

WEST CHICAGO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

COMMUNITY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Garbage Rate Changes Begin January 2023

The City's garbage and recycling pickup service provider, Groot Industries, Inc., will increase its service charges for residential solid waste collections as part of a contract with the waste hauler. The new service rates will be effective as of January 1, 2023.

Please see the following updated service fees:

Garbage Service Fee Per Month:

- 35-Gallon cart (Senior Rate): \$9.84 (increase of \$0.29)
- 35-Gallon cart (Regular Rate): \$14.56 (increase of \$0.42)
- 95-Gallon cart: \$20.71 (increase of \$0.61)

Additional Service Changes:

- Universal Sticker: \$2.51 (increase of \$0.07)
- Yard Waste Cart Annual Subscription: \$218.55 (increase of \$6.37)

Holiday Tree Collection Begins January 2

Holiday trees will be collected at no additional cost to residents from Monday, January 2 through Friday, January 13. Trees are

(Continued on next page)

Multiple Dates Scheduled for Waste Transfer Station Siting Application Public Hearing

As part of the review process, the City of West Chicago is required to hold at least one public hearing as part of the siting and application process for the construction and eventual operation of a solid waste transfer station facility at the site of 1655 Powis Road.

As per the requirements set by Section 39.2 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act that govern the siting process, the public hearing is to be scheduled no earlier than 90 days, but no later than 120 days, from the receipt of the application, which was received by the City on Friday, September 16, 2022.

In meeting these requirements while also trying to achieve the goal of providing the community with adequate time to attend the hearings, the following Public Hearing dates, times, and locations have been set for January 2023:

- Tuesday, January 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Wheaton Academy (900 Prince Crossing Road)



- Wednesday, January 4 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Wheaton Academy (900 Prince Crossing Road)

- Thursday, January 5 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Wheaton Academy (900 Prince Crossing Road)

- Tuesday, January 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Wheaton Academy (900 Prince Crossing Road)

- Thursday, January 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the West Chicago Community High School (326 Joliet Street)

Although multiple meetings have been scheduled, some later meetings may be not be necessary and may be canceled.

The City has provided detailed information on its website over the past few months, which

includes: an explanation of the City's role in the siting process; background information about the proposed facility; a digital copy of the formal application received from the applicant; an overview of the siting process; and information on how to submit comments for the public hearings.

The City asks residents to please note that a statement justifying the siting decision must be made in writing by the City Council, and the Council cannot simply decide that it does not want a transfer station or another transfer station located within the City limits.

Visit westchicago.org/ transferstation for more details.



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

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

required to be free of lights, garland, tinsel, etc. Please do not place trees in plastic bags. Trees that do not meet these requirements will not be picked up.

After this time, trees will require one refuse sticker and will be picked up as regular garbage.

Holiday Light Collection Program Runs Through January 20

Strands of incandescent and LED holiday lights, and extension cords, may be dropped off at the following locations through Friday, January 20.

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

This program is open to West Chicago residents, businesses, clubs, churches and organizations, and is

made available through the coordination of the City of West Chicago, the City of West Chicago's Environmental Commission, and Groot.

West Chicago Seeking Artists for 2023 Spring Art Exhibit

The City is accepting artwork submittals for the 2023 Art Banner Exhibit through Wednesday, January 18.

The City welcomes all local artists, and artists abroad, to participate in this year's exhibit, which will be celebrating its 15-year anniversary in 2023.

All types of media are welcome for submittal providing they correlate with the chosen 2023 theme of Vitality/Vitalidad.

There is no cost to enter artwork, or to be part of the exhibit, and participants are able to submit up to three separate artworks that represent the theme.

For more information about the exhibit, or to submit artwork, visit the City's website at westchicago.org/artbannerexhibit.

City Council Passes 2023 Annual Budget

During the West Chicago City Council's meeting on December 5, the Council adopted the annual budget for the City of West Chicago.

The City's Annual Budget serves as a comprehensive financial plan and strategic guide for the City as an organization. It provides a forecast for anticipated revenues for the coming fiscal year, as well as adopted expenditures that guide the services provided to the residents and businesses.

The 2023 Annual Budget totals \$52.3 million, which is an increase of 6.31% as compared to the 2022 Budget.

Some highlighted larger expenditures for the 2023 Fiscal Year include the following:

- \$600,000 for costs associated with the remediation of property along West Washington Street;
- \$1.7 million for the engineering and construction



improvements to the City's Sanitary Lift Station #5; and

- \$3.1 million for City-wide road improvement projects.

Also, as part of the 2023 Annual Budget, the City will be proceeding with other substantial projects that include conducting a space need analysis as the preliminary phase of the process of building a new City Hall facility, and renovating Sesquicentennial Park into a larger grounds display in partnership with Ball Horticultural.

The public can view the City's Annual Budget on the City's website at westchicago.org/budget.

City Water and Sewer Rate Changes Begin July 1, 2023



The City of West Chicago will be increasing its water and sewer rates in 2023 as a response to inflationary pressures and inventory issues. The new service rates begin July 1, 2023.

Please see the following updated services fees to water and sewer rates. All rate changes go into effect regardless of meter size.

Water Service

- For water services, residents and business will see an increase from \$5.00 to \$9.00 for each

1,000 gallons of water used that exceed the initial 2,491 gallons used.

Sewer Service

- Residents and business will see an increase from \$7.00 to \$10.00 for all usage.

There are no changes to the fees associated with the minimum usage charge, non-residential sewer pretreatment rates, or billing charge.

For more information about water and sewer rates visit the City's website at westchicago.org/water-and-sewer-bills.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Chicago's plan was especially unique as it was created in both English and Spanish within the same overall document.

Additionally during October, the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention presented the City and Healthy West Chicago with the 2022 Public Policy Award. This national award was presented in response to the continued advancement of making walking and active living more accessible to more people in West Chicago.

Last, and most recently, the City once again adopted a balanced budget in December that will ultimately guide West Chicago's plans for the future ahead. The 2023 Annual Budget calls for some important infrastructure items, along with some other exciting endeavors including a preliminary study that will guide the decision making process for a new City Hall facility.

It has most certainly been an exceptional year, but I'm also very much looking forward to the future.

In 2023, the City is planning another community art experience in the downtown area similar to 2022's 'Year of the Alebrijes' art display. The new art experience will provide a unique environment for residents and visitors to explore during the summer season.

Additionally, residents will see an update to the grounds at Sesquicentennial Park. The transformed display will be done in collaboration with Ball Horticultural and will provide for a beautiful new space for all to enjoy.

As a resident and Mayor of West Chicago, I'm proud of the achievements our City continues to make each year. While we welcome 2023 to West Chicago, I hope that you and your loved ones have a happy and healthy New Year.

Another new year is upon us in West Chicago.

In reflecting on 2022, I am grateful for how our City finished these final past few months on such a strong note.

In September, our City was given the special designation of being ranked #9 for "Best Places to Live for Families" in the United States by Fortune Magazine. As the only Illinois municipality to make this list, this is a very special distinction for our community.

In October, the American Planning Association recognized the City's new Comprehensive Plan as the winner of the 2022 'Daniel Burnham Award', which honors comprehensive plans that advance the science and art of urban planning. West

Mayor

Ruben Pineda

City Administrator

Michael Guttman

Executive Assistant

Valeria Perez

CITY COUNCIL

Ward 1

Lori Chassee

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James Beifuss

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Ward 2

Jayme Sheahan

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Heather Brown

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Ward 3

Christine Dettmann

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Alton Hallett

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Ward 4

Sandy Dimas

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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

- Awarded contract for landscape architecture services to develop a master plan for a future park at the former Kerr-McGee site
- Approved contract for the rehabilitation of approximately 1.62 miles of roadway along Allen Avenue, Barber Street, Blakely Street, all from Augusta Avenue to

Glen Avenue; Bishop Street from Roosevelt Road to Forest Avenue; Augusta Avenue from Joliet Road to IL-59; and Glen Avenue from Joliet Road to Bishop Street.

- Approved making Hazel Street one-way eastbound between Joliet Street and Bishop Street.

- Adopted the 2023 Annual

Budget for the City of West Chicago.

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.

Reminders for Snow Removal for Residents

During the winter months, the City encourages residents to remain prepared for the inevitability of snow. Provided are reminders regarding the City's policies for snow removal.

City Ordinances for Resident Snow Removal

The following actions are prohibited by City ordinances:

- Parking on streets after two inches or more of snowfall.
- Plowing or shoveling snow from driveways or sidewalks into City streets.
- Placing of ornamental rocks or other objects along the curb line.



Roadway Snow Removal

The City is divided into seven plow routes, which allows for at least one snow removal truck working in all areas of the City during a snowfall.

City crews will initially work to

clear primary roadways that are more frequently traveled, and then work to clear secondary roadways that generally consist of local streets, side streets, and alleyways that have less traffic

flow. During heavier snowfalls, secondary streets may not be plowed until after the snowfall stops. Cul-de-sacs are done last as there is less space to dump snow without burying driveways, mailboxes, streetlights or fire hydrants.

Please note, the City will not be responsible for damage to improperly installed mailboxes or to boxes damaged by thrown snow.

City Sidewalk Snow Removal

The City does not remove snow from sidewalks other than in front of municipal properties and from the A. Eugene Rennels Bridge.

2023 DOWNTOWN EVENTS

Blooming Fest

Saturday, May 20
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
westchicago.org/bloomingfest

Explore the downtown area while viewing a variety of plants, artwork, and other goods from event vendors as part of the City's official kick-off to spring.



Food Fest

Saturday, August 26
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
westchicago.org/foodfest

Enjoy a summer evening as you taste a variety of food and beverage truck goods while listening to live music.



Halloween Festivities

Saturday, October 28
1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
westchicago.org/halloween

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

Frosty Fest

Saturday, December 2
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
westchicago.org/frostyfest

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

West Chicago City Museum

132 Main Street

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

Veterans Memorial Wall Opening

Sunday, February 5
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The City Museum and the Friends of the West Chicago City Museum will be hosting an open house to open a new Research Library and Veterans Memorial Wall. Stop in to hear about the work the City Museum has been doing and how you can get involved with West Chicago history.

Historiography: Museum Non-Fiction Book Club

Thursdays; February 16, March 16
Beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Women of West Chicago Exhibit Opens Thursday, February 2, and will be open through the month of April.

Gallery 200 Art Exhibits

103 W. Washington Street

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

Monthly Artist Exhibits

• January: Maria Ananieva's "Feathered Instinct" exhibit opens Friday, January 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



• February: Margaret Bucholz's "Portraiture by Margaret Bucholz" exhibit opens Friday, February 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

