



WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

July/August 2010 • volume 5, number 4

The rest of the world is finally catching on to what West Chicagoans have known for a long time – the best recreational opportunities can be found in your own hometown. The *staycation*, as it is being called, has become a fashionable catch phrase which simply means looking at your own community through the eyes of a visitor and discovering the cultural, recreational and natural amenities that make the community memorable.

Here in West Chicago, the options for family-friendly staycation fun seem limitless. Pristine parks filled with shady oaks, picnic areas and baseball fields beckon. Beyond the obvious summer favorites like **Kline Creek Farm, Turtle Splash Water Park, Railroad Days, Cascade Drive-in, Prairie Landing and St. Andrew's golf courses**, there are a number of special activities planned to round out the perfect summer.

Art lovers can take a self-guided tour of nineteen original **art banners** lining Main Street in historic downtown West Chicago and then cool off by ducking into **Gallery 200** to browse art in its many forms. This creative oasis will be offering a schedule of classes in the newly refurbished lower level, **Gallery 200/STUDIO**.

For a complete list of activities, featured artist receptions, classes or Local Music Nights, visit www.gallery200.org. Enjoy a lively presentation of **Animals of the Prairie**, presented by naturalist Jack MacRae of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, on **July 21, 2010** at the City Museum. He will report on all the wildlife you may encounter on the prairie, and plans to bring several living examples for further education.

If guided tours are your thing, the West Chicago City Museum is sponsoring **Tours of the Prairie** as a complement to the continuing exhibit, *A Prairie Primer*. Tours will be led on **July 31, 2010 and August 17, 2010** by a knowledgeable member of the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group who will identify flora and fauna, discuss habitat ecology and explain prairie management practices. Call the Museum at (630) 231-3376, or e-mail museum@westchicago.org to reserve a space now.

There's no place like West Chicago for beautiful gardens and on **August 1, 2010** you'll have access, free of charge, to several award-winning ones courtesy of the West Chicago Garden Club. **The Secret Garden at the Kruse House**, located at 527 Main Street, is "stop 1" of a **Posy Mosey** garden stroll which includes several of the winning gardens of a 2009 competition. Visit www.westchicagogardenclub.org for all the details.

Happy, safe summer.

Hot weather poses special risks for companion animals. Provide plenty of fresh water and never leave a pet inside a closed vehicle, even in mildly warm weather. Temperatures rise rapidly and animals can succumb to heat-stroke in just minutes.



kid's CORNER

**Passport to Adventure
Through Labor Day
Half Day Summer Camp
July 28 & August 10**
City Museum – (630) 231-3376

**Movie in the Park
July 30 & August 27**
Community Pep Rally August 13
Park District – (630) 231-9474

Lego Mania July 9 & 10
Movie Monday July 12
**Getting Ready for Kindergarten
August 19**
Public Library – (630) 231-1552



IMPORTANT DATES

July 2 Gallery 200 Opening Reception
July 5 City Hall Closed
July 8-11 Railroad Days
July 17 Coffee with the Mayor
July 23 Local Music Night
July 31 Prairie Tour

August 1 Secret Garden at Kruse House/Posy Mosey
August 3 National Night Out
August 6 Gallery 200 Opening Reception
August 17 Prairie Tour
August 20 Local Music Night
August 21 Coffee with the Mayor

For more community events, visit www.westchicago.org

FROM THE *mayor*

The highest priority of the Mayor and City Council is to protect the health and safety of residents, which is accomplished through a variety of City programs. The Police Department patrols the City to prevent crime; Public Works plows the streets to make driving safe and ensures quality drinking water; and the Community Development Department enforces City codes to protect property values and keep City residents safe.

In addition to enforcing regulations that prohibit high grass, construction without a permit and other property maintenance regulations, the Community Development Department pursues complaints of over-occupancy.

The maximum number of residents who can live in a house in West Chicago is determined by national building codes. The number is based on the minimum square footage that a person needs to live in a safe and sanitary condition. If more people live in a home than is permitted by the national standards, they risk spreading disease and infection and jeopardize their safety because they may not be able to get out of the house in the event of a fire. Additionally, over-occupancy drains school resources by having higher number of children in the system than planned and adversely impacts neighborhoods with too many cars.

The City's emergency response system was tested this winter when a single family home in West Chicago caught fire. The property owner had rented the home to 14 people, when the maximum occupancy was 7 people. Thanks to the

quick response of the City of West Chicago Police Department and West Chicago Fire Protection District, all of the residents got out of the home safely. If not for the quick response, the end result could have been tragic. This incident highlights the significant safety risk associated with over-occupancy. After the fire, the Community Development Department staff cited the landlord, who was fined \$4,750 for the violations on his property.

The number of over-occupancy violations that the City has found has nearly doubled in the last several years. Of those in violation, a majority are rental properties, where landlords knowingly rent to more people than are allowed by the code, which jeopardizes residents' safety strictly for financial gain. The City will not tolerate this and takes a firm stance against over-occupancy.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask residents to report homes that are over-occupied. You may be saving lives by reporting instances where too many people live in one home. Contact the Community Development Department at (630) 293-2200 x141.




School's Out

Keep Our Youth Safe.
Obey Traffic Laws and
Drive Slowly.



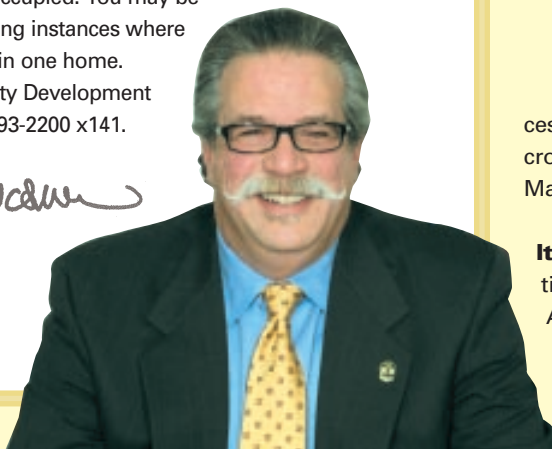
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CITY services

According to state law, anyone planning an outdoor project that requires digging, regardless of the depth or the size of the project, must **call JULIE first**. Today, more utility members that supply power, gas, water and telecommunications are delivering these services underground. Now it's even easier to reach JULIE by simply dialing 811; or, callers can still contact JULIE using its traditional toll-free number (800) 892-0123.

The following APWA Uniform Color Code illustrates the colors each utility will use when staking, painting and or flagging the location of a buried utility facility.

UTILITY/TYPE OF PRODUCT	IDENTIFICATION COLOR
Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum	Yellow
Electric	Red
Potable Water	Blue
Communication, TV	Orange
Sewer and Drain Lines	Green
Reclaimed Water, Irrigation	Purple
Temporary Survey	Pink
Proposed Excavation	White
	Black on snow

The City of West Chicago is conducting a year-long **Stamped Asphalt Crosswalk Pilot Program** in an effort to save money, yet add decorative, realistic looking brick effects to key pedestrian crosswalks throughout the City. We invite you to share your comments on the City website, www.westchicago.org, where you will find a survey form.



At three (3) different crosswalks, the City will implement three (3) different stamped asphalt processes. Methods used at each crosswalk will appear similar in design and brick pattern, with slight color variations due to different products used and different product manufacturer(s).

The following crosswalks will be included in the Stamped Asphalt Crosswalk Pilot Program:

- Fremont Street, at the intersection of National Street.
- National Street, at the intersection of Fremont Street.
- Main Street, at the intersection of Wilson Street, near City Hall.

Visit our website and share your comments. If the program is successful, City Council will consider implementing the stamped asphalt crosswalk design in various locations throughout the City, including along Main Street in the downtown area.

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.

2009 Water Quality Report

is available at
www.westchicago.org
or at City Hall.



It's time to stand up and cheer for your favorite West Chicago business. The City is seeking nominations for its Brilliance in Business Awards. The program was created last year to acknowledge the efforts businesses are making on behalf of their objectives and those of greater benefit to the community. The formal program celebrates successful initiatives, projects, business practices, strategies and community involvement. It also strives to bring awareness to the level of diversity, creativity and corporate citizenship that epitomizes our business community.

This year, in response to residents' requests, we added a not-for-profit business category. One winner will be chosen in each of the following six categories:

- Community Image Award
- Green Initiatives Award
- Outstanding Not-for-Profit Award

We know you must have a story to tell about your favorite West Chicago business. Won't you consider nominating it for a Brilliance in Business Award? Residents, businesses, government agencies, civic/service organizations or City of West Chicago staff may nominate a business(s) for one or more award. An information packet, which includes a description of the criteria and eligibility requirements for each award, is available through download from www.westchicago.org (under Business), at City Hall, or by request. Businesses may nominate themselves. The deadline for nominations is September 3, 2010. An award ceremony is planned for November 2010. Please contact Rosemary Mackey, at (630) 293-2200 x139 with any questions.

2009 Award Winners

- Dream in Color Yarn
- West Chicago Tastee Freez
- Augustino's Rock and Roll Deli
- Extra Value Liquor
- Behindthechair.com

- Small Business of the Year
- Community Service Award
- Economic Development Award



look who's new

SUPPORT THESE NEW WEST CHICAGO BUSINESSES

Club 38
243 W. Roosevelt Road
(630) 231-6000
Nightclub

J & L Auto Repairs
903 W. Washington Street,
Suite 100
(630) 231-1080
Automotive repair

Royal Polish
116 Galena Street
(630) 876-1202
Nail salon

CS Undertakings, LLC
1002 Carolina Drive
(630) 608-8884
T-shirt screen printing

Lily's Dollar +
200 N. Neltnor Blvd
(630) 562-4470
Retail

Shaftology Centers/Nippon Shaft
245 W. Roosevelt Road #3-19
(630) 752-9075
Sales of golf shafts to retail stores

Beneficial Medical Supplies, Inc.
245 W. Roosevelt Road, #4-31
(630) 523-3747
Delivery of medical equipment to patients

Doug Feng Tractor USA Co. Ltd.
784 W. Hawthorne Lane
(630) 632-8988
Sales, marketing & warehousing of tractors

Medallion Construction, Inc.
903 Atlantic Drive
(847) 878-9850
Residential & commercial carpentry

SNB Remodeling, Inc.
245 W. Roosevelt Road, #10-68
(847) 409-1029
Contractor & builder

Casa Real
960 E. Roosevelt Road
(630) 319-1209
Restaurant

Evalina's Boutique
108 W. Main Street
(630) 440-7204
Clothing, shoes & accessories

Pizza Bags, Inc.
927 W. Hawthorne Lane
(888) 501-2247
Office and storing products

Tres Amigos Taqueria
1400 S. Neltnor Blvd, Suite 100
(630) 293-5466
Restaurant

Police News

Per City ordinance, door-to-door solicitors must carry an identification card which includes the City seal, a photo of the solicitor and an expiration date. If you are approached by a solicitor who is not able to produce a City-issued solicitor ID card, the Police Department encourages you NOT to conduct business with this person. Further, we would ask that you contact 911 immediately to report the incident. The City's solicitor ordinance contains a provision for residents who do not want to be contacted by door-

to-door salespeople. If a resident chooses this option, appropriate signage (a preprinted, 3" x 4" weatherproof card) is available at the front desk of the Police Department, located at 325 Spencer Street.

The City of West Chicago will join neighborhoods nationwide on **Tuesday, August 3, 2010**, in hosting its own **National Night Out**. The event is an annual tradition that celebrates the success of communities' crime, drug and violence prevention programs.



2009 National Night Out

Culture

West Chicago City Museum, 132 Main Street • (630) 231-3376
Tuesday - Friday 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Saturday 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Call for Fine Arts Fiesta Art
 Contact City Museum
 (630) 231-3376
 museum@westchicago.org

Once again, the West Chicago City Museum will be offering **free half-day camps** for children aged 5-13. The camps will be on **Wednesday, July 28, and Tuesday, August 10, 2010** at the Museum. All camps run from **9:00 - 11:30 a.m.** Indoor and outdoor activities based on a prairie theme will be offered. Children are encouraged to bring a snack and drink of their choice.

Call or stop in to the Museum to register at (630) 231-3376 or stop in the Museum to register. Space is limited for each camp, so call today!

"Passport to Adventure" returns to West Chicago. The program runs through Labor Day and is open to children between the ages of 4 and 12. Families may pick up a Passport book at the City Museum or Kruse House Museum as well as at the West Chicago Public Library. Visit www.westchicago.org for all the details.

Fredericka Howard, well known local artist and recent Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award winner, is the next artist to **exhibit** artwork in the public hallway at **City Hall**. Her work will be featured from **July through September**.

Fredericka has been involved with art in West Chicago for over fifty years as a teacher, artist and art activist. Her media of choice is col-

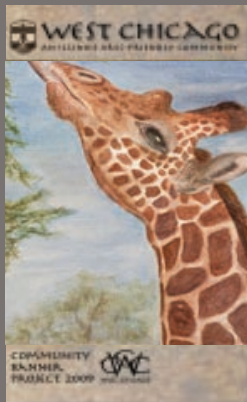
ored pencil, and she specializes in drawing dogs and vanishing rural scenes.

The call for fine art for the fast-approaching Fine Arts Fiesta to be held at Railroad Days, July 9-11, 2010 is going out to all local artists. Be a part of this exciting exhibit, now in its 17th year, and participate in the People's Choice Awards. The drop-off date for artwork is Thursday, July 8, 2010 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. or from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at *Reed's Place*, the recently renovated former maintenance building at Reed-Kepler Park. Call the City Museum with questions, or visit the City website to print a copy of a registration form.

Correction: We regret an error in the May/June issue which incorrectly identified the artist for the banner titled *Giraffes*. The correct artists and banners follow. For a look at all of the 2010 Art Banners, visit www.westchicago.org under Public Art.



"Giraffes" designed by Deborah Lader & Daniel Silver



"Giraffe" designed by Tina Lawrence

GALLERY 200 200 Main Street • (630) 293-9550
Thursday & Friday 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
 Open studio hours with the Underground Art Group, **Tuesday 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

Meet the artists of the **Underground Art Group** at a free **Opening Reception** on **Friday, July 2, 2010 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at Gallery 200. Art will be available for sale, and commission artists will have samples available for review. Live music, appetizers and a wine tasting will round out the evening. The exhibit, featuring oil and mixed media works will be on display throughout the month of July.

The month of August brings the work of an international photographer to Gallery 200. **Britta Renwick** shares an exhibit titled "*My Switzerland*," a photographic journal of her homeland. Plan on a delightful evening with the artist at a free **Opening Reception**, scheduled for **Friday, August 6, 2010 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

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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