Welcome 2019, and in West Chicago it will be the year of the butterfly! That’s because there are a number of projects being planned to celebrate the beauty and wonder of these winged creatures. Thanks to support from the West Chicago Garden Club and the Green Disciples of the First United Methodist Church, the DuPage Monarch Project will be bringing a documentary screening of a film titled *The Guardians* to West Chicago early in the year at a date and location to be announced. The film is a visually dazzling meditation on the balance between humans and nature. *The Guardians* poetically interweaves the lives of the threatened Monarch butterfly with an indigenous community fighting to restore the forest they nearly destroyed. Shot over three years, this cinematic journey through the butterfly dense mountaintops of Michoacán México tells the intimate story of a unique community at the front lines of conservation.

Here in West Chicago, we have taken steps to protect Monarchs in our small part of the world, and we hope to do more. The fairly new Official Monarch Waystation at City Hall is doing well and adding great beauty to the landscape while providing nourishment and habitat for developing larvae. Through outreach and education, more Waystations are popping up around the community.

These efforts dovetail beautifully with a project of the West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission, the West Chicago Garden Club and the West Chicago America in Bloom Committee to beautify community gardens, including the Kruse House Gardens which are maintained by the Garden Club, this spring and summer through the installation of art butterflies in close to 20 different public landscape beds around town. The wooden templates, approximately thirty-eight inches by forty-two inches will be designed by local artists. A residential component will also be available on a smaller scale, with eighteen inch by eighteen inch templates available at a reasonable cost through People Made Visible at Gallery 200. More information will be available in the days ahead through its website www.peoplemadevisible.com.

It’s never too early to think spring!
FROM THE
Mayor

It’s hard to believe, but the 2020 Census is right around the corner and I can’t emphasize enough how important this once-in-a-decade event is for the future of West Chicago. Inevitably, there will be a lot of misinformation out there about the 2020 Census and therefore our City staff will be working arduously with our community organizations to educate our residents about the 2020 Census and its significance on our financial sustainability.

The 2020 Census data is used to allocate millions of dollars for local funding, used for apportionment of Congressional seats, used by key federal programs, and businesses use the data to determine whether the local salesforce or customer base exists to support their endeavor. Therefore, it is very important that the information the Census collects is complete and accurate.

Will my information be kept confidential?
• Yes. Under the law, Census data can only be used for statistical purposes. Title 13 of the U.S. Code requires respondents’ information to be kept confidential, and guarantees personal information will not be used against respondents in court or by a government agency.

When and how do I complete my 2020 Census Form?
• It is very easy. In March 2020, every household will receive a mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions to visit its website. Upon logging onto the Bureau’s website, each household will fill out a simple 10-question form.
• While a paper form will still be available, for the first time the Internet will be the primary response option. Individuals will be able to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or mail. If a household does not respond, the Census Bureau will mail two reminders and a paper census form in the fourth mailing.

City staff will continue to provide information and updates on the 2020 Census via the City’s website and social media channels. Please stay tuned.

I wish you a very happy and healthy 2019.

Respectfully,
Ruben Pineda

Join Healthy West Chicago in the 2019 Walking Challenge
Every month, there will be a new challenge with prizes. Download the Challenge app at: www.hekahealth.com/wchicago activation code movechicago17

Winter Season Reminders

Holiday Lights Recycling: This program continues through January 18, 2019 at six convenient locations. Please visit www.westchicago.org for details.

Christmas Tree Collection - The dates of collection are January 7 – 18, 2019. Trees need to be free of lights, garland, tinsel, etc. otherwise drivers will tag the tree and leave it for the following week. If tree decorations are not removed by the second week’s collection, the customer will have to put a sticker on it and it would be picked up the following week as trash. Please do not put trees in plastic bags.

Holiday Lights Removal – Please remember to remove your holiday lighting by no later than March 25, 2019.

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 - Residents should be aware of the following City regulations:
• City Ordinance imposes a parking ban on all streets after a two-inch snowfall until such time as the street has been completely plowed curb-to-curb.
• It is illegal to plow or shovel snow from driveways or sidewalks into the street.
• The City does not provide for snow removal from sidewalks other than in front of municipal properties and from the A. Eugene Rennels Bridge.
• The City will not be responsible for damage to improperly installed mailboxes or to mailboxes damaged by thrown snow. Properly installed mailboxes require the box to be securely attached to a strong post with the face of the box a minimum distance of six inches behind the back of the curb (preferably 12 inches).
• The placing of ornamental rocks or other objects along the curb line is illegal as they present serious safety hazard to snow removal equipment and other traffic.

Illinois Car Seat Law – Effective January 1, 2019 there are changes to State law concerning car seats. A chart is available at www.westchicago.org with details of the law. The City, within its Police Department, employs several nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians who can assist you with child safety seat installations and/or inspections of your child safety seat free of charge. Please call (630) 293-2222 if you need assistance.

TakeNote

Congratulations to West Chicago’s 2018 Brilliance in Business Award winners.
Lakeshore Recycling Systems – 1655 Powis Road
Royal Polish Nail Salon & Spa – 116 Galena Street
Kindred Coffee Roasters – 148 West Washington Street

These businesses were chosen in recognition of their exemplary and innovative business practices. Visit www.westchicago.org under Business/Brilliance in Business Awards to learn their stories. Please support all our local businesses; it keeps the economy in West Chicago going strong.

Honorees of the Brilliance in Business Awards at the City Council meeting of Monday, December 3, 2018.

Ruben Pineda

Kindred Coffee Roasters – 148 West Washington Street

2018 Honorees of the Brilliance in Business Awards at the City Council meeting of Monday, December 3, 2018.
City Museum
The City Museum is continuing its Historiography program in March, a non-fiction book reading group held in collaboration with the West Chicago Public Library. The group will meet to discuss Leonardo da Vinci by Walter Isaacson on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. The book group is open to all, attendees may bring a bag lunch, complimentary drinks and desserts will be provided. Copies of the books being discussed can be checked out from the Museum or Library.

Little readers are invited to join the Library for kids’ story-time and craft during Timeless Tales at the City Museum on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 10:15 a.m., on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 10:15 a.m., and on Thursday, March 14, 2019 10:15 a.m. This event is free and no registration is required. Families are invited to stay and enjoy the hands-on activities at the Museum following the program.

Join the Friends of the West Chicago City Museum and the West Chicago Historical Society for an Annual Tea Fundraiser, Sunday, March 10, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the American Legion, 123 Main Street (parking lot in rear). Tickets are $20 a person and include a tea luncheon and entertainment provided by Leslie Goddard who will be presenting Becoming Queen Elizabeth II. In this new historical portrayal, Goddard will explore the life of Britain’s famous monarch, from her childhood, the abdication of her uncle, her marriage to a navy officer named Philip, her World War II service, and her struggle to balance her roles as queen and mother. Get to know the woman behind the images, her sense of humor and savvy intelligence with which she meets her demanding obligations. Space is limited; tickets can be purchased at the City Museum, 132 Main Street or by contacting the Museum at wegohistory@gmail.com or (630) 231-3376.

Gallery 200
The Professional Art Quilt Alliance (PAQA), a group of mid-west fiber artists who meet monthly in suburban Chicago, will be featured artists at Gallery 200 in January for a show titled Illumination. The Illumination Challenge resulted in members interpreting the idea of illumination in an art quilt. You can read more about PAQA and see other examples of artists’ work at www.artquilters.com. A free Public Reception will be held on Friday, January 4, 2019 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Born in Japan, Margaret Bucholz, February’s featured artist, discovered her love for art from her mother, an Ikebana master and oil painter. From nine years of age until age 21, Margaret lived in Hawaii, where she picked up her love for bright colors and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing and Painting from University of Hawaii. Now a member of Gallery 200, she has fallen in love with changing seasons and the vivid colors of fall. “There is nothing I would rather do than create art and be in the moment of reflecting beauty which is all around us,” she wrote. Her free Public Reception, on Friday, February 1, 2019 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., will feature musical entertainment by folk singer/guitarist, Joe Eddy Brown.

Gallery 200 is happy to host Art is the Heart of the City, the West Chicago School District 33 Student Art Exhibit in March. March is Youth Art Month and this show will display a wide variety of works from grades 1-8. Students use a variety of media to show their creativity in how they interpret art style, subject, or cultures from around the world. Youth Art Month is a nationwide initiative and Gallery 200 is proud to support young artists through this show and give them and their families an opportunity to participate in a real gallery setting. A free Public Reception is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Gallery 200 wood artist LeRoy Fennewald created a beautiful wood-burned plaque for the City of West Chicago to present to the family of the late Joe Kramer who passed this year, as a token of affection and appreciation.

Kramer Tree Specialists has gifted the community a fully decorated Christmas tree which is lit at Frosty Fest, since 2010.

News from the Cultural Arts Commission
Congratulations to lifelong resident Alexis Long for being selected People’s Choice winner for Ice Cream Cone Pop Art, an original acrylic painting that was reproduced on a street banner and hung on Main Street from May through September 2018.

There is still time to submit artwork for the 2019 Community Art Banner Exhibit. The theme is Love, which the Commission hopes will inspire many to submit a creation that reflects a wide range of interpretations which touch the heart. For an application, visit westchicago.org under Residents/Forms & Applications. The deadline is February 1, 2019.
**JANUARY**

4 Art Opening & Reception
**Illumination**
Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

4 First Friday Art Exhibit
Kindred Coffee, 148 West Washington Street, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

10 Timeless Tales at the City Museum
**Snow is Falling**
City Museum, 132 Main Street
10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

**BLOOMING FEST**
Save the Date
Saturday, May 18, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. • Downtown West Chicago
Vendor applications will be available at www.westchicago.org later this month.

**FEBRUARY**

1 Art Opening & Reception
**Margaret Bucholz**
Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

1 First Friday Art Exhibit
Kindred Coffee, 148 West Washington Street, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

14 Timeless Tales at the City Museum
**Let’s Celebrate Valentine’s Day!**
City Museum, 132 Main Street
10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

15, 16, 22 & 23
**Gallery Theater Presents: Harvey**
Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street
7:30 p.m.

17 & 24
**Gallery Theater Presents: Harvey**
Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street
3:00 p.m.

**MARCH**

1 First Friday Art Exhibit
Kindred Coffee, 148 West Washington Street, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

1 & 2 Gallery Theater Presents: **Harvey**
Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street
7:30 p.m.

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

7 Art Opening & Reception
**D33’s Art is the Heart of the City**
Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

10 Friends of the Museum & Historical Society’s Annual Tea Fundraiser
American Legion, 123 Main Street
1:00 p.m.

14 Timeless Tales at the City Museum
**A Very Windy Day**
City Museum, 132 Main Street
10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

15 Historiography
**Leonardo da Vinci**
City Museum
132 Main Street
1:00 p.m.