

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

January/February 2011 • volume 6, number 1

GALLERY 200

SERVICES

BUSINESS

CITY NEWS

MUSEUM

POLICE NEWS



*Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go, Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

~Alfred, Lord Tennyson

H

appy New Year! Look what's flown into our *Window* just in time to help us communicate a new year of City programs, services, news and events.

The City of West Chicago **Twitter** account debuts this month and you could be one of its inaugural "followers" by simply signing up at www.twitter.com/westchicagoil.

Twitter is a fast and convenient way to stay on top of "what's happening now." Short text messages of no more than 140 characters in length called "tweets" deliver timely news bytes, and the City plans to use them to supplement existing forms of communication. Messages will range from brush pick-up dates to the latest press release posted on the website. Every message will contain a link to the City's website for more extended coverage.

Also this year, look for some enhanced features in the newsletter and on the website, additional categories of E-News and more coverage of City Council, Boards and Commission meetings. Plus, a new call-out box, **@ www.westchicago.org**, will appear in the newsletter

@ www.westchicago.org

- ➔ RAISING THE BAR – JUDITH HORSLEY
- ➔ FROSTY FEST VIDEO
- ➔ BLOOMING FEST VENDOR REGISTRATION



Kid's CORNER

Celebration of 3 Kings Day
January 8

Movie Mania
January 17

Pre-school Open House
January 27

Snowed in at the Library
January 30

Llama, Llama Pajama Party
February 20

Public Library – (630) 231-1552

to flag special features on the website. Hopefully, the items will pique your interest enough to become a regular "city surfer". For those without Internet access, copies of the features will be made available upon request.

As we begin a new year, be assured that the City is committed to achieving the highest delivery of service to our customers, as well as best practices in municipal communications.



IMPORTANT DATES

January 7 Gallery 200 Opening Reception
January 21 Local Music Night
January 15 Coffee with the Mayor
February 4 Gallery 200 Opening Reception

February 18 Local Music Night
February 19 Coffee with the Mayor
February 19 Homebuyer Fair
February 19 Chili Fest

For more community events, visit www.westchicago.org

FROM THE *mayor*

CITY *Services*

At its December 20th meeting, the City Council approved the 2011 Annual Budget, which totals \$54,453,300 a decrease of 6.82% as compared to the 2010 Budget; specifically, the General Fund reflects a decrease of 4.61% as compared to the 2010 Budget. This is the sixth year in a row that operating costs in the General Fund have decreased, maintaining the City's commitment to continually strive towards providing the highest quality services at one of the lowest costs.

Other highlights include:

- The proposed Budget does not reflect any personnel increases and includes no layoffs.
- For the second year in a row, there are no utility rate increases.
- No service reductions are proposed in the Budget.
- Partnering with the West Chicago Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Railroad Days will continue in 2011 at a reduced cost.
- The City will continue its aggressive street maintenance program in 2011.
- Funds are included to design and construct the first of two 1.5 million gallon elevated tanks at the northeast corner of Prince Crossing Road and Geneva Road.

West Chicago has a proud history of providing exceptional services to a diverse group of stakeholders. The departments and staff are continuously challenged to address the growth in West Chicago and develop new and innovative ways of delivering the services that the community expects. Through flexibility, adaptability, the use of technology, innovative staffing methods, and furthering intergovernmental and public/private partnerships, the organization continues to rise to the challenge to become one of the most efficient municipal corporations in the Chicagoland area. In fact, through challenging our senior management team and front line employees, the City has been able to provide excellent service with fewer employees and tightening budgets.

The Annual Budget is the outcome of a great deal of hard work, dedication and effort of many people. The City Council, Finance Committee, and all of the department directors and their staff are to be commended for their continued stewardship of the public dollar.



As you begin dismantling the holiday lights and determining which will survive another year and which will need to be discarded, the City of West Chicago encourages you to recycle them rather than throw them away. Recycling is an environmentally friendly alternative to putting lights in landfills.

Strands of incandescent and LED holiday lights, and household extension cords in any condition, may be dropped off at the locations listed below during normal business hours. Signs will be posted directing people to the blue holiday light recycling containers. Businesses, schools and other organizations are invited to participate in the program. There is no limit as to how many lights may be dropped off for recycling.

Drop-off Locations through February 19:

- Murphy Ace Hardware, 391 South Neltnor Boulevard
- West Chicago Park District Fitness Station, 103 West Washington Street

Drop-off Locations through March 25:

- West Chicago City Hall, 475 Main Street
- West Chicago Police Station, 325 Spencer Street
- West Chicago Water Treatment Plant, 1400 West Hawthorne Lane

Christmas tree collection will take place during the weeks of January 3, 2011 and January 10, 2011, on regularly scheduled garbage pickup days. Trees must be free of all tinsel, garland and ornaments. No stickers are required during this period.

During the **snow season**, the City strives to ensure that all roads are as safe as possible for motorists. Efforts to keep the streets clear of snow and ice may be limited by the intensity of snowfall or cold conditions. When snow is in the forecast, please help the crews by removing vehicles from the street so that snow removal equipment has clear access and can get through neighborhoods quickly and efficiently. **Remember, City ordinance prohibits parking on any City street if the accumulation of snow reaches 2"**. When removing snow from your own driveway, please be courteous to your neighbors and do not push it onto the street, and if you have elderly or disabled neighbors, please consider making well-being checks.

The City of West Chicago, in partnership with DuPage Homeownership Center and Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) will be offering a community based **Free Homebuyer Fair on February 19, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Community High School, 326 Joliet Street**. The Fair is free to anyone looking to buy a home in today's market, where a combination of record low interest rates and substantial number of available homes make this the perfect time to be a home buyer! The Fair will offer workshops on topics such as current homebuyer programs available (FHA 203k, IHDA's down payment assistance programs, etc.); the importance of credit in obtaining a mortgage; and how to become a successful homeowner in today's market. Contact Kathe Doremus at (630) 212-7128 with any questions.

Residents of DuPage County developed the **DuPage Area Transit Plan** in 2002. It outlined a vision for a new integrated transit system to meet the County's future mobility needs. Since much has changed since then, your input is now requested in order to update the Plan. Please share your opinion through a brief online survey posted at www.westchicago.org.

2010 CENSUS
THANK YOU
FOR HELPING PAINT
A NEW PORTRAIT OF
WEST CHICAGO

West Chicago participated!

Seventy-eight percent of households in the City of West Chicago filled out and mailed back their 2010 Census questionnaire. Thanks to community support, West Chicago exceeded both the state and national participation rate. **Way to go, West Chicago!**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 8, 2011
EARLY VOTING: MARCH 14 - 31, 2011



IN FOCUS | *Learning new ways*



A recent change in State law which enhances the safety of pedestrians in crosswalks, prompts education as an important component to compliance.

As of July 22, 2010, State law changed making it mandatory for all drivers to come to a complete stop for pedestrians in all crosswalks regardless of whether or not there are traffic signals/stop signs present at the crosswalk. Previous law only required drivers to yield to pedestrians and stop when necessary. The purpose of the new law is to ensure the safety of all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians.

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, every year an average of 170 pedestrians are hit and killed by motorists. In addition, approximately 6,000 accidents involving pedestrians are reported to authorities. The vast majority of pedestrian fatalities occur in crosswalks, and over 30% of these accidents involve children. The law will hopefully help to reduce these accidents and fatalities, ensuring safer streets for all West Chicago residents and visitors.

A rule of thumb for motorists: If you encounter a pedestrian crossing without a traffic light or a stop sign and there is no pedestrian present, then you don't need to stop. It's as simple as that. If there is a pedestrian in any type of crosswalk, you should always stop.

A rule of thumb for pedestrians: Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the

right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway. Do not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a moving vehicle which is either already in the crosswalk or which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

The amended law maintains the same penalties which impose hefty fines on motorists who fail to stop at crosswalks and yield to pedestrians. The law imposes a \$150 minimum fine to motorists for the first violation, with the fine doubling for second offenses. An additional \$50 fine can be imposed when the law is broken in a school zone.

For more information on crosswalk safety, please contact the West Chicago Police Department at (630) 293-2222.

The Environmental Commission which is composed of community volunteers, is looking for new ways for the City to "go green". The holiday light recycling program (see page 2 under Services) was spearheaded by the Environmental Commission to provide a green alternative for the disposal of incandescent and LED holiday lights and household extension cords. The lights and cords will be collected by Elgin Recycling. They will be stripped and recycled for their copper and plastic parts. No materials will be shipped overseas for disposal.

Also, the Commission recently met with an environmental project specialist from the DuPage County Department of Economic Development and Planning to discuss strategies to double the commercial recycling rate in DuPage County.



Downtown West Chicago hosts **Blooming Fest on Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Fine hand-crafters, food vendors, local businesses, and not-for-profit organizations are invited to submit an application for consideration. Local musicians and entertainers may also apply. Visit www.westchicago.org, under Forms. Volunteers are needed. Please call Krista Coltrin at (630) 293-2200, ext. 135.

The art of the garden is so beautifully captured in a painting by Gallery 200 artist Paul Nemejc that it will serve as the official 2011 Blooming Fest image.

The City of West Chicago wishes to thank the entire Frosty Fest committee, all the groups that performed, volunteered or donated to the event. They include the following:

West Chicago Park District • West Chicago Public Library • West Chicago Chamber of Commerce • West Chicago Fire Protection District • Fox Community Center • American Legion Post 300 • VFW Post 6791 • West Chicago Sister Cities • West Chicago Rotary Club • West Chicago Lions Club • Friends of the City Museum • St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store • ESDA • Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #85 • Jean Day and family • Kramer Tree Specialists • Buck Services, Inc. • West Chicago School District #33

Because of everyone's efforts, children and their families delighted in horse-drawn sleigh rides, live music, free refreshments and so much more. View a Frosty Fest slide show at www.westchicago.org.



Ice sculpture by Joseph Gagnepain made possible by the West Chicago Public Library and Buck Services, Inc.

Culture

West Chicago City Museum, 132 Main Street (630) 231-3376 • www.westchicago.org/museum

Tues.- Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sat. 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The City Museum will reduce its Saturday hours for the months of January - March. The Museum galleries will be open on three Saturdays only: January 15, 2011, February 12, 2011 and March 12, 2011 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission invites accomplished and emerging artists to submit digital files of original art online at www.westchicago.org 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 "Motion - The Way Things Move." **The deadline for submissions is February 15, 2011.** Each winning design will be reproduced and featured in the 2011 West Chicago Banner Exhibition. Artists selected will receive credit on both banner and in printed material related to the exhibition. A reception honoring the selected artists will take place during the annual Blooming Fest on May 21, 2011. At that time, the general public will be invited to



vote for an artist/banner to receive the People's Choice Award. Submission specifications may be found on the City's website, and an **informational session has been scheduled for Saturday, January 15, 2011 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.** at the City Museum for those with questions.

GALLERY 200

200 Main Street • (630) 293-9550 • www.gallery200.org

Thurs. & Fri. 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Bookbinding by Carla Klausler

Gallery 200 launches a new year of artistic endeavor and downtown revitalization. Featured artists, classes and special events continue to pump energy into Main Street's viability and shape its future. Catch the uncommon art form of hand bookbinding the entire month of January. Meet and learn from artist **Cheryl Maholwald** at an Opening Reception featuring her work and that of fellow bookbinders **Barbara Erickson, Carla Klausler, Mary Hagerty Sabo** and **Marilyn L. Schweitzer** on

January 7, 2011 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. "Wildlife and Pet Portraits," will be on display throughout the month of February at Gallery 200. Artist **Paul Nemejc's** introduction to the medium of gouache painting while learning photographic air-brushing techniques has led to an award-winning style of vibrant and detailed wildlife portraiture. **A free Opening Reception on Friday, February 4, 2011, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at the Gallery will include light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artist.



Persian Cat by Paul Nemejc

A new group is forming in West Chicago and anyone who loves to sing is invited to join. The **West Chicago Community Chorus**, under the direction of Jo Noonan, an experienced conductor both locally and internationally, has secured space at **Gallery 200/STUDIO, located at 203 Turner Court** in downtown West Chicago, for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Those interested in joining either the adult chorus or children's choir, may attend a Wednesday rehearsal, or contact Jo Noonan at (630) 346-8117.

Local Music Night at Gallery 200/STUDIO continues to grow and attract quality performers. Featured performers for **January 21, 2011** include **Cassandra Henwood, First Star Destiny** and **the TriTone Sax Trio**. For **February 18, 2011**, Local Music Night hosts **Evan Konc, Brynn Mawr** and **Von Angel**. The evening starts at 7:00 p.m., and includes an open mic segment from 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. Anyone in attendance is welcome to participate. Admission is free. Refreshments are included, but donations are appreciated to help cover costs.

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

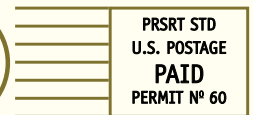
Joseph Gianforte (630) 293-8990
 John C. Smith, Jr. (630) 293-3802

Ward 6

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

Ward 7

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



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