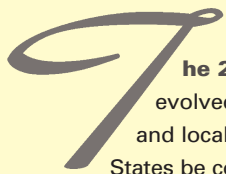




WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

March/April 2010 • volume 5, number 2

The national census this April will be the 23rd time this once a decade count has been conducted since 1790. Census number 6 in 1840 showed a maturing nation. Then, there were just over 17 million residents in the United States. You can find these and more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at census.gov. Photo Credit: Library of Congress, LC-USZC-3141



The 2010 Census will document the changes in our nation since the last decennial census in 2000, and tell us how we've evolved as a country. Because census data affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to tribal, state and local governments, the census also will frame the future of our country for the next 10 years. It is vital that everyone in the United States be counted in 2010.

At the heart of the 2010 Census outreach effort is the 10-question 2010 Census form. The 2010 Census form is one of the shortest census forms in history and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Households will be asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages, races and relationships of others living in the household.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Households across the country will receive the form by mail or hand delivery. The initial form package, which will consist of the initial 2010 Census form, a cover letter, and a postage-paid return envelope will be delivered in March 2010. Responding immediately to the 2010 Census form is the most efficient way to complete the census. Census workers will visit households that do not return the forms to take a count in person.

As a Census Bureau partner, the City of West Chicago encourages you to participate in the 2010 Census and let the country know what our community needs for the next 10 years. If for some reason you do not receive a form, or if you need a questionnaire in one of the 5 available non-English languages, you should visit a Be Counted Center. The following Be Counted Centers will also offer questionnaire assistance by a Census employee up to 15 hours per week: Wayne Township Office (27W031 North Avenue), Main Park Neighborhood Resource Center (809 Main Street), Westwood Neighborhood Resource Center (1209 Kings Circle) and Riverwoods Neighborhood Resource Center (801 Lorlyn Drive). For more details, visit www.westchicago.org and follow the **Census 2010** link on the homepage, or contact Rosemary Mackey at (630) 293-2200 x139.

Kid's
CORNER

Craft Saturday
March 13 & April 10
City Museum – (630) 231-3376

Sweets & Treats March 4
Abakadoodle March 5
Mad Science March 5
Storytimes March 13 & 19
Kids on the Run Exercise
March 23 – June 1
Magic Class March 24
Lasers, Ice & More March 27
Benny Bundles April 3
Skateboarding Classes April 4
Park District – (630) 231-9474

Mad Hatter's Tea Party March 2
Friends Egg Roll March 27
Spring Puppet Show March 27
Earth Day Celebration April 22
Public Library – (630) 231-1552



IMPORTANT DATES

March 1-31	Census Forms Delivered	April 2.	Prairie Exhibit Opening
March 5	Gallery 200 Reception	April 9.	Gallery 200 Reception
March 12	Local Music Night	April 16.	Local Music Night
March 15	Studs Terkel Presentation	April 17.	Coffee with the Mayor
March 20	Coffee with the Mayor	April 19.	4th Annual Senior Fair

For more community events, visit www.westchicago.org

FROM THE *mayor*

As municipalities strive to meet the ongoing challenges of balancing allocations to meet community needs, the process of budgeting in a tough economy becomes paramount to maintaining expectations of quality services and affordability.

Through strategic planning, communication and citizen outreach, the City of West Chicago has achieved this goal with the adoption of its 2010 Annual Budget, which was approved on December 21, 2009. The budget reflects a continued customer-centric philosophy which prioritizes its commitment to provide quality services at the lowest possible cost. Most significant are the facts that the budget contains no tax or water/sewer rate increases; it totals 2.3% below the 2009 budget; and the City's operating costs are 7.1% lower than last year.

West Chicago prides itself on being an increasingly progressive community, willing to challenge the status quo and moving toward the cutting edge. The City accepted the challenge of continually searching for creative solutions for the delivery of services. The budget will emphasize policy and procedure reviews to improve the productivity and effectiveness of service delivery to its citizens.

One of the ways this has been accomplished is by a reduction in the City's workforce by approximately 15% since 2006 through privatization and streamlining operations which have enhanced service delivery to the customer and resulted in cost savings. While a total of 12 positions remain vacant, no personnel additions are included in the approved budget.

The most notable increase in the 2010 budget is pension costs for City employees, due to the significant decline in investments. As a way to offset these costs and to help balance its budget, the City plans to defer the purchase of anticipated equipment and vehicles.

The overriding goals of our fiscal planning must be to support the high standards set by the community and provide long-term value at reasonable cost. We will strive for continuous improvement that ensures the City's mission for fostering a safe, cohesive and dynamic community that is responsive to the needs of both citizens and businesses.



CITY services



Address change for mailing water/sewer utility bill payments: EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2010

The mailing address for sending your water/sewer utility bill payments has changed, effective February 1, 2010, to PO Box 4540, Carol Stream, IL 60197-4540. Beginning with the February 1 utility bill, payment remittance envelopes that reflect the City's new lock box address, PO Box 4540, Carol Stream, IL, will be enclosed with your bill for your convenience in mailing your payment. Please note, any envelope you may have that is addressed to PO Box 87345, Chicago, IL should be discarded and no longer used for any type of mailing to the City, as PO Box 87345 will no longer be in service effective February 1, 2010. Payments that were mailed on or before January 31 to PO Box 87345 will be forwarded to the City by the post office. For additional utility bill payment information, please refer to the back of your utility bill or visit the City's website at www.westchicago.org.

Catch the Spring Cleaning Fever

Free Leaf Pickup: Residents may dispose of an unlimited quantity of leaves during the week of April 26 – April 30, 2010 on their regularly scheduled garbage pickup day. No stickers are required for leaves during this week; however, no other yard waste may be mixed with them. All leaves must be placed in a biodegradable "Kraft" yard waste bag or a 95-gallon yard waste cart. Leaves will not be accepted in plastic bags.

Yard waste: Yard waste collection will resume April 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010. All yard waste that is not placed in a 95-gallon yard waste cart must be placed in a biodegradable "Kraft" yard waste bag with a "Refuse" sticker attached.

Brush: The City's monthly brush pickup program, which runs May through November of each year, is scheduled to begin on May 3, 2010. Brush must be placed at the curb no earlier than two days prior to the first Monday of each month.

Limbs should be no larger than eight (8) inches in diameter (length is unimportant), and neatly stacked with all butt ends in the same direction facing the curb line. Limbs should not be bundled.

This program is not designed for pickup of whole tree removals. For more information, please visit the City's website at www.westchicago.org.

Citywide Collection Event: The City's tenth annual Citywide Collection Event is scheduled for May 3 – 7, 2010 on your regularly scheduled garbage collection day. Each single-family or two-family residence must affix a total of eight (8) "Refuse" stickers on your pile of "ACCEPTABLE" items. For more information regarding examples of "Acceptable" and "Unacceptable" items, please visit our website at www.westchicago.org. *Please remember that garbage should not be put out any earlier than 7:00 p.m. the day before scheduled pickup, and containers should be brought in no later than 7:00 p.m. the day of pickup.*

Police News

The City of West Chicago offers a **Vacation Watch Program** which provides a daily check of a residence when the owners are away on vacation, not less than 7 days and not more than 30 days. Requests can only be made for unoccupied single-family and two-family residences. Important note: This means no apartments, vacant homes, businesses or residences where someone else will be staying. Vacation Watch request forms are available at the Police Department, 325 Spencer Street, or at www.westchicago.org under Forms.

A new state-wide program called the **Illinois Premise Alert Program** aims to provide first responders with vital information for people with special needs, in order to more effectively handle situations involving these individuals. For more information and an enrollment form, please visit www.westchicago.org under Police.

IN FOCUS

Business



General Mills today

life, while growing and advancing its business model, by fueling the local labor force with quality jobs, providing critical sales tax revenue, and enriching community life through its support of local service clubs and programs.

The City of West Chicago thanks General Mills for the role it has played in shaping the community

over the past 50 years, and wishes them many more years of continued growth and success.

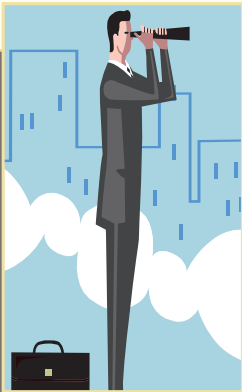
For a retrospective look at General Mills through the decades, visit www.westchicago.org under Business/Marketplace Milestones.

For five decades, West Chicagoans have shared in the sweet smell of success of General Mills, an iconic American corporation which arrived in 1959 with a mission of producing quality products to nourish the world's families. The community has reaped benefit from the manufacturing powerhouse, which has served as an economic engine and model corporate citizen.

The Fortune 500 company, which has its headquarters in Minneapolis, chose the site at 704 West Washington Street in 1959 to open a packaged food production plant. Since that time, General Mills has contributed to the fabric of community



General Mills, circa 1960
Courtesy of the West Chicago City Museum



look who's new

SUPPORT THESE NEW WEST CHICAGO BUSINESSES

American National Home Healthcare

175 W. Washington Street
(630) 293-9670
Home Healthcare Services

Chiro One Wellness Center of West Chicago

191 W. North Avenue
(630) 468-1831
Chiropractic Health Services
www.chiroone.net

A.A.A. Gold for Cash

625 W. Roosevelt Road
(630) 293-2900

Ciber Café

128 Main Street
(630) 781-3992
Internet Access Café

Natural Healing Whole Dog Wellness

946 N. Neltnor Blvd
(630) 483-9843
Swimming pools for therapeutic healing of dogs. Retail sales of natural dog foods, supplements and supplies.
www.wholedogwellness.com

Quick Snips

1935 Franciscan Way
(630) 876-5555
Hair Salon

State Insurance Agency, Inc.

222 Main Street
(630) 231-9800
Insurance Services

Fina Boutique

112 Main Street
(708) 822-2840
Women's Clothing and Accessories

Infiniti Golf, Inc.

245 W. Roosevelt Road
(630) 818-1030
Golf Club Design and Distribution

Messina & Patek, LLP

1525 Kautz Road
(630) 285-8200
Certified Public Accounting
www.messina-patek.com

Questmark Flooring

1120 Commerce Drive
(630) 639-5252
Industrial, commercial and retail flooring installation.
www.questmarkflooring.com

Junior's Barber Shop

175 N. Neltnor Blvd
(630) 293-4511

Elegance Floor Installations

940 E. Roosevelt Road
(630) 293-0909
Retail floor coverings

PROACTIVE MEASURES Even in a tough economy, there is work to be done in laying the groundwork for future investment which will keep our City viable and competitively positioned. Please keep West Chicago top-of-mind when dealing with clients, vendors, and other business contacts, and pass the word on about the benefits of doing business in West Chicago. For information or questions, contact Joanne Kalchbrenner, Community Development Director, at (630) 293-2200 x141.

Culture

Community Calendars are now available at the West Chicago City Museum! Start the new decade by celebrating the community's storied past and exciting future with the retrospective calendar that features historic photos of West Chicago and lists upcoming events and local attractions. Calendars are \$10 or \$8 for Friends of the City Museum members.

After quickly selling out of the **2009 commemorative ornament** featuring West Chicago's award winning Tastee Freez, more color ornaments of this favorite destination will be available in late February at the City Museum. Ornaments are \$8.



MUSEUM WINTER HOURS

Exhibit winter hours are **Tuesday – Friday 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Staff available Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Also open for Craft Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Exhibit galleries will re-open every Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in April.

A new exhibit focused on the prairie runs April 2, 2010 through August 28, 2010. Topics explored will be prairie formation, the diversity of plant and animal life found, and restoration and protection. There will be a concentration on the West Chicago Prairie, which is jointly owned by the City and the Forest Preserve. It is one of the finest prairies in the State of Illinois, and right in our own backyard! For more information, call (630) 231-3376 or email the Museum at museum@westchicago.org.

As part of the Millennium Seed Bank Project with the Royal Botanic Gardens in London, workers from the Chicago Botanic Garden collected seeds from native plants from the West Chicago Prairie in 2004. The project seeks to collect and preserve seeds of the world's plant populations for future generations.

EASTER EGG HUNT

An annual West Chicago tradition for more than 50 years, the American Legion Post 300 will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27, 2010 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Reed-Keppeler Park.



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.
Open studio hours with the Underground Art Group, Tuesday 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

March Featured Artist **Christopher Guglielmo** finds freedom of expression in art, transforming the beauty in ordinary objects into vibrant abstracts. His works, primarily in oil and acrylics, express his love for color and life. Meet the artist at a free Opening Reception of Art on Friday, March 5, 2010 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Pastel artist **Heide Morris** has organized a show of soft pastel art work done by students of the artist Anne Von Ehr. The eight women along with Heide include **Judith Laczó, Doris Bettin, Ann MacFarland, Gwen Meeder, Diana Mitchell, Laura Nicholson** and **Dierdre Schanen**. Their free Opening Reception is scheduled for Friday, April 9, 2010 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Lori Majcen, a Gallery 200 member, is the next artist to exhibit artwork in the public hallway at City Hall. Her work will be featured from April through June. She works with pencil to create realistic looking portraiture with her favorite subjects being children, cats and dogs, horses and "pretty much anything warm and fuzzy."

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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