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WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO Spring 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 1**
National U.S. Census Day
- April 6 – 10**
Free Spring Leaf Collection
- April 6 – November 30**
Yard Waste Collection
- March 30 – April 30**
Spring Hydrant Flushing
- April 25**
Coffee with the Mayor
- May 4 - 8**
Citywide Collection Event
- May 4 – November 2**
Brush Pickup
- May 16**
Blooming Fest
- May 16 (at Blooming Fest)**
Coffee with the Mayor
- May 18**
State of the City Address
- May 25**
City Hall Closed
- June 6**
On-site Paper Shredding & Rain Barrel Pickup
- June 27**
Coffee with the Mayor

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.

Follow the City on social media.



Celia Kruse, it is said, was a quiet, private lady, who demurred most invitations to visit others with the excuse that she had to "cut her grass."

The captivating opening to Shirley Remes' article published in the Kane County Chronicle on September 22, 1998, *Garden Club sets out to restore Kruse House Gardens*, is followed by a brief history of the magnificent gardens that **Celia Kruse, her mother Bertha, and maternal grandmother Johanna Louise Kiechbush** designed and tended at the four-square home at **527 West Main Street**. The article hooks the reader instantly with this insight into their world, provided by docents of the West Chicago Historical Society, the organization entrusted with the care and preservation of the historic landmark built for the Kruse family, German immigrants, in 1917.

It was the discovery of old photographs of the garden that thrilled and inspired the small group of docents in the 1990s including **Chris and Dennis Baxter, Nancy Kifer Assian, and Mackie Sprague** (cited in Remes' article). They recognized the need to rebuild a sustainable Garden Club to work on restoring and maintaining the gardens, which had sadly fallen into neglect at the end of Celia's life when she was confined to a nursing home.

Moved by pictures of the gardens found at the Kruse House, the docents began exploring the grounds to see if any remnants of the rock garden, pond and stone steps, among other documented gardens remained.

"Many people thought all the rocks were gone," said Chris. But after poking around with a trowel and pitchfork, and gently cleaning away some dirt, they completely uncovered the rock garden, and have made good progress on the pond and its rock wall. They also think they have the location of stone steps as well.

Clearing much of the overgrowth rewarded the docents with the reemergence of some of Celia's favorites, tulips and other bulbs, as well as an Ornamental Alpine strawberry. Gardening books that featured perennial plants of the 1920s allowed them to replicate some of the plant types that would have been favored. The arduous, but rewarding, task of restoring the historic gardens as accurately as possible, reinvigorated interest for what is now the thriving and active West Chicago Garden Club.

For many who visit the Kruse House and Gardens, the unique connection to Celia and her gardens, made possible by the passionate efforts of the West Chicago Historical Society and the West Chicago Garden Club, is enriched by history giving context to the sensory delights that await in the garden.

"Celia liked to sit by the pond," said Dennis. "She trained her fish so that when she would clap her hands, the fish would come up to her."

The work of early Garden Club members continues today at the Kruse House, most notably by current member gardeners **Billie Childress, Kerry Perry, Jan Grismore, Keith Letsche, Barbara Darrah, Chris Gicela, and Shirley Schramer**, who weekly provide the heavy lifting required in maintaining and nurturing these legacy gardens.

A scanned copy of the complete article, and photos from the West Chicago City Museum and West Chicago Garden Club, may be found on the City's website, www.westchicago.org.



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

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60185

✓ TAKENOTE

With warmer temperatures and additional daylight hours inviting us to spend more time outdoors this spring, please take note of the following tips to keep your yard in tiptop condition.

Brush Pickup – Brush pickup begins on the first Monday in May. Until then, please store neatly stacked branches in a discreet area of your yard out of public view.

Lawn Maintenance - Keep your lawn looking great by never parking any vehicles on the grass and keeping your grass trimmed to a height below eight inches. Be prepared when abundant spring rains cause the need for more frequent cuttings. If you are out of town, please arrange to have grass maintenance in your absence. If you receive a Notice of Ordinance Violation for tall grass and/or weeds, please cut your grass within seven days to avoid enforcement action such as fines. Let the Community Development Department staff know of any extenuating circumstances that may qualify for an extension.

Garbage Containers - Yards look tidier when garbage and/or recycling containers are stored out of view from the public right-of-way. Per City Code, please store yours away as needed (except during your regularly scheduled pickup day).

Dead Tree/Shrub Removal – Please remove any dead or dying trees or shrubs to prevent eyesores and more importantly, potential consequences resulting from falling limbs and trunks. Use a qualified contractor to ensure safe removal.

Spotlight on CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team)

CERT was created in 2005, mainly in response to 9/11. The Federal government authorized the funding of CERT to support citizen emergency response efforts to manmade or natural disasters. The training CERT provides in general first aid, weather safety, light search and rescue, and fire safety increases the ability of citizens to survive until responders or other assistance arrives.

Alderman Becky Stout has been involved with CERT since 2005. She serves as co-coordinator and team leader. Her personal experience of being at the scene of her nephew's tragic car accident and feeling unequipped to help, led her to take a lead in the formation of West Chicago CERT. She wanted to be able to give back by creating a trained community team for emergency response support.

West Chicago has trained over 200 community members in the practices and guidelines of CERT as established by FEMA. One of the primary functions of West Chicago's CERT team is to respond to large fire scenes in which it assists with the rehydration and cooling of firefighters. CERT members were deployed to the scene of the Aspen Ridge and Timber Lakes Apartment fires.

Members have assisted in search and rescue recovery in a drowning incident, and have helped with traffic control when necessary. West Chicago often utilizes its CERT members to assist at local festivals and events. They are on hand to provide hydration therapy and first aid to attendees and participants.

Brian and Kurt Freund, life-long residents of West Chicago, have been long-standing members of the CERT team. They are familiar faces, attending many community events where they often recruit new members. Brian is one of the CERT team leaders and a certified trainer of the CERT program.

Those wishing to get involved with the next training course should contact the West Chicago Police Department staff at (630) 293-2222.



CERT members (from left to right) Brian Freund, Kurt Freund, and Francisco Gomez on hand at Blooming Fest to provide hydration therapy and first aid, if needed.

By now, West Chicago residents should have received an invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions on how to participate on April 1, 2020.

Residents have the option of taking the Census online, by phone, or by mail. Those who wish to participate online but do not have access to a computer or the internet are encouraged to visit the West Chicago Public Library on April 1st between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Staff will be on hand to assist residents with completing the Census.

Census takers will also begin visiting senior centers and group quarter facilities in April to conduct the Census at these locations. From May through July, Census takers will visit households that have not yet responded to the Census.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the Census as soon as possible to ensure that a complete and accurate count is accomplished. Please remember that all responses given to the Census are confidential and the U.S. Census Bureau will NEVER ask for your social security number or ask for money. Residents who believe they may have received fraudulent material under the guise of the U.S. Census Bureau are encouraged to contact the Census Bureau at 1-800-923-8282 and may also visit www.2020census.gov/en/avoiding-fraud.html.

Finally, keep in mind that everyone living in our community, regardless of age, country of origin or citizen status counts, and needs to be counted in the 2020 Census. Participating in the Census is

required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. For

more information on the 2020 Census, please visit www.2020census.gov.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruben Pineda'.

Respectfully,
Ruben Pineda

Art & History

GALLERY 200

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

GALLERY THEATER

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

CITY MUSEUM

132 Main Street • (630) 231-3376 • www.wegohistory.com

GALLERY 200

West Chicago Community High School students will be displaying their exceptional artwork at Gallery 200 during the **month of April**. Their artwork is not only a demonstration of their technical skills but also an expression of their creativity and imagination. Gallery-goers can enjoy a wide range of artwork from traditional to contemporary. Art teachers, **Megan Dulkyns and David Exner** will be available, along with some of the student artists, during an **Opening Reception on Thursday, April 9, 2020 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

The work of eleven member artists vividly depicting the beauty of spring will be featured in **Art in Bloom** during the **month of May**, with an **Opening Reception** scheduled for **Friday May 1, 2020 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** The exhibit and sale align

with the City's annual spring event, Blooming Fest, which takes place on Main Street on Saturday, **May 16, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Gallery 200 and People Made Visible will be hosting an exhibit, **Frida Inspired**, at Gallery 200 during the **month of June** to highlight works of local artists inspired by the influential Mexican artist **Frida Kahlo**.

An **Opening Reception, held on Friday, June 5, 2020**, will include refreshments. Artists interested in participating may submit entries by **May 10, 2020** by contacting gallerytwohundred@gmail.com.

The **third annual Art in the Garden**, presented by Gallery 200, the West Chicago Historical Society and the West Chicago Garden Club, will take place on **Saturday, June 20, 2020 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Kruse House, located at 527 Main Street**. Join these community organizations to welcome summer in the beautiful gardens and tour the historic home of the Kruse family. Musical entertainment will be pro-



Tube Sculpture by Melody Fabisak



ZAZZ jazz returns for Art in the Garden this June

vided by **ZAZZ jazz group**, with live art demonstrations and refreshments served on the beautiful grounds. Tickets priced at \$10 may be purchased at Gallery 200, 103 W. Washington Street.

GALLERY THEATER

Performances of **Stella and Lou**, directed by Gail Cannata, are scheduled for **April 3 and 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** A **matinee performance on April 5, 2020 will be at 3:00 p.m.** The show is an intimate exploration of friendship, forgiveness, and the longing for companionship that grows with the passage of time. The action takes place at Lou's Bar, when two kindred spirits seek solace as they navigate changing times and relationships past. The cast includes Carol Townsend of West Chicago, Gary Murphy of Orland Park, and Brian Koester of St. Charles.

The classic tale, **Arsenic and Old Lace**, by Joseph Kesselring, hilariously unfolds on **May 29, 30, and 31, 2020 and June 5, 6, and 7, 2020**. For more information and tickets, please visit gallerytheaterstudio.com or call (630) 234-5919.

CITY MUSEUM

The City Museum will host a Closing Reception for its **Home** exhibit during **Final Fridays in West Chicago on Friday, April 24, 2020 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** A brief curator and artist talk begins at 7:00 p.m. Attendees will meet some of the artists whose work was featured in the exhibit and enjoy a presentation about how calling West Chicago home has changed over the past 171 years. This event is free and open to all.

The City Museum will open its new exhibit **Women of West Chicago** on **Saturday, May 16, 2020**. This yearlong exhibit will feature a rotation of six women from West Chicago's history in honor of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote in the United States in 1920. As part of the celebration, the City Museum is also a partner in **Make Your Mark 19**, a project inviting people to take a stitch on the language of the 19th Amendment. Stitch events will be held statewide, and anyone from the public can take a stitch, or many, on the actual text of the 19th Amendment and pledge to exercise their civic rights. The City Museum will host a stitch event on **Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** All are invited to bring their own stitching project to honor the historic anniversary, or participate in stitching the Museum's piece. More information about the project may be found at MakeYourMark19.org.

The City Museum and the West Chicago Public Library have a full summer of fun planned for kids and families. On **Thursday, June 11, 2020 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**, families with children ages 3-7 may join the Library at the City Museum for **Archaeology, Dinosaurs, and Rocks!**

The City Museum will also be hosting three **Friday Hands-on-History** programs. The first will be on **Friday, June 19, 2020** and children of any age can explore the history of pioneer life. This drop-in event will run from **10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**, and includes hands-on activities that children and their families can take part in to travel back to the mid-1800s when this area was first being settled.

The City Museum's monthly non-fiction book club **Historiography** will welcome author **Kathryn Atwood** to its May meeting on **Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** to discuss her book **Courageous Women of the Vietnam War**.



Around Town

APRIL

- 3,4 Gallery Theater
Stella and Lou**
Gallery Theater,
129 Main Street,
7:30 p.m.
- 4 Stitch Event Make
Your Mark 19**
City Museum,
132 Main Street,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 5 Gallery Theater -
Stella and Lou**
Gallery Theater,
129 Main Street,
3:00 p.m.
- 9 Art Opening &
Reception
Community HS D94
Art Students**
Gallery 200,
103 West Washington
Street, 4:00 - 6:00
p.m.
- 24 Closing Exhibit
Reception - Home**
City Museum,
132 Main Street,
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

MAY

- 1 Art Opening &
Reception
Art in Bloom**
Gallery 200,
103 West Washington,
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 16 City Museum
Yearlong Exhibit
Women of West
Chicago**
City Museum,
132 Main Street,
Normal Museum
Hours (see page 3)
- 16 Blooming Fest**
Downtown
West Chicago,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 21 Historiography**
City Museum,
132 Main Street,
1:00 p.m.
- 29, 31 Gallery
Theater
Arsenic and Old Lace**
Gallery Theater,
129 Main Street,
7:00 p.m.
- 31 Gallery Theater
Arsenic and Old Lace**
Gallery Theater, 129
Main Street, 3:00 p.m.

JUNE

- 5 Art Opening &
Reception
Frida Inspired**
Gallery 200, 103 West
Washington Street,
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 5,6 Gallery Theater
Arsenic and Old
Lace**
Gallery Theater, 129
Main Street, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Gallery Theater
Arsenic and Old
Lace**
Gallery Theater, 129
Main Street, 3:00 p.m.
- 11 Archeology,
Dinosaurs, and
Rocks!**
City Museum, 132
Main Street,
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- 19 Friday
Hands-on-History**
City Museum, 132
Main Street,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 20 Art in the Garden**
Kruse House - 527
Main Street,
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Business Development News

As the national economy continues to move forward at a steady - if not breakneck - pace, the City of West Chicago is taking full advantage of the favorable conditions to facilitate new development. The DuPage Business Center (DBC) in the southwest corner of the City is home to several new projects in various stages of completion.

Alton Industries, a manufacturer of air compressors and parts for vacuum cleaners, is in the process of constructing a new 150,000 square foot facility. Scannell Properties, one of the nation's premier industrial developers, will complete a 303,000 square foot warehouse/logistics project in the coming weeks. And Suncast Corporation, a plastic fabrication company, recently occupied its new 830,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility at the Center.

These are just a few of the ten projects either recently completed or under construction in the DBC. Collectively these projects total over three million square feet of new construction in the 640-acre Business Center. This construction boom will add significantly to the property tax base and generate hundreds of new jobs for area residents. After seeing little in the way of activity for the first 15 years of its existence, the DBC is home to some of the most sizeable and significant industrial development in the western suburbs.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

CITY COUNCIL

Ward 1



Lori Chassee
(630) 231-8709



James Beifuss
(630) 231-0584



Jayme Sheahan
(630) 330-7972



Heather Brown
(630) 853-7131



Michael Ferguson
(630) 248-6053



Alton Hallett
(630) 254-7112

Ward 4



Sandy Dimas
(630) 293-5170



Melissa Ferguson
(630) 621-0128



Christopher Swiatek
(630) 217-5885



Matt Garling
(630) 791-0575

Ward 5



Rebecca Stout
(630) 293-7335



Jeanne M. Short
(630) 293-2200

Ward 3



Michael Ferguson
(630) 248-6053



Alton Hallett
(630) 254-7112

Ward 6



Rebecca Stout
(630) 293-7335



Jeanne M. Short
(630) 293-2200

Ward 7



John Jakabcsin
(630) 386-7267



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*