

Where history and progress meet.



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WINDOW

TO WEST CHICAGO

Winter/Spring 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan 1**
City Hall Closed
- Jan 8 – 19**
Free Christmas Tree Collection
- Through Jan 19**
Holiday Lights Recycling
- Jan 27**
Coffee with the Mayor
- Feb 24**
Coffee with the Mayor
- March 11**
Daylight Saving Begins
- March 25**
Deadline for removal of outdoor holiday lights
- March 31**
Coffee with the Mayor



Save the date:
Monday, April 16, 2018

**2018 State of
the City Address**

City Hall
475 Main Street, 6:00 p.m.

Spirit of generosity in West Chicago

It is said that one kind word can warm three winter months. In West Chicago, that kindness is abundant year round and exemplifies the character of the community.

Take, for example, the generous spirit of long-time resident and former art teacher Fredericka Howard who impacted the lives of countless students during her years at various West Chicago schools. One student in particular, Wayne Lofton, Jr., who now serves the community as the Executive Vice President of the Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce, remembers a time in his life when he struggled to find his place in the world. He credits Fredericka as the guiding force for setting his path straight through her encouragement, patience and instruction. She made a connection between creating art and tackling life's challenges and instilled in him the confidence to succeed at both. Today, Wayne is paying it forward through his involvement on multiple nonprofit boards, spearheading food drives for local food pantries and working with community youth, and anyone who knows Wayne personally will tell you his warmth is genuine and unsurpassed.

West Chicago is also a better place because of residents like Trini Cantu, Frosty Fest's beloved Mrs. Santa Claus, who has given the gift of hope to those less fortunate through her work with the Catholic Daughters and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. She volunteers for the Giving Tree program at St. Mary's Church and personally delivers Thanksgiving dinners to 20 families every year, which she is quick to note are provided by a resident who prefers to remain anonymous.

Continuing a life of service after retiring from the military, resident Don Smith is known for his "can do" spirit and is someone you want in the room when forming a new committee. He has served as Commander of both the local VFW and American Legion, and as President of the West DuPage United Way. He helped bring citizen diplomacy and an international bond with Taufkirchen-vils Germany by assisting with the formation of West Chicago Sister Cities. Don has served as a visiting ambassador on behalf of West Chicago, and has opened his home for a reciprocal visit.

These are just four examples of the many West Chicagoans who exude a spirit of generosity which knows no bounds and wraps visitors and residents alike in a warmth that transcends even the coldest Midwestern winter.



West Chicago City Hall
475 Main Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
www.westchicago.org

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60185

FROM THE

Mayor

There was so much to celebrate in December. As always, the holiday season was at the top of the list. **Frosty Fest** was better than ever thanks to the efforts of so many hard-working volunteers who had a role in its success. We started the morning in a festive way with the **Frosty 5k**. Almost 100 people participated and, based on the smiles captured in the photographs that are now in a City Facebook photo album, everyone loved it.

The evening event was awesome too. The homegrown talent of school choirs, essay contest winners, mariachi and folk-dancing student groups warmed our hearts and set our spirits soaring. Horse-drawn wagon rides, luminaria, reindeer, an ice sculpture, Museum exhibits and the *Small Gifts of Art* show and sale at Gallery 200 added up to dazzling night.

Later in the month, brilliance of another sort was celebrated, the **2017 Brilliance in Business Awards**. The City Council and I honored four deserving businesses for outstanding accomplishments in several categories. These businesses represent the best of corporate citizenship. They are: **Chris Mechanical Services, Inc., Buck Services, Inc., Advanced Standard Circuits, Inc., and Timber Lake Apartments, LLC**. I urge everyone to take a moment to learn more about them through the City's website, Twitter account, or Facebook page.

While business is the backbone of every community, its people are its heart. There is no shortage



of caring, generous hearts in West Chicago, some of whom are featured on the cover of this publication, joining forces with a shared vision and driving initiatives which set the community apart and position it for stellar success. We will continue to share the stories of the spirit of generosity in our community throughout 2018.

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Respectfully,

Ruben Pineda, Mayor

✓ TAKENOTE

Winter Season Reminders

Commercial Equipment – The storing of any commercial equipment or vehicles used in winter weather, such as snow plows, salt spreaders or snow blades, is not allowed and will result in a ticket being issued without any prior notice.

Snow Removal – It is illegal to remove snow from your property and place it onto City sidewalks, streets, fire hydrants or handicapped accessible parking spaces.

Metra Lot Parking Fee Increase Effective January 2, 2018

Please note that effective Tuesday, January 2, 2018, the daily Metra lot parking fee will increase to \$1.75 per day.

We Want Your Opinion – Video Gaming

The West Chicago City Council has approved an Advisory Referendum, which will be placed on the March 20, 2018 ballot, seeking voter input on whether or not the City should allow video gaming in eligible establishments that have liquor licenses. Allowing video gaming would mean that owners would be able to install electronic video gaming terminals in their businesses that, upon the insertion of cash or tokens, would simulate the play of games such as video poker and blackjack.

Becoming More Social



The City is pleased to announce that it is becoming more social by adding Facebook and Instagram accounts to the list of communication channels it uses to share news, pictures and videos with residents.

Do you have pictures or videos that showcase our great City? We would like to feature submissions from the best resource - our residents. To submit pictures and/or videos, you can direct message any of our accounts or email us at pr@westchicago.org. By submitting content, you are also giving us permission to use it throughout all of our communication channels.

Please like and follow us at www.facebook.com/cityofwestchicago and www.instagram.com/cityofwestchicagoil, and continue to follow us on Twitter @WestChicagoIL.

New Small Business Workshop Series

The City of West Chicago is excited to partner with the West Chicago Public Library District to co-sponsor a pilot program, **Small Business Workshop Series**, to take place throughout the 2018

calendar year. The Series will offer workshop topics that are relevant to burgeoning entrepreneurs and existing West Chicago businesses alike. To register call (630) 231-1552 ext. 4 or email registration@westchicago.org to obtain the full spring calendar.



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Marketing Your Business & Social Media

January 17. 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Español)

General Business Roundtable Discussion

January 31, 2018, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

General Business Roundtable Discussion

February 28, 2018, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

General Business Roundtable Discussion

March 25, 2018, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Sessions at the West Chicago Public Library

Art & Culture

Gallery 200

A new year of featured artists at Gallery 200 begins on **January 5, 2018** with the work of West Chicago resident **Judith Horsley**.

Horsley was honored at the December 4th City Council meeting for being voted People's Choice winner in the 2017 Community Art Banner Exhibit. The upcoming show, titled **Under Construction**, is a **month-long exhibit** of digital photography which captures images from the mundane to the majestic. Please stop in and meet the artist and her work at an Opening Reception, which will include refreshments and music. Details may be found on page 4.

Fiber Adventures, showcasing the work of artists **Sharon Malec and Patty Koenigsaecker** will be a delight for the senses. The featured exhibit runs for the **month of**

February, with details of the Opening Reception found on page 4.

Sharon Malec began quilting in 1992, making

traditional pieced quilts, but gradually turned to making contemporary art quilts. Her interest in animals and nature has helped to mold her unique style. Much of her current work incorporates several techniques including felt-making, hand-spinning, silk paper-making, free form crochet and tapestry weaving.

Born in Davenport, Iowa, **Patty Koenigsaecker** majored in Art Education at St. Ambrose University and has a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa in theatrical design. She has taught students from



Quilt artwork by Sharon Malec

three years old through college. The majority of her career was spent as a costume, scenery and lighting designer at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Since retiring, she has explored two-dimensional art through fiber because of her love of sewing. She has always wanted her work to tell a story, and has experimented with many techniques that help her to do that. In this show, visitors will see many of these adventures in fiber.

An exciting exhibit of student work from all seven elementary schools in West Chicago during the **month of March** showcases the artwork of students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. **Art is the Heart of the City**, now an annual tradition, brings some of the projects of students from each school to the community. The artwork will include paintings, drawings or sculptures. This exhibit represents what the elementary art education program can accomplish. Teachers and students will host an Opening Reception on March 1, 2018 and all are invited to attend (refer to page 4 for Reception details).

Gallery Theater

Performances of **Rose Colored Glass**, by Sue Bigelow and Janice Goldberg, will take place at Gallery Theater in February (see page 4 for dates and times). The show is a unique work about two remarkable women and their struggle to secure a boy's safe passage from Europe to America at the beginning of the Holocaust, told through a series of stunning flashbacks by the granddaughter of one of the women. Tickets are \$16, \$14 for seniors, and may be reserved through GalleryTickets@gmail.com, www.Gallerytheaterstudio.org or by calling the Box Office at (630) 234-5919.



A West Chicago version of the iconic Campbell's soup can, provided courtesy of People Made Visible, illustrates the theme Pop Art.

News from the Cultural Arts Commission

The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission is hoping artists from West Chicago, Chicagoland and the metropolitan area will channel their "inner Andy Warhol" and submit their original pop art for the 9th Annual Community Art Banner Exhibit, a juried exhibit which will be installed on Main Street in the spring of 2018. Warhol's iconic Campbell's Soup Can series, which now hangs in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, is perhaps the best-known example of a genre of art which takes ordinary objects of popular culture and transforms them into inspired works of art. An online submission form may be found at www.westchicago.org under Residents/Forms & Applications. The submission deadline is February 1, 2018.

The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission is soliciting feedback through a series of survey questions that will inform the direction of a **Master Plan for Public Art** for the community. The questions will be simple and require respondents to agree, indicate a neutral opinion, or disagree with statements related to public art. There will be an area for optional additional comment. The first question focuses on the importance of public art to a community, and is available in the featured block of the homepage of www.westchicago.org. For those to whom an online survey is not an option, surveys will be available at City Hall, the City Museum, and Gallery 200.

GALLERY 200

103 W. Washington Street • (630) 293-9550 • www.gallery200.org

GALLERY THEATER

129 Main Street • (630) 234-5919 • www.gallerytheaterstudio.org

Around Town

JANUARY

5 Opening Reception for *Under Construction*
 Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.



Under Construction by Judith Horsley.

FEBRUARY

2 Opening Reception for *Fiber Adventures*
 Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.



Fiber Adventures by Patty Koenigsaecker.

MARCH

1 Opening Reception for *Art is the Heart of the City*
 Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.



Pictured above, the Plumlee family enjoys its visit to a previous Art is the Heart of the City exhibit, and daughter Sarah receives recognition for her participation.

WEST CHICAGO
blooming
FEST

Vendor Applications now available.
www.westchicago.org

16 & 17, 23 & 24

Gallery Theater Presents
Rose Colored Glass
 Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street, 7:30 p.m.

18 & 25

Gallery Theater Presents
Rose Colored Glass
 Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street, 3:00 p.m.



Mayor Pineda (center) recognizes Alderman Alton Hallett (left) and Alderman George Garcia (right) at the December 4th City Council meeting for successfully completing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. CERT is a group of people organized as a neighborhood-based team that receives special training to enhance their ability to recognize, respond to, and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

CITY COUNCIL

Ward 1



Lori Chassee
 (630) 231-8709



James Beifuss
 (630) 231-0584

Ward 2



Jayme Sheahan
 (630) 330-7972



Heather Brown
 (630) 853-7131

Ward 3



Michael Ferguson
 (630) 248-6053



Alton Hallett
 (630) 254-7112

City Hall (630) 293-2200
 Fire Administration (630) 231-2123
 Police Administration (630) 293-2222
 Police and Fire Emergency 911

Ruben Pineda, *Mayor*
 Nancy Smith, *City Clerk*
 Michael Guttman, *City Administrator*

Ward 4



Sandy Dimas
 (630) 293-5170



Melissa Ferguson
 (630) 621-0128

Ward 5



Kurt Meissner
 (630) 235-4725



Currently Vacant

Ward 6



Rebecca Stout
 (630) 293-7335



George Garcia
 (630) 842-1645

Ward 7



Bonnie Gagliardi
 (630) 677-5836



Noreen Ligino-Kubinski
 (630) 762-9929