

WEST CHICAGO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022

COMMUNITY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Spring Hydrant Flushing Through April 29

The City of West Chicago's Water Utility Division staff is conducting Spring Hydrant Flushing, weather permitting, through April 29. The work is primarily completed between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Signs will be posted in the areas prior to hydrant flushing.

Yard Waste Collection Underway

Yard waste collection is underway and runs through November 30. During this time, yard waste materials are able to be collected on your primary collection day. All yard waste, including leaves, must be placed in a 95-gallon yard waste cart or a "Kraft" biodegradable paper bag. Each bag of yard waste material must have one universal sticker

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West Chicago Set to Welcome Alebrijes Exhibit with Community Events and Activities

The City of West Chicago in collaboration with its Cultural Arts Commission, the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, West Chicago Public Library District, the West Chicago Park District, and People Made Visible will be hosting a series of family friendly events and community activities to coincide with the upcoming "Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World" exhibit at Cantigny Park. The upcoming "Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World" exhibit begins Wednesday, June



1 and will run through Sunday, October 30. Visit cantigny.org/alebrijes for more information about the exhibit.

To kick off the events, the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage is hosting a special

art exhibit at Gallery 200 through August 27 featuring some preliminary models and drawings of alebrijes created by artists that will have work featured at Cantigny Park.

Community members are encouraged to follow the City of West Chicago and its community partners on their social media accounts for upcoming details about different events that will be happening in our community over the next few months to celebrate the alebrijes exhibit.

West Chicago Police Department Seeking New Recruits for Explorer Program

The West Chicago Police Department is seeking teens and young adults who have a genuine interest in law enforcement to join its Explorer Program.

Program attendees meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month for approximately 1.5 hours where they receive in-depth,

first-hand experience in training topics that include: traffic stops, first aid, use of force, crime scene investigation, and special operations.

Eligible applicants must be under the age of 21 and at least 14 years of age and have completed 8th grade. Applicants must also

live in West Chicago or a neighboring community, and have a genuine interest in law enforcement.

Please contact Community Relations Officer Robyn Nielsen at 630-293-2222 or rnielsen@westchicago.org for more information about the Program.



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

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60185

COMMUNITY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

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affixed for collection. The bag should not weigh more than 50 pounds. No plastic bags or metal containers may be used for yard waste collection.

Visit the City's website at westchicago.org/yard-waste for more information.



Remember To Leash Your Dog

West Chicago City Ordinance prohibits dogs from running at large within the City. Apart from following the City Ordinance, having your dog on a leash when in public or open spaces, protects them and others from any possible altercations that can have negative results for all parties.

If you encounter a dog running around without a leash please distance yourself from the animal and then call the West Chicago Police Department at 9-1-1.

Citywide Bulk Item Collection Event Is May 2 Through May 6

The City's Bulk Item Collection Event is scheduled for Monday, May 2 through Friday, May 6. As part of the event, residents can place multiple acceptable bulk

items out for collection at the same time by affixing (8) universal stickers on the collection of items. The items will then be collected on residents' regularly scheduled garbage/recycling pickup days.

Visit the City's website at westchicago.org/citywide-bulk-item-collection-event for more information.

Brush Collection Program Begins May 2

The City's Brush Collection Program begins on May 2. As part of the Program, residents can place brush out for pickup at the curb up to two days prior to the initial brush pickup date for the month, which begins on the first Monday of the month unless a holiday is present. Please note: Brush collection does not coincide with residents' regularly scheduled garbage/recycling days. Spring brush pickup dates are as follows:

- Monday, May 2 (brush can be placed no earlier than Saturday, April 30)
- Monday, June 6 (brush can be placed no earlier than Saturday, June 4)

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

City Offices Closed May 30

Non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.

Paper Shredding Event Is June 4

The West Chicago Environmental Commission will host an on-site paper-shredding event on Saturday, June 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Metra Parking Lot located at 508 Main Street. Please note: the event may end early if the trucks get full.

Local residents and business owners can bring up to ten boxes for onsite document shredding. Residents must keep their empty boxes. Please remove all binders, rubber bands, plastic page protectors, plastic bags, plastic file tabs, CDs and other hard items as they are a fire hazard for the shred truck. Staples and paper clips do not need to be removed.



Rain Barrel Program Runs Through June 4

The annual Rain Barrel Program is underway and runs through June 4. This Program allows residents to purchase rain barrels at a discounted rate that can then be picked up on Saturday, June 4 at the Metra Station Parking Lot located at 508 Main Street from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Home delivery is also available and takes approximately five to 10 business days for delivery.

Visit the City's website at

westchicago.org/news/rain-barrel-program for more information.

Vacation Watch Program

The Vacation Watch Program offers free residential security checks for vacationing or hospitalized residents of single-family homes or duplexes. Uniformed members of the West Chicago Police Department periodically check registered homes during the homeowner's absence. As the summer nears and you are making plans for a vacation, please consider utilizing this free Program by visiting westchicago.org/departments/police.

Board & Commission Vacancies

The City of West Chicago is seeking residents and non-residents to fill vacancies on several of the following City Boards and Commissions:

- Cultural Arts Commission
- Historical Preservation Commission

Visit westchicago.org/wcgovernment/boards-commissions for more information.

Employment Opportunities

The City of West Chicago is currently seeking applicants for the following employment opportunities:

- Chief Building Official
- Economic Development Coordinator

To find out more about these opportunities, visit westchicago.org/jobs.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

development of our City.

- The City renewed its investment in our downtown with the City Council recently approving the creation of the Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District 2.

- The City Council approved, and residents will soon see, the revival of our community events, including Blooming Fest, Food Festival and Railroad Days.

- City staff has experienced several changes in leadership as a result of recent retirements. As new professionals fill these positions, the City will benefit from new ideas to best serve our residents.

As I reflect on each of these signs of renewal, I find it equally important to also address the recent loss of the City's

longest serving City Clerk, Nancy M. Smith. Nancy's dedication to West Chicago was only matched by her love for it, and she will be greatly missed. The City is grateful for her over 30 years of service and passes its condolences to all her family for its loss.

I look forward to reviewing these achievements and more during my State of the City presentation on Monday, May 16. Highlights from my presentation will be posted on the City website and social media platforms following the event for everyone to view.

As a resident and Mayor of West Chicago, I am excited and hopeful for the future ahead for our City, but I also encourage everyone to simply enjoy the present as we welcome spring into our wonderful community.

Spring has once again arrived in the City of West Chicago. In reflecting on the many signs of renewal this season brings, I would also like to highlight some of the great signs of renewal the City has experienced over the past year as well.

- The City continues to maintain and revitalize our infrastructure, and completed over \$3.7 million in capital projects in 2021.

- The City Council approved a new Comprehensive Plan and Economic Development Plan that will provide a newly envisioned future for the planned

Mayor

Ruben Pineda

City Administrator

Michael Guttman

Deputy City Clerk

Valeria Perez

CITY COUNCIL

Ward 1

Lori Chassee
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James Beifuss
(630) 231-0584

Ward 2

Jayme Sheahan
(630) 330-7972

Heather Brown
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Ward 3

Christine Dettmann
(630) 300-4188

Alton Hallett
(630) 254-7112

Ward 4

Sandy Dimas
(630) 293-5170

Melissa Ferguson
(630) 621-0128

Ward 5

Christopher Swiatek
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Matt Garling
(630) 791-0575

Ward 6

Rebecca Stout
(630) 293-7335

Jeanne M. Short
(630) 293-2200

Ward 7

John Jakabcsin
(630) 386-7267

Joseph Morano
(630) 673-9142

CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Adopted the City of West Chicago Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map

- Approved the Development Plan for property at 805B Discover Drive at DuPage Business Center

- Approved engineering services to complete the design of a traffic signal at Roosevelt Road and Technology Boulevard

- Approved multiple events including: Blooming Fest, Railroad Days, and Food Fest

- Updated the City ordinance increasing the allowance of pet animals from three to four pets per household

- Approved the official 2022 Zoning Map

- Approved the Downtown TIF District #2

- Approved establishment of Economic Development Commission

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 on the City's website at westchicago.org/wcgovernment/meeting-minutes-agendas.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Blooming Fest

Saturday, May 21
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Downtown West Chicago

Come explore the historic West Chicago downtown area while viewing a variety of plants, artwork, and other goods from event vendors as part of this official kick-off to spring. More information can be found at Bloomingfest.org.

Downtown Art Banner Exhibit

Begins May 16
Downtown West Chicago

Stroll through West Chicago's downtown area and view over 40 different street pole banners featuring different artworks from artists all across the country. The exhibit will be up through September.

Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, June 4

This free family event sponsored by the City of West Chicago and the West Chicago Park District is a 2-hour event where children can explore, discover, and climb on a variety of vehicles including big rigs, fire engines, police cars, and more. Follow the City's social media pages and website for more information.

Coffee with the Mayor

Saturday, June 25
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
475 Main Street

Join Mayor Pineda on the last Saturday of each month from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. for an informal discussion of community items of interest.

Gallery 200 Art Exhibits

Gallery 200 is located at 103

W. Washington St., and is open Thursdays and Fridays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information visit peoplemadevisible.com/gallery-200.

Maquetas & Bocetos

April through August 27

The Mexican Cultural Center DuPage will host Maquetas & Bocetos: Creatures of a Dream World featuring models and drawings that were created as part of the artwork featured at the "Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World" exhibit at Cantigny Park.

Art In Full Bloom

Begins May 6

To complement the West Chicago's Blooming Fest, Gallery 200 will host a special exhibit in May inspired by the blooming of spring and the renewal of the season.

Opening Reception: Friday, May 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Featured Artist Exhibit: Maggie Capettini

Begins June 6

Oil painter Maggie Capettini will show her floral paintings during the month of June. Maggie captures florals in an impressionistic manner, using color and texture to create vibrant, fresh paintings.

Opening Reception: Friday, June 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

West Chicago City Museum Events

The West Chicago City

Museum is located at 132 Main St., and is open

Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit wegohistory.com.

Historiography: Museum Non-Fiction Book Club

Dates: Thursdays; April 21, May 19, June 16

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Join the City Museum staff for a series of fun and interesting discussions about featured history books. All are welcome and no need to have finished the book to join the discussion. If you have trouble getting a book, you can contact the City Museum. The book discussions are as follows:

- April 21: When the Astors Owned New York: Blue Bloods and Grand Hotels in a Gilded Age by Justin Kaplan

- May 19: The Woman They Could Not Silence: The Shocking Story of a Woman Who Dared to Fight Back by Kate Moore

- June 16: The Last Castle: The Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty in the Nation's Largest Home by Denis Kiernan

Strolls through History

Join Museum staff to explore downtown West Chicago and other local history locations. Tours run 30 to 45 minutes, and are weather dependent. Please check the West Chicago City Museum website, wegohistory.com, and social media accounts for any cancellations. This

program is in partnership with Healthy West Chicago. Event dates, times, and meeting locations are as follows:

- Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m.: Trains of West Chicago (134 Turner Court)

- Saturday, May 21 at 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.: Downtown West Chicago Through the Decades (132 Main Street)

- Thursday, June 23rd at 10:00 a.m.: Mexican West Chicago Tour (103 W. Washington Street)

Healthy West Chicago

Healthy West Chicago is a collaboration of community leaders organized to increase nutrition and physical activity in West Chicago. For more information, please visit healthywestchicago.org.

Yoga on the Lawn

June 7, 14, 21, & 28
6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

End your Tuesday on the lawn of the West Chicago Library (118 W Washington) for a 45-minute outdoor yoga class to gently connect your mind and body. No prior experience required. Please bring a mat, a towel, or blanket to class. Events are weather permitting.

Spring Fit City Challenge

April through May 31

Visit SparkWestChicago.com to sign up you and your family, or business, to participate in the Spring Fit City Challenge that runs through May 31. This free virtual movement challenge is an opportunity for West Chicago to compete against other cities across America.