



# Friends Newsletter

F R I E N D S O F T H E  
W E S T C H I C A G O C I T Y M U S E U M

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- February 1  
Late Night
- February 1 Artist  
Deadline: *Home*  
Exhibit
- February 7  
Timeless Tales
- March 1  
Late Night
- March 2 Museum  
reopens for  
Saturday hours
- March 10 Spring  
Tea Fundraiser

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe we are already into January and February will be here before we know it! 2018 was a very busy time at the City Museum as we expanded our programs, moved the permanent local history exhibit from City Hall to the City Museum and redesigned our visitor research area. This spring we are finalizing a railroad history exhibit for the other half of the second floor and our "We Go Pop" exhibit will close on February 22nd. If you haven't been in for a visit lately, please stop in!

We are also keeping ourselves busy with our full collection digitization project. To date over 8,000 objects, photographs and research files have been digitized. For a small museum, this is a huge success and as we continue to digitize the collection (we have about 40,000 more items to go), we will post items on our social media and blog, and make them available for search in our visitor research area. As always, if you have a research request about a local family history, building history, house history, or business history, let us know and we will be happy to help in any way that we can. If you also have a topic that you'd like us to focus on for one of our 2019 Town Hall Shares, let me know! It is always nice to share local history and here your stories at these community sharing events!

-Sara Phalen, Museum Director/Curator

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## COMING EXHIBIT; DAIRIES TO PRAIRIES

The City Museum will be hosting the traveling exhibit "Dairies to Prairies" from March 7th through April 27th. This exhibit which tells the story of Elgin's dairy heritage was produced by the Elgin History Museum. During its display in West Chicago it will be supplemented by the rich history of dairies

in our community. An accompanying documentary will also be shown at a to be announced date in April, stayed tuned for more details to follow.



## LATE NIGHT AT THE CITY MUSEUM

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Join the City Museum for Late Night at the City Museum on **Friday, February 1st from 6-8pm** and make your own Victorian Valentine! During our **March Late Night on Friday March 1st from 6-8pm**, Museum guests can try their hand at drawing an item from the Museum's collection during "Drawing on History."

Late Nights are free, drop-in events that are open to the general public.

## CALL FOR ART: HOME

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The West Chicago City Museum invites artists to nominate themselves for consideration to be included in the 2019-2020 exhibit "Home." Selected artists will be asked to create original works of art inspired by the story of someone, who at one time, has called the community of West Chicago "Home." Each artist will work closely with Director Sara Phalen and exhibit co-curator Anni Holm to explore the local history, as well as relevant artifacts from the museum's collection for inspiration. The artwork produced will be displayed at the museum alongside the histories of community members and select artifacts. Each artist will also be featured in a publication detailing the stories of "Home" and documenting the artistic processes undertaken for the exhibit. We encourage participation from artists working in both visual and performing arts including but not limited to: sculpture, painting, photography, printmaking, site-specific installations, performance, writing, sound and music. Artists are asked to submit an artist statement, bio and exhibition/performance history and up to 3 samples of prior work either in jpeg format/links to sound or video files to Sara Phalen at [wegohistory@gmail.com](mailto:wegohistory@gmail.com) or 132 Main Street, West Chicago, IL 60185, by February 1st.

Artists will be selected on an ongoing basis up until February 1, 2019. Selected artists will be notified of inclusion no later than February 15, 2019. Artist/History Introduction: Selected artists will be invited to the City Museum on Saturday, March 2nd for an introduction to the potential stories of "Home" and get to explore the archives and artifacts behind the stories. This gathering will also act as a meet and greet for included artists. (Attendance is not required, but strongly encouraged).

## ADOPT A DEPOT

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As we look forward to spring and warmer weather, museum staff is hard at work planning new exhibits and interactives for our 1860s CB&Q Depot. We are also looking for train lovers and railroad groups to "adopt the depot" for a weekend or month during our open season from May 18th through August 31st on Saturdays 10am-2pm. Interested parties would help staff the depot, greet guests and be allowed to display any of their own railroad memorabilia or models. Contact the City Museum for more information or to participate.

## SAVE THE DATE

# *Becoming* Queen Elizabeth II



In this new historical portrayal, historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., explores 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.



Tea Fundraiser to benefit the history of West Chicago  
March 10, 2019, 1:00pm

American Legion, 123 Main St., West Chicago, IL (Parking and entrance in the rear)

Tickets \$20.00 each, includes lunch and entertainment.

Purchase at City Museum, 132 Main Street Thursdays 10am-6pm; Fridays 10am-2pm

Questions and reservations: (630)231-3376 [wegohistory@gmail.com](mailto:wegohistory@gmail.com)

SUPPORTING YOUR  
COMMUNITY'S HISTORY



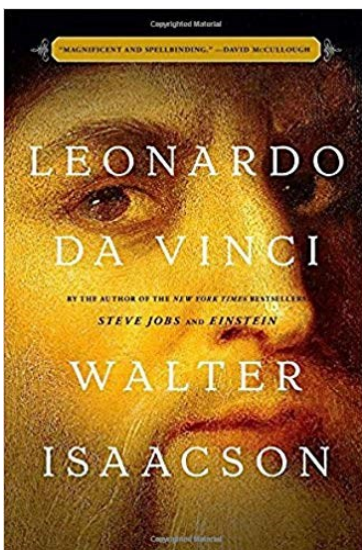
FRIENDS OF  
THE  
WEST  
CHICAGO CITY  
MUSEUM

132 Main Street  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
City Museum Hours  
Thursdays 10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.  
Fridays 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.  
Saturdays 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. (November only)

Phone: 630-231-3376  
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The Friends of the West Chicago City Museum  
serve to assist the West Chicago City Museum in  
fundraising by encouraging museum membership,  
donations and community awareness.

## JOIN THE CITY MUSEUM'S BOOK CLUB



Looking for something to help pass the cold days of winter? Pick up a non-fiction book and join the City Museum's Historiography Book Club. The group meets at 1pm on the third Thursday of each month, March through November, and discusses a work of non-fiction, as well as related topics and local history!

On **Thursday, March 21st** the group will discuss *Leonardo da Vinci* by Walter Isaacson; on **Thursday, April 18th** the group will discuss *Sin in the Second City* by Karen Abbott. The book group is open to all, feel free to 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.

If you have a non-fiction book that you would like to recommend to Museum staff email them at [wegohistory@gmail.com](mailto:wegohistory@gmail.com).

