Spring, at last! While April can still throw us a couple of curve (snow) balls, we can and should begin planning for cleanup projects, needed home repairs, garden preparations, and neighborhood beautification. The City has some suggestions, resources and events to help make it easier, as well as to provide inspiration.

Much has been written about why messy surroundings cause stress in our daily lives and how decluttering often leads to a greater sense of well-being, productivity and creativity. The **annual Citywide Collection Event** is a great opportunity to test this theory and get rid of unwanted items that cause clutter and pose hazards in the garage, attic, basement, closet or anywhere else around the house. The Event is offered to residents on the **regularly scheduled garbage collection day during the period of May 7 – 11, 2018**. If you live in a single or two-family residence, you need only **affix a total of eight (8) refuse stickers** on your pile of discards. Some items are excluded from the Event and the best way to find out what these are is to visit [www.westchicago.org under Residents/Services/Citywide Collection Event](http://www.westchicago.org) or by calling (630) 293-2255.

Eliminating the mountains of paper from old financial records to billing statements and more can be another source of anxiety due to the fear of identity theft or other security breaches. Thanks to the efforts of the City’s Environmental Commission, residents can ensure that personal and financial documents are destroyed in a safe, secure and environmentally responsible manner. The Commission will be hosting an **On-site Paper Shredding Event on Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** in the City Hall parking lot at 475 Main Street. Confidential materials are destroyed on the premises by trained professionals in a matter of minutes while you watch. Local residents and businesses may bring up to 10 boxes for this valuable service.

Also **on Saturday, June 2, 2018, in the City Hall parking lot**, pre-ordered **rain barrels** may be picked up. A rain barrel is an easy and environmentally-friendly way to collect rain water for outdoor use, including watering plants and washing your car. Rain barrels are offered for sale through a partnership between the West Chicago Environmental Commission and The Conservation Foundation. Available barrels hold 55-gallons and come in multiple colors. Prices start as low as $60. There is also a 50-gallon barrel available for $55. Rain barrel accessories and composters are also available. They may be ordered online through May 31, 2018. For more information, or to purchase a rain barrel, visit [http://upcycle-products.com/westchicagoil.html](http://upcycle-products.com/westchicagoil.html).

*Enjoy spring!*
Inspiration comes in the form of sunny skies, warmer temperatures, longer days, and a beloved annual event for which we’ve waited all winter – Blooming Fest, scheduled on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in our historic downtown. The West Chicago Garden Club plant sale, crafts, free garden advice from Master Gardeners and other garden professionals, great food, entertainment and kids’ activities are just some of the elements being planned by our dedicated committee of community volunteers, business representatives, and City staff. It will be a great day on Main Street, and I personally invite you all to start your morning with a cup of coffee at the City booth where I’ll be hosting May’s Coffee with the Mayor.

While downtown, don’t forget to raise your sights to the vibrant display of Pop Art street banners created by local and area artists in a brand new year of the Cultural Arts Commission’s Community Art Banner Exhibit. Interactive maps for your mobile devices will also be available to guide you through the festival and the Banner Exhibit. Check the City’s website for further details.

I am so proud of our City and know you are too. One of the big takeaways of the community visioning process which resulted in the West Chicago Strategic Plan was the strong sentiment that it’s time we let others outside the City know about our success. For this reason, the City is pursuing national recognition through America in Bloom (AiB), a program that acknowledges community building efforts that engage citizens, partner organizations, and businesses which result in citywide beautification. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in a number of projects being planned. Share your love of gardening and community by joining the effort to create a winning community profile for AiB judges who will visit our City in July. Call or email Rosemary Mackey at (630) 293-2200 x139 or rmackey@westchicago.org to learn more. Let’s do this together, West Chicago.

Respectfully,
Ruben Pineda

The City of West Chicago is pleased to announce the publication of a dedicated section on the City website for Spanish speakers. Tu Ciudad is a direct result of the City’s vision and commitment to One West Chicago from the 2016 Strategic Plan.

One West Chicago is a call to action to broaden participation in community leadership, invest in long-term relationships and form partnerships with all members of the West Chicago community to reinforce that there is One West Chicago, made stronger by its diversity.

Communication plays a vital role in forming partnerships and fostering civic engagement with community members. Tu Ciudad is an example of a number of tools City staff is utilizing to expand the City’s Strategic Communications Plan to reach Spanish speaking residents, business owners, and visitors.
Get Moving
Spring yard care offers the opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and keep your property tidy at the same time. Regular maintenance of your home and yard helps keep all our neighborhoods beautiful. Please note the following recommendations:

Dead Tree Removal – A quick inspection of your yard this spring may reveal that trees or bushes have not survived the winter. Now is the time to plan for their prompt removal because dead or dying trees are not just an eyesore, but they can result in very serious consequences for homeowners, passersby, and property if branches, limbs or even trunks were to fall. While the City does not require a permit for this, it is important to hire a qualified individual to ensure its safe removal as soon as possible.

Brush Pickup – Brush should not be placed at the curb any sooner than the weekend prior to the monthly pickup. Brush pickup does not begin until the first full week of the month beginning in May. Note that you will be issued a $50.00 fine for brush placed at the curb too early.

Tall Grass and Weeds – Whether you own your home or rent, please help keep your grass trimmed to a height of less than eight inches. Dandelions grow very quickly this time of year and more frequent cuttings might be necessary. Also, if you are out of town for an extended period, please make arrangements to have your grass cut in your absence. Finally, if you do receive a Notice of Ordinance Violation for tall grass and/or weeds, please mow your grass within seven days to prevent further enforcement action, such as fines. Feel free to contact us if any extenuating circumstances exist at (630) 293-2200, x141 to discuss extensions to a deadline.

Art & Culture

Gallery 200
Over 50 hardworking students from West Chicago Community High School will be displaying their exceptional artwork at Gallery 200 during the month of April. Throughout the school year, students have grown in their mastery of materials, tools, techniques, and concepts. In addition to demonstrating their technical skills, students will invite those attending to join them as they explore new possibilities with their imaginations. A wide range of artwork from traditional to contemporary will be included, representing the following media: drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, digital photography, graphic art and 3D Design. Art teachers Megan Dulkinys and David Exner will be available, along with some of the student artists, during an Opening Reception which will take place at Gallery 200 on Friday, April 6, 2018, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served during the Reception.

Art in Full Bloom will be installed at Gallery 200 during the month of May. A group of Gallery artists welcome spring with open arms and will be displaying their art in all categories of media. An Opening Reception will take place on Friday, May 4, 2018 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Shed your cabin fever! Come and see what Gallery 200 artists have been creating in anticipation of spring.

For all of June 2018, Gallery 200 will feature the art of Joe Ross of West Chicago. Joe teaches oil painting basics at the DuPage Art League in Wheaton and studied fine art and commercial design at the Ringling School of Art in Florida. Joe was a draftsman and designer at several architectural firms before working in the financial field for many years and moving to Illinois. After retirement, Joe has concentrated on his art work, taking workshops and displaying his work in several galleries in the area. Joe recently did a series of watercolors featuring scenes around West Chicago and DuPage County. He will be displaying various landscapes and other paintings done in oil and watercolors as well as some photography during the month-long show. An Opening Reception is planned for Friday, June 1, 2018 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Gallery Theater
Love, Loss, and What I Wore by Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron, based on the book by Ilene Beckerman, will be directed by Gallery Theater’s Carol Townsend and runs April 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15, 2018. The play is a series of monologues and ensemble pieces about women, clothes, and memory covering all the important subjects – mothers, prom dresses, mothers, buying bras, mothers, hating purses and why we only wear black. For ticket information, visit www.gallerytheaterstudio.org.

GALLERY 200
103 W. Washington Street • (630) 293-9550 • www.gallery200.org

GALLERY THEATER
129 Main Street • (630) 234-5919 • www.gallerytheaterstudio.org
APRIL
6 Opening Reception
D94 Art Students
Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

6, 7, 13 & 14
Gallery Theater Presents:
Love, Loss and What I Wore
Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street
7:30 p.m.

8 & 15
Gallery Theater Presents:
Love, Loss and What I Wore
Gallery Theater, 129 Main Street
3:00 p.m.

MAY
4 Opening Reception for
Art in Full Bloom
Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

18 Live Remote with Scott Mackay of The River Radio
Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Artéculture Preview Night
Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

19 Blooming Fest & Artéculture
Downtown
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

JUNE
1 Opening Reception for
Artist Joe Ross
Gallery 200, 103 West Washington Street
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

2 Touch a Truck
Turtle Splash Parking Lot,
129 W. National Street
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

9 Concert and Fireworks
The Shell, Reed-Keppler Park
129 W. National Street
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

30 Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social
West Chicago Public Library Lawn
118 W. Washington Street
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Artéculture
Artists are wanted to participate in
Artéculture, the upcoming multi-media art show at
Gallery 200 on May 18 – 19, 2018. Information and
online application are available at www.westchicago.org under Residents/Forms and Applications.

Join Scott Mackay of 95.9 The River at
Gallery 200 on Friday, May 18, 2018 from
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. for a live remote to promote
Artéculture, Blooming Fest and America in Bloom. Free food and fun!

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
Kurt Meissner
(630) 235-4725
Matt Garling
(630) 231-8709

Ward 5

Ward 6

Ward 7

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

Bonnie Gagliardi
(630) 677-5836
Noreen Ligno-Kubinski
(630) 762-9929