



Spring, at last, page 1



Blooming Fest & America in Bloom, page 2



Painting by Joe Ross, page 3

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO Spring/Summer 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 2 – 6**
Spring Leaf Collection
- April 2 – Nov. 30**
Yard Waste Collection
- April 9 – May 7**
Hydrant Flushing
- April 16**
State of the City Address
- April 28**
Coffee with the Mayor
- May 7 – 11**
Citywide Collection Event
- May 7 – Nov. 5**
Brush Pickup
- May 19**
Blooming Fest & Artéculture
- May 19**
Coffee with the Mayor
at Blooming Fest
- May 28**
City Hall Closed
- June 2**
On-site Paper Shredding
& Rain Barrel Pickup
- June 2**
Touch a Truck
- June 30**
Coffee with the Mayor

Spring, at last! While April can still throw us a couple of curve (snow) balls, we can and should begin planning for cleanup projects, needed home repairs, garden preparations, and neighborhood beautification. The City has some suggestions, resources and events to help make it easier, as well as to provide inspiration.

Much has been written about why messy surroundings cause stress in our daily lives and how decluttering often leads to a greater sense of well-being, productivity and creativity. The **annual Citywide Collection Event** is a great opportunity to test this theory and get rid of unwanted items that cause clutter and pose hazards in the garage, attic, basement, closet or anywhere else around the house. The Event is offered to residents on the **regularly scheduled garbage collection day during the period of May 7 – 11,**

2018. If you live in a single or two-family residence, you need only **affix a total of eight (8) refuse stickers** on your pile of discards. Some items are excluded from the Event and the best way to find out what these are is to visit www.westchicago.org under Residents/Services/Citywide Collection Event, or by calling (630) 293-2255.

Eliminating the mountains of paper from old financial records to billing statements and more can be another source of anxiety due to the fear of identity theft or other security breaches. Thanks to the efforts of the City's Environmental Commission, residents can ensure that personal and financial documents are destroyed in a safe, secure and environmentally responsible manner. The Commission will be hosting an **On-site Paper Shredding Event on Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** in the City Hall parking lot at 475 Main Street. Confidential materials are destroyed on the premises by trained professionals in a matter of minutes while you watch. Local residents and businesses may bring up to 10 boxes for this valuable service.

Also **on Saturday, June 2, 2018, in the City Hall parking lot,** pre-ordered **rain barrels** may be picked up. A rain barrel is an easy and environmentally-friendly way to collect rain water for outdoor use, including watering plants and washing your car. Rain barrels are offered for sale through a partnership between the West Chicago Environmental Commission and The Conservation Foundation. Available barrels hold 55-gallons and come in multiple colors. Prices start as low as \$60. There is also a 50-gallon barrel available for \$55. Rain barrel accessories and composters are also available. They may be ordered online through May 31, 2018. For more information, or to purchase a rain barrel, visit <http://upcycle-products.com/westchicagoil.html>.

Enjoy spring!



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

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60185

FROM THE

Mayor

Inspiration comes in the form of sunny skies, warmer temperatures, longer days, and a beloved annual event for which we've waited all winter – **Blooming Fest, scheduled on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in our historic downtown.** The West



Chicago Garden Club plant sale, crafts, free garden advice from Master Gardeners and other garden professionals, great food, entertainment and kids' activities are just some of the elements being planned by our dedicated committee of community volunteers, business representatives, and City staff. It will be a great day on Main Street, and I personally invite you all to start your morning with a cup of coffee at the City booth where I'll be hosting **May's Coffee with the Mayor.**

While downtown, don't forget to raise your sights to the vibrant display of **Pop Art** street banners created by local and area artists in a brand new year of the **Cultural Arts Commission's Community Art Banner Exhibit.** Interactive maps for your mobile devices will also be available to guide you through the festival and the Banner Exhibit. Check the City's website for further details.

I am so proud of our City and know you are too. One of the big takeaways of the community visioning process which resulted in the West Chicago Strategic Plan was the strong sentiment that it's time we let others outside the City know about our success. For this reason, the City is pursuing national recognition



through America in Bloom (AiB), a program that acknowledges community building efforts that engage citizens, partner organizations, and businesses which result in citywide beautification. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in a number

of projects being planned. Share your love of gardening and community by joining the effort to create a winning community profile for AiB judges who will visit our City in July. Call or email Rosemary Mackey at (630) 293-2200 x139 or rmackey@westchicago.org to learn more. Let's do this together, West Chicago.

Respectfully,

Ruben Pineda

✓ TAKENOTE

Over the last five years, local municipalities like ours have been significantly shortchanged by the State of Illinois for revenue that we depend on to pay for essential operations that impact the daily lives of our residents and business customers – services including police, development, and code enforcement - in an effort to cover its own budget deficits. The latest repercussion of the State's mismanagement occurred in 2017 when another \$350,000 in income and personal property replacement taxes was siphoned, causing a very large budget gap for West Chicago and communities throughout the State.

Compounding this financial challenge, the City Council prioritized and adopted its first Strategic Plan in 2016 after substantial public outreach and input. The Plan which resulted included a strong focus on economic development, intergovernmental partnerships, marketing and building a united community, and the City earmarked funds to accomplish these action items.

As we strive to honor the goals of the Strategic Plan and the intentions of all who participated in the process, to meet our growing obligations associated with funding police pensions, and to continue providing the highest level of service our customers have grown to expect, we have needed to make some tough decisions in order to offset the State's unilateral decision to take possession of monies meant for local governments.

For the last seven years West Chicago has held the line and hasn't increased any fees, taxes or charges, in an effort to minimize the financial impact to our corporate and residential customers during the nation-wide economic downturn. By outsourcing services such as crossing guards, code enforcement, operations and maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as staffing the desk and records management at the Police Station, each of which have traditionally been staffed by City employees, we have implemented strategies to save the taxpayers money.

Unfortunately, due to continued fiscal irresponsibility by the State of Illinois, it is no longer possible to continue moving our City's collective vision forward without financial impact to our customers, and the City Council has no choice but to approve a 2.1% increase in its property tax levy, which will be reflected in real estate tax bills received in May.

As the State forces local governments to cut expenditures and raise revenues when it cannot do so itself, City Council and staff are committed to finding alternative revenue sources to assist in bridging the budget deficit now present due to the State's poor decisions.

The City of West Chicago is pleased to announce the publication of a dedicated section on the City website for Spanish speakers. **Tu Ciudad** is a direct result of the City's vision and commitment to One West Chicago from the 2016 Strategic Plan.

One West Chicago is a call to action to broaden participation in community leadership, invest in long-term relationships and form partnerships with all members of the West Chicago community to reinforce that there is One West Chicago, made stronger by its diversity.

Communication plays a vital role in forming partnerships and fostering civic engagement with community members. Tu Ciudad is an example of a number of tools City staff is utilizing to expand the City's Strategic Communications Plan to reach Spanish speaking residents, business owners, and visitors.



Get Moving

Spring yard care offers the opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and keep your property tidy at the same time. Regular maintenance of your home and yard helps keep all our neighborhoods beautiful. Please note the following recommendations:

Dead Tree Removal – A quick inspection of your yard this spring may reveal that trees or bushes have not survived the winter. Now is the time to plan for their prompt removal because dead or dying trees are not just an eyesore, but they can result in very serious consequences for homeowners, passersby, and property if branches, limbs or even trunks were to fall. While the City does not require a permit for this, it is important to hire a qualified individual to ensure its safe removal as soon as possible.

Brush Pickup – Brush should not be placed at the curb any sooner than the weekend prior to the monthly pickup. Brush pickup does not begin until the first full week of the month beginning in May. Note that you will be issued a \$50.00 fine for brush placed at the curb too early.

Tall Grass and Weeds – Whether you own your home or rent, please help keep your grass trimmed to a height of less than eight inches. Dandelions grow very quickly this time of year and more frequent cuttings might be necessary. Also, if you are out of town for an extended period, please make arrangements to have your grass cut in your absence. Finally, if you do receive a Notice of Ordinance Violation for tall grass and/or weeds, please mow your grass within seven days to prevent further enforcement action, such as fines. Feel free to contact us if any extenuating circumstances exist at (630) 293-2200, x141 to discuss extensions to a deadline.



Art & Culture



by Claudia Mora

Gallery 200

Over 50 hardworking **students from West Chicago Community High School** will be displaying their exceptional artwork at Gallery 200 **during the month of April.**

Throughout the school year, students have grown in their mastery of materials, tools, techniques, and concepts. In addition to demonstrating their technical skills, students will invite those attending to join them as they explore new possibilities with their imaginations. A wide range of artwork from traditional to contemporary will be included, representing the following media: drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, digital photography, graphic art and 3D Design. Art teachers Megan Dulkyns and David Exner will be available, along with some of the student artists, during an **Opening Reception** which will take place at Gallery 200 on **Friday, April 6, 2018, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be served during the Reception.

Art in Full Bloom will be installed at Gallery 200 **during the month of May.** A group of Gallery artists welcome spring with open arms and will be displaying their



by Laurie Parker

art in all categories of media. An **Opening Reception** will take place on **Friday, May 4, 2018 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be served. Shed your cabin fever! Come and see what Gallery 200 artists have been creating in anticipation of spring.

For all of **June 2018**, Gallery 200 will feature the **art of Joe Ross** of West Chicago. Joe teaches oil painting basics at the DuPage Art League in Wheaton and studied fine art and commercial design at the Ringling School of Art in Florida. Joe was a draftsman and designer at several architectural firms before working in the financial field for many years and moving to Illinois. After retirement, Joe has concentrated on his art work, taking workshops and displaying his work in several galleries in the area. Joe recently did a series of watercolors featuring scenes around West Chicago and DuPage County. He will be displaying various landscapes and other paintings done in oil and watercolors as well as some photography during the month-long show. An **Opening Reception** is planned for **Friday, June 1, 2018 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Gallery Theater

Love, Loss, and What I Wore by Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron, based on the book by Ilene Beckerman, will be directed by Gallery Theater's Carol Townsend and runs **April 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15, 2018.** The play is a series of monologues and ensemble pieces about women, clothes, and memory covering all the important subjects – mothers, prom dresses, mothers, buying bras, mothers, hating purses and why we only wear black. For ticket information, visit www.gallerytheaterstudio.org.

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



APRIL

6 Opening Reception *by Vanessa Cortez*
D94 Art Students

Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

6, 7, 13 & 14

Gallery Theater Presents:
Love, Loss and What I Wore

Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street
7:30 p.m.

8 & 15

Gallery Theater Presents:
Love, Loss and What I Wore

Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street
3:00 p.m.

MAY

4 Opening Reception for
Art in Full Bloom

Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

18 Live Remote with Scott
Mackay of The River Radio

Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Artéculture Preview Night

Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

19 Blooming Fest & Artéculture

Downtown
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Join Scott Mackay of 95.9 The River at Gallery 200 on Friday, May 18, 2018 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. for a live remote to promote Artéculture, Blooming Fest and America in Bloom. Free food and fun!

JUNE

1 Opening Reception for
Artist Joe Ross

Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

2 Touch a Truck

Turtle Splash Parking Lot,
129 W. National Street
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

9 Concert and Fireworks

The Shell, Reed-Keppler Park
129 W. National Street
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

30 Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social

West Chicago Public Library Lawn
118 W. Washington Street
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.



Artéculture

Artists are wanted to participate in Artéculture, the upcoming multi-media art show at Gallery 200 on May 18 – 19, 2018. Information and online application are available at www.westchicago.org under Residents/Forms and Applications.

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



Matt Garling
(630) 231-8709

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