

WEST CHICAGO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

Staff Success Leads to City Recognition

City of West Chicago staff members experienced significant achievements within their respective Departments providing special recognition for the City.



Chief of Police Colin Fleury to Serve on DuPage County Chiefs of Police Association

Police Chief Colin Fleury, was requested to serve on the Executive Board for the DuPage County Chiefs of Police Association as well as the Deputy Coordinator of Tactical Operations for the Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team (MERIT) of DuPage which oversees MERIT's SWAT Team, K-9 Team, and the Crisis Negotiators

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City Begins Preparation for New Recreational Park at Kerr-McGee Site



The former Rare Earths Facility (REF) is in its final stage of cleaning before it is transferred to the City of West Chicago.

In preparation for the property transfer, the City has issued a Request for Proposals to landscape design firms to help the City create the park that will be built on the old REF site. As part of this process, the City intends to get public comment and meaningful community involvement to assist in shaping the final park design.

From 1932 to 1973 the

REF extracted thorium from monazite ore. The operations generated significant quantities of waste materials and contamination of the surrounding areas. As a result, significant decommissioning and cleanup work at the REF has been accomplished since the 1980s, with the final train car carrying thorium-contaminated soil departing the City in November 2015.

As the Trustee of the West Chicago Environmental Response Trust (WCERT), Weston Solutions, Inc., has

begun implementing initial site activities for undertaking the final decommissioning of the REF. This final remediation will take three to five years to complete, after which the land associated with the REF will be conveyed to the City of West Chicago.

The City of West Chicago has created a webpage to provide residents with more background of the Kerr McGee site and the former Rare Earths Facility (REF) cleanup. To learn more visit westchicago.org/kerrmcgee.



West Chicago City Hall
475 Main Street
West Chicago, IL 60185

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Fall Hydrant Flushing Begins October 3

The City's Utility Division staff will begin Fall Hydrant Flushing, weather permitting, from Monday, October 3 through Monday, October 24. The work is primarily completed between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Signs will be posted in areas prior to hydrant flushing.

Free Leaf Collection Begins the Week of October 24

Free leaf pickup is available for residents beginning the week of October 24 through the week of November 25. During this period, the City's contracted refuse collector, Groot, will collect leaves at no additional cost on residents' regularly scheduled garbage collection dates. Leaves must be placed in brown lawn refuse bags, and set within the parkway for collection. No refuse stickers are required during this period.

Pumpkin Collection Event is November 5

The partnership of SCARCE, the West Chicago Environmental Commission, and the Green Disciples of the First United Methodist Church of West Chicago will host a pumpkin collection program on Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the First United

Methodist Church parking lot at 643 East Washington Street. Residents will be able to discard their pumpkins which will then be composted. All pumpkins must be free of yarn and other items that are not compostable, including candle holders.

Brush Collection Program Ends Week of November 7

The City's Brush Collection Program provides residents a monthly opportunity to place brush out for pickup. Brush may be placed at the curb up to two days prior to the initial brush pickup date for the month. Please note: brush collection does not coincide with regularly scheduled garbage/recycling collection days. The final dates of 2022 are as follows:

- Monday, October 3 (brush can be placed no earlier than Saturday, October 1)
- Monday, November 7 (brush can be placed no earlier than Saturday, November 5)

For more information about the Brush Collection Program, please visit westchicago.org/brush-collection-program.

Holiday Light Collection Begins November 25

Beginning Friday, November 25 through Friday, January 20, strands of incandescent and LED holiday lights, and extension

cords, may be dropped off at designated bins at the following locations:

- City Hall, 475 Main Street
- First United Methodist Church of West Chicago, 643 E. Washington Street
- Murphy Ace Hardware, 319 S. Neltor Boulevard
- West Chicago Water Treatment Plant, 1400 W. Hawthorne Lane
- West Chicago Public Library, 118 W. Washington Street
- The ARC Center, 201 W. National Street

Yard Waste Collection Ends November 30

Yard Waste Collection for residents will end the week of November 30. Through this time, yard waste materials will still be able to be collected on primary collection days. To be collected, all yard waste, including leaves, must be placed in a 95-gallon yard waste cart or a "Kraft" biodegradable paper bag with one Universal "Refuse" sticker affixed.

2022 Business Registration Renewal Due December 31

All businesses and non-profit organizations within the corporate limits of West Chicago are required to renew their Business Registration on an annual basis. The required annual registration renewal fee is \$30, if

received by December 31, 2022.

Annual Business Registration Renewals can be completed online by visiting westchicago.org/business-registration/.

Local Veterans' Banners on Display through November

Beginning in September, the City installed 50 streetlight pole banners to honor local Veterans this fall as part of its Veterans' Day Banner display. Each banner features a photo of a local veteran along with information about them regarding their service. The City has provided a digital map of the locations of the different banners which can be found by visiting westchicago.org/veteransday.

City Office Closures

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25; and Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26. Garbage and recycling collection will be delayed by one day these weeks.

Coffee with the Mayor

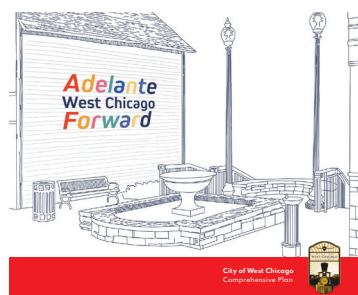
Saturday, December 10
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
West Chicago City Hall
475 Main Street

Join Mayor Pineda for an informal discussion of community items of interest.

Staff Success

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Units. Chief Fleury also recently completed the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) National Command Course (NCC) in July.



City's Community Development Department Receives Planning Award for Comprehensive Plan

The City's new Comprehensive Plan was recognized by the American Planning Association – Illinois Chapter as the winner of the 2022 'Daniel Burnham

Award'. Staff members within the City's Community Development Department recently completed the design of the new Plan with the assistance of consultants that included MUSE Community + Design and the Antero Group.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

sharing the company of each other should not be taken for granted. From an embrace of a family member or friend to a simple welcoming gesture from a stranger, all our time spent with others should be greatly appreciated.

With this in mind, I personally enjoyed the recent visit from residents of West Chicago's Sister City, Taufkirchen (Vils), including Burgermeister Stefan Haberl. It was truly wonderful to reconnect with our friends across the globe, and I'd like to thank each of them for taking the time to visit us as well as express my gratitude to the West Chicago Sister Cities organization for coordinating the visit and the Meet the Mayors event.

Apart from individual greetings, I'm thankful to see the community returning to celebrating together as well. Our downtown has surged back to life with the return of our City events along with the installation of some amazing artwork along Main Street as part of the "Year of the Alebrijes" celebration. And, as we experience the changing of the seasons, we'll still be able to continue to celebrate

together as we enjoy upcoming events including Halloween Festivities in October and Frosty Fest in December. It's great to view our City as a place for residents, as well as visitors, to enjoy together.

With regards to visitors, soon many of us will welcome our own visitors into our residences during the holiday season. As we individually celebrate being together with our loved ones, I encourage you to take the time to reflect and share all your positive experiences from 2022 along with the things that you are grateful for this year. Hopefully, like myself, you can share some fond memories of experiences that you enjoyed and appreciated in this special place that we all call home.

As a resident and Mayor of West Chicago, I am grateful to call West Chicago my home and I am thankful for all the good fortune our City has experienced this past year.

On behalf of the City of West Chicago, I hope you continue to have a memorable rest of your year, and enjoy a happy holiday season amongst your friends and family.

The changing of the seasons is upon us, and soon all the leaves of summer will be changed to the bright colors of fall and eventually the brisk evenings of winter.

As fall comes to our City, so does the following holiday season as well. As I reflect on 2022 and the upcoming holiday of Thanksgiving and the impending new year, I can only think of how grateful I am for the memorable year West Chicago has had.

Much like the rest of the world, this year we seen our lives return to some form of normalcy after previous years of uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The quote, "absence makes the heart grow fonder," certainly holds true when giving thought into the time we spent away from one another.

After enduring the pandemic, the simple experience of

Mayor

Ruben Pineda

City Administrator

Michael Guttman

Deputy City Clerk

Valeria Perez

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

Christine Dettmann

(630) 300-4188

Alton Hallett

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Ward 4

Sandy Dimas

(630) 293-5170

Melissa Ferguson

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Ward 5

Christopher Swiatek

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Matt Garling

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Rebecca Stout

(630) 293-7335

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Ward 7

John Jakabcsin

(630) 386-7267

Joseph Morano

(630) 673-9142

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Awarded contract for engineering services to complete a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey for the City's southeastern area located within the quadrant east of Joliet Street; south of Forest Avenue; west of IL-59; and north of Roosevelt Road.
- Approved Ordinance converting portions of Hahn Place from

Forest Avenue to Dale Street, and Hazel Street from Joliet Street to Bishop Street to one-way streets on a trial basis through the end of the first school trimester.

- Issued Proclamation recognizing West Chicago Park District's 50-year anniversary

- Approved multiple events including: Halloween Festivities,

Frosty Fest, Frosty 5K, Wheaton Academy Homecoming Fireworks Display

The West Chicago City Council meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Previous and upcoming meeting information is posted at westchicago.org/wcgovernment/meeting-minutes-agendas.

"Year of Alebrijes" Inspires Downtown Artwork



In June, the City proclaimed 2022 as the "Year of the Alebrijes" in West Chicago to recognize the contributions of all the partners, sponsors and artists that made the event at Cantigny Park's *Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World* a success. As part of the proclamation, the City and its community partners developed multiple events and activities to celebrate the proclamation while bringing something unique to the community.

Visitors to West Chicago can find different art installations placed throughout the downtown area through October as part of West Chicago's "Year of the Alebrijes" celebration. Art installations include a series of window art displays designed by the City's local artist, Giovanni Arellano, along with the installation of multiple large-scale temporary murals created using original drawings produced by the artists featured in Cantigny Park's

Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World art exhibit.

As many of the exhibits and events conclude, the City would like to thank all of its partners for their assistance in creating a special experience for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Visit westchicago.org/alebrijes for a list of all the community partners along with a map highlighting the exhibits and events that are part of the "Year of the Alebrijes."

DOWNTOWN EXHIBITS

Artists of a Dream World Tour

Seven different large-scale temporary murals created using drawings from the different artists from the Cantigny Park exhibit.

Vision of a Dream World

A 24-foot long mural located at the Supermercado Tampico store depicting alebrijes entering West Chicago.

Alebrijes x Warhol

Painting exhibit across multiple downtown windows featuring the work of local artist, Giovanni Arellano, that combines the Mexican cultural art form of alebrijes and the art form of 'Pop Art'.

WeGo Spirit Trail

'Art walk' and scavenger hunt featuring 14 smaller murals similar to graphics created for "Artists of a Dream World Tour" hidden along the Illinois Prairie Path.

West Chicago Alebrije Sculpture

8-feet tall sculpture made of items to resemble an alebrije that is specific to West Chicago.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Alebrijes At Night

Thursday, October 13
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
118 W. Washington Street
<https://wcpld.info/>

Visit the Library's alebrijes at night tent on the library lawn and see mythical creatures light up the night. Participants will build their own craft and enjoy light refreshments. Suitable for all ages.

'Coco' on the Lawn

Saturday, October 22
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
118 W. Washington Street
<https://wcpld.info/>

Bring the family and enjoy a special showing of the movie, 'Coco', on the Library's lawn. Enjoy the movie from your vehicle or the lawn.

Halloween Festivities

Saturday, October 29
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Downtown West Chicago
westchicago.org/halloween

Enjoy a spook-tacular afternoon full of fang-tastic fun for the whole family in downtown West Chicago. Residents can count on a fun downtown trick-or-treat experience along with other fun fall activities.

Frosty Fest

Saturday, December 3
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Downtown West Chicago
westchicago.org/frostyfest

Join the community in the downtown area for the City's annual Frosty Fest event that starts out with the Frosty Fest Procession and official West Chicago Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Gallery 200 Art Exhibits

103 W. Washington Street

Visit peoplemadevisible.com/gallery-200 for more information about exhibits and gallery hours.

Juan Chawuk: Iridiscencia Cultural

Mexican Cultural Center DuPage's exhibit looking inside the work of Chiapas, Mexico, based artist who has contributed to West Chicago's public art in downtown.

Monthly Artist Exhibits

- October: Annual Artoberfest group show in celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month opens Friday, October 7
- November: Sue Tripp and Friends Fused Glass Show open Friday, November 4
- December: Small gifts of Art group

show, opens Friday, December 2.

West Chicago City Museum

132 Main Street

Visit wegohistory.com for more information about exhibits, events, and museum hours.

Tales Tombstones Tell

Friday, October 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery.

Historiography: Museum Non-Fiction Book Club

Thursdays; October 20, November 17

Sensory Walks (In partnership with Healthy West Chicago & People Made Visible)

Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. through November 5 beginning at Gallery 200.