

Judith Horsley

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO Fall 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

- Through October 30**
Fall Hydrant Flushing
- Through November 4**
Brush Pickup
- Through November 29**
Yard Waste Collection
- October 2**
National Coffee with a Cop Day
- October 4**
Tales Tombstones Tell
- October 12**
Mural Dedication
West Chicago Food Festival
- October 19**
Coffee with the Mayor
- October 26**
Downtown Halloween Festivities
- November 3**
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Beginning November 22**
Holiday Lights Recycling
- November 28 & 29**
City Hall Closed
- December 7**
Frosty Fest and 5K
- December 14**
Coffee with the Mayor
- December 24 & 25**
City Hall Closed

Visit the Community Calendar at www.westchicago.org for community-wide events you won't want to miss. Once there, bookmark it on your favorite device and check it often.

West Chicago's three-day lovefest in July with the Union Pacific's Big Boy, was one for the memory books. As more than 45,000 people converged at the Larry S. Provo Union Pacific Training Center on Spencer Street, and thousands more stole glances and captured images from the Eugene Rennels Bridge, the West Chicago Metra Station, and other vantage points, the City is still justifiably basking in the afterglow.

Train enthusiasts came from all over Illinois and many other states including Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and Ohio. Many international visitors from Italy, China, Brazil and the United Kingdom, who learned about the Big Boy during their stay, prioritized a stop in West Chicago to get a glimpse of the world's largest steam locomotive and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad's completion.

Crowds of people patiently waited their turn to tour the Experience the Union Pacific Rail Car, the brand new multi-media walk-through exhibition that provided a glimpse of the past while telling the story of modern-day railroading. Equally exciting, was a chance to talk with Union Pacific Engineer Ed Dickens, who shared his experiences with the restoration of the incomparable Big Boy.

Staff and volunteers of the West Chicago City Museum were on hand for extended hours over the course of the three days to share local railroad history at the Museum and the CB&Q Depot. A post on its Facebook page reads, "It was an amazing experience for our staff and Friends of the Museum to be up close to such a piece of history on Turner Junction historic ground!"

"The Big Boy's visit was a thrilling event for our West Chicago residents and visitors," said Mayor Ruben Pineda. "We are grateful to the Union Pacific Railroad for choosing West Chicago for this historically meaningful and relevant visit to our community."

It also proved to be a great opportunity for the City to showcase its restaurants, public art, and beautification efforts.

As one Facebook contributor wrote, "It put West Chicago on the map."

An ESRI StoryMap produced by the City compiles some of the stunning photographs taken by community member Sarah Bass, and is now available for viewing at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bb57789df32c4fb69ecce57f3655d8de>.



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

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West Chicago, IL
60185

As we enter the season of *thanks and giving*, I'd like to share my gratitude for the giving spirit of our community – a community filled with people and programs that strive to make a difference. The **2019 Community Profile**, which may be found on the City's website under About/America in Bloom, illustrates the transformative work of some of the progressive programs shaping our community. Some of the highlights follow below, and I encourage you to read the full Profile. You will come away feeling a sense of gratitude for being a part of our caring community:

- The work of **DuPage Habitat for Humanity** (DHFH), a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, began here with the build-out of the affiliate's first home in West Chicago. The family, for which the home was built in 1995, has raised three generations since then and has now paid off its affordable mortgage. Since then, DHFH has served 25 families in West Chicago, most recently finishing a single-family subdivision of 11 homes located on Sherman and West Pomeroy.
- **Educare West DuPage** is a state-of-the-art early childhood school that gives under-resourced young children and their families in West Chicago a strong start for a successful future. The comprehensive program incorporates what science says young children need to flourish. It serves 193 children from birth to five-years old and their families in a model early learning school.
- **Healthy West Chicago** is moving the needle at improving access to an optimal state of health and wellness for residents. It just announced its partnership with the national nonprofit **Share Our Strength** to offer **Cooking Matters®** in West Chicago, a program that empowers families to shop for and cook healthy, affordable, and delicious meals as part of the **No Kid Hungry®** campaign. Culinary and nutrition experts lead cooking and nutrition courses and shopping matters grocery store tours for the community.
- Four organizations working together have provided a new home for **Neighborhood Food Pantries West Chicago**. The 5,700 square foot building at 123 Fremont Street was purchased by the **Risch-Dieckmann Family Foundation** and gifted, along with a cash donation for building repairs and renovations, to **St. Michael's United Church of Christ**. The **legacy members from the First Congregational Church of West Chicago** have made a significant cash donation to St. Michael's United Church of Christ to renovate and equip the property.
- **WeGrow Dreams** provides people with disabilities the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives and to train and work in a supportive, safe and caring environment while producing and providing products and services to the community. In this pursuit, the organization honors the concepts of human dignity, respect, hard work, fellowship and friendship.
- Since it was founded in 1982 as a volunteer organization, the **West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group** has been supporting the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County by assisting with important functions that keep the Prairie a pristine treasure in our community.



Respectfully,
Ruben Pineda

✓ TAKENOTE

As winter approaches, please do your part to keep our community looking great by following these property maintenance tips. Every little bit helps.



- Never blow or rake leaves from your property onto the street
- Maintain the alley next to your property free from tall grass/weeds and debris
- Place branches at the curb ONLY on the weekend prior to the first week of a brush collection month (May to November)
- Park on hard surfaces only (and never on the grass)
- Ensure all vehicles parked outside have current plates and are in operable condition
- Relocate RVs and boats parked on the driveway to an approved surface in the backyard or other storage facility (after October 15, 2019)
- Store refuse containers out of public view

Permits for Fall Home Improvements

If the colder weather has you planning any exterior improvements to your home, please remember that permits are always required for siding and/or roofs. Permits for windows or doors are only required if you expand or reduce the size of the existing openings.

2020 City Renewals – Due by December 31, 2019

Annual Business Registration – Please renew your organization's business registration by completing the registration form and paying the \$30.00 renewal fee. Around October 1, 2019, businesses will be mailed the required renewal form, or may opt to renew registration online at: <http://westchicago.org/business-registration/>.

Residential Rental Licensing – If you own a rental property in the City, please remember to renew your license(s) by the end of the year. Renewal information will be mailed by November 1, 2019, but the necessary renewal form(s) are also on the City's website. For buildings with three or more units, please contact the Community Development Department at (630) 293-2200 x141 for the cost of the annual license fee.

Explore the Field of Law Enforcement

The West Chicago Police Department has established an Explorer Post to offer young men and women insight into the field of law enforcement. Explorers will learn about duties and responsibilities of police personnel. Planned training topics will include: traffic stops, first aid, the use of force, crime scene investigation, and special operations. Explorers must be at least 14 (and have completed 8th grade) years of age, but not yet 21, live within West Chicago School District 33 and 94 boundaries, and have a genuine interest in law enforcement. Anyone interested can contact Community Relations Officer Robyn Nielsen at (630) 293-2222 or RNielsen@westchicago.org

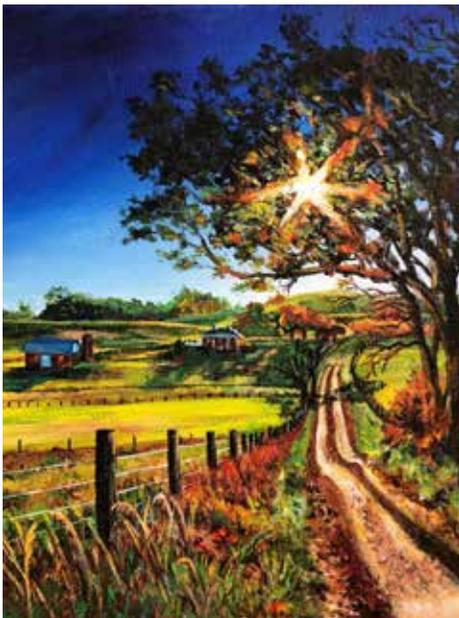


The month of October is being celebrated as Arts DuPage Month in West Chicago and in many surrounding DuPage County communities. A Proclamation will be read at the upcoming City Council meeting listing the benefits received through the arts, culture and humanities. The list includes the enrichment of civic life, the improvement to the local economy, the increase in tourism, and the profoundly positive influence on the education of our children.

In fact, according to Arts DuPage, research shows that the arts help to foster discipline, creativity, imagination, self-expression, and problem solving skills while also helping to develop a heightened appreciation of beauty and cross-cultural understanding.

Here in West Chicago, the arts are doing that and more.

The **2019 Banner Art Exhibit**, themed **Love**, brought beauty, color, and vitality to Main Street for residents and visitors throughout the summer. They were a big hit among the thousands who flocked to West Chicago for the Union Pacific's Big Boy visit (more on page 1).



Artwork by Laurie Parker

The overwhelming success of *The Butterfly Effect*, a public art project of 36 artist-designed butterflies scattered throughout the community, has Commission members already wondering what's next – frogs, bees, or something entirely different that builds on the enthusiastic response shared by community members. All butterflies move downtown this month and will be on display at the West Chicago Food Fest on **Saturday, October 12, 2019**, where many will be included in a **Silent Auction to benefit future art projects**.

The Cultural Arts Commission is currently coordinating a **Mural Dedication** for acclaimed Mayan artist **Juan Chawuk's City-commissioned work** which will be unveiled on October 12, 2019 at **10:00 a.m. at the Supermercado Tampico building, 516 Main Street**. The mural is yet another nod to West Chicago's celebration of *The Year of the Butterfly*, as it depicts the ephemeral beauty of a fragile creature and a moment in time.

Local artists have found a supportive home in West Chicago. **Lewis Achenbach** currently has a curated collection of his artwork hanging at City Hall; **Buddy Plumlee** is featured at Kindred Coffee through October 2, 2019; and a new creative voice, **Giovanni Arellano**, received tremendous positive support from the Facebook community for the mural he created for the broken front window of Gallery 200. More details of all three artists may be found at www.westchicago.org by searching the artists' name.

Upcoming Featured Artist shows at Gallery 200 will include the **FALL INTO ART** show to be held during the month of October. Everyone is invited to the **Opening Reception on Friday, October 4, 2019 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** with light refreshments served. **Sue Tripp, Valerie Baxter, Mindy Milan, and Rita Skarha**, who work across the bench from each



Giovanni Arellano with his mural at Gallery 200

other and share the same kiln, bring **unique fused glass art** to Gallery 200 in the **month of November**; and **December** brings the ever-popular **Small Gift of Art Show** where a group of Gallery artists display and sell lovingly handcrafted and one-of-a-kind pieces of art right in time for holiday gift-giving. The show opens on **Friday, December 6, 2019 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

The arts are shaping our community identity in very profound ways.



Artwork by Britta Renwick

THINGS TO DO Around Town

OCTOBER

- 4 Art Opening & Reception**
Fall into Art
Gallery 200, 103 W. Washington Street
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 4 First Friday Art Exhibit**
Kindred Coffee, 148 W. Washington Street, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 4 Late Night at the City Museum**
City Museum, 132 Main Street
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 4 Tales Tombstones Tell**
Oakwood Cemetery, York Street and Oakwood Avenue, 6:30 – 8:15 p.m.
- 12 West Chicago Food Festival**
Downtown, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 26 Halloween Festivities**
Downtown, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.



Squash Guys by Patty Koenigaecker

NOVEMBER



Artwork by Sue Tripp

- 1 Art Opening & Reception**
Fused for You: A Touch of Glass
Gallery 200, 103 W. Washington Street
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 1 First Friday Art Exhibit**
Kindred Coffee, 148 W. Washington Street, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 1 Late Night at the City Museum**
City Museum, 132 Main Street
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 2 Pumpkin Collection**
First United Methodist Church, 643 East Washington Street
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 8, 9, 15, & 16 Gallery Theater**
Bistro De L'Amour & Reconciliation
Gallery Theater, Main Street. 7:00 p.m.
- 10 & 17 Gallery Theater**
Bistro De L'Amour & Reconciliation
Gallery Theater, Main Street. 3:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 6 Art Opening & Reception**
Small Gifts of Art
Gallery 200, 103 W. Washington Street
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 6 First Friday Art Exhibit**
Kindred Coffee, 148 W. Washington Street, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 6 Late Night at the City Museum**
City Museum, 132 Main Street
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 7 Frosty Fest 5K**
Downtown, 8:30 a.m. Start
- 7 Frosty Fest**
Downtown, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.



Frost Fest will feature Kramer Tree Specialist's beautifully decorated tree for the lighting count-down ceremony, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse-drawn wagon rides, live reindeer and more.

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

Ward 4



Sandy Dimas
(630) 293-5170



Melissa Ferguson
(630) 621-0128

Ward 5



Christopher Swiatek
(630) 217-5885



Matt Garling
(630) 791-0575

Ward 6



Rebecca Stout
(630) 293-7335



Jeanne M. Short
(630) 293-2200

Ward 7



Bonnie Gagliardi
(630) 677-5836



Noreen Ligino-Kubinski
(630) 762-9929

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