



Warm Welcome by Bruce Treudt page 1



Photograph by Nikki Wright page 4



Summer fun for all
WeGo! Write your own haiku
Spread some joy around

page 1

WINDOW TO WEST CHICAGO

Summer 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

- July 3**
City Hall Closed
- July 25**
Coffee with the Mayor
- August 22 - 23**
Healthy West Chicago 5K
- August 29**
Coffee with the Mayor
- September 1 - 30**
Move with the Mayor Challenge
- September 12 -13**
Viva Mexico Independence Day Celebration
- September 26**
Coffee with the Mayor
- Through November 2**
Brush Collection
- Through November 30**
Yard Waste Collection

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.



Attention all West Chicago butterfly lovers, and there are many. Two new public gardens have been designed and installed through a collaboration between the **West Chicago Park District, the City of West Chicago, and resident and Master Naturalist Judith Horsley**, who applied for and received a grant on the Park District's behalf from the North American Monarch Institute (NAMI) in Madison, Wisconsin.

Work began over the summer of 2019 and was completed this spring, resulting in pollinator gardens that will delight, educate, and inspire children and adults about Monarch conservation. An added design element envisioned by Michael Gasparini, Superintendent of Parks, to form the landscape beds in the shape of large butterflies, literally gave the gardens their wings.

The gardens will be located at **Reed-Keppler Park, 201 W. National Street and Don Earley Park, 840 E. Washington Street**. The Don Earley Park Monarch garden will serve as a "laboratory" for citizen-scientist involvement and as a potential site for a Monarch festival, once State guidelines for large gatherings are permitted. Community involvement with planting the garden was part of the proposal, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was not possible. More details of the project may be found on the City's website, www.westchicago.org.

The West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission (WCCAC) has had an equally busy and creative spring. Two projects of note will add beauty, positivity, and a sense of hope for the future to all in the community. The annual **Art Banner Exhibit** that has been installed on Main Street and West Washington Street could not be timelier in its theme of **Home**. The work of 17 artists are on display for the entire summer and residents and visitors may vote online for their favorite this year. The People's Choice online ballot and information about the artists' inspirations are available on the City's website, www.westchicago.org, along with a map that helps identify their individual location. The following artists have contributed to the public art banner project that has become a summer staple in downtown West Chicago: **Lewis Achenbach, Margaret Bucholz, Krystal Fuller, Annie van Gorkom, Anni Holm, Krista Kimme, James Lauro, Christopher Lucero, Kathy Manning, Buddy Plumlee, Laurie Pollpeter Eskenazi, Cassandra Reymundo, Bridget Simbila, Janelle Standing, Kathy Steere, Emese Toth, and Bruce Treudt**.

Another art form, the art of **Haiku**, is also being celebrated in West Chicago this summer. The first round of 84-yard signs displaying community members' original poems written in the characteristic 5-7-5 syllable format, are currently on display throughout the City, with a Phase 2 planned for the second half of summer. The WCCAC's goal is to install twelve yard signs in each neighborhood at residences and businesses so that people could read them while out for a daily stroll or travel beyond their own neighborhood to see all of them. Commission members hope to shine a light on the poet within each member of the community, and hopes to recapture the spirit of 2019's butterfly display while recognizing the fatigue, uncertainty, and need for positivity during the current Shelter at Home status. Please visit www.westchicago.org for information on current poems and their locations, and for submission information for a Phase 2 Haiku or to register as a host location.



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

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 60
West Chicago, IL
60185

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt sorrow for those in our community who have been touched by the devastating effects of the COVID-19 virus. It has been painful to see the confirmed case numbers rise on the DuPage County Dashboard. These numbers represent mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends and neighbors. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those (as of June 20, 2020) 14 West Chicagoans who have died.

This pandemic has been especially brutal to our Latino community. According to DuPage County Health Department, the positive rate among Hispanic or Latino DuPage County residents is 5.5 times higher than that of non-Hispanic or Latino DuPage County residents.

We have worked hard to pull together and provide education and awareness of best practices to stop the spread in both English and Spanish. Last month, I contacted various community leaders and organizations to ask their help in forming a COVID-19 Communication Network that would assist efforts in reinforcing important messaging through their own channels. I thank all those who answered the call and are amplifying the critical communication that may help to stop the spread.

Resources from the County, State and Federal governments have been shared and distributed in various ways through online platforms, printed fliers, posters and banners. The City devoted a dedicated section of its website for the development of a COVID-19 Communications Center, which offers resources, current news, and updates for residents and businesses. I urge you to bookmark the site, <https://westchicago.org/west-chicago-covid-19-communications-center/>, and visit it often.



We have all been impacted in some way, some more than others. While we are continuing to recover, reducing our case numbers, reopening our economy, and learning to adapt to a new way of living, I want to share the gratitude and pride I feel for our community's resilience and my hope for its future.

Stay safe, social distance, wear your masks and wash your hands often. We need to be there for each other.

Respectfully,

Ruben Pineda, Mayor

✓ TAKENOTE

Summer Building Season and Safer Permitting Practices

As we adjust to the many uncertainties of the times in which we are living, what remains certain is that your building projects require permits to ensure safety and adherence to building and zoning codes. Community Development Department staff is working to provide physical distancing options for submitting and issuing permits. Refer to the chart below for more details and stay up-to-date on any schedule changes by checking the City website or calling (630) 293-2200 x141.

Should your project require an inspection, our inspectors will take proper safety precautions by maintaining safe distancing and wearing protective gear. We ask that you do the same.

Project	Review Period in business days	Where to Submit?	Where to Pick Up?*
Basement Remodels, Decks, Garages, Pools, Room Additions	10 days	Drop off oversized plans and submittals in excess of 10 pages at the City Hall drop box (anytime) or at the West Chicago Police Station during normal business hours (M - F, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)	Police Station (M, W, F afternoons)
Driveways, Fences, Patios, Sheds	5 to 10 days	Drop off your application and copy of Plat of Survey at the City Hall drop box (anytime) or at the Police Station during normal business hours	Police Station (M, W, F afternoons)
Roofs, Siding	3 to 5 days	Drop off your application at the City Hall drop box (anytime) or at the Police Station during normal business hours	Police Station (M, W, F afternoons)

*Please pay with a check when picking up your permit from the West Chicago Police Station, 325 Spencer Street.

Code Enforcement – Our inspectors are actively working to keep our community well maintained, but we recognize these are trying times. If you receive a Notice of Ordinance Violation from our inspectors due to a property maintenance violation, and you have questions or need additional time due to extenuating circumstances, please call the City at (630) 293-2200, x141. The City is willing to work with you whenever possible.

Tall Grass and Weeds – All properties in West Chicago are required to keep grass trimmed to a height of less than eight inches. If you happen to 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 and fees for City-contracted lawn cuttings. If you are unable to meet the deadline given, please call the City at (630) 293-2200, x 141.

Brush Pickup – Brush pickup runs from May to November of each year. Please avoid taking brush to the curb too early. Brush may be placed at the curb during the weekend just before pickup begins. Pay close attention to when brush pickup occurs, which is the first *full* week of the month (or the first Monday of each month). Note that tickets carrying fines starting at \$50.00 will be issued, without prior notice, if brush is placed at the curb too soon.

Join Healthy West Chicago (HWC) for a **virtual 5k race weekend**. This annual 5k fundraiser has moved to a virtual setting for 2020. Participants may run anywhere at any time the **weekend of August 22, 2020**. The race opens at 12:01 a.m. on August 22, 2020 and closes at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 23, 2020. All proceeds from the race will be used for HWC's sustainability and continuation of community programming. All participants will receive a race T-shirt and medal for participating. For more information and to register, visit www.raceroster.com/29234.



HWC kicks-off its **2020 Move with the Mayor** campaign on **Tuesday, September 1, 2020**. Mayor Ruben Pineda and HWC invite residents to join the month-long **Move with the Mayor Walking Challenge** and walk for heart health. Participate in community fitness challenges throughout the month for a chance to win a prize. Challenge prizes will be raffled on October 1, 2020 and winners will be notified. For more information on the Challenge, visit www.healthywestchicago.org or facebook.com/HealthyWestChicago.

Art & History

GALLERY 200

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

CITY MUSEUM

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

GALLERY 200

While regular operations at West Chicago's Gallery 200 have been impacted by COVID-19, one thing remains constant; it is a destination for the amazing talents of community artists. Earlier this spring, due to the required closure of the Gallery, the Featured Artist series went virtual with online shows of fabulous art and a Virtual Market for making purchases.

This summer, artist and resident **Judith Horsley** will be featured for the months of **July and August**, and although there



Photography by Judith Horsley

will be **no Opening Reception**, Gallery organizers are working hard to open the doors to the public for limited hours in addition to Judith's virtual show. As this was still in process at the time of publication, please visit www.gallery200.org for definite details. An avid traveler and photographer, Judith has titled her exhibit and sale, *Oh, the Places You Can Go When the Pandemic is No More!* acknowledging that the title was inspired by the book *Oh,*



Art by Sharon Malec



Art by Patty Koenigsaecker

the Places You'll Go! written by Dr. Seuss, which she read to her children when they were young.

September and October will bring fiber artists **Sharon Malec and Patty Koenigsaecker** to Gallery 200, again for a virtual show on www.gallery200.org, as well as for live viewing of their art during reduced open hours. Sharon began quilting in 1992, making traditional pieced quilts, but gradually turned to making contemporary art quilts. Her interest in animals and nature has helped to mold her unique style. Patty's work tells the story of what inspired her and she hopes that those looking at her collection find the space to add their own feelings and impressions to the story. She admits that her art has always been about inspiration, intention and communication.

Please visit www.westchicago.org for more information and photos of the work of these accomplished artists.

CITY MUSEUM

The West Chicago City Museum will continue to host virtual programs until it is safe to reopen. Joining its non-fiction monthly book club, **Historiography**, on **Thursday, July 16, August 20, and September 17, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** is easy through the Friends of the Museum's Zoom account and Facebook page. Book selections and information about participating in the virtual meetings may be found on the Friends of the West Chicago City Museum's website at wegohistory.com.

Turner Town Hall Shares, will be held on **Wednesdays, July 22, August 26, and September 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** The programs will start with a short presentation by the Museum on a local history topic and then will open up to a conversation where attendees can share their own stories and ask questions.

Final Fridays will also continue virtually with **WeGo Trivia Game Night on Fridays, July 31, August 28, September 25, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

To join any of these events, please visit the Friends of the West Chicago City Museum's Facebook page or contact the Museum at museum@westchicago.org or by phone at (630) 231-3376.



Historic Perspective on the Pandemic

Today, our community faces extreme hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, this is not the first time in history that our community has had to cope with significant impact from infectious disease. The City Museum has shared an interesting history based on archived records that tells the stories of generations that have come before us, and offers insight from the past. The article may be found on the City's website, at www.westchicago.org.



Don't miss the opportunity to become a food vendor at the **3rd Annual West Chicago Food Festival** on October 10, 2020. Applications are available at www.westchicago.org and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as space is limited. Please contact Nicolette Stefan at nstefan@westchicago.org for details.



Photograph submitted by Judy Knaak

West Chicago's strong gardening community rallied to the call for photographs of their own spring blooms or those admired around town, for a City-sponsored campaign called *Spring has Sprung* that was heavily promoted through social media and other resident communications. Over 100 photographs were received and a six-minute slideshow was produced.

The City thanks everyone who participated, the submissions were all outstanding and some of the sentiments expressed that accompanied the pictures were as lovely as the flowers.

The heartwarming positivity and pride reflected in many of the comments submitted with the photographs were inspiring and motivating. Some expressed great joy for the beauty and healing power of nature through flowers, for others it was an occasion to remember a loved one who had a hand in planting the flower or a shared memory of happier times. Most simply contained the name of the bloom.

Three random winners were chosen from those who submitted photos. They have been sent a gift card to a local retailer, while all participants received a packet of seed donated by Ball Horticultural Company, a great supporter of the City's beatification efforts. Once again this year, residents and visitors to downtown West Chicago will enjoy beautiful hanging baskets on Main Street, a gift to the community from Ball.

To view the slideshow, visit the City's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/CityofWestChicago.

Mexican Cultural Center DuPage is planning another exciting **Viva Mexico Independence Day Festival** on **September 12 – 13, 2020** in **Downtown West Chicago**. While there will be some changes this year due to adherence of State health and safety guidelines for COVID-19, a large-scale street art project and vendor booths are planned. Additionally, organizers are accommodating those who prefer to view the art and special performances virtually by providing a first-ever streaming component of the Festival. For more information, visit www.mccdpage.org.

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

Ward 2



Michael Ferguson
(630) 248-6053



Alton Hallett
(630) 254-7112

Ward 3



Rebecca Stout
(630) 293-7335



Jeanne M. Short
(630) 293-2200

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

John Jakabcsin
(630) 386-7267

Noreen Ligino-Kubinski
(630) 762-9929

Ward 7

Ruben Pineda, Mayor

Nancy Smith, City Clerk

Ward 8

Michael Guttman, City Administrator

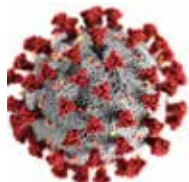
City Hall (630) 293-2200

Fire Administration (630) 231-2123

Police Administration (630) 293-2222

Police and Fire Emergency 911

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.





VNA Health Care
www.vnahealth.com

COVID-19 Community Testing Center



Leading the way in community health for over 100 years

Our Community. Our Mission. Always.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Existing and New Patients Welcome

Testing is available for those with and without COVID-19 symptoms.

If experiencing severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing or confusion, call 911.

PRE-TEST ASSESSMENT & TESTING

Individuals will be assessed by a VNA Doctor or Nurse Practitioner immediately prior to COVID-19 testing during the same appointment:

- ▶ Insurance will be billed for these services
- ▶ No insurance?

Your pre-test assessment and COVID-19 specimen testing are now being provided at NO COST TO YOU and are being covered under the provider relief fund.

Hours and Locations

VNA Health Centers

400 N. Highland Avenue, Aurora, IL 60506

Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 4:00pm

160 N. Independence Boulevard, Romeoville, IL 60446

Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 4:00pm

800 Villa Street, Elgin, IL, 60120

Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 4:00pm

350 S. Schmale Rd., Suite 150, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 4:00pm

VNA Mobile Clinic at St. Andrew's Church

155 N. Prince Crossing Rd., West Chicago, IL 60185

Tue & Thurs: 8:30am - 12:30pm

ACCEPTED INSURANCE PLANS

Medicaid

(Blue Cross Community, Meridian, IlliniCare)

Medicare Parts A & B

(must have both)

Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO Plus

(Must have both Medicare Part A & B as primary)

Other In-Network Health Plans:

Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO Plus; Cigna

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Call (630) 892-4355 or (847) 717-6455