

WEST CHICAGO TAKES FLIGHT WITH 2021 ART BANNERS



“THE IMAGE OF *TAKING OFF* DEMONSTRATES SOARING ABOVE LIFE’S CHALLENGES INTO THE NEW AND EXCITING POSSIBILITIES THAT THE YEAR 2021 HOLDS.” —Linda Schmitt about her watercolor painting, *Taking Off*.

THE 13TH ANNUAL ART BANNER EXHIBIT titled *Take Flight*, coordinated by the West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission, is now on display. The Commission hopes the artwork, hung on 23 street poles along Main Street and West Washington Street, will inspire spirits to soar this summer.

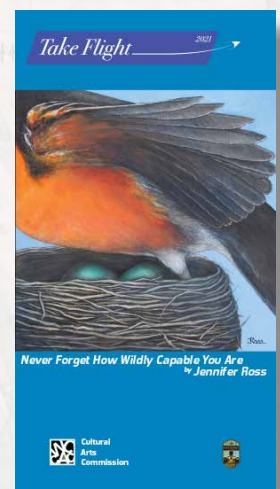
Artists, chosen by an independent juror for their work, are: Kirk Kerndl, Aileen Luo, Margaret Bucholz, Laurie Perkins, Victoria Hynes, Bruce Treudt, Judith Horsley, Rebecca Hall, Philip Weibler, Barbara Badolato, Uwe Gsedl, Barbara Dunn, Linda Schmitt, Ellen Shwatal, Mark Poulterer, Pam Keller, Ann Frantzen, Jennifer Ross, Natalia Toreeva, Brad Kimme, Steve Omberg, Gregg Anderson and Dan Colin.

Hopeful photographic images of the determined faces of horse and rider attempting a challenging jump, an exuberant skateboarder in midair, or a young girl playing with shadows as she dreams of her own flight, capture a sense of success in meeting the moment.

Then there are the images, created through assorted media including watercolor, acrylic or oil that depict the resilience of the natural world. Eagles reaching unfathomable heights over land and sea, the grace and beauty of a heron in flight, or the intuitive drive

of a robin settling into its nest as it prepares for two new lives, are among this collection. Pollinators in flight, including butterflies, bees, dragonflies, and hummingbirds remind us of perseverance and the power found in the smallest activities that result in things of great consequence.

The public is invited to explore the collection of banners using a downloadable map designed by graphic artist and Commission member Uwe Gsedl, and/or by using an interactive map found on the City’s website in the Maps Portal. Additionally, the public is encouraged to vote for their favorite banner. There is a limit of one vote per person for the People’s Choice Award, and ballots may be found online at westchicago.org.



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

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

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



Ruben Pineda,
Mayor
Nancy Smith,
City Clerk
Michael Guttman,
City Administrator

CITY COUNCIL

WARD 1

Lori Chasse
(630) 231-8709

James Beifuss
(630) 231-0584

Ward 2

Jayne Sheahan
(630) 330-7972

Heather Brown
(630) 853-7131

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
(630) 217-5885

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

FROM THE *mayor*

The following update on recent economic growth is an excerpt from the 2021 State of the City Address: A Year Like No Other

WHILE CITYWIDE EFFORTS TO HELP our community’s residents and businesses through the crisis of an unprecedented pandemic dominated our focus in 2020, we recognized that part of that focus had to provide for the future economic stability of the City. An Economic Development Plan was drafted in 2020 and will serve as a future roadmap for the next several years, ensuring the City’s economic base while navigating through global economic shifts. The Plan takes into account the retail challenges of an increasingly online consumer market and the ability to retain a healthy manufacturing sector while eventually transitioning towards a knowledge-based economy.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the past year, we realized major

growth in the DuPage Business Center, with the construction of buildings for Alton Industries, Amazon, Greco/DeRosa Investment Group, Scannell Properties and Midwest Industrial Funds. Additionally, both vacant used car dealerships are now occupied. Planet Fitness will occupy significant space at the former Hobby Lobby location, and Jalapeño Burger is moving into the Tastee Freeze site. With General Mills having been purchased the year prior, all key vacant sites are either occupied or soon-to-be occupied – significant accomplishments during the year of the pandemic.

Between January 2020 and March 2021, 84 new businesses have opened in West Chicago. The number of jobs generated from these new businesses exceeds 400 - definitely a

cause for celebration.

Our existing business community has relied on your support to keep their doors open over the past year. Please continue to shop and dine locally whenever possible.

We will have exciting news to release in the very near future regarding our once in a generation Central Main Street Redevelopment Project in the area between the historic downtown and City Hall. There are developers revising pro forma and submitting development concept plans for townhomes and mixed use commercial buildings/apartments. We look forward to this area’s first groundbreaking, which is slated to occur in 2021, with great anticipation. I will keep you informed as things progress on that front.

✓ **TAKENOTE**

HOME BUYING ACTIVITY IS ON THE RISE, experts say, as recovery from the pandemic inches forward and mortgage rates and home inventory remain low. So whether you are just thinking about selling your home or already entertaining offers, it is best to know the City requirements.

Many local municipalities in Illinois require a transfer stamp and/or tax before you can complete the sale of your home, however West Chicago requires a Deed Certification process. The Deed Certification signifies that your property sale has met all requirements including a City inspection and payment of any outstanding fines or fees such as for water and garbage. Please take a moment to note the steps you will need to follow for obtaining a Deed Certification.

- 1. City Inspection** – Sellers are required to obtain an inspection conducted by the City of West Chicago. A trained inspector will visit your home and check it for adequate maintenance and life safety mechanisms such as smoke and carbon monoxide detec-

tors. The inspection is valid for six months, so plan ahead and call the Community Development Department at (630) 293-2200 ext. 131 to schedule it well before your closing.

- 2. Final Water Reading** – Several days prior to closing, call the City at (630) 293-2200 to schedule a date for a final water meter reading. Payment of your final water bill must occur before the Deed Certification can be issued.
- 3. Deed Certification Form** – Complete this form (found on City website or at City Hall) in order to apply for a Deed Certification, and plan to pay the final water bill, any other fines or fees owed, and the fee for the City inspection. The inspection fee is \$100.00, plus \$0.12 per square foot.

For further information, please visit the City website at westchicago.org and search Selling and Buying a Home.

 **ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**

To Pick-up or Let Lie – The Age-Old Question Around Dog Waste

GROSS FACTOR ASIDE, not picking up dog waste is bad for the environment, it contaminates water and is harmful to people and other animals.

THE ISSUE

Dog waste, like human waste, is full of nutrients that contribute to excessive algae growth in local ponds, lakes and

streams. Dog waste also contains bacteria, viruses and other pathogens like roundworms that can be transmitted to humans and other wildlife. As dog waste is left to decompose in the grass, those nutrients and pathogens can be washed into local waterways during a rain fall and contribute to local water quality degradation.

TAKE ACTION

Make a commitment to pick up your dog’s waste every time, everywhere and dispose of it properly. Keep extra bags on hand. Dispose of bags in a trash can. Do your part to protect the community’s water quality.



RESURGENCE: ONWARD AND UPWARD...

ACCORDING TO THE DUPAGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (DCHD), as of June 2, 2021 more than 49%, or 457,274, of all DuPage County residents have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are fully vaccinated you can resume activities that you enjoyed prior to the pandemic. Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, State, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. DCHD continues to work towards achieving the goal of vaccinating 80 percent of eligible DuPage County residents by July 1, 2021. DuPage County residents who are homebound or who cannot safely leave their residence to visit a vaccination clinic are eligible to be vaccinated through a homebound vaccination program and should register at dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineregistration, or call (630) 682-7400 for assistance. When registering, the form will provide an opportunity to indicate homebound services are needed. Additional COVID-19 vaccine information about local efforts, frequently asked questions, vaccination data, and more is available at dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND COMMUNITY GATHERINGS RETURN

KIDS AND PARENTS REJOICE. Fun Fridays, presented by the West Chicago Park District, are back. Families can enjoy a variety of performances including animals, magic, music, science and more on select Fridays during the summer from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. All ages are welcome. Bring a lunch and have a picnic while you enjoy the show. The summer's Fun Fridays line-up includes:

- June 11 – Ben's Bubble Show
- June 18- Jaime's Farm Music Show
- June 25 – Science Show
- July 16 - Circus Boy
- July 23 – Magic Show
- July 30 - Animal Quest
- August 6 – Summer Dog Days Dog show

Larger summer events scheduled by the City and Park District include:

- **Dino-Nite in June**, which will include a movie and activities in the Park

Dates TO REMEMBER

- July 5 City Hall Closed
- August 14 Fireworks/Taco & Art Fest
- August 21 Healthy West Chicago 5K
- August 28 West Chicago Food Festival
- September 6 City Hall Closed
- September 18 – 19 Mexican Independence Day Festival
- Through November Yard Waste Collection
- Through November Brush Pickup

Visit westchicago.org under Residents for full details on services, and under Community Calendar for additional community happenings.



- **Christmas in July**, featuring iceless skating, music from the DuPage Symphony Orchestra at The Shell, and more
- **Taco & Art Fest** with food, music, pony rides and fireworks

STAY UP TO DATE ON THE WEST CHICAGO FORWARD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS interested in the drafting of the City's new Comprehensive Plan, West Chicago Forward, are encouraged to visit westchicagoforward.com. Updates on the process and planning documents are on the website. Throughout the next several months, the City's Plan Commission will conduct various meetings related to the new Comprehensive Plan. Information on these meetings will be posted on the West Chicago Forward website. Residents and business owners can also stay informed of these meetings by following the City's social media accounts for updates and notifications.

QUICK REMINDERS WHEN DOING YARD CHORES...

Brush pickup runs now through November 1

- No root balls
- No items greater than 8" in diameter, pickup program is not intended for whole tree removal
- Brush must be placed at the curb no later than the first Monday morning of each month

Yard waste collection runs now through November 30

- Must be placed in a "Kraft" bag with one universal refuse sticker on each bag
- Collected on the normal garbage day



LOCAL ARTISTS AND GALLERY 200 MEMBERS share their love of nature in two month-long shows. Artwork will be available for purchase.

Marge Hall, has a featured exhibit titled *Nature's Inspiration* opening at Gallery 200, 103 W. Washington Street, for the month of August. The show and sale will include a collection of paintings



done through inspiration she received from nature. "In difficult times there is always beauty around us. All we have to do is focus on our surroundings and take in the wonder of God's creation," she explained. Marge admits she has been painting for as long as can remember. "When asked if I would like to teach at the DuPage Art League in Wheaton in 1971, I said yes, and have been teaching oil painting ever since." Her series of large flowers started in 1991 has been her focus, producing every species she can find with the goal of capturing the light with layers of paint to create an almost luminous flower.

Kathi Kuchler began painting at the age of 14 in oils and then turned to watercolors because "I love the fact that I can take my small round paint palette wherever I go." She received her certification in 2015 as a Botanical Watercolorist and Illustrator through the Morton Arboretum, Lisle. Her regular shows and memberships are: Gallery 200 (West Chicago), Natures Artist Guild shows, DuPage Art League, Norris Cultural Arts Center, St. Charles Arts Council, Fine Line Art Center and Gallery; Batavia Public Library, Greater



Geneva Studio Tour, West Chicago Public Library, West Chicago City Hall, Water Street Studio, and the Fermilab Employees' Art Show. Kathi has chosen the month of September to exhibit all of the hues of oranges, burnt umbers, and majestic blues in both oils and watercolors. "September is the month to start looking at the colors in our area as things start to change into our autumn colors," she says. Her September exhibit will consist of nature, botanicals and landscapes of the central area of our Great Lakes, with these colors in mind.

GALLERY
 200
 200 MAIN STREET, WEST CHICAGO



THE MUSIC OF THE DUPAGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (DSO) COMES TO WEST CHICAGO

THE DUPAGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (2021 Illinois Council of Orchestras Community Orchestra of the Year) is pleased to work with the City of West Chicago to establish a long-term collaborative relationship to bring the healing power of music to the community. As a Community Partner, the DSO will work with City agencies and organizations to bring music in a variety of formats, offer diversity in programs, and enhance educational offerings. DSO looks forward to partnering with the West Chicago Park District to provide music for their "Christmas in July" celebration at Reed-Kepler Park on July 24, 2021.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE KRUSE HOUSE BEES?

THE WEST CHICAGO GARDEN CLUB has succeeded in an ambitious project, which has been in planning since last year – *Bees Take Flight in the Kruse House Gardens*. Twelve delightful art bees were designed, created, and installed by Club members. These larger than life bees, intended to add a buzz for the gardens at 527 Main Street tended by members, as well as provide fun facts about bees, will bring an added incentive to visit the historic grounds. Created by green thumbs April Murphy, Kerry Dexter, Barb Bizzarri, Barb Melville, Jodi Otwirk, Ruth Kyme, Dick Darrah, Scott Johnson, Kerry Perry, Pamela Darrah, Patti Zaputil, and Billie Childress, each bee features a unique theme and vibe and is accompanied by an interesting bee fact to help demystify and bring greater appreciation for the hard-working pollinator.

