

# WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

May/June 2010 • volume 5, number 3

"I Hear You" by artist Janet Wickham

**Do you read me?** It's a question whose time has come. It seeks feedback about the effectiveness of current City communications, in particular, *Window to West Chicago*.

Much has changed in the two years since this publication was recognized for excellence as a printed information source. Since then, online social media outlets like FaceBook, YouTube, Twitter and others, have challenged more traditional communication channels and transformed the way in which people send and receive news and information. Today's demands allow people only a brief moment to decide what is worthy of their time, and these quick "bytes" of information offered at the click of a mouse may well be the method of choice.

Gradually, the City has ventured into more online communication options that complement information found on its website. Free delivery of subscriber-based electronic news in five special interest categories that is delivered right to the online mailbox was introduced in 2009. Since that time, over 875 people have registered to receive regular updates on Police News, Gallery 200 News, Museum News, City Press Releases, or

Community Business News. This was done at minimal cost to the City with the added value of taking a major step toward green-ing communications.

However, efforts to keep up with changing preferences present unique challenges for municipalities in which cultural and generational diversity make a universal online approach unclear at best. Therefore, the City continues to produce *Window to West Chicago* and deliver it via bulk mail to all West Chicago addresses. As postage and printing rates increase, it is reasonable to wonder just how much of the community depends on the newsletter being delivered to their door.

Recently, City staff began work on a Strategic Communications Plan which outlines current communication tools and explores new forms of community outreach that have evolved as a result of advances in technology. One thing became clear throughout the process: communication does not take place in a vacuum and for it to be effective, it requires engagement and feedback. The process of assessing our current and future communication protocols requires your input. *Do you read me?*

Please share your thoughts about continuing to receive this publication and any other communications-related issues. Contact Rosemary Mackey at (630) 293-2200 x 139, or [rmackey@westchicago.org](mailto:rmackey@westchicago.org).

**A new addition to the communication landscape is an LED monument sign installed earlier this year at the corner of Illinois Route 59 and Main Street. The goal is to improve the conveyance of timely reminders related to City services and events with the four-color LED changeable copy feature. Equipped with a double-sided message component, it is hoped that its high visibility will provide a quick, convenient means of sharing relevant, up to the minute City news and information.**

*kid's*  
CORNER

**Passport to Adventure Memorial Day - Labor Day**  
**Half Day Summer Camp June 29**  
City Museum - (630) 231-3376

**Turtle Splash Opens May 29**  
**Dancing Through the Decades May 22**

**Touch-a-Truck June 5**  
Park District - (630) 231-9474

**Summer Reading Program May 24-July 31**  
Public Library - (630) 231-1552

## IMPORTANT DATES

May 1 . . . . . Sister Cities' Mayfest  
 May 3-7 . . . . . Citywide Collection (regularly scheduled collection day)  
 May 7 . . . . . Gallery 200 Reception  
 May 8 . . . . . Grand Opening of New Fire Stations  
 May 11 . . . . . State of the City Address  
 May 14-16 . . . . . artXposium  
 May 15 . . . . . Blooming Fest

May 15 . . . . . Coffee with the Mayor (at Blooming Fest)  
 May 21 . . . . . Local Music Night  
 May 31 . . . . . City Hall Closed  
 June 5 . . . . . Gallery 200 Reception  
 June 18 . . . . . Local Music Night  
 June 19 . . . . . Coffee with the Mayor  
 June 19 . . . . . Paper-making with Prairie Seeds  
 June 24 . . . . . Prairie Tour

For more community events, visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org)



# FROM THE mayor

While most towns are delaying or deferring capital improvement projects in order to balance budgets, I am pleased to report that through careful planning and fiscally responsible management, we are well positioned to address such needs. Our solid financial planning and proactive measures to secure federal funding for infrastructure improvements, allows us to proceed with a roadway construction schedule this spring, summer and fall that includes resurfacing, sidewalk replacement and crack-sealing. The following chart outlines the 2010 Street Improvement Program:

Type of Construction:	Location:	From:	To:
Resurfacing	Illinois Route 59 (IDOT Project)	Entire length through West Chicago (Bartlett thru Warrenville)	
Resurfacing	Old Heidelberg Project Area (CDBG Funding)		
	Pearl Street	Ann Street	to George Street
	George Street	Pearl Street	to Vine Street
	Vine Street	George Street	to Church Street
	Sherman Street	Ann Street	to Washington Street
	Clara Street	Church Street	to Washington Street
	Harrison Street	Clara Street	to Cul-de-sac west of Norris Street
	Milo Court	Harrison Street	to Milo Court Cul-de-sac
Resurfacing	Joliet Street (ARRA Funding)	Geneva Road	to Illinois Route 59
Resurfacing	Powis Road (ARRA Funding)	Illinois Route 64	to Smith Road
Resurfacing	Arbor Avenue (ARRA Funding)	Washington Street	to Hawthorne Lane
Resurfacing	City of West Chicago 2010 Street Improvement Program		
	Main Street	Illinois Route 59	to Prince Crossing Road
	Hawthorne Lane	Illinois Route 59	to Prince Crossing Road
	Willow Creek Drive	Hawthorne Lane	to Woodside Drive
	Marcella Lane	Woodside Drive	to Natalie Drive
	Woodside Drive	Hawthorne Lane	to Willow Creek Drive
	Natalie Drive	Marcella Lane	to Woodside Drive
	Oakwood Avenue	Chicago Street	to York Avenue
	Gavin Court	Natalie Drive	to Gavin Court
	Woodside Court	Woodside Drive	to Cul-de-sac
Resurfacing	North Oak Street Rehabilitation Project		
	North Oak Street	Washington Street	to Grand Lake Boulevard
	Pine Street	North Oak Street	to Illinois Route 59
	Plymouth Court	North Oak Street	to Illinois Route 59
Reconstruction	Galena Street	Main Street	to High Street

That brings us to a related and very timely topic - Census return rates. The City's ability to take its fair share from funding sources, which contribute to roadway improvement, depends upon our citizens' active participation in the U.S. Census. Hopefully, you have already mailed back the 2010 Census to ensure future infrastructure improvements in West Chicago. If not, a census taker will visit your residence to record your household's confidential answers for submission to the Census Bureau. Ask to see their ID. Please note that the census taker will never ask to enter your home. You may contact the Regional Census Center at (866) 861-2010 if you wish to confirm their identity.

Thank you for your support of the 2010 Census, and for your cooperation and patience during the 2010 Street Improvement Program as we continue to maintain our commitment to safe, drivable roads.




## CITY services

**Clean water is everyone's business.** Have you ever considered that the by-products of car washes, for personal or fundraising purposes, can contaminate nearby bodies of water, sending pollutants like dirt, soap, oil, and grease along with the wash water into streams and rivers? Visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) for helpful tips to make residential and fundraiser car washes more environmentally friendly.

**Blue inflatable swimming pools** can provide summer fun, but also carry a big responsibility. Residents need to know that while a permit is not required, the following code requirements apply to pools that are more than 24 inches deep:

- The pool must be protected by a barrier of at least 48 inches high above surrounding grade. This barrier may consist of a fence, the walls of the residence, or the pool walls itself provided that any access to the pool can be secured.
- If a re-circulating pump is provided, there must be a grounded, GFCI protected electrical outlet between 5 and 10 feet from the exterior wall of the pool. Extension cords are not permitted.
- The edge of the pool must be at least 10 feet horizontally from overhead electrical wires.

To help conserve our natural resources, **lawn sprinkling guidelines** are enforced from May 15 through September 15. Remember the rule for watering: odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days and even numbered addresses on even numbered days. Exceptions are made, with City approval, for the watering of sod and/or newly seeded lawns for a two-week period by calling the Utility Division at (630) 293-2255.

The City offers the option of purchasing a **sprinkler meter** that records outdoor water use and may help a homeowner control high water bills due to landscape watering and filling swimming pools. Visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) under Services/Water & Sewer Bills for all the details.

### New monthly cart charges effective July 1, 2010.

	Current	New
35-gallon cart (senior)	\$ 6.19	\$ 6.43
35-gallon cart	\$11.81	\$12.28
95-gallon cart	\$20.81	\$21.64
Sticker	\$ 2.30/ea	\$ 2.40/ea

**The Citywide Collection Event**, scheduled for May 3-7, 2010, removes acceptable items placed at the curb on your regularly scheduled garbage collection day. Visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) for more details.

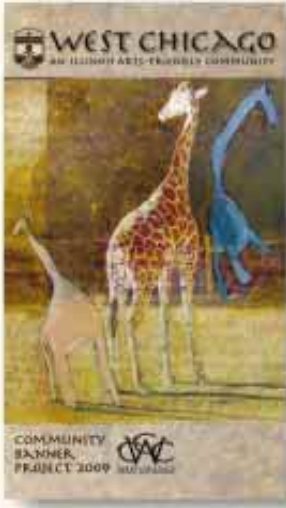
### Police News

**The Spray and Pay Reward Program** is an anti-graffiti program designed to arrest and punish offenders while at the same time reward citizens who help the police to combat it. The City's "Spray and Pay Reward Program" will give citizens up to \$200 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals. Call the tip hotline at (630) 231-1711 for instructions.

**The 5th Annual Touch-a-Truck** event will be pulling into Reed-Keppler Park on Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Youngsters and adults will have an opportunity to look at, sit in or climb on an assortment of trucks from the City's Public Works and Police Departments, as well as the West Chicago Fire Protection District and multiple local businesses. Free refreshments will be served, and other promotional items will be available at the event. Plus, there will be opportunities to win an assortment of prizes.

**The economic benefits of green spaces, as well as public art installations, are well documented.**

Recently, the City asked for support from its business community to help with the 2010 downtown beautification program which includes hanging flower baskets and original art banners. Since the image of our downtown reflects the perceived health of the overall community, the program is designed to enhance the general stature of the entire community as a vibrant place to live, visit and do business.



Giraffe designed by Tina Lawrence

**Thank you to the following businesses for their support:**

- |                                                      |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Kramer Tree Specialists, Inc.                        | Wheaton Academy                      |
| West Chicago Foot Clinic,<br>Dr. Michael Schwartzman | Christie Poulin, State Farm          |
| El Coco Loco                                         | C.H. Hager Excavating, Inc.          |
| Williams-Woodward Funeral Home                       | Northwestern Flavors                 |
| B & D Electric Co., Inc.                             | The Stowaway                         |
| TNI Packaging                                        | State Farm Insurance, Daniel Jimenez |
| American Standard Circuits                           | State Insurance Agency               |
| J.R.'s Body and Fender                               | Cascade Enterprise                   |
| Dulcerias Guadalajara Inc.                           | Marziani Enterprises                 |
| West Chicago Shell                                   | Carnicerias Jimenez                  |
|                                                      | Mike Lellios                         |

**STATE OF THE CITY BREAKFAST**

**Date:** May 11, 2010 **Time:** 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** St. Andrew's Golf & Country Club  
**Cost:** \$25 **Register at** [www.westchicagochamber.com](http://www.westchicagochamber.com)



look who's new

SUPPORT THESE NEW WEST CHICAGO BUSINESSES

**Mr. Handyman**  
 245 W. Roosevelt Road, #15-111  
 (630) 341-3288  
 Residential/Commercial repair

**Country Financial**  
 946 N. Neltner Boulevard, #110  
 (630) 293-0091

**Aarrow Healthcare**  
 571 Main Street  
 (630) 231-4404  
 Medical, chiropractic,  
 physiotherapy, rehabilitation

**Tamayo Bakery**  
 958 E. Roosevelt Road

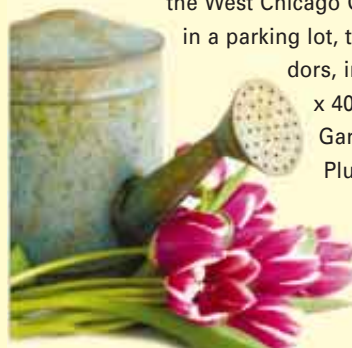
**Tango Argentina Club**  
 179 W. Washington Street  
 (708) 903-6612  
 Tango and other dance lessons,  
 history, cultural offerings and  
 special events



**New Fire Stations**

The officers and members of the West Chicago Fire Protection District invite you to attend the **Grand Opening Ceremonies of Fire Stations 2 & 3 on Saturday, May 8, 2010.** The open house for Station #2, 1651 Atlantic Drive, is from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., with a dedication scheduled at 10:00 a.m. The open house for Station #3, 1080 Commerce Drive, is from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., with a dedication scheduled at 2:00 p.m.

**Ten years and growing, Blooming Fest is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year.**



The seasonal event has grown from the West Chicago Garden Club's plant sale with a handful of craft vendors in a parking lot, to a blockbuster downtown garden festival. Over 80 vendors, including local businesses, will line Main Street, and a 30' x 40' dedicated tent overflowing with hearty specimens from Garden Club member gardens will occupy Galena Street. Plus, a Chicago Corvette Club car display on Fremont Street, live entertainment, garden education with a focus on prairie flora and children's activities, promise to make this year's Blooming Fest spectacular fun for the entire family.

**Mexican Independence Day** *Parade participants are sought and crafters, artists, businesses and food vendors are invited to apply for booth space for the downtown Mexican Independence Day celebration, scheduled for Sunday, September 12, 2010 from 12:00 - 9:00 p.m. Contact Valeria Perez at (630) 293-2200 ext. 170 or [vperez@westchicago.org](mailto:vperez@westchicago.org).*

# Culture

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

**A Prairie Primer**, an exploration of the intersections of art, history and stewardship is on exhibit through August 28, 2010. Supplementing the exhibit will be an opportunity to make your own paper with embedded prairie plant seeds on **Saturday, June 19, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** at 203 Turner Court. Additionally, three tours of the West Chicago Prairie led by members of the Prairie Stewardship Group are also scheduled. Space is limited and dates are available at [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org) or by calling (630) 231-3376.

**Free half-day summer camps** for children aged 5 – 13 return to the City Museum. Again, activities will be based on a prairie theme and are scheduled for **June 29, July 28, and August 10, 2010**. Children are encouraged to bring a snack and drink. Registration is limited and may be secured by calling (630) 231-3376 or stopping by the Museum.

**artXposium** will arrive in West Chicago for its fourth year. This multimedia art experience produced by People Made Visible will work in conjunction with the City Museum to bring artists and the community together throughout the downtown **May 14 – 16,**

**2010.** For a map and a complete schedule of events, visit [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org).

Also celebrating its fourth season, the West Chicago International Artist-in-Residence Program, brings Danish artist Gitte Bog to the City Museum during the month of May. Her project focuses on gathering and cooking favorite food ingredients of community members. Look for more information to come at [www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org).

**West Chicago Sister Cities** presents Mayfest (Maifest), a traditional German celebration of spring, on **Saturday, May 1, 2010** at the American Legion Post #300, 123 Main Street, West Chicago. Authentic food and entertainment will be featured, and tickets are available at the door. For more information and advanced tickets, contact Melissa Birch at (630) 621-0128.



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



**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.

Artists **Sharon Spitzer** and **Nancy Andrews** share the spotlight as the May Featured Artists at Gallery 200. Meet the Canvas and Clay Connection artists on **Friday, May 7, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Functional porcelain and stoneware pottery along with watercolor, acrylic and mixed media paintings will be on exhibit and sale for the entire month. Join them for music, refreshments and lively conversation on the 7th!

Landscapes, Cityscapes and Still Life is the theme of artist **Ron Strum's** show at Gallery 200 in June. Through trial and error, experimentation and observation, Strum has honed his skills, and though he considers it a lifelong process, he has found himself at "home" with oil painting. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy his exquisite works of art at a free **Opening Reception on Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**



Painting by Ron Strum



Painting by Nancy Andrews  
 Pottery by Sharon Spitzer

## 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](http://www.westchicago.org) for more information.

### CITY COUNCIL

**Ward 1**  
 Lori Chassee . . . . . (630) 231-8709  
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