium in our community should be satisfied this year.
- A First Time Homebuyer Program was established in West Chicago to address the number of foreclosures and assist new homebuyers and local businesses.
- Positive recognition for our City's unique attributes, projects and people in various publications including the Daily Herald, the Chicago Tribune and West Suburban Living Magazine.
- An exploding art movement which has transformed our community's downtown.
- Redevelopment of the southwest corner of Route 59 and Main Street.
- Completion of the third commuter parking lot of our Metra station.
- Completion of the ambitious Hawthorne Lane reconstruction project.
- Annexation of St. Andrew's Golf Course and Country Club, plus Manville Oaks and Pioneer Parks.

Going forward, we remain cautiously optimistic. History has shown us that the country's financial future will rebound, and our history has shown that by staying the course and holding tight to our core values, we will survive and thrive. I am honored to be your Mayor and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that face West Chicago in the years to come.



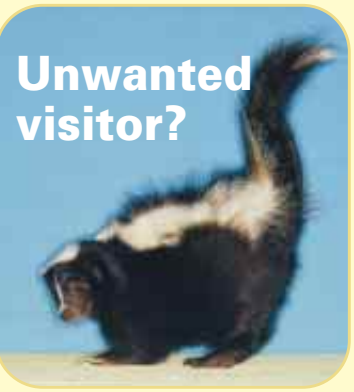
CITY SERVICES

Recently, the City entered into a wildlife management agreement with On Target Animal Control. The purpose of this agreement is to provide the residents of West Chicago with a service to remove wild animals from their residences. On Target Animal Control will provide the capture and removal of **nuisance animals** at significantly reduced pricing. The following will list rates and conditions:

- The \$95.00 set up fee will be waived.
- Residents will be charged \$75.00 for the first animal.
- Residents will be charged \$45.00 for each additional animal.

Exceptions to this includes squirrels, birds and bats above the structure's first story and coyotes, beavers and muskrats which require a set up fee and a labor intensive technique.

Any West Chicago resident requiring the removal of a wild animal should contact On Target Animal Control directly at (630) 231-5661.



Please assist the City of West Chicago and emergency services in quickly locating your home by making sure to place your **address numbers** on the front of your house. The City code requires that numbers be four (4) inches

high, and easily visible from the street, and that all garages off of alleys and side streets display address numbers.

Keep West Chicago beautiful! Obey the rule for placing trash for collection at the curb or alley no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on the day before the scheduled pick-up. This does not apply to the brush collection program. Brush must be placed at the curb before the first Monday of each month from May 4 – November 27, 2009.

It's mosquito season, and that means time to take necessary precautions to reduce the potential of mosquito-borne disease transmission. A list of tips to minimize the risk of West Nile Virus may be found at the Illinois Department of Public Health website, <http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm>. Contact Clarke Mosquito Abatement at (800) 942-2555 with any questions.

CULTURE

West Chicago City Museum, 132 Main Street • (630) 231-3376
Tuesday - Friday 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Exploring Latino Identities, on display in July and August at the City Museum, is an exhibition featuring the works of Latino/a artists, and which explores the many issues that face the Latino community. Local and regional artists will be featured in the first floor gallery following the closing of *My space: West Chicago*, a community-based artist in residency project by Jorge Rojas, a Mexican-born, internationally exhibited artist.

The West Chicago City Museum will be offering two free **half-day camps** for children aged 5 - 12. The camps will be on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, and Wednesday, August 5, 2009 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Each session will feature a different theme, and the participants will be divided into two age groups; 5 - 8 and 9 - 12. History-based indoor and outdoor activities will be offered. Children are encouraged to bring a snack and drink of their choice.

Call to register, or stop in the Museum Tuesday - Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., or Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Space is limited for each camp, so call today!

It's not too late to get the kids their **Passport to Adventure**. This popular program runs through Labor Day and is open to children aged 4 - 12. Passports may be picked up at the West Chicago Public Library (118 West Washington Street),

the West Chicago City Museum and the Kruse House Museum (527 Main Street). Children receive stamps in their passport books at each site they visit. The first ten participants who visit seven sites and return their passports to the City Museum will receive a special Passport pencil case. The Kruse House Museum will also be awarding Passport pencil cases. Call the Museum for more information.

Whether you are a beginner or seasoned artist, consider sharing your talent with others in the community by exhibiting at the annual **Fine Arts Fiesta**. Held as part of the Railroad Days Festival, this year's exhibition will be July 10 - 12, 2009 in the Scout Cabin at Reed-Kepler Park. If you live, work, or go to school in West Chicago, you are eligible to exhibit your artwork and have it judged for

one of the People's Choice Awards. First, second, and third places will be awarded in four categories: crafts, photography, fine arts and student art. The drop-off date for the artwork is Thursday, July 9, 2009 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. or from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Scout Cabin. Please call the City Museum with questions, or go to the City website, www.westchicago.org, for a registration form.



GALLERY 200, 200 Main Street • (630) 293-9550
Thursday and Friday 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Judith Lacro at work.

through eighth grades are invited to submit one photo entry reflecting this year's theme, "My Favorite Things". The submitted photo should be either 5"x7" or 8"x10", or if matted, 8"x10" or 11"x14". An entry form, signed by the student's parent or guardian, must accompany the submitted work. Entry forms outlining age categories, can be obtained at Gallery 200 during normal operating hours. All entries must be received no later than Sunday, July 26, 2009. Photos will be displayed at the Gallery the entire month of August, with a **reception and award ceremony scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2009 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Pastel artist **Judith Lacro** will be the Featured Artist for the month of July. Her inspiration for soft pastel began after meeting Argentinean artist Pilar Vasquez at an art show several years ago at Cantigny Park. She was attracted to the style and wonderful colors of her work. Lacro began taking classes in the medium and soon established an affiliation with the DuPage Art League. Since then, she has won various awards, and one of her pieces was chosen to be exhibited at the Best of the Best Exhibit at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in September 2009. Lacro will host a free **Opening Reception of Art at Gallery 200 on Friday, July 10, 2009 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**, where live entertainment and refreshments will be served. Her art will be featured at the Gallery from July 2 - August 3, 2009.

For the second consecutive year, Gallery 200 is pleased to sponsor the **"Picture This" Kids Photo Contest**. Students currently in first



Cecily Herby's photograph Rock On was 2008 "Picture This" winner.

POLICE NEWS

The City of West Chicago wants you to know that any **door-to-door salesman** must be registered through the City and carry a solicitor's permit. This permit will have the City's logo, the solicitor's picture, his name, the company he works for and the permit's expiration date. If anyone knows of someone soliciting without a permit, please call 9-1-1.

The City of West Chicago has a **noise ordinance** to help residents should excessive noise become an issue. Residents are instructed to call 9-1-1 and an officer will be dispatched to monitor the decibel (dBA) level of the offending noise. During daytime hours, (7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.) if the noise source exceeds sixty (60) dBA when measured at any point within the property line of the receiving residence; or during night time hours, (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) if the noise source exceeds fifty-five (55) dBA when measured at any point within the property line of the receiving residence, a citation may be issued.

National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. ~ this year at **Reed-Kepler Park** at National Street and Arbor Avenue. Activities and new features are being planned, so save the date for a fun-filled family event at this new location.



FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS

The ongoing success of the food drive sponsored by *4 the People*, in cooperation with the City of West Chicago and multiple governmental bodies and private businesses, has yielded five truck loads of food for various local food pantries, proving once again that West Chicago is a city with a heart. The effort continues, and is increasing with help from the West Chicago Chamber of Commerce. Organizers wish to thank the many good people who are helping others in need.

Meet Our Newest Alderman

John C. Smith, Jr. was elected in May to represent Ward 5. Alderman Smith has had a 24-year career with the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, where he retired at the rank of Chief. He previously served as a Trustee of the West Chicago Fire Protection District from 1997 – 2009. "Being a lifelong resident of West Chicago, I can say that I am very impressed with the growth and progress being made in our City, and I will do my best as Alderman of the 5th Ward to assist with the continuation of this progress."



John C. Smith, Jr.

Profiles of all City Council members and their corresponding Ward Maps may be found at www.westchicago.org under Government/City Council.



West Chicago City Council at the recent swearing-in ceremony, from left to right: Aldermen James Beifuss, Nick Dzierzanowski, Al Murphy, Joseph Gianforte, Matt Fuesting, Russell Radkiewicz, City Clerk Nancy Smith, Mayor Mike Kwasman, City Treasurer Don Earley, Aldermen John C. Smith, Jr., Ruben Pineda, Rebecca Stout, Jim Smith, Sandy Dimas, Nannette Connelly, and H. Ronald Monroe.

Numbers to Know

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

City Administration

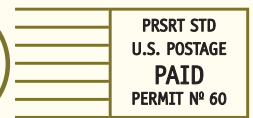
City Hall (630) 293-2200
 Michael B. Kwasman, *Mayor*
 Nancy Smith, *City Clerk*
 Don Earley, *City Treasurer*
 Michael Guttman, *City Administrator*



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
 John C. Smith, Jr. (630) 293-3802
Ward 6
 Rebecca Stout (630) 293-7335
 Nannette Connelly (630) 231-2482
Ward 7
 Nicholas Dzierzanowski . . . (630) 587-9608
 Matt Fuesting (630) 762-1996



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